

Socio-economic impact of Alipurduar town on its surrounding villages

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Abstract

Alipurduar is a district municipal town of West Bengal and is located at the eastern end of the State. Alipurduar town is surrounded by few number of backward villages. There are many parameters of this study; this study is only analyzing the impact of Alipurduar town in case of education and occupation sectors. So this paper the Socio- economic impact of Alipurduar town in the educational, occupational development aspects has been evaluated on its neighboring villages.

Key words: 1.Impact, 2.Education, 3.Occupation, 4.Development.

Objectives:

The objectives of this study are manifold and encompass the following:

1. To indicate the impact of Alipurduar town on its neighboring villages.
2. To show the social change of the villages.
3. To show the economical uplift men of the villages.
4. Sustain the well being of the people and enhance the learning experience of people.
5. Improve the quality of life and ensure equal, effective and active participation.

Data base and Methodology

The entire information and data are taken mainly from two secondary

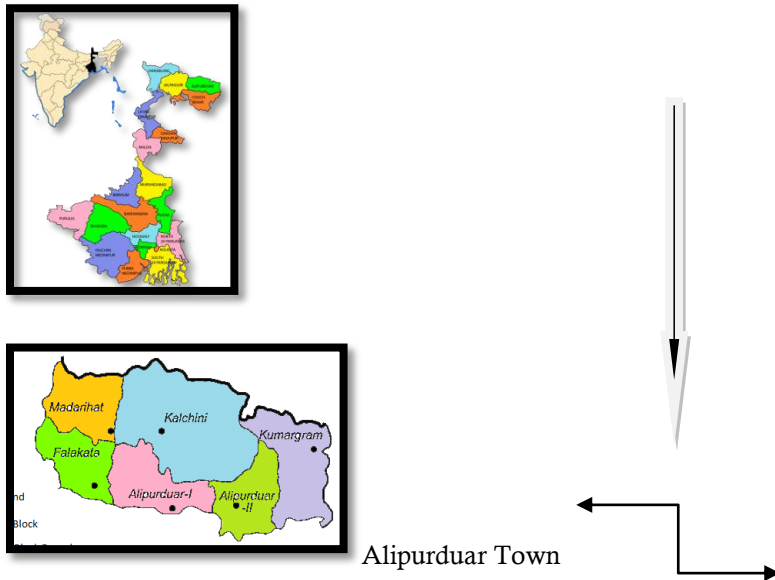
Sources –

1. District statistical Hand book (2012)
2. District census Hand book (2011)

Availability is considered rather suitability of data. Methodology applied in the study are totally depends statistical analysis by tables, charts, interpretation, projection. Some basic information are taken from internet and few literature have been studied for prepare the papers.

Study area:

Alipurduar town is situated on the east bank of Kaljani River on the foothills of the Himalayas; the town is a gateway to Bhutan and North Eastern state way of India. This town located in the Doors region is known for its forest, wildlife, timber and scenic beauty, since the colonial period. The town lies on 26.30 N 89.31E coordinates, area near about 3,383sq. Km and elevation 93 meters with 73,047 population and 22/sq.km density of population.



Location map

Introduction

Now-a-days the city and country side interact more closely today than ever before. Rural people frequently visit the towns and cities and this narrows down the cultural gap between the two groups of people. Rural people generally come to cities in search of jobs, to visit cinema halls, to get the benefit of hospital etc. This led to the change in rural life style. The closer contact between towns and rural areas helps in grow of urbanization. Thus we can say that economic Forces accelerate the pace of urbanization. One the basic threshold of economic function is attained.

Just as there are inequalities between the developed and developing nations, so also there are inequalities between the urban and the rural societies. Most medical facilities, the best educational in situations and almost all the large industries are located in big urban arias. The majority of rural belts remain devoid of these infrastructural facilities. Village life, however is subject to outside influences and consequently suffers a change which is slow and gradual. Those nearer to the urban areas are influenced more than the distant one (Chandrasekhariah , 1968).

In this paper, the changing patterns in ten villages which are within 5to10 kms from the Alipurduar town have been taken into consideration. The overall changes of the educational, economical of these villages have been investigated. While still adhering to the traditional ways of making a living, the village today is experiencing the impel of technology and competitive economy (Hiremath and Punit 1967).

Historical background of Alipurduar Town:

Alipurduar derives its name from the late col. Hedayat Ali khan who did admirable service in the Bhutan war and was stationed here as first Extra Assistant commissioner. Alipurduar town is a backward district of west Bengal with a very weak economic base. The town is surrounded by deep Forest and tea garden. While there are two rivers flowing across the town namely kalijani and Nonai. There is a river called Dima flows on the west of the town. These rivers are the basic factor of the establishment of Alipurduar town.

This place had been a very old trading centre. The region was connected with the famous trading route, Called silk Route with Bhutan and Tibet. The remains of the traditional route are still visible in santalabari near Alipurduar. The suffix duar (means door or gate way) has been added to the original name Alipur to differentiate it from the more well known Alipur in Kolkata and also because it is located in the Duars region.

Discussion:

The impact of Alipurduar on its surrounding villages and especially on development is well marked. The urban atmosphere of Alipurduar has enhanced the cultural as well as socio-economic setting of that which has indirectly affected its adjacent villages diverting them more towards urban ways of life than that of keeping them confined within traditional rural heritage. The ten (10) villages selected are-belong to two blocks: Alipurduar -I & Alipurduar –II

Table-01

Name of the selected villages from Alipurduar I &II

| Blocks | Villages | Area(in Hectares) | Household(Number) |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Alipurduar I | 1. Banchukamari | 481.82 | 589 |
| | 2. Birpara | 612.47 | 2025 |
| | 3. Ghagra | 501.00 | 1093 |
| | 4. Tapasikhata | 966.40 | 697 |
| 2. Alipurduar II | 5. Chaprarpar | 564.68 | 715 |
| | 6. Chepani | 551.20 | 528 |
| | 7. Purbajitpur | 111.67 | 45 |
| | 8. P. Chepani | 634.73 | 611 |
| | 9. Jasodanga | 421.14 | 674 |
| | 10. Karjipara | 521.99 | 618 |

Source: Census of India 2011.

The Following Villages are surrounded to the North-East, North-West, South-East and South-West direction of Alipurduar town.

Impact on Education

Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic processes (Chandana and Sidhu 1980). Illiteracy, on other hand takes away from man his dignity, perpetuates ignorance, poverty and mental isolations, deters peaceful and friendly international relations and free democratic processes and hampers social advancement, economic growth and political maturity. Above all, literacy influences other such attributes of population as fertility, morality, mobility occupations etc. No wonder the trends of the pace at which the socio-economic transformation of a society is taking place. Thus the analysis of literacy patterns and trends therein is of immense significance for a geographer.

The most interesting observation of the ten villages indicates that a large number of people are found to be literate. The institutional atmosphere of Alipurduar town plays a positive role in the spread of education in these villages. The village keeps regular contact with the Alipurduar. Educational institutions are the country's most effective weapon against out-dated attitudes and social values and act as an important instrument in developing a new social environment.

Table-02

Village-wise literate and illiterate population in the census year 2011

| Village | Population | Literate person | percentage | Illiterate person | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1.Banchukamari | 2899 | 1752 | 60.43 | 1147 | 39.57 |
| 2.Birpara | 9690 | 6323 | 65.25 | 3367 | 34.75 |
| 3.Ghagra | 5166 | 3221 | 62.35 | 1945 | 37.65 |
| 4.Taparikhata | 3268 | 1754 | 53.67 | 1514 | 46.33 |
| 5.Chaprarpur | 3498 | 2153 | 61.55 | 1345 | 38.45 |
| 6.Chepani | 2572 | 1430 | 55.60 | 1142 | 44.40 |
| 7.Purbajitpur | 228 | 113 | 49.56 | 115 | 50.44 |
| 8.Purba Chepani | 3010 | 1832 | 60.86 | 1178 | 39.14 |
| 9.Jasodanga | 3559 | 2051 | 57.63 | 1508 | 42.37 |
| 10.Karjipara | 2842 | 1797 | 63.23 | 1045 | 36.77 |

Source: Census of India 2011

Percentages is computed on the basis of the census data by author.

From the table we found that overall literacy of ten villages is near about 60 percent (2011), excluding 0-6 year's population. It is highest at Birpara (65.25) Followed by Karjipara(63.23),Ghagra(62.35).The reason behind the percentage, these are nearer to Alipurduar town we found lowest amount of literacy at purba Jitpur(49.56),followed by Taparikhata(53.67),due to the cause of large amount of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, such as backward classes.

Diagram I

Village wise percentage of Literate and Illiterate population

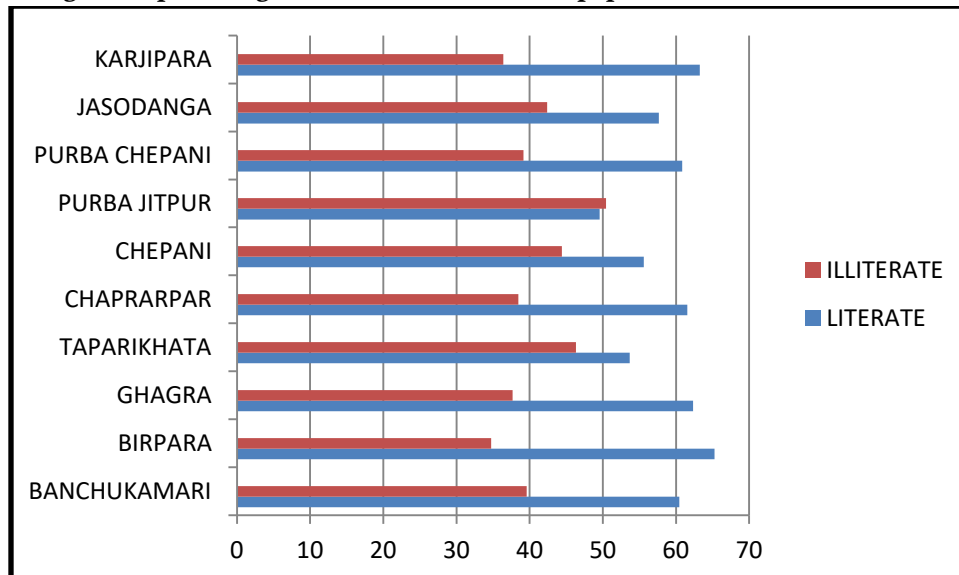
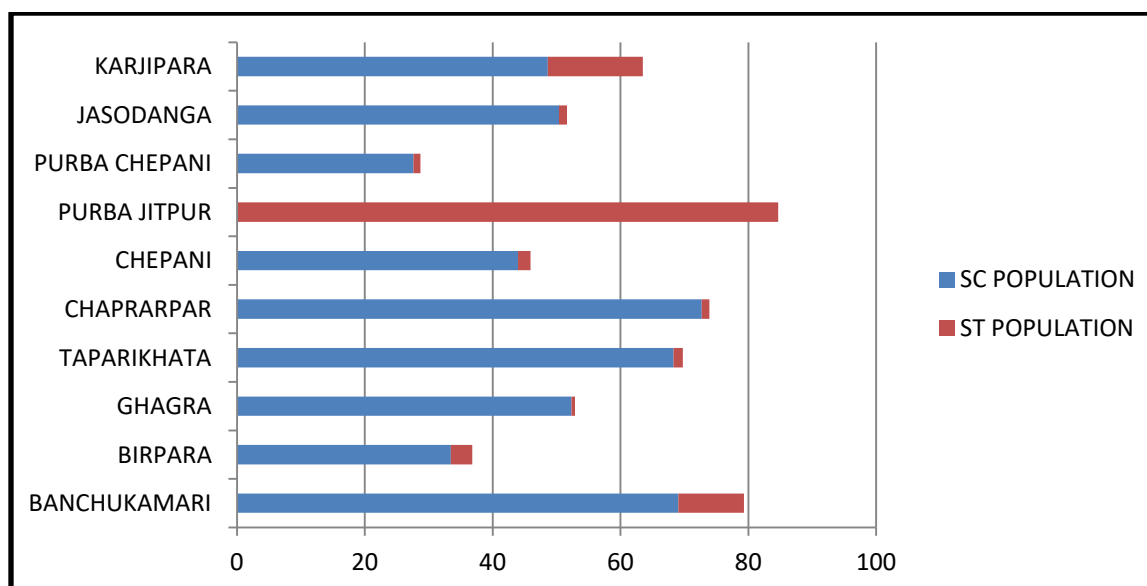


Table-03
Village wise SC and ST population in the census year 2011

| Village | Population | SC.Population | Percentage | ST.Populationn | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| 1.Banchukamari | 2899 | 2011 | 69.02 | 299 | 10.31 |
| 2.Birpara | 9690 | 3243 | 33.46 | 325 | 3.35 |
| 3.Ghagra | 5166 | 2703 | 52.32 | 28 | 0.54 |
| 4.Taparikhata | 3268 | 2231 | 68.27 | 48 | 1.47 |
| 5.Chaprarpur | 3498 | 2543 | 72.70 | 42 | 1.20 |
| 6.Chepani | 2572 | 1131 | 43.97 | 50 | 1.94 |
| 7.Purbajitpur | 228 | 0 | NIL | 193 | 84.65 |
| 8.Paschim Chepani | 3010 | 831 | 27.60 | 33 | 1.10 |
| 9.Jasodanga | 3559 | 1793 | 50.38 | 45 | 1.26 |
| 10.Karjipara | 2842 | 1382 | 48.62 | 422 | 14.85 |

Source: Census of India 2011 and Percentages are computed on the basis of the census data.

Diagram II
Village wise percentage of SC and ST population



Impact on occupation

The study of economic change of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The occupation of an individual refers to his trade, profession, type of work etc. The occupational structure of a society is the product of a number of intimately related factors. When the

primary resources are utilized on a commercial scale, it generates diversification of occupational structure (Clarke 1972).The diversification process gets further impetus from industrialization generates a variety of traditional jobs. The societies have often been classified into primary, secondary and tertiary civilizations on the basis of occupational composition (United Nation 1964).

The occupational pattern of ten villages is divides into two broad categories-1.Primary and 2. Subsidiary occupations. The maximum concentrations of worker are found in non agricultural activities. There are also a considerable number engaged in non agricultural activities as their subsidiary occupation where agricultural is usually taken up as a subsidiary occupation .The village in this country is considered the basic economic and cultural unit. Due to the decay of the tradition of village industries like spinning and weaving, brass ware, pottery, oil processing etc. In many instance the self sufficient economy of these villages has been disrupted. The cheap manufacturer displaced the craftsman depriving the group of its hereditary skill (Chowdhury, 1960). Introduction of various tertiary occupations especially in Alipurduar town, are engaging the villagers more in those jobs other than old traditional rural occupation.

Table No.-04
Occupational structure of the villages in the census year 2011

| Village | Population | Total worker | Main Worker | Percentage to T.W. | Marginal Worker | Per. To T.W. |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1.Banchukamari | 2899 | 1227 | 791 | 64.47 | 445 | 36.27 |
| 2.Birpara | 9690 | 3675 | 2687 | 73.12 | 445 | 12.11 |
| 3.Ghagra | 5166 | 2183 | 1426 | 65.32 | 460 | 21.07 |
| 4.Taparikhata | 3268 | 1330 | 946 | 71.13 | 146 | 10.98 |
| 5.Chaprarpar | 3498 | 1100 | 871 | 79.18 | 130 | 11.82 |
| 6.Chepani | 2572 | 1078 | 720 | 66.79 | 277 | 25.70 |
| 7.Purbajitpur | 228 | 120 | 45 | 37.50 | 67 | 55.83 |
| 8.Paschim Chepani | 3010 | 1544 | 719 | 46.57 | 721 | 46.70 |
| 9.Jasodanga | 3559 | 1512 | 870 | 57.53 | 538 | 35.58 |
| 10.Karjipara | 2842 | 975 | 694 | 71.18 | 68 | 6.97 |

Source: Census of India 2011 Percentages is
computed on the basis of the census data by author.

Due to The uplift men of living standard these villagers have diverted their attention to non-agricultural professions.

The range of variation of their occupation will reveal their actual level of diversification that can be traced out from table. 5

Diagram III
Village wise percentage of Main and Marginal Worker

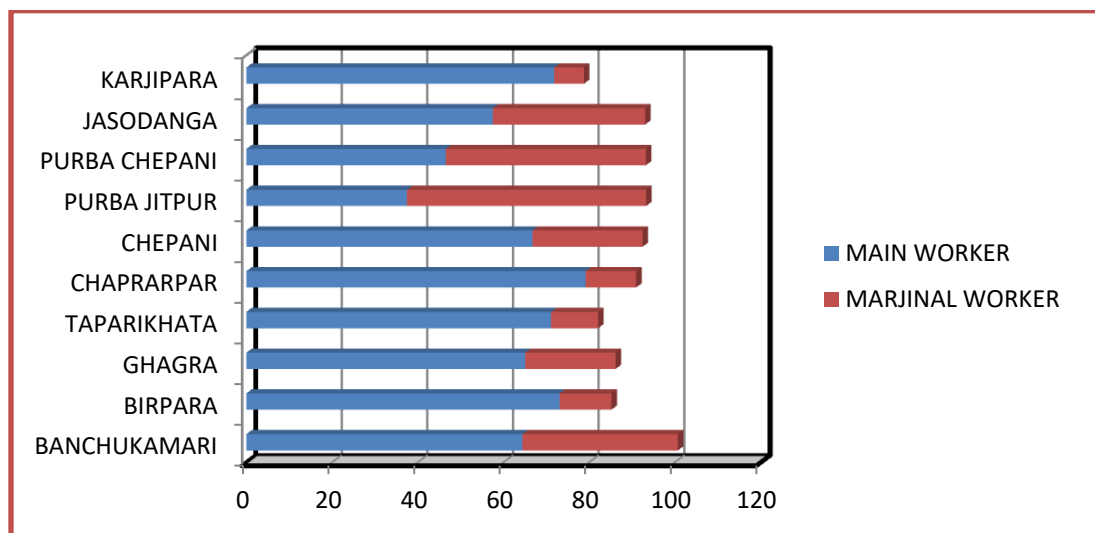


Table -5
Diversification of occupation in the census year 2011

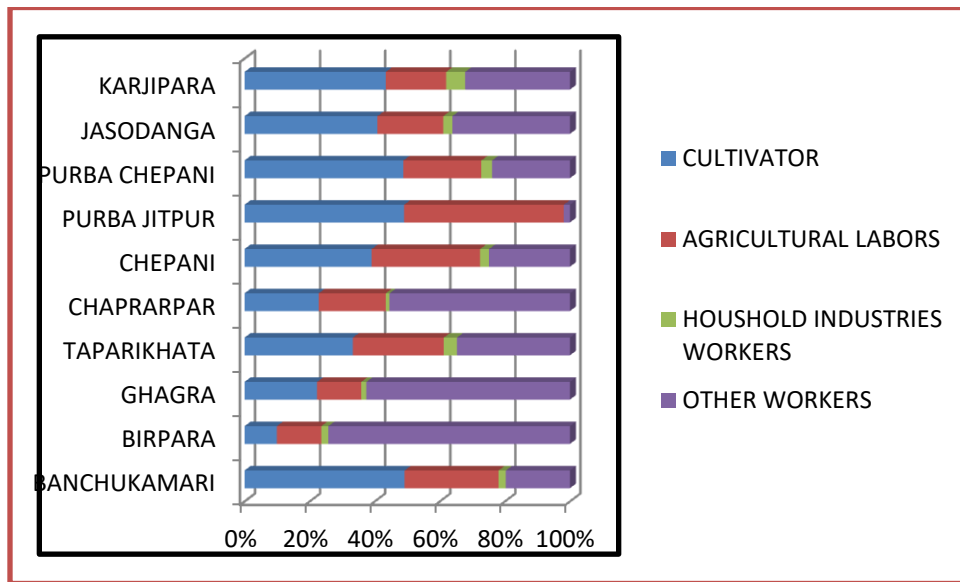
| SL Name of Village | Total Worker | Cultivator | Agricultural Labors | Household industries worker | Other worker |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Banchukamari | 1227 | 370 | 217 | 17 | 148 |
| 2. Birpara | 3675 | 321 | 441 | 70 | 2398 |
| 3. Ghagra | 2183 | 384 | 234 | 27 | 1078 |
| 4. Taparikhata | 1330 | 395 | 332 | 48 | 412 |
| 5. Chaprarpar | 1100 | 221 | 200 | 11 | 538 |
| 6. Chepani | 1078 | 313 | 267 | 22 | 199 |
| 7. Purbajitpur | 120 | 26 | 26 | 0 | 01 |
| 8. Paschim Chepani | 1544 | 402 | 197 | 27 | 197 |
| 9. Jasodanga | 1512 | 398 | 197 | 27 | 352 |
| 10. Karjipara | 975 | 394 | 168 | 53 | 292 |

Source: Census of India 2011.

It is, therefore, evident that the villagers are gradually adopting tertiary occupations. Technically they are largely engaged in business, administrative and educational occupations. In an agrarian and backward district it is interesting to find villagers engaged in various types of jobs. Yet other remote villages of the district do not

display a similar picture of fast growth and development. The cultural and educational enlightens of Alipurduar might have influenced this development.

Diagram IV
Village wise Percentage of different workers



Conclusion:

The infrastructural facilities have been provided to the villages during the last 15 years. With the provision of proper educational facilities, sufficient medical opportunities and other infra-structural facilities like road, electricity and government loan facilities for development, any villages can have the opportunity to become self sufficient. Some of the features of utilization values have been introduced quiet recently through Sarva Shiksha Mission.

In conclusion it can be said that with the expansion of Alipurduar town area the rapid development of nearby villages is well evidenced. The Alipurduar has played a pioneering role towards this end and only exception is Purba Jitpur village of Alipurduar II. The very poor economic condition of Purbajitpur, denotes the ever-negligence of tribal community (84.65 per). Today we must say villages of this two blocks remain confined with the cultivated and irrigated land with developing society.

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