FIELD REPORT 2018

Department of Geography, Berhampore College

1.0 Introduction

The University of Kalyani has introduced fieldwork as a compulsory element in the syllabus of the subject of Geography. Therefore, the fieldwork conducted in every college in an appointed geographical area, generally in the home district. The respected Principal Dr.SamareshMondal in the appointation of the location for the fieldwork to be carried out is guiding the departmental teachers of Berhampore College. We pay our homage to our Principal who lends his helping hands to the financially weak students of our college. He is kind enough to pay the cost of the journey, food and lodging for the students. It must be noted that he has been part of the field surveys too. The work of 2017-18 of department of Geography was conducted in the Dayarampur village of Jalangi Block under Murshidabad district.

Fig - 1

1.1 Selection of the Study Area

Berhampore College is occupied by the students of rural areas of the district. As luck would have it, the Principal along with the teachers of the Geography department too are from Murshidabad . Therefore, we need not mention that they are quite alert regarding the geo-physical, socio-political and socio-economic problems of the district. But, it's a matter of shame for us that the common people are hardly aware of their position and the problems they might have to deal with in the near future. The students of the Berhampore College are the prototype of the local people .The recent geo-physical problem of Murshidabad is arsenic contamination in drinking water .Jalangi is the most severe arsenic affected block .Dayarampur , our study unit , is one of the affected villages in Jalangi . The village, being near the

International border has to face several problems. Keeping all these points in mind Dayarampur has been selected as the study unit.

1.2 Objectives of the Study: The fundamental objectives of the present study are---

a) To explain the geo-physical conditions of the village.
b) To define the socio-economic conditions of the locality.
c) To interpret the level of arsenic contamination in drinking water.
d) To highlight the International border related problems

1.3 GEO-PHYSICAL CONDITIONS:

1.3.1 Location

latitudinal and longitudinal extension of dayarampur village are $24^{\circ}11'09"$ north to $24^{\circ}10'25"$ north and $88^{\circ}42'06"$ east to $88^{\circ}42'41"$ east respectively. The area of the village is .72 sq. km. and Azimganjgola Gram Panchayet administrates it.

1.3.2 Geology and Physiography

the average height of the village is 22 metres from the mean sea level. It is fertiled by the alluvium deposits of Padma river. The village is featured by recent to subrecent geological subgroup. The lithological features include recent alluvium, clay, sand, silt, gravel etc. physiographically the village is a very small part of the lower ganga plain. Dayarampurhas a unique location lying along the western bank of river Padma and due to its proximity to the river it gets flooded by the overspill of Padma. The village is also prone to bank erosion. According to geological information clay type soil is deposited in this part, which has a great impact for its general geological information and physiography.

Fig - 2

Drainage and climate: the main river is Padma river. The village experience a tropical wet and dry climate. The annual mean temperature is generally is $27^°$ C and monthly mean temperature ranges between $17^°$ C and $35^°$ C. summers are hot and humid. on an average may is the hottest month, and January is the coldest with a temperature range $12^°$ C to $23^°$ C. the highest rainfall occurs in the month of august (300mm) and floods are very common during the monsoon causing heavy loss of lives, livestock, crops and other properties.

1.4 Soil and Vegetation

Dayarampur is situated along the mighty river Padma and so enriched by new alluvial soil brought down by the river every year during monsoon. The soil is grouped under very fertiled for growing crops. Due to high fertility of soil majority of the population depend on agriculture. But, very recently the fertility of soil has been declined due to overuse of chemical fertilizers and the soil has become acetic. Like other part of jalangi block dayarampur village is also characterised by deciduous vegetation. But due to advancement of settlement and river bank erosion, now the village has very little vegetation cover and there are only few scattered trees. Mango, shimul, nim are prominent trees found in the village. During the survey it is found that many household have kitchen garden beside their house.

Fig - 3

2.0 Socio Economic Conditions

2.1 Demographic Features

Dayarampur village is situated at 1 km diatance from the main market jortala in jalangi block. But regarding demographic characteristics there are striking differences from jalangi block. In terms of male female composition, family size, literacy rate, occupational structure etc. now for the presentation of the field report the necessary demographic features are being
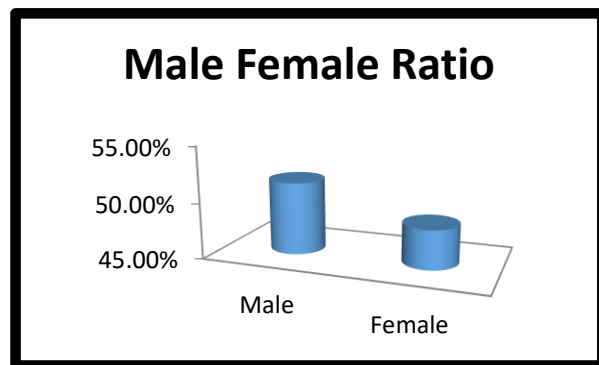

Fig - 4

discussed with appropriate cartographic techniques. Total number of the working people of the village is 3366. All of these people inhabiting the region are economically backward. The density of the population in the char area is much less as compared to the population density of the main land. The reason behind this includes lag of infrastructural facility and natural condition.

The percentage of male and female population to total population is 48.5 and 51.5 respectively.

2.2 Age Sex ratio

Age sex composition of the study area reflects a large number of dependant populations on the working population. The days of the age sex pyramid is very wide which also shows the under development of the region. 22.15 per cent Population
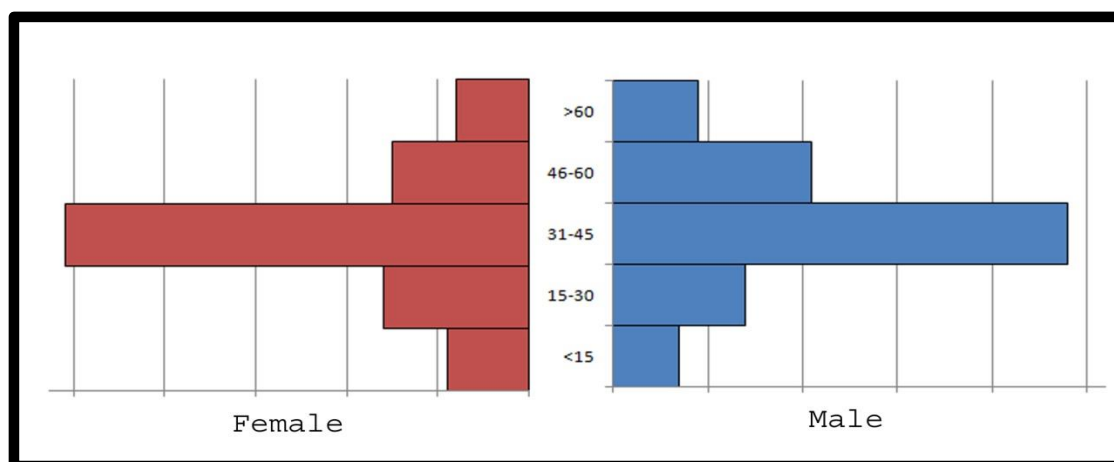

Fig - 5

belong to the age group of bellow 15 year; 21.71 per cent, 26.09 per cent, 23.90 per cent, and 6.16 per cent population belong to 16-30 years, 31- 45 years, 45-60 years and above 60 years respectively.

2.3 Status of the Working Population

The composition of worker to study area is very prominent regarding the ratio of between male and female worker. Only 3 per cent workers belong to the female category. It also observed that where the population density is grater from the jalangi block. The general population density is very low as only 26.6 per centis worker and 76.6 per cent is non worker.

Now as per working classes most of the worker are concentrated into cultivator and agricultural comprising 48 per cent and 47 per cent respectively. In secondary sector specifying household industries is on 1.5 per cent and the tertiary sector is 3.8 per cent. the picture clearly reveals that in this rural area most of the working groups is attached with agriculture based activity.

Fig - 6

2.4 Level of education

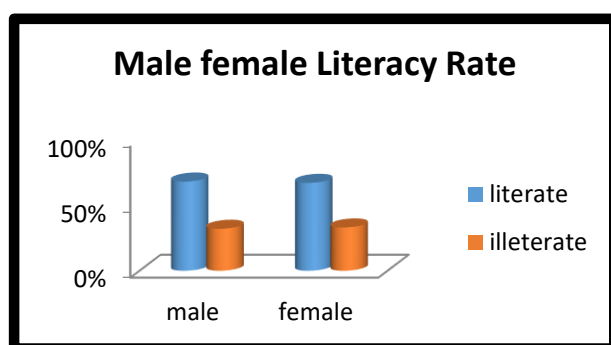Level of education is very poor in the study area. There is only one school in the study area. Student teacher ratio is very high. Most of the days in rainy season the school remain closed, as teacher cannot come from distant places. There is also evidence of drop out. Almost all the families want to use th eir children as helping hand to their parents for extra earning instead of education.

Fig - 7

87 per cent of the surveyed families have experienced drop out of average of 1 person. 9 per cent and 4 per cent family experienced an average drop out of 2 and 3 respectively in the area. The illiteracy is 33 per cent in the area. 37 per cent population has completed up to primary education only. 39 per cent, 9 per cent and 10 per cent population of the surveyed village have completed secondary, higher secondary and graduation level of education respectively.

2.5 Caste, Religion and Language

There is a mixture of religion among the surveyed population of Dayarampur village. The percentage of population following Islam religion is 55 per cent and Hindu population is 45 per cent. The majority population is also general caste population. Only 1.5 per cent population belongs to OBC category. The majority of surveyed population speaks in Bengali. Only 2 per cent population speaks in mixed language.
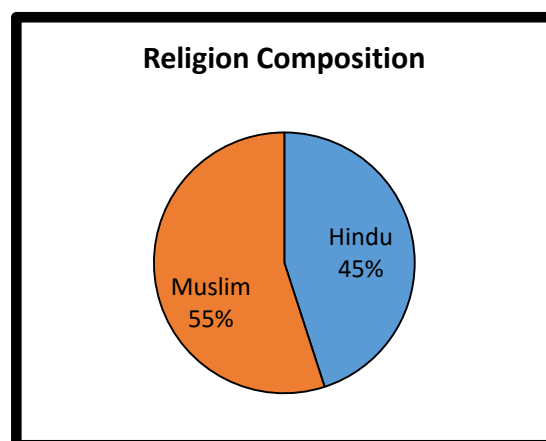

Fig - 8

3.0 Economical Features

3.1 Occupational Structure

More than 70 per cent population belongs to primary sector of economy that is agriculture and only 14 per cent of due population are depended on secondary activities. Maximum population inhabiting the surveyed village belongs to working group though the regularity of work is very low in nature. Only 26 per cent population has definite work. As in the other parts of rural areas in Murshidabad district, the main occupation of the most

Fig - 9

people is cultivation. 79 per cent of the surveyed village related directly to cultivation. They act as share cropper and 16 per cent belongs to agricultural labour or daily labour category. Only 6 per cent population have government services and businesses.

3.2 Livestock Poultry

Livestock area key asset for these people, they act as asset in the period of scarcity like flood, or other income reduction. Never the less livestock are also vulnerable to floods, theft, and normal disease hazards. Cattle and goats are the main types of livestock formed in the area. More than 50 per cent of the total livestock are cow, few are buffalos, a good portion accounts for goats and rest is hen and duck. In time of storage of fodder and shortage of founds it become necessary to sale of an important asset.
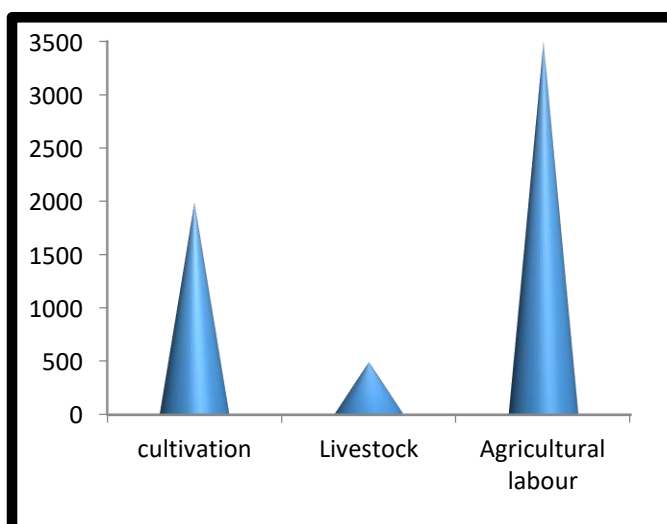

Fig - 10

4.0 Basic Amenities and Quality of the Building Pattern

It is the issue of sanitation and accesses to clean drinking water on the chars that is particularly dire in the surveyed village. Only a few households have toilets inside the house and rest of the households have bush latrine. Majority of the households have no latrine. This explains the high risk of water borne disease. The status of the sanitation is poor in the study area. A small no of house holds have closed drainage facility majority have open drainage. Another problem of the area is frequent incident of flooding. Such reality coupled wise the collapse of sanitation facilities, places whole communities at rise to a host of water borne diseases.

Fig - 11

In general, almost no left services, not even temporary ones, are available strictly within the surveyed area. However some vaccination camps are held in the area. Though not within the char, some health facilities exists around of varying distances.

5.0 Land Use

Depicts the general land use of the study area. It reveals the fact that 68 per cent of the total land has been fallen under cultivation where only 20 per cent is cultural waste and 12 per cent is not available for cultivation. Now if there is any scope for reviving the cultivable waste then the area for cultivation can be extended other than the pastures. Otherwise, the cultivators have to decrease their net shown area to increase the total production.
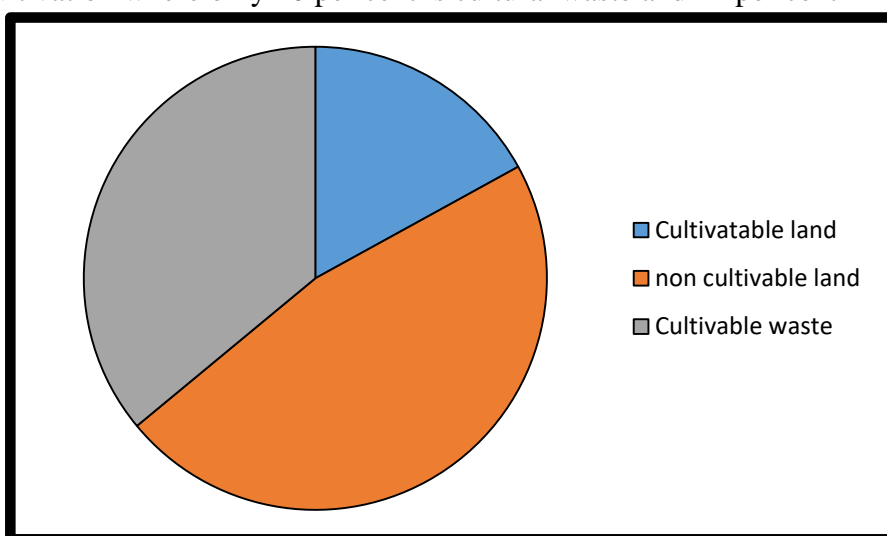

Cultivatable land
non cultivable land
Cultivable waste

Fig - 12

Land Use Map of the Study Area

Fig - 13

6.0 Problems of the study area

Our study area is situated along the river Padma. It is a char land attached to the river. As a result the main problem of the study area faced by the inhabitants is river bank erosion. The cause of the ganga along the northern river front of West Bengal. Has been fast changing due to unable bank erosion, especially for the last few decades. The rotational bank failures between the farakka barrage and jalangi, a stretch of about 100 KM have been became a serious concern. The recurrent territory has often taken a disaster magnitude and threatened the life of the dayarampur village.

In recent year position of same char land have became an issue of controversary INDO-Bangladesh relationship. When India was liberated in 1947, The course of the ganga was accept of the international boundary between Rasahi district.