

Critical Evaluation of Indo-Bangladesh Water Sharing Treaties

Suman Bera¹ and Ramkrishna Maiti²

Abstract : *In spite of whole hearted efforts from India and Bangladesh to solve the problem of sharing Ganga water through bi-lateral treaties (1975, 1977, 1982, 1985 and 1996), none of these could yield optimum result as per expectations. The present work is aimed to identify the cause of such failure and it is understood that shortage of water availability at Farakka plays a crucial role in this context. A numbers of popular journals, reputed books, well-known internet links and personal interviews have supplied the basic knowledge about the agreements. As per information, it is confirmed that water sharing and its success or failure mostly depend on water flow at Farakka point. Regarding the augmentation at Farakka water, the two governments have not taken any new insight about water management instead are holding on to their past proposals. The proposal of dam construction in Nepal and river linking project from the Brahmaputra, were readily rejected by both of the governments, because it is vulnerable and may cause environmental destruction. So, the forthcoming treaty should be modified by overcoming those limitations of earlier ones and should consider all the physical and socio-economic factors associated with water availability and water use in a holistic perspective.*

Key Words: *Bi-lateral treaties, water availability, augmentation, river linking project.*

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Measuring Development Disparities of Bankura District, West Bengal : A Synergistic Approach of Range Equalisation and AHP Model

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Abstract : *Disparities in the level of development are found in every country whether it is developed or developing country though the nature and intensity varies. In this paper, block-wise disparities in the level of development of Bankura district, West Bengal, India have been analysed by taking education, health, agriculture and rural infrastructure as broad sectors of development by using different indicators. Composite development indices have been calculated separately for each sector by range equalisation method and finally overall development status have been devised by combining all indices with their priority values derived by Analytic Hierarchy Process. Though in terms of health and education, the district is comparable to state level average but in terms of economy it stands second from the bottom in the state. Within the district vast regional contrast is observed in the level of development. Moran's Index indicates clustering type of development in the district. The southern and eastern parts of the district are comparatively developed but the northern and central part of the district are most backward which need urgent attention from the planner and policy makers.*

Key Words: *disparities; development; clustering; range equalisation; Analytic Hierarchy Process*

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Social Ecology- A Geographical Perspective

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Abstract : *Social ecology is a holistic tradition in geographical research. It is a philosophy, concerned with the relation between man and environment, emphasizing attention to the social, institutional and cultural context of man environment relationship. Social ecology was developed from human ecology. It has a rich history of searching the causes and consequences of environment over man and vice versa. Social ecology is an interdisciplinary tradition, ranging from scientific traditions, such as biology, ecology, environmental science to philosophical practice, like value, ethics, education etc. to humanities. Environmental or ecological balance is the first and foremost priority of social ecological study. Role of politics over society is a major concern of social ecology, because it decides the distribution and allocation of resources to the people as well as environmental protection. The development of socio ecological tradition is following a steady path from the time of its inception. Several foreign and Indian pioneers contributed in this field.*

Key Words: *social ecology, man environmental relationship, human ecology, politics.*

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Status of Elementary Schools in the Sundarban Region of West Bengal: A Case Study of Kakdwip Sub-Division in South Twenty Four Parganas District

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Abstract : *Education must reach to each and everyone for sustainable human resource development. On one hand education leads to human development, on the other hand, it can bring a lot of prosperity to a nation through the progress in quality of life of people. Elementary education is said to be the first formal stage of lifelong learning process of a human being. Therefore the elementary schools play a great role in providing proper environment to quality teaching-learning process. As a part of the Sundarban the present study area i.e. Kakdwip sub-division of South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal represents a dynamic land where process of accretion and erosion is still going on. Adverse environmental conditions compel the inhabitants to struggle for bare necessities to survive. How the elementary schools are running for achieving universalization of elementary education in these circumstances demand special attention. In this connection this study is an attempt to expose the status of elementary schools of Kakdwip sub-division of South Twenty Four Parganas District in West Bengal.*

Key Words: *elementary schools, Sundarban region, universal elementary education.*

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Water-Logging Problem of South Dum Dum Municipal Area

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Abstract : *Water-logging is a common problem and it causes massive suffering for a large number of people. Nowadays, it has become almost a common yearly phenomenon for some areas. Generally it causes several small scale problems related to daily life but sometimes appears as a curse to common people. This paper attempts to trace the various aspects of water logging and problems associated with it in the South Dum Dum Municipal area. It also tries to highlight the measures and schemes taken to solve the problems and at the same time tries to provide some suggestive measures to get rid of this problem of water logging in the long run.*

Key Words: *water-logging, inundation, south Dum Dum municipality, siltation, upper bagjola canal.*

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Paratransit Transportation System, Mahestala, South 24 Parganas

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Abstract : *In India, Para-Transit plays an important role in urban passenger transportation, particularly in the small and medium-sized cities. Mahestala has been selected for this study. The study gives detail information about the urban Para Transit scenario of Mahestala Municipality. The major types of Para Transit modes operating in the study area, are auto-rickshaw, cycle-rickshaw, tata magic, OLA, and UBER. The characteristics of each mode have been established by conducting different surveys such as road survey, operator survey and passenger survey. The auto-rickshaw is the most popular para transit mode having a medium share in terms of numbers. The approaches to this transportation system focus on not only just on increasing vehicle movement, but also on improving para transit modes in the city. Predefined stoppage and proper parking for para-transit modes are essential to have better and timely service.*

Key Words: *PTS, PTM, , Dial- a Ride*

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Geological Evolution of Cratonic West Bengal: A Review

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Abstract : *The Indian peninsular portion has been formed as the result of fusion of several separate cratons during different Plate Tectonic cycles in different geological times. So, it naturally bears the imprints of many ancient cratonic nuclei. The cratonic portion of West Bengal, India is also not exceptional. The geological sequences of that portion bear the evidence of its presence from the very early days of the Earth (4.0 gya). If we look back at the past geological history of Cratonic West Bengal (CWB) from Archaean to recent, a comprehensive description including all major geological formations can be made chronologically.*

Key Words: *Cratonic West Bengal (CWB), cratonic nuclei, crustal sag, gondwana deposits, radiometric dating.*

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Joint Forest Management in West Bengal With Special Reference to Sundarban Tiger Reserve

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Abstract : *Joint Forest Management (JFM) was initiated at Arabari in West Bengal during early seventies. Since then this social empowerment programme has been welcomed by forest fringe dwellers and forest officials at different areas of West Bengal. Sundarban Tiger Reserve enjoys a special status in forestry of India, however the forest fringe dwellers are not blessed enough being residents that region. But now government has initiated some programmes of by forming various committees and providing them with opportunities to be the stake holders of forest products and at the same time conserve it too. Some such committees are named like Eco Development Committees (EDCs) and Forest Protection Committees (FPCs). The activity of this committee and the resultant impact on wellbeing of forest dwellers and the forests is the focus of this paper. The "Care and Share" principle of Joint Forest Management could strike the chord at the right situation between government organs and the commoners by providing space to both the parties.*

Key Words: *JFM, forest fringe dwellers, EDC, FPC, FDA*

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