

Effect of Location in Shaping Societal Perception: A Geographical Inquiry on the Differential Perspectives of Beneficiaries Living around Purbasthali Beel

Arindam Roy¹, Mehedi Hasan Mandal² and Giyasuddin Siddique³

Abstract : *Albeit for achieving larger benefits of ecosystem services offered by the Purbasthali wetland, Chupi beel in local parlance, the occupants of Indrapur village encircled by the lake are in favour of converting it into productive crop fields. The present study strives to explore the justification behind such a typical perception of a community and the objects that set such perception. Intensive primary survey has been carried out across five villages linked to the beel to identify the extended services of the lake and its spatio-temporal variation in availability, accessibility and utility of those services by adapting Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services (RAWES) approach. The result confirms that, in general, the degree of utilization is negatively correlated with income, land holdings and distance but positively linked with the size of household and livestock. But, the geographical location, both the site and the situation, has crucially determined the societal perception on the evaluation of its services as well as the sustainability of the wetland.*

Key Words: : *ecosystem services, Purbasthali Beel, RAWES, societal perception, wetland*

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Assessment of Road Network of Canning-I Block, South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal

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Abstract : *Movement of man and material across spaces is accomplished through some definite channels of transport network consisting of nodes and routes. On the efficiency and fluency of linkages between places, the advancement of a region depends upon. The present paper opts to explore the issues of linkage in relation to connectivity and accessibility with reference to Canning-I Block, South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal. Based on the structural indices of connectivity i.e., Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Cyclomatic number and ATS score, the study reveals that the lower connectivity of the area is a function of terrain handicaps, improper allocation of resources and regional imbalances. The accessibility pattern, testimonies the poor transport facilities, greater topological distance between nodes, lack of direct connection between nodes. Overall poor connectivity and accessibility lead to major setback for the development of this region.*

Key Words: *transport, connectivity, accessibility, network, regional imbalances.*

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Spatio-Temporal Pattern of Literacy in Rural Areas of Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal: A Geographical Appraisal

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Abstract : *Literacy is the backbone of the modernization of society. It plays an important role in influencing the quality of human resources as it helps in conveying proper ideas and thoughts over time and space. The present paper deals with the spatio-temporal pattern of literacy in the rural areas of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. The analysis reveals that though there has been a significant improvement in literacy rate from the earlier decades in the study area but a difference in literacy rate among the males and females has been observed and there exists a gender bias in rural areas of Jalpaiguri district. The paper attempts to evaluate the spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rates in the blocks of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. The gender disparity in literacy rates has been found out with the help of Sopher's disparity index for the census year 2011. Besides, to find out the relationship between literacy and the selected variables that determines the literacy rates in the study area, correlation matrix is worked out and the data has been obtained from the secondary sources and analyzed with reference to z-score.*

Key Words: *literacy rate, disparity index, rural areas, decadal changes, correlation matrix.*

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Livelihood and Lifestyle of the Fishing Community in Digha-Shankarpur Region: A Case Study of Gangadharpur Village in Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal, India

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Abstract : *Nearly 16 million people in India are employed in the fishing activities for earning their livelihood. However, according to International Collective in Support of Fish-workers (ICSF) Report 2015, more than 61 percent of these fisherman families in India are still living under Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. Fishing is considered as a principal source of livelihood for a large section of economically underprivileged population of the country, especially in the coastal areas, for example in the coastal villages of Digha-Shankarpur region in West Bengal, where most of the people live below the poverty line. This paper thus makes a modest attempt in analyzing the life style of the sample population of the fishing community living in one of the major fishing zones of West Bengal viz. Digha-Shankarpur region. It also aims to study the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen living in Gangadharpur village of Old Digha and tries to probe into their work culture and level of exposure to the local and global market. It also tries to explore their major present challenges related to their profession and provide some strategic approaches to overcome such hindrances for their future generation.*

Key Words: *fishery, fishing Community, global and local exposure.*

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Socio-Economic Condition of Domestic Women Workers in the Slums of Varanasi City

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Abstract : *The paper highlights the qualitative methods for looking at the socio-economic condition (SEC) of the domestic women workers (DWW's) in the slums of Varanasi city. The study is based on primary data, collected from different slums located in the four different zones of Varanasi city by purposive sampling technique. Participant observation, interview and PRA methods have been used as supportive tools. This study reveals that the SEC of DWW's of Varanasi city can be described as an underdeveloped and pathetic in general with spatial variation. Thus the government should take necessary steps to improve the status of DWW's and make informal job activities as formal and also to safeguard the jobs.*

Key Words: *Domestic workers, women bread earner, SEC, livelihood, qualitative methods.*

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Demographic Characteristics and Living Conditions of Street Children in Kolkata

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Abstract : *A huge number of children living on the streets in different cities of the world have been the focus on intense academic attention. However, most research focuses on the situation of children and young adolescents, while fewer studies analyze how life on the street is experienced and changes when these young people enter to youth or adulthood. As a consequence, this paper discusses the livelihoods of street children and street adolescents (less than 6 to 16 years) living in the streets of Kolkata. The empirical work reported in this article has shown that despite of various constraints faced in their everyday lives, adolescents on the streets are not only deprived of their lifestyle but also develop complex livelihood strategies to cope with their situation. For this, they draw on a variety of activities in public space and form supportive social networks. The paper outlines the demographic characteristics like age, gender, birth, ethnicity, etc. of street children. It also deals with the living conditions of the mentioned children including their birthplaces, residence, family structure, etc. In India, problems related to the demography and living environment of street children have not paid enough attention, only a few efforts are addressed to understand the present scenario. In this paper, it is an attempt to highlight the demography and lifestyle of street children in selected parts of Kolkata city.*

Key Words: *adolescents, adulthood, empirical work, demography, lifestyle*

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Political Command: A Moto of Tribal Women Empowerment in Gosaba Block, Sundarban Region

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Abstract : *Unless women secure a respectable place in this country, the nation can never march forward. Empowerment of women is required as women in society mostly are deprived in terms of social, economic and political issues and basic requirements. Earlier women were the main pillar in tribal society which is still seen in some north eastern states (Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland). In the contemporary tribal society, the binary of deprivation - empowerment of tribal women is noticeable. Regarding level of empowerment, we have chosen five domains (Freedom of free movement, Economic Security, Support by family, Decision making power and Political awareness) along with separate controlling variables on fifty households surveyed within the Munda community, Gosaba Block in the Sundarban Region, the sample being selected randomly. Focus Group Discussion also reveals that tribal women's empowerment is increasing in local and national level politics and governmental schemes and formation of Self-help Groups (SHGs). More than 20 per cent women are engaged in primary to secondary occupations. Income level of tribal women is much better now and so their economic ability has increased. They are taking responsibility for betterment and improved quality of life for their family. and Their awareness regarding women empowerment has also increased.*

Key Words: *women empowerment, quality of life, economic ability, political participation.*

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