

Tracking our children

A brief situational analysis on the trend of migration,
child marriage and trafficking in eight districts of West Bengal



Sanlaap



Tracking our children

A brief situational analysis on the trend of migration,
child marriage and trafficking in eight districts of West Bengal

Sanlaap

© Sanlaap, Kolkata

First Published
April, 2006

The field work for this document has been done with the financial assistance of the European Commission and Groupe Développement (France). The views expressed herein are those of SANLAAP and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Commission or Groupe Développement.

The printing of this document has been done with the financial assistance from Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst - eed, Germany.

Researcher

Indrani Chakraborty

Documentalist

Lopa Bhattacharya, Sonali Paul & Annapurna Sanyal

Cover and page design

Malay Mukherjee

Printed by

Dilip Printing House

Acknowledgement

We are indebted to the respondents of this study, without whose cooperation, this study would not have been possible.

We are thankful to all those surveyors from 27 Community Based Organisations who have conducted the survey very sincerely.

We would like to fondly remember the support and continuous cooperation of Ms. Jaya Dasgupta (I.A.S.), the then Principal Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. She introduced us to the different departments of the state and supported us in the study to build up the basis of a very important campaign.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the District Magistrates of South and North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Coochbehar and Uttar Dinajpur who gave their permission to conduct the study in the districts.

We are grateful to the Block Development Officers and Panchayat Pradhans of the blocks focused under the study who gave us their valuable time.

We would thank Mr. Alok Goswami and Mr. Anindit Roy Chowdhury for their overall support throughout the study.

We would also thank Mr. Pinaki Ranjan Sinha for planning of financial and logistical support.

Indrani Sinha
Director of Programmes

Contents

CHAPTER - 1	
Introduction	6
CHAPTER - 2	
Context and Methodology	8
CHAPTER - 3	
Findings	15
■ District South 24 Parganas	16
■ District North 24 Parganas	48
■ District Murshidabad	58
■ District Nadia	68
■ District Coochbehar	78
■ District Jalpaiguri	94
■ District Malda	108
■ District Uttar Dinajpur	122
CHAPTER - 4	
Conclusion and Recommendations	127
ANNEXURE	
Interview Schedules	136

1 Introduction

With increasing mobility, spurred by the tirade of globalisation, the movement of persons between states, regions and countries is induced by economic, political and social factors. Mobility in persons within South Asia is a cultural and social reality, and the political divides have remained artificial and difficult to control. Unequal development within South Asia dictate the rate of flow of migration, rural to urban, from Bangladesh and Nepal to India or Pakistan, and further to countries in the Middle East.

While migration and flow of labour in search of economic opportunities is a reality, within the flow in persons lay a group of disadvantaged and victimised community of persons, whose mobility is organised, controlled and profited by third agencies. The agencies profit by transporting these uninformed persons to places where the demand for such trafficked victims is high, and the purpose of the demand is exploitation.

For the last 17 years Sanlaap has been involved in the rescue and reintegration of minor girls who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. During the course of restoring these trafficked victims back to their families we have been able to identify those eight districts from where these girls have been trafficked. The identified eight districts are South and North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur

At the initial stage of our intervention Murshidabad was identified as the worst affected area but our recent list of rescued girls indicates that South 24 Parganas is the largest supplier of minor girls for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.

The expanse of the transportation being trans-national in nature, interventions focusing on the prevention of trafficking must take into cognizance the need for a multi-pronged approach towards combating trafficking, both on prevention and psychosocial rehabilitation of trafficked victims.

Keeping in view the broadness of interventions, there is an emerging need for coalition



and partnership between NGOs, and also between Non-Government and Government agencies. Sanlaap envisages its role and responsibility as a resource organisation, and intends to share its resources, information and skills on programmes and interventions in combating trafficking, second-generation prostitution of women and girls. This effort is an initiative to mark the partnership between NGOs operating in the eight districts mentioned above. As emphasized in the report, this is a short-term situational analysis conducted with the purpose of stocktaking.

We hope that the findings of these studies would jointly enable us all to strategise preventive initiatives in these identified source areas so as to combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and thus ensure and protect the rights of the girl child.



2 Context

In the last year, we have been able to identify and build partnerships with 27 Community Based Organisations in the districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur. These CBOs had shown their interest to work for ensuring safe migration of women and children and to combat trafficking in persons. While we started communicating with the CBOs, we observed that a few of them had some information in an unstructured manner, but most of them had no information and statistical data on this particular issue.

Keeping in mind the broadness of the intervention, it was felt necessary to get a primary database in the possible intervention area. The partners themselves identified the vulnerable area where a situational analysis was done with the following *objectives*:

Goal

To develop possible action strategies with regard to preventive, curative and promotive approaches to trafficking in women and children, primarily for commercial sexual exploitation and also other purposes of exploitation.

Objectives

- To understand the educational scenario of the study area
- To assess the extent of vulnerabilities of migration and trafficking
- To know the magnitude of child marriage and identify the linkage between trafficking and child marriage.



Methodology

Research Design

Though a few organisations had some information in an undocumented and fragmented manner, the surveyors had yet to explore this information based on the above-mentioned objectives. So, the exploratory research design was adopted.

Universe

Heads of the households were interviewed as respondents of this study. In cases where the head of the household was not available, some other responsible person of the family was interviewed.

Sources of Data

Primary data

On paying visits to the families, information on occupation and income of the family members, age range of the respondents, educational level, reason for child dropouts, child marriage, reasons, mode and nature of migration were collected. The reasons behind the migration in search of work and marriage were one of the important issues to find out.

It is to be mentioned that no remarkable conclusions has been drawn from the diagrams of age distribution. Since the findings have been supposed to be the basis of future intervention, it was necessary to know the age range of the studied population keeping in mind the child protection programme.

Secondary Data

The secondary data included general information of the villages like the male-female ratio, birth and death ratio, health infrastructure, mode of communication, education system, industries and incidences of trafficking within the village which were collected from the Panchayat office, Block office, health centre and key persons of the village.



Sampling and sample size

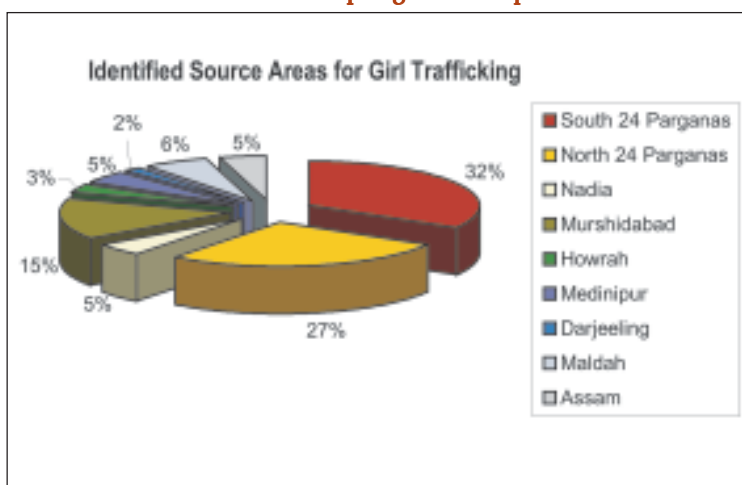


Diagram 1

Diagram 1 indicates the source areas of trafficking of girl children. In absence of any available database on trafficking prone areas we had to depend on our restoration experiences from 1996-2000. South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, Darjeeling were selected as the migration and trafficking prone districts. Apart from those, Coochbehar and Jalpaiguri have international borders with Bangladesh and Bhutan. It has

been acknowledged time and again that women and girls both from Bangladesh and Bhutan are trafficked to India through these districts. The significance of choosing Uttar Dinajpur were that by any standards be it poverty, literacy, child marriage, infant mortality or nutrition it is the most backward district in West Bengal. Moreover Uttar Dinajpur has a border with Darjeeling district, which is the trafficking route for Nepali girls both from Nepal and Darjeeling.

Identification of prospective CBO partners in those eight districts were made on the basis of their community access and the type of development programmes they had undertaken. Primarily, those CBOs were identified who were working on issues concerning women and children.

It has been observed from our past experiences that trafficking happens under the guise of migration and there is a close relationship between level of literacy and child marriage with migration and trafficking. So, it was needed to select those areas, which are migration prone. Prior to the selection of the study area, a detailed discussion was held among the identified partners and Sanlaap about the methodology of the study.

Since each of them had an ongoing programme in a specific village – be it on Reproductive and Child Health, HIV/AIDS Intervention Programme, Self Help Group – they had the list of households consisting the basic information (except Barasat Unnayan Prastui which is described later).

We had requested them to select the migration prone villages among their existing intervention area. Here *purposive sampling* has been used.

The total number of households constituted the *sampling frame*, 30% of the total households were taken adopting the method of *simple random sampling*. It was



drawn on the lottery method. Since the village itself is migration prone, so the random selection of the households within the sampling frame is considered as a representative sample.

It is to be mentioned that, in some areas the methodology has been different because of some specific reasons, but there has been no deviation from the broad objective.

1. a) *Nirmaan* has done the situational analysis in the Baruipur platform on the children who live in the slums near the railway station. Most of the girl children are victims of violence and abuse – verbal, physical, sexual or psychological. The girl children are left in a high-risk situation where they are vulnerable to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. The boy children are also subject to abuse and get involved in criminal activities resulting in them becoming perpetrators of violence against girls.
- b) *Nirmaan* (based in South 24 Parganas) could do the Focus Group Discussion and in depth interview, because it was one of our first few partners who already had some information and technical knowledge. They had attended many more training programmes compared to other organisations. Since they did not have a database, they themselves felt it necessary to do a situational analysis. The methods and tools of data collection were little bit different (which is described in the respective report), but the objective remains the same. Since *Nirmaan*'s target population is the children living in and around platform and the objective was to assess the vulnerabilities of migration, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation there was no question of adopting the method of purposive sampling. The total number of children and parents constituted the sampling frame and respondents were selected by the method of simple random sampling.
2. *Suprava Panchashila Mahila Udyog Samity* has carried out the study among the slum dwellers, because it has been working in the slums since 1993 to ensure mother and child health through sustainable management, prevention of STD, HIV/AIDS among the high risk group and empowerment of women to make them self reliant. Most of the slum dwellers are migrants from Bangladesh. From their experiences of working with this population they realised that adolescent children are susceptible to abuse and exploitation. The girl children are vulnerable to trafficking. Since they have been running their programme for a long time, they had the basic information of the targeted population on the basis of which they did the study.

There is almost no trend of migration, because this population has already been migrated. But the respondents have plans to migrate again. So, in spite of the difference in respondents' profile, the objective remains same.



3. *Samadban* was one of our first few partners. It has existed for a long time. So, it had more information on trafficking compared to other organizations. The methods, tools of data collection and sampling procedure were the same like any other study. The only difference is that they could collect detailed information and data. They were supposed to cover 30% of the total households in Madhushudanpur village, but due to some problems in the area, 26.7% has been covered.
4. *Barasat Unnayan Prastui* did the study in four slum areas. It was chosen *purposively* on the basis of the following indicators:
 - a) Most of the slum dwellers have been migrated from Bangladesh (except Kazipara) and are financially insecure.
 - b) Most of the women and girls have to go outside to work and earn money and thus are vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation.
 - c) Children living in this area are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.
 - d) In Kazipara, all of the inhabitants are very poor. A few of them are migrants from Bangladesh. The above mentioned other indicators are also applicable for them.

Barasat Unnayan Prastui has discussed with the concerned civic authorities and local political leaders who gave the number of households of each area.

Except Netaji Pally, 30% of total households were selected at random in Dwijoharidas Nagar Colony, Nibedita Pally and Kazipara.

In Netaji Pally, 15% of the total households were taken randomly. Since the population of this particular slum is very large, it seemed impossible to study within a short span of time keeping in mind the resource constraint, so we had to deviate from the sampling procedure adopted in other areas. 15% households were selected from the poorest families where more than 90% women and girls have been engaged into any kind of work, be it inside or outside the area.

5. Cosmos did the study in the slum area adjacent to the railway platform in New Jalpaiguri. People living in this area are vulnerable to trafficking arising out of poverty, negligence, lack of protection and awareness. The respondents belong to both the migrant and non-migrant category. Cosmos has been working for a long time among the children living in the slums adjacent to railway platform. Though the respondents were urban children, the methodology including the sampling procedure was same.

The study area and the sample size have been mentioned in the respective reports.

Following are the names of the organizations, which have done the situational analysis:



District	Name of the Organisation	Study area
1. Coochbehar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sunderban Rural Development and Training Centre(SRDTC) Godhulibazar North East Society for Empowerment of People (G-NESEP) Society for Participatory Action and Reflection (SPAR) New Bharati 	<p>Fersabari, Mantani, ChataLalkuthi, Dorko, Piglirkuthi, Haripur and Jirati salbari under Block Tufangunj of Coochbihar.</p> <p>Bhutkura and Bhalka villages of Matalhat G.P. of Block Dinhata I</p> <p>13 villages under Gitaldaha I and II GPs of Block Dinhata I.</p> <p>Ambari(N),Balabari and Baraibai under Ambari G.P, Coochbihar Block II</p>
2. Jalpaiguri	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dooars Alternative Medical Research Institute (DAMRI) Organisation for Suffering Humanity and Awareness (OSHA) Jalpaiguri Mahila Kalyan Sangha (JMKS) Cosmos 	<p>North Paro Basti (North Rava Basti), South Paro Basti (South Rava Basti) and Satkodali under Banchukamari and Rajabhatkhawa of Alipurduar Block I</p> <p>Rahimabad Tea Estate of Kumargram Block, Alipurduar</p> <p>Raninagar and Paharpur village under Sadar block</p> <p>Ward No 35 of Siliguri Municipal Corporation</p>
3. Malda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Malda Sahajogita Samity (MSS) Bulbulchandi and Barind Development Society (BBDS) Rural Health Development Centre (RHDC) Economic Rural Development Society (ERDS) 	<p>3 villages under Kaliachak Block I and 3 villages under Old Malda Block</p> <p>Kantakura, Mongalpara, Dhompur villages of Habibpur block</p> <p>Old Malda, English Bazaar, and Manikchak block</p> <p>8 villages under Bamongola Block of Malda</p>
4. Murshidabad	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Murshidabad Samaj Kalyan Samity (MSKS) Suprava Panchashila Mahila Udyog Samity (SPMUS) 	<p>12 villages under Hurshi, Lochanpur and Islampore Chak Gram panchayats</p> <p>Subhash Colony, Gandhi Colony and High Road Slum at Berhampore</p>
5. 24 Parganas (North)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Barasat Unnayan Prastuti Dishari 	<p>Dwijoharidas Nagar Colony, Netaji Pally, Nibedita Pally and Kazipara</p> <p>Swaroopnagar and Bashirhat –I blocks</p>
6. 24 Parganas (South)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sarisha Dishari Pally Unnayan Samity Garan Bose Gram Bikash Kendra (GGBK) Nirmaan Haripur Amra Sabai Unnayan Samiti (HASUS) Samadhan Sunderban Rural Development and Training Centre (SRDTC) Ashurali Gramonnayan Parishad (AGP) 	<p>3 villages under Mograhat I Block</p> <p>Ghutiariharif, Daspara, Garanbose & Krisnanagar.</p> <p>Children living in and around Baruipur platform</p> <p>15 villages under 7 blocks</p> <p>Madhusudanpur village in Gopal Nagar GP</p> <p>8 villages of Pathar Pratima Block</p> <p>Gazipur, Nainan and Highland of Diamond Harbour Block II</p>



District	Name of the Organisation	Study area
7. Nadia	1. Chapra Social and Economic Welfare Association (SEWA) 2. Nadia Zilla Farmers' Development 3. Satyananda Mission	7 villages under block Chapra 10 villages under Kalikanarayanpur, Barasat and Khisma Gram Panchayats of Ranaghat block 6 villages of Deuli Gram Panchayat under Chakdah block
8. Uttar Dinajpur	1. St. John's Ambulance Association	3 G.Ps under Raigunge, Kaliagunge and Karandighi block

Note

Among these CBOs, we could not build partnership with Sarisha Dishari Pally Unnayan Samity and OSHA due to unavoidable circumstances. Apart from the organisations mentioned above, Sunderban Unnayan Bhaban in North 24 Parganas and Bhabna Association For Peoples' Upliftment (BAPU) in Murshidabad are our partners. BAPU has done an in-depth study on "vulnerabilities in mobility, migration and trafficking in person" in 5 blocks of Murshidabad district in 2003-2004, which includes the present intervention area. Due to lack of infrastructure and expertise, Sunderban Unnayan Bhaban could not do it.

Methods of data collection

The interviewer gathered information through one-to-one interviews.

Tools of data collection

Structured interview schedules were used for taking the interviews of the head of the households and a general information format was used for each village.

Time

2004 -2005

Limitation

Initially we tried to identify the vulnerabilities of trafficking in the process of migration and to understand the push factors leading to trafficking of women and children for exploitative purposes, but few Community Based Organisations could do it in some areas, because it was a sensitive issue. For most of the CBOs, it was the first effort to do a research work. So, it was not possible to give stress on collecting the detailed information. For most of the C.B.Os the issue of migration and trafficking was new. We could not provide the time needed for establishing a better rapport with the community. Lack of infrastructure was one of the major problems.

Vis-à-vis the magnitude of the problem of unsafe migration and thus trafficking in the state of West Bengal, the available resources was so limited that, in spite of our intentions to reach more trafficking prone areas in the state we could not do so.

For instance, we could not go to Howrah and Medinipur in spite of the fact that we had restored quite a few numbers of girls over there. Thus, the findings of the study do not reflect the scenario of a district. It has only tried to show the trends of child marriage, migration and trafficking in some of the migration prone areas.

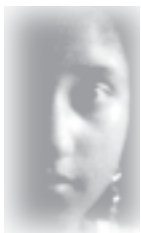
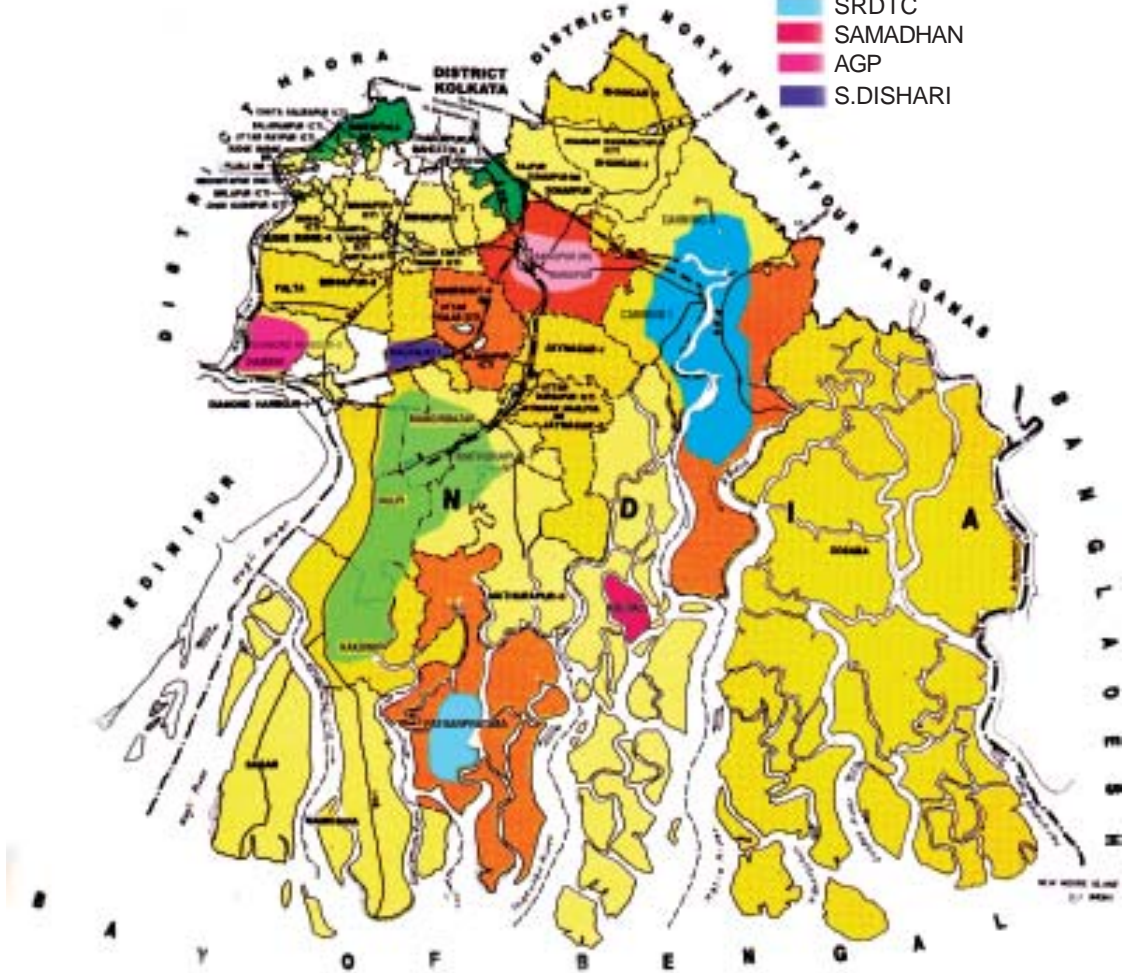


3 Findings

West Bengal
South 24 Parganas

Area of survey of each
CBO

- GBGBK
- HASUS
- NIRMAAN
- SRDTC
- SAMADHAN
- AGP
- S.DISHARI



South 24 Parganas

District profile

South 24 Parganas is the southernmost district of West Bengal where the various rivers coming from the North and the West meet the sea after creating numerous estuaries.

When the East India Company started their new settlement at Kolkata in the last decade of the seventeenth century most of the areas now under South 24 Parganas district were under deep forest and this district still now has one of the largest mangrove forest in the world, namely Sunderban. With the rapid development of Kolkata in the 18th and 19th centuries human settlements also started to grow in South 24 Parganas by clearing of the forest areas.

There has been reduction of one C.D. block in South 24 Parganas as the number of blocks has gone down to 29 from 30 in 1991. The number of villages in the district has also been reduced from 2166 in 1991 to 2139 in 2001, i.e 27 villages have gone out of the rural to urban frame.

The decadal growth rate for South 24 Parganas has been fluctuating in the last 50 years between 1951-2001. In the rural areas the growth rate has declined from 29.59 in 1951-61 to 17.45 in 1991-2001, while in the case of urban areas it has come down from 54.85 in 1951-61 to 43.31 during 1991-2001.

Though the percentage of child population to total population increased in South 24 Parganas from 17.22 in 1981 to 19.00 in 1991 it has come down by an impressive 4.18 percentage points to 14.82 in 2001. This would indicate that the decline in the decadal growth rate for this district is basically due to fall in the birth rate.

Among the South Bengal districts one of the most impressive performances in literacy drive during the decade 1991-2001 has been that of South 24 Parganas. During the decade 1991-2001 South 24 Parganas has been able to increase its literacy rate by 15.06 percentage points from 55.10 to 70.16. The urban areas of South 24 Parganas could not match the improvement in literacy made by the rural areas and that the literacy rate for the urban areas for persons, males and females are still behind the state average. One of the main reasons for this perhaps is that the urban areas of South 24 Parganas still remain urban pockets surrounded by rural areas with constant immigration of the rural population.

Source: Census of India 2001



Study conducted by
ASHURALI GRAMONNAYAN PARISHAD

Introduction

The three villages of Gazipur, Nainan and Highland covered within the study fall under the Kalatalahat Gram Panchayat of Diamond Harbour Block II of South 24 Parganas. The villages Gazipur and Nainan are situated beside the river Hooghly. Highland has emerged from the combination of two villages, namely Akalmegh and Sripthalberia, which were Hindu and Muslim dominated respectively. Initially Highland was a land used particularly for cultivation of paddy. But later it was transformed into a land for dwelling of people from Akalmegh and Sripthalberia for the purpose of their rehabilitation.

At present the three villages of Gazipur, Nainan and Highland have become industrial zones with two export processing zones and brickfields all over the area. Although electricity has been made available to the people residing in these villages, except Nainan, there exists no health facilities. The nearest primary health centre is located at a distance of 5 to 6 Kilometres with hardly any facilities and the Block Primary Health centre is situated at a distance of 11 to 12 Kilometres. There is a high school in the neighbouring village and the college is located at Diamond Harbour.

The cottage industries that exist in these areas are mainly fishing, net making, zari making, tailoring and boat manufacturing. Due to lack of capital and access to the market, the local people work as daily labourers in these industries. The female members are engaged in the nearby factories at the Falta Export Processing Zone and Growth Centre, through the medium of contractors. Here the women are exploited at the workplace including sexual abuse. They are employed at very low wages. At home they are confronted with domestic violence because the male members are addicted to country liquor, which is very rampant here.

Ashurali Gramonnayan Parishad has been implementing programmes related to health in many villages, which also include the three villages of Gazipur, Nainan and Highland.

During their course of work, several issues have been identified, which push the women and girl children into a vulnerable situation.

Study area

The areas covered under the study are three villages of Gazipur, Nainan and Highland. These three villages fall under the kalatalahat gram panchayat of diamond harbour block II of south 24 parganas district.

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 1603

30% of total households is 481, which was drawn as sample size.



FINDINGS

General information

Diagram 2 suggests that the age group between 9 to 13 years (minors and adolescents) forms the majority, which indicates that a large portion of the population are vulnerable to exploitation in any form if they are not provided with options of livelihood.

Educational Scenario

From Diagram 3, it is clearly evident that the majority, 35%, are illiterate, followed by 33% who have been educated in standard I-IV range and most of them are females. With reference to Diagram 2, where majority of the population are minors and adolescents, illiteracy or low levels of education thrust them into a situation when they become easy prey to exploitation.

Considering the fact that most of the adolescents and youth are illiterate or possess very low levels of education, they are not employed in any regular jobs or even when employed, are paid very low wages.

Due to the prevalence of a large number of brick fields in the neighbouring areas, a remarkable percentage of children are engaged in such fields where they are paid very low wages and exploited to the maximum.

Trend of child marriage, migration and trafficking

The majority of the girl children are married off in the age group of 15-17 years. However, the distribution in the other age ranges is also remarkable. The fact that child marriage occurs in the age range of below 9, is alarming by itself irrespective of the number or percentage.

Quite a number of these are married off to Bihar through mediators who come to work from Bihar in the Falta export processing zone and growth centre. There are also cases when men from Bihar have directly got married to the local girls of these villages and have taken them away to Bihar. Most of these men speak in Bengali and hence are able to easily coerce the girl and her

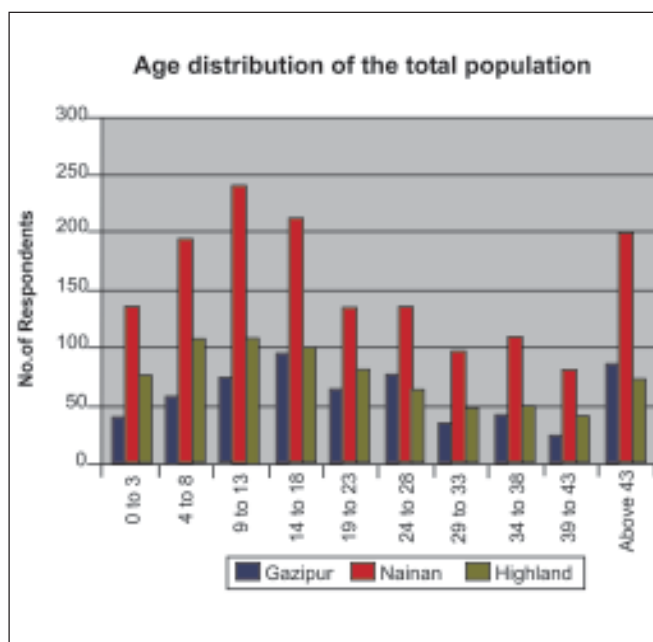


Diagram 2

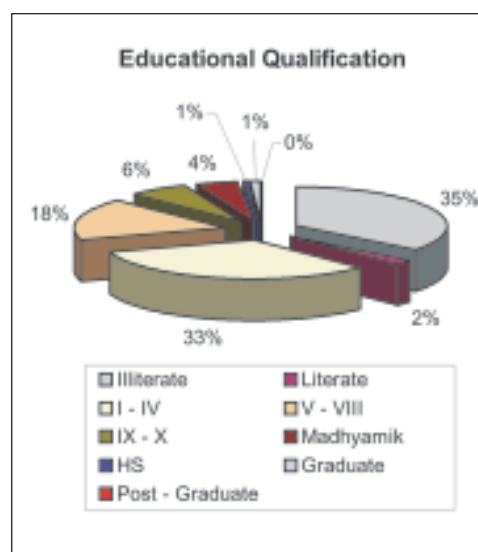


Diagram 3



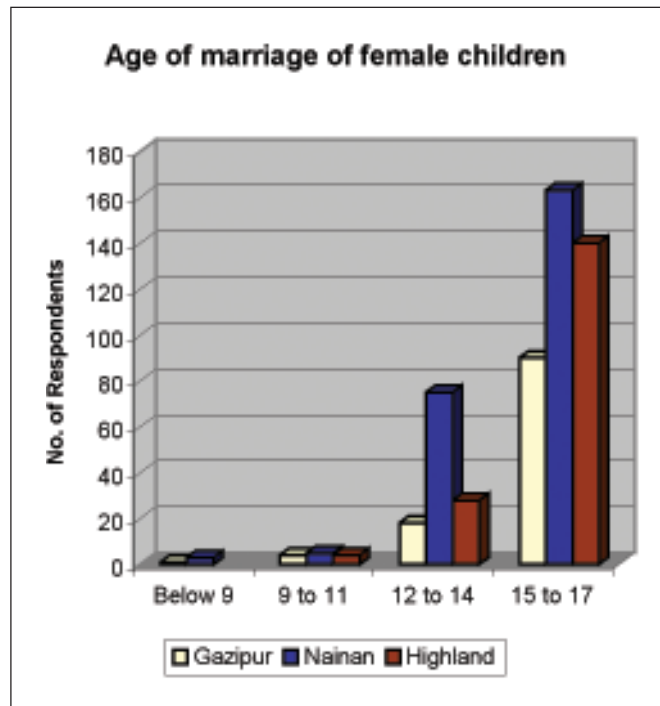
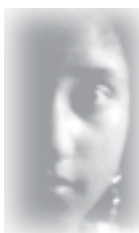


Diagram 4

family. There have been incidents where the girl has been married off to places like Delhi through mediators from Bihar and have been found to be missing till date.

Many girls are also lured away and trafficked to the red light area of Asansol. These girls are mostly trafficked through mediators who have been previously forced into prostitution in the pretext of job or marriage.



Introduction

Garan Bose Gram Bikash Kendra has been working for a couple of years in South 24 Parganas especially in the Sunderban region to prevent trafficking of women and girls.

The socio-economic scenario of Sunderban delta is very poor. Most of the people live below the poverty line. They are landless labourers, who do not get work for more than 100 to 125 days a year.

The geographical position of Sunderban villages makes it susceptible to natural calamities. Lack of resource utilisation techniques, poor utilisation of existing resources and primitive agricultural practices are pushing the people to remain on the lowest rung of social ladder.

Previously, Sunderban was the prime exporter of wood and honey. The local people and migrants from Bangladesh were engaged in this trade. But, the Indian government has declared 1330 square Kilometers of Sunderban as 'National Park'. Henceforth, the government has imposed restrictions on trading of wood and honey.

The women of these families are forced to migrate in search of work. The minor boys and girls are being engaged in factories or some other odd jobs. Under the influence of media, these young boys and girls are driven by that dream of finding solace and livelihood in the city. There are some mediators who take the opportunity of the optionless situation and lure the uninformed persons to places where the demand is high, and the purpose of the demand is exploitation.

Garan Bose Gram Bikash Kendra has been involved in the rescue of a few young girls who had been trafficked with the pretext of job and marriage. The organisation has identified the following four villages of 2 blocks, which are most vulnerable for trafficking and so the study has been done here.

Study Area

Village	Gram Panchayat	Block
1. Ghutiarisharif	Bansra	Canning I
2. Daspara	Matla II	Canning II
3. Garanbose	Bharatgarh	Basanti
4. Krisnanagar	Basanti	Basanti

Sample size

Total no. of households: 6720

30% of total households is 2016, which was drawn as sample size.



FINDINGS

General Information

Ghutiariharif is famous for the 'Mazar' of Gazibaba, a religious place of Muslims. In Daspara, most of the people belong to the scheduled caste and Muslim community. There are a remarkable number of migrants who have come from Sunderban. Most of the inhabitants of Garanbose and Krishnanagar village are either marginal farmers or agricultural labourers. 63.8% of the total population belong to the Muslim community.

There is no primary school within the villages, except a non-government madrasa school in Krishnanagar.

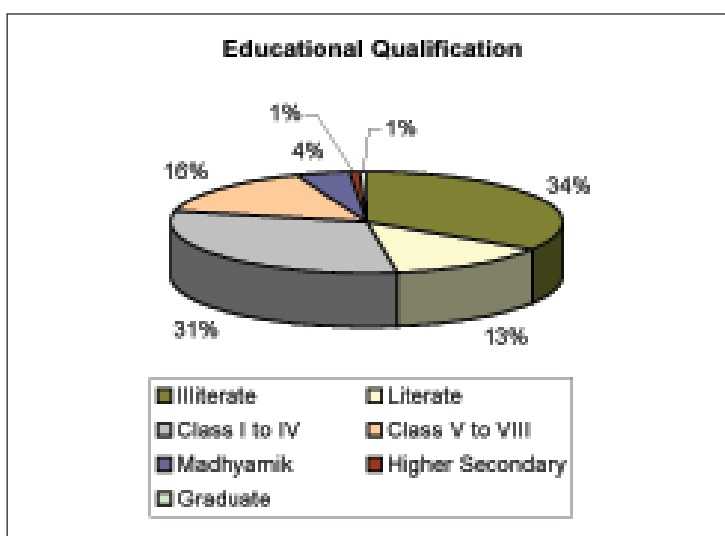


Diagram 5

Educational Scenario

It is evident from the adjoining diagram that majority of the respondents are illiterate. Parents of 30.8% children have enrolled their names in primary school, but they never attend the classes. Since Ghutiariharif is a religious place, the children often come to the 'Mazar' (Musim Holy Place) for begging, selling flowers and incense sticks. They make dust out of the incense stick and put it on the forehead of the pilgrims posing

it as a sacred thing. They take money from the pilgrims in lieu of that.

It is an alarming feature that the children of the locality sell narcotic drugs like heroine, brown sugar. Moreover, a remarkable percentage of children and youth are addicted to it. Since the parents have found an easy way to get money through their children, they do not feel any urge to send their children to school.

Poverty has been identified as the prime contributing factor of dropout (69.31%)

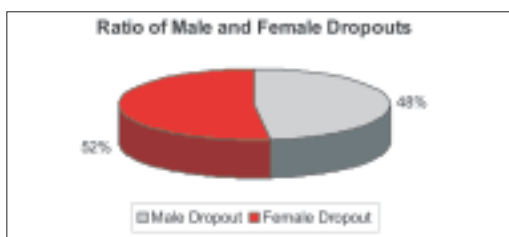


Diagram 6

followed by gender discrimination (30.7%). Here, one point must be noted i.e. if poverty is the prime reason of dropout, why the rate of female dropout is higher than the male dropout? Though most of the parents did not refer to gender discrimination, the high percentage of female drop-out reflects the prevalence of gender discrimination and strong patriarchy which thrusts the girl children into a vulnerable and exploitative situation.



Occupational profile, trend of migration and trafficking

Occupation	Local Area	Canning	Park Circus	Dhakuria	Jadavpur	Sealdah	Salt Lake
Cultivator	19	20					
Daily Labourer	13	18	72	56	27	12	10
Shop Keeper	3	3					
Domestic Help	28	20	48	56	48	18	
Van / Rickshawpuller	17	13		11	6		
Fisherman	10	26					
Handicraft worker	2	4					
Businessman	12					14	5
Service		4					3
Prostitution	2						

Table 1. Relationship between Occupation and Place of Work

Observing from Table 1, the following facts are evident:

The respondents have mostly migrated for the purposes of domestic help in Kolkata.

In the experience of Garan Bose Gram Bikash Kendra there are many instances where young migrant girls, taken away with the pretext of jobs, have been forced into prostitution.

It is interesting to note that the number of hotels and shanties surrounding the 'Mazar' has increased. The young girls of Ghutiarisharif and other nearby villages come to these hotels for prostitution. On each Thursday and Friday, special rituals take place around the area of 'Gazibaba'. Naturally, on those days, the number of pilgrims become much more and the demand for young girls is also increased. The owners of these hotels mediate between the customer and the girls and get a huge profit.

Lots of women and young girls come from Bangladesh. But initially they enter into Bihar just to get the ration card. They themselves have told the surveyors that it is easier for the migrant to get proof of identity from Bihar rather than West Bengal.

Diagram 7 shows a grim economic scenario where 39.1% respondents earn below Rs 500

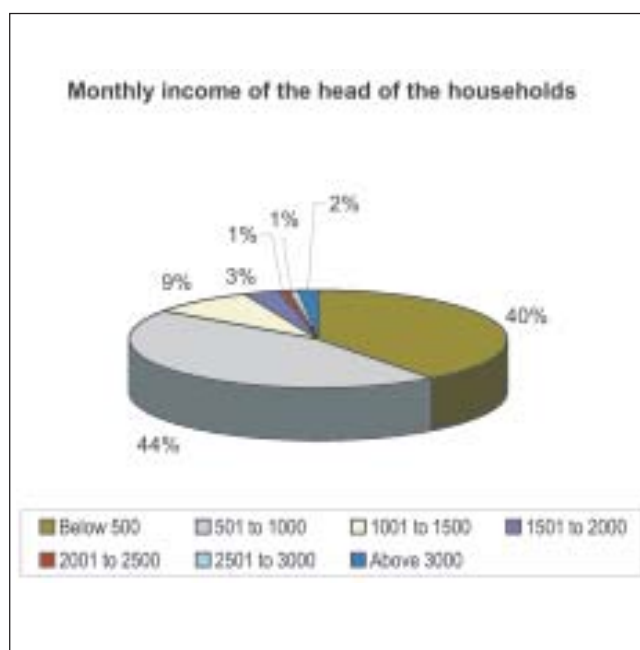


Diagram 7



followed by 45.1% earning between the range of Rs 501 and Rs 1000. Due to the strain of financial hardship, they force their children to get involved in any kind of work without considering the future implication.

It is to be mentioned that a 13 year old girl had been trafficked from Ghutiarisharif in 2001. She had been re-trafficked in the same year due to poverty. The trafficker had been arrested, but the police registered the case under 'dacoity'.

In Krishnanagar, a girl of 11 years had been trafficked in 2001. A case had been filed but no action was taken.

Status of village industries

Presently, the following industries are running in these villages:

- Kaantha stitching
- Batik
- Zari making
- Bidi making
- Shell breaking
- Jaggery producing

But these industries are facing many problems like

- Depressed market
- Decrease in wages
- Bad communication
- Prevalence of skin diseases because of handling chemicals for batik printing.

No effort has been taken by the government to revive those industries using the existing resources.



Study conducted by
HARIPUR AMRA SABAI UNNAYAN SAMITI (HASUS)

Introduction

HASUS has been fighting to ensure the social and economic rights of women for a couple of years in South 24 Parganas. In the experience of the organisation, every day hundreds of women are found missing who have migrated to the city in search of work. The people of South 24-Parganas are lagging behind in terms of socio economic level as compared to other districts. The study was conducted to draw a demographic feature of these areas, to find out the reason of child dropouts, child marriage, migration and trafficking of women and scope of intervention in these areas. The survey was done among 1660 households in 15 villages under 7 blocks of 24 Parganas (South).

Study area

Village	Block	Village	Block
Kashipur	Mandir Bazar	Nischintapur	Kulpi
Atapara	Mandir Bazar	Anowarpur	Kulpi
Ramjibanpur	Mandir Bazar	Iswaripur	Kulpi
Dadpur	Mandir Bazar	Tanrarchar	Kulpi
Mathurapur	Mathurapur I	Kankandighi	Mathurapur 2
Sarberia	Magrahat I	Patkelbaria	Kulpi
Basudebpur	Magrahat I	Haripur	Magrahat I
Kakdwip	Kakdwip		

Sample size

Total no. of households: 5533

30% of total households is 1660, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General Information

The majority of the people live below poverty, most of whom belong to the scheduled caste and other backward classes. Though there is at least one primary school in each of these villages none have any teachers or equipment.

- The children do not find it interesting to continue their studies because of the bad condition of roads, non-availability of drinking water and electricity.
- The villagers, especially the Muslim population, are very indifferent towards family planning.
- Though there are primary health centers in the villages, all are lying defunct because of the non-existence of doctors and medicine. The health workers are also not available in their respective centers.
- The birth rate is very high but there is no system of birth registration.



- Maternal mortality rate is remarkably high and 60% of total women are suffering from acute anemia.
- The STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) rate is very high in these villages. Many men of the age group between 18 years to 30 years go to Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana in search of work. Some of them are seasonal labourers. It has been found by HASUS that some of these migrant labourers were infected by HIV. On the other hand, in each year, approximately 40,000 migrant labourers from Bihar come here to work in the brick kiln. They are also seasonal labourers who work for 6 months. Some of them get married and stay here, while the rest get married and take their wives with them. These men also infect other people of this locality.
- A few years ago clay modeling and weaving were well-developed industries, however, they have been closed due to lack of capital for investment and training facility.

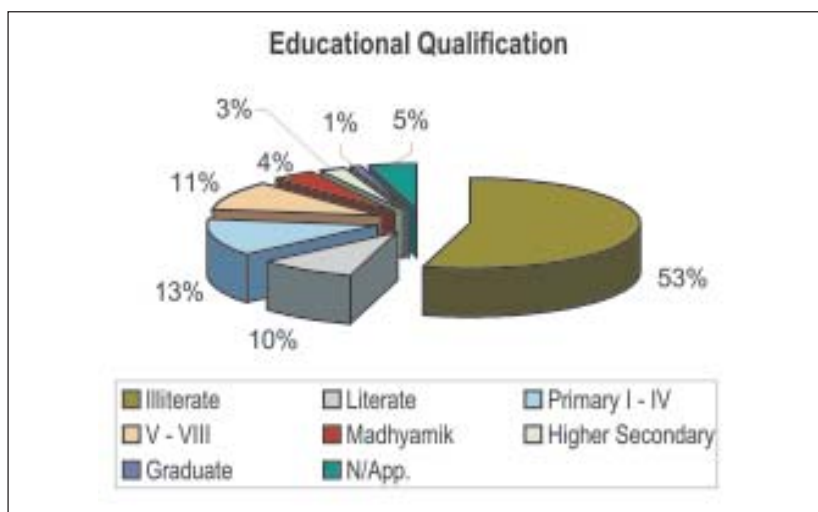


Diagram 8

Educational Scenario

The percentage of illiterate people is alarmingly high. A remarkable percentage of girls between the age of 10 and 17 years are school drop-outs as their parents consider that female education is not as much essential as compared to male education.

Diagram 9 shows that gender discrimination is the prime contributing factor followed by poverty. However, the respondents have referred to two other significant reasons – one is migration and another child labour. The young girls of 10–14 years are being forced by their parents to migrate to city in search of work. So, they are compelled to leave the school as soon as they become capable to earn money to run their family. Children between 5 to 14 years are engaged in different sectors. Some of the children between 5–10 years of age are unpaid labourer who are forced to leave their studies



Village	Drop out				Total
	Male		Female		
	No	%	No	%	
Kashipur	20	36.3	35	63.6	55
Basudebpur	15	37.5	25	62.5	40
Haripur	25	41.6	35	58.3	60
Ramjibanpur	27	48.2	29	51.7	56
Patkelberia	21	46.4	23	53.6	44
Dadpur	65	46.4	75	53.5	140
Anwarpur	29	58	21	42	50
Kakdwip	28	52.8	25	47.2	53
Nischintapur	29	47.5	32	53	61
Mathurapur	26	44	33	56	59
Iswaripur	27	46.5	31	53.4	58
Tanrarchar	28	53.8	46.1	24	52
Kankandighi	29	42.6	39	57.3	68
Sarberia	21	43.7	27	56.2	48
Atapara	24	45.2	29	54.7	53
Total	414		483		897

Table 2. Number of drop-outs in relation to male and female ratio

and work in their own houses. They help their households by collecting paddy and vegetables from the fields, catching fishes from the rivers, and many more odd jobs. Boys between 11 to 15 years of age work as domestic help within the villages where they receive food as payment.

Occupational profile and trend of migration

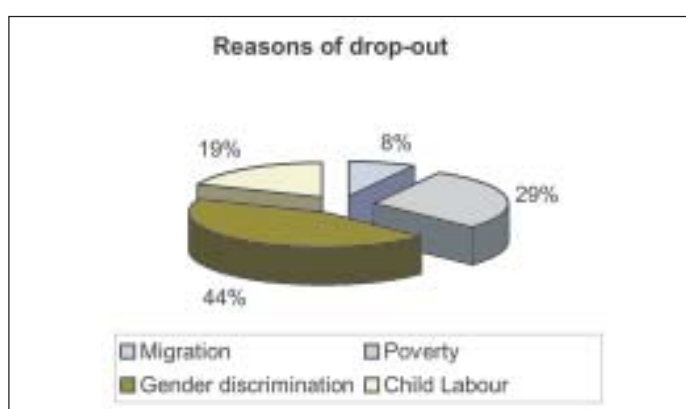


Diagram 9



Place of Work	Cultivator	Daily Labourers	Shopkeeper	Domestic Help	Odd Jobs	Prostitution
Kolkata		1250	52	551		17
Delhi		331	35	99		3
Rajasthan		243	29	10		
Mumbai		250	25	86		10
U.P.		215	10	11		
Local	31	307	5	75	70	10
Other States	23	505	5	12	95	
Gujrat		73	77	7		
Other Districts		201	17		6	

Table 3. **Relationship between source of income and place of work**

Most of the respondents have been found to have migrated to Kolkata, Delhi, Rajasthan, Mumbai, U.P. and other districts of West Bengal to work as daily labourers.

Source of getting work	Source of Income						Total
	Cultivation	Daily Labourer	Shopkeeper	Domestic Help	Odd jobs	Prostitution	
Neigh-bourers	15	251	6	5	11		288
Friends	10	550	1	36	9	5	611
Relatives	6	21	2	171	15		215
Family members		42		3	91		136
Strangers	23	1260	101	213		35	1597
Others		1251	145	423	45		1899
Total	54	3375	255	851	171	40	4746

Table 4. **Relationship between source of income and source of getting work**

Information on trafficking

- It has been found that girls below 18 years have been trafficked to Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai with the pretext of jobs. The above statistics shows, surprisingly, that the girls who have been trafficked for prostitution have gone with strangers. The parents and guardians of these girls do not bother to consider the vulnerability associated with the situation of unknown places where they are forcefully sent. Later on, the parents discover that their daughters have been forced into prostitution. It is worth mentioning here that a remarkable percentage of women and young girls have migrated to Kolkata, Delhi, Rajasthan, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh to work as domestic help. Their parents are not very sure whether they are actually working as domestic help or being used for some other purpose.
- Girls between 13 years to 14 years of age do not seem to communicate with their



parents or guardians after they have migrated to the city in search of work but girls who got married and have left their children at home keep contact with their family members.

Information on child marriage

Child marriage is another major issue which is increasing at a very alarming rate with each passing day. Girls who are above 16 years of age are rarely seen in the villages as they are married off as soon as they reach the age of 14 -15 years. Some of the girls get married even below 12 years. As a result they are susceptible to severe gynaecological problem sometimes, which lead to maternal morbidity.

Village	Reason of trafficking	Age of the victim	Year	Legal Action
Kashipur	Not known	16	2002	No case has been filed
Atapara	Taken away on pretext of job	11	2000	Do
Patkelbadia	Do	13	2000	Do
Ramjivanpur	Taken away on the pretext of marriage	13	2003	A case has been filed which is in trial
Dadpur	Do	13	2000	No case has been filed
Tangarchar	Do	14	2000	Do
Mathurapur	Not known	14	2001	Do
Kakdwip	Do	14	2001	Do
Nischintapur	Do	14	2000	Do
Haripur	Ran away from house because of family conflict	13	1999	Do

Table 5. Status of trafficking cases in the area

Table 5 shows that in the past four years the girls between the age of 13-16 years have been trafficked rampantly with the pretext of job and marriage. According to the surveyors, there are instances where the parents did not agree to talk on the issue. It raises a question about their role in the process of trafficking. None of the parents of these girls (except one) have lodged complaints with the police. Still now, the girls are being migrated to far off places, some of them return, some of them do not. There is nobody to keep a record of this regular trend of migration to unknown places for unknown reasons.



Study conducted by
NIRMAAN

Introduction

Baruipur, being the district headquarters of South 24 Parganas, is a highly urbanized town with an extensive market place for a range of agricultural produce from the rural areas.

Baruipur is a densely populated area and the population largely comprises of migrants from the neighbouring rural areas in search for work. A certain proportion of the population also comprises of illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Because of its urban set up with the significant market area, Baruipur Railway station is also a busy area catering to all kinds of people including local shopkeepers, vendors, passengers and other traders. The children who live in the slums near the railway station are engaged in work and do not have any access to education, health care or any other aspect of development.

Most of the girl children are victims of violence and abuse – verbal, physical, sexual or psychological. This violence is perpetrated either by the employers, shopkeepers, local hawkers, passengers or their male peers.

In such situations, the girl children are left in a high-risk situation where they are vulnerable to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

The boy children are also subject to abuse and get involved in criminal activities resulting in them becoming perpetrators of violence against girls. They are often involved in trafficking and in aiding child prostitution.

CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

Nirmaan has been working on the Baruipur platform for the past few years directly with the platform children. The Nirmaan Child Protection Unit is based at Baruipur Railway Station and caters to those children living in and around the slums near the Railway Station. Baruipur is situated in the district of 24 Parganas (S). The age group of children visiting the Nirmaan Child Protection Unit is in between 8 – 16 years.

The activities taken up by Nirmaan are Non-formal education, providing them support for mainstreaming them into formal schools through lobbying with the local schools and other administrative bodies, health support, vocational training and also providing them counselling support.

During the course of their intervention Nirmaan has come across a remarkable number of cases of minor girls who have been trafficked to Delhi and Mumbai for forced prostitution. To reaffirm their findings about the minor girls being trafficked



in the pretext of migration Nirmaan conducted a formal survey with the support of Sanlaap. The primary *objectives* of the study were:

- To assess the vulnerabilities of the children living in and around the railway platform
- To understand the living conditions of these children
- To identify the causes and scope of sexual abuse and trafficking.
- To develop possible action strategies with regard to a preventive and curative approach for the children

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Study area

Baruipur railway station platform and its adjacent slum.

Sources of data collection

Primary sources

- Children of 6-18 years living in and around platform.
- Parents /adult members of the families of these children.

Secondary sources

- Chairman of municipality
- Officer-in -Charge of Baruipur Police Station.
- Panchayat Members
- Community members
- Local club members

Sampling and sample size

There are a total of 105 children and 79 parents living on and around the platform, which constituted the sampling frame. The surveyors intended to interview 50% of the total number of children, i.e. 52, but since most of the children are working children, and hence very mobile, only 48 children were interviewed. In case of the parents 80% of the total, i.e. 63 were interviewed. In both the cases, simple random sampling method has been adopted.

Method of Data Collection

The methods that were followed for collecting the data were:

- One – to – one interview
- Focussed Group Discussion
- Information gathered through awareness generation programmes.



Tools of Data Collection

- Interview guide
- Open-house interaction

FINDINGS

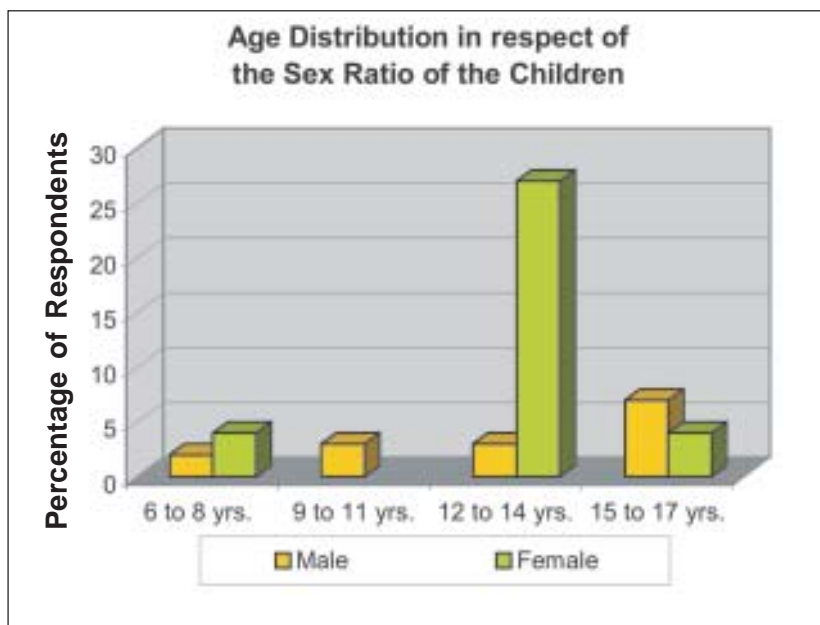


Diagram 10

General Information

Diagram 10 evidently shows that the highest percentage of female children falls in the age range of 12 – 14 years. This fact implies that whilst these children are already vulnerable, because they spend most of their time in and around the railway platform unattended and unprotected, their age group further adds to their vulnerability, therefore opening the possibility of exploitation in all forms.

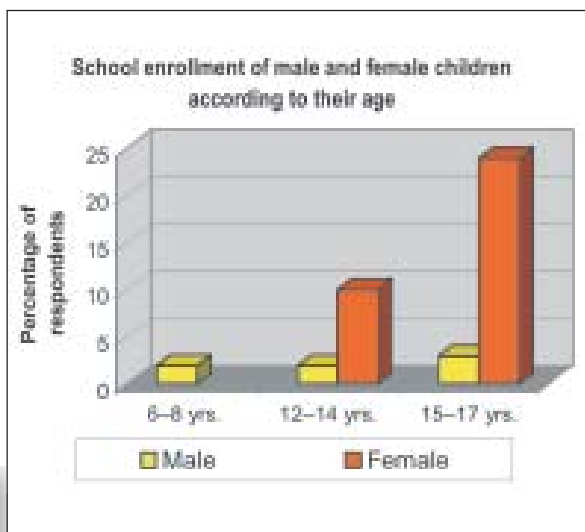


Diagram 11

Educational Scenario

It may be worth mentioning here that no children belonging to the age group 9-11 attend any formal school and that is why this age group has not been represented in Diagram 11.

The diagram shows that female children constitute the majority of pupils who attend school. This is obvious because from Diagram 10, one can



understand that there is a greater number of female children as compared to their male counterparts.

Although female children belonging to the age group of 12-14 years have enrolled in schools, a remarkable percentage from this group tend to become drop-outs because of various reasons –

- Poverty
- Lack of prioritisation and negligence on the part of parents and guardians
- The mothers who work as domestic help forced their daughters of this age group to accompany them at their workplace.
- At times when their parents go out for work, the girl child is forced to do household work and also look after her siblings
- The child loses interest because of the conventional method of teaching followed in the formal schools.

Status of child labour

It is striking to see (Diagram 12) that in the age group of 9 - 11 years only female children are forced to work. This reaffirms the reason as to why no children have seen to be enrolled in the formal school from this age group.

The primary source of income of the female child is domestic help, vegetable and fruit vendors in different railway platforms, teastall helpers and some of them have been forced into prostitution.

In case of boys they work as plumber, mason, daily labourer, helper of fishermen, hawker, teastall helper and helper in soda making factory.

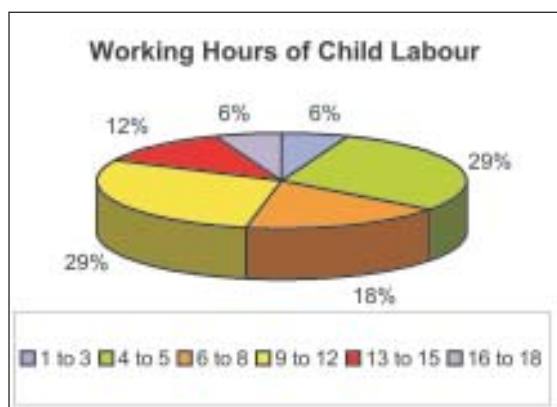


Diagram 13

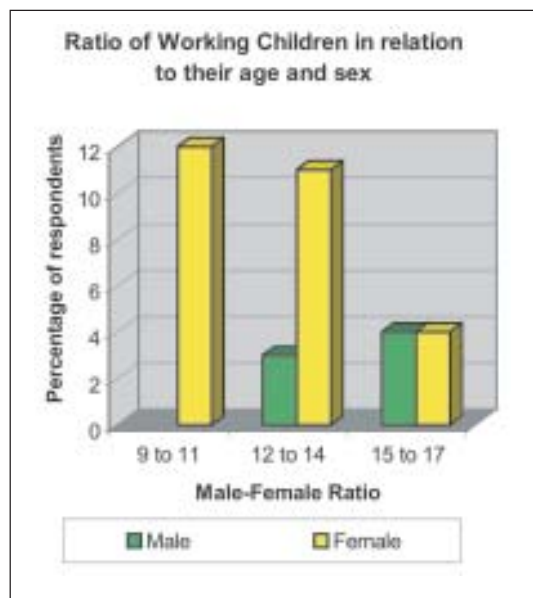


Diagram 12

From Diagram 13, it is seen that the children work for long hours, which inevitably denies their rights as per the Fundamental Rights ensured by the Constitution of India, Child Labour Prohibition Act, Factory's Act 1964 and Convention of Rights of Child. Compared to the hours spent working their income per month is remarkably low as 65% earn below Rs.500, which is visible in Diagram 14.



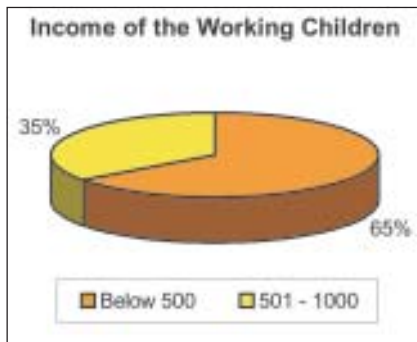


Diagram 14

These children are not entitled to any kind of leave. They work on the basis of “no work, no pay”.

It is obvious that whatever little that they earn, there is no scope for them to save for themselves as they contribute to their family expenditure.

It is evident from the above facts that there is a strong prevalence of child labour and forced child prostitution in the study area. Because of their vulnerable age group and low levels of education and illiteracy these children are pushed into the world of exploitation where they

have no power to negotiate and continue to remain as victims of exploitation.

Violence faced by the children

Diagram 15 clearly indicates that 40% of the children suffer from physical, sexual and mental abuse, which leads to the following manifestations –

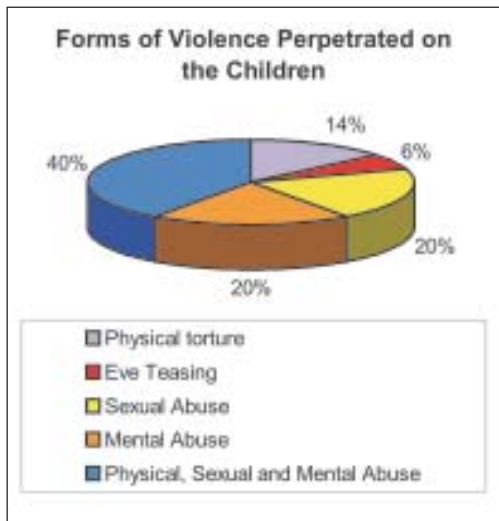


Diagram 15

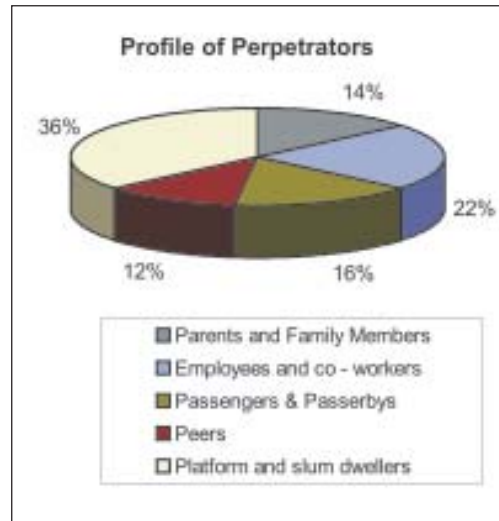


Diagram 16

- Trauma of rape and sexual abuse
- Aggression
- Deep depression
- Constant threat of arrests, isolation, deprivation of any support systems
- Frequent abortions
- Maternal mortality
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Drugs and other addiction
- Difficulties in social integration



- Fear of being victimised
- Fear of abuse of trust

From Diagram 16, it is clearly visible that the girl children are in no way protected and secure even at their home, which is supposed to be their safest place. It appeared that the children were surrounded by perpetrators whom they cannot avoid at any point of time.

Most of the families have migrated from the neighbouring areas within the district of South 24 Parganas. However, at the same time we cannot neglect 12% of migrants. Most of these families have not been a resident of this area for a long time. They are a very mobile group and therefore do not hold any citizenship status. This creates problems when it comes to providing any identity or admitting them to formal schools.

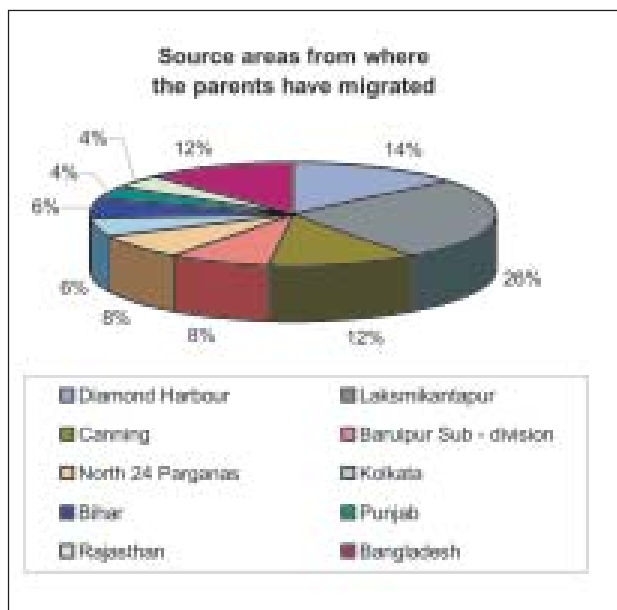


Diagram 17

Occupational Profile

The majority of the parents are working as daily labourers whose monthly income is below Rs.500, which creates situations of vulnerability for the children as seen in the above findings about the children.

Information on trafficking and prostitution

18% of the total are involved in prostitution. The fact that Baruipur is a semi-urban area, where the means of exploitation are innumerable, makes it very easy for the perpetrators to lure the women and children into forced prostitution.

The law enforcing agencies have directly acknowledged the occurrence of cases of trafficking in the area but due to non-participation of the parents of the victim, they cannot legally take forward these cases.

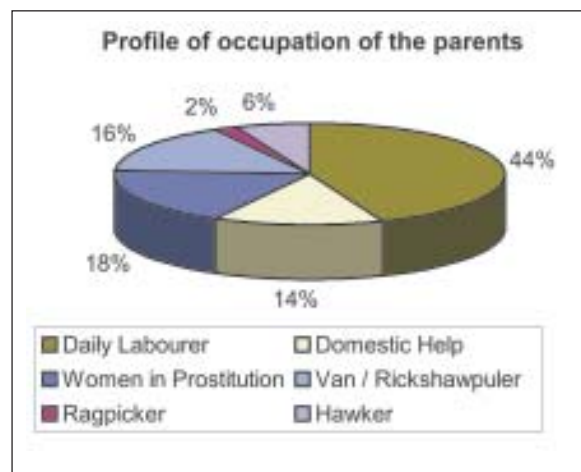


Diagram 18

The Panchayat Pradhan has also rigorously admitted that case of trafficking in the pretext of job and marriage does happen in their respective areas and they feel the strong need of direct intervention where awareness could be raised amongst the local community and thus the girl child made secure.



Findings from the Focus Group Discussion conducted with the children

The Focus Group Discussion was facilitated by Sanlaap's staff. A role-play was initiated focusing on the vulnerability of a girl child and the consequences of trafficking. The role-play ended at a point where the young girl had been trafficked and was bought by a woman. After the role-play, the facilitator asked the group as to why they choose the particular issue of trafficking amongst other issues. The children responded saying that trafficking was a pertaining problem in their area. When further probed as to what could happen to the girl child, who was sold to a madam, a silence prevailed amongst the children. Each one was pushing the other to speak out. They hinted that the girl would be sold for something, which was not "good" for her. A young boy of around 11 years raised his hand and stated that the girl had been sold for prostitution in Kolkata. This statement immediately encouraged the other children in the group to speak out. Some said that they knew many girls living in the area or with their neighbours who regularly practiced prostitution and most of them travelled to the tourist spots in Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas. Most of these girls also lived in the red light areas based in Kolkata and often visited their families living in Baruipur. The group members also gave instances of many girls, who presently visit the Child Protection Unit, that were forced into prostitution by their mothers who are in prostitution. However many of these girls visit the center regularly now and seem to not practice prostitution any longer as informed by the group members.

Vocational training is given to the children visiting the Child Protection Unit in order to provide them with an occupational alternative so as to minimize their vulnerability. Lobbying with the Municipality would help in mobilising the government schemes that provide certificate training and job placement of children who do not have any options.

Nirmaan in support with Dhabdhabi Panchayat has begun a Child Protection unit, which provides non-formal education and vocational training to the children living in and around Dhabdhabi Railway Station. This particular programme has begun on the initiative of the Panchayat. Similar Child protection Units can be set up in other areas which would focus on providing economic options as well as behavioural change among the children who are living in a vulnerable situation along the railway station.



Introduction

Madhushudanpur village is one of the remotest villages of South 24 Parganas .It is within Gopalnagar Gram Panchayat. There is a total of 700 families in the village and a population of 4500. Among this, 400 families are enlisted in BPL.

There are three primary schools in Madhushudanpur 3, 4, 5 and 6 Sansad – two in Madhushudhanpur 4 and one covering the other three areas.

There are almost 4500-5000 people living in the area. But there is no MBBS doctor. There are only two quacks practicing in the villages.

Study area

Madhushudanpur village

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 700

30% of total households are 210, which was drawn as sample size. But due to some problems in the area, 27% of total households, i.e. 187 households were interviewed.

FINDINGS

General Information

The total number of children of 187 families: 706

No. of male children:338

No. of female children:368

Among them 360 children read in the school and 346 do not.

Educational Scenario

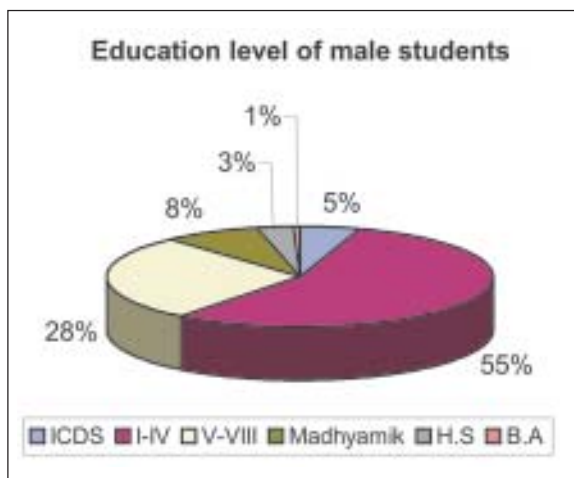


Diagram 19

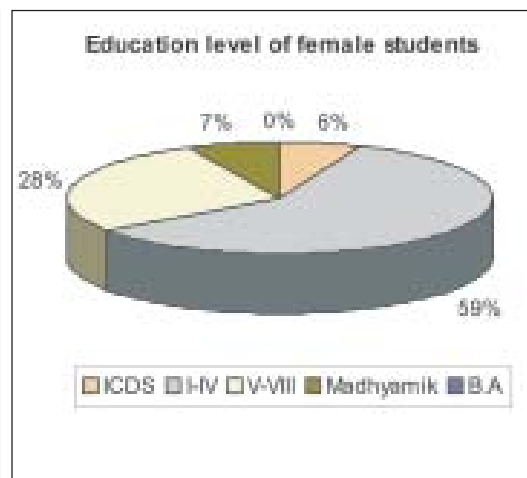


Diagram 20



From the diagrams 19 and 20, it is evident that the number of students is much higher in Class I-IV compared to other levels. The family members do not have to spend money on their children up to Class IV, because the government bears all the expenditure. Moreover, the high school is far off from the village. The students need to travel by bus. The parents have to spend more than Rs.150 per month bus fare, which is not possible for them.

There is one more reason. There are a few number of teachers in the primary schools who cannot supervise the large number of students. The parents do not guide their children. As a result, when they appear for the admission in class V, they do not succeed.

Comparing the above two diagrams, it may be seen that the number of girl children studying in the primary level is much higher than that of boy children. The reason is a demand for an 'educated bride'. It reduces the amount of dowry also. The parents therefore put pressure on the teachers to make their daughters pass the examination.

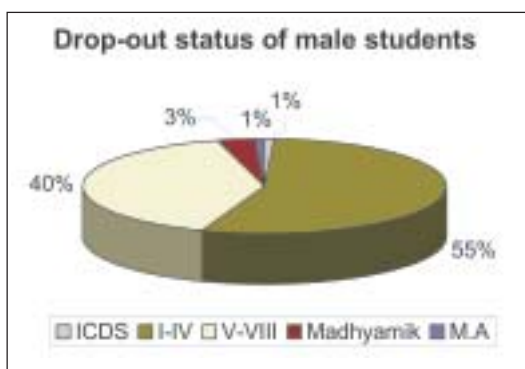


Diagram 21

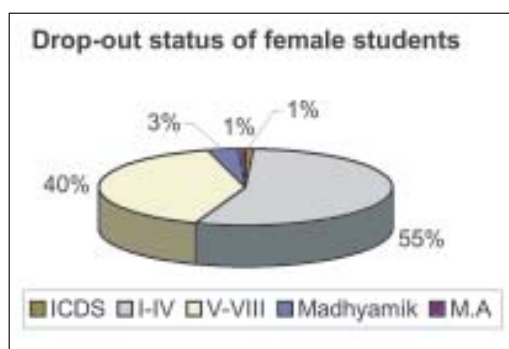


Diagram 22

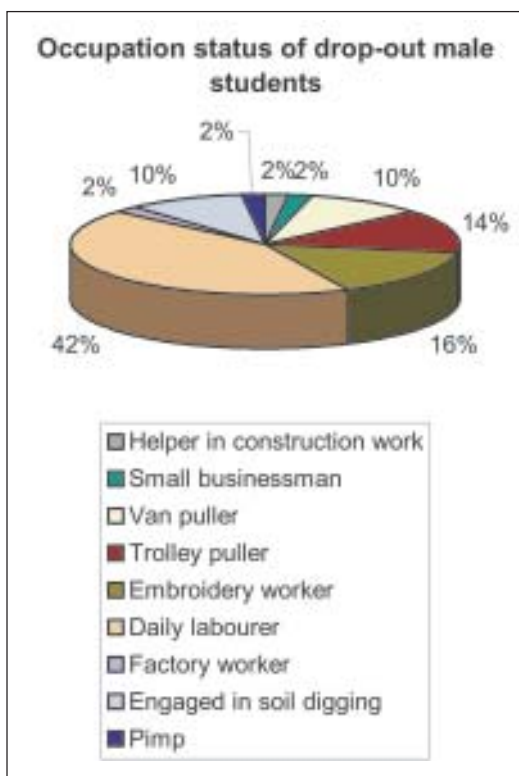


Diagram 23

The diagrams 21 and 22 show that among the total drop out children, the number of children studying up to class IV is higher. Some reasons have been referred to earlier. Apart from these:



- Parents get their children engaged in agricultural field.
- The girl children get married at an early age.
- The distance between the village and the high school is 5 k.m the parents of the girl children feel unsafe to go through this road.

There are 51 male children engaged in several types of work. There are 66 male dropouts who work in the agricultural field. They do not earn from it, because the field belongs to their family.

Among 92 female dropouts, only 23 earn money. The rest of the girls are engaged in their household chores.

When their girls reach an early adolescent age, their parents get them married as soon as possible. They do not get an education, nor do they get any scope to acquire any skills through which they can earn money. They are not mature enough to handle domestic chores in their in laws house. But they are pressurized to do so. On the other hand, they have to bear children in an immature physical and mental state. All these factors reduce the ability to work. Then their in-laws and husbands start to torture them in various ways. Finally their family members drive them out. Sometimes, they are sent back to their in-laws on the initiative of their parents. Sometimes they are refused by their in laws family.

The traffickers use this option less situation and lure the girls with the pretext of a good job. The parents also do not want to take their responsibility any more. The destination of these girls ends in any brothel, be it in Mumbai, Kolkata or Delhi. This kind of instance is common in Madhushudanpur. Some girls work in the local brick kiln, but, are sexually abused in their workplace.

Status of child labour

Diagram 25 shows that the majority of children work for 24 hours, which is the ultimate violation of their rights as a child, and above all as a human.

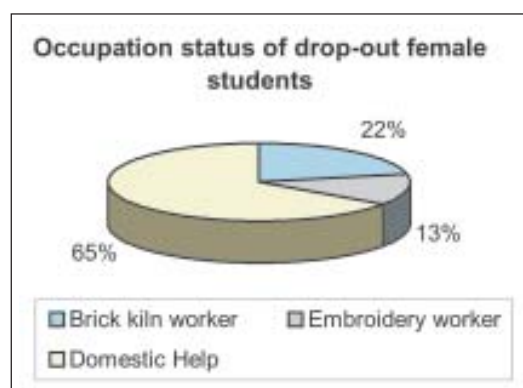


Diagram 24

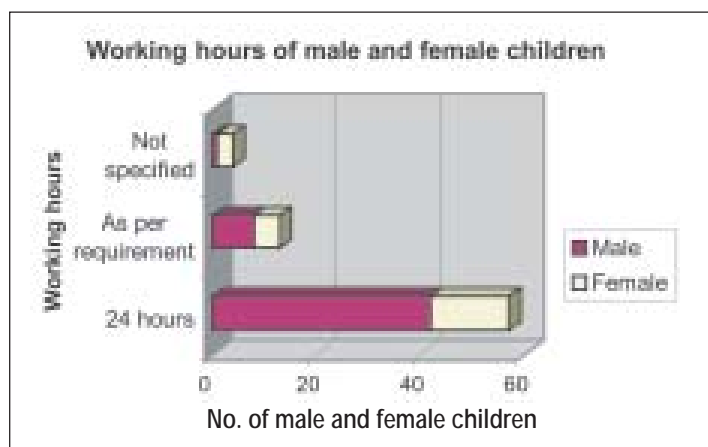


Diagram 25



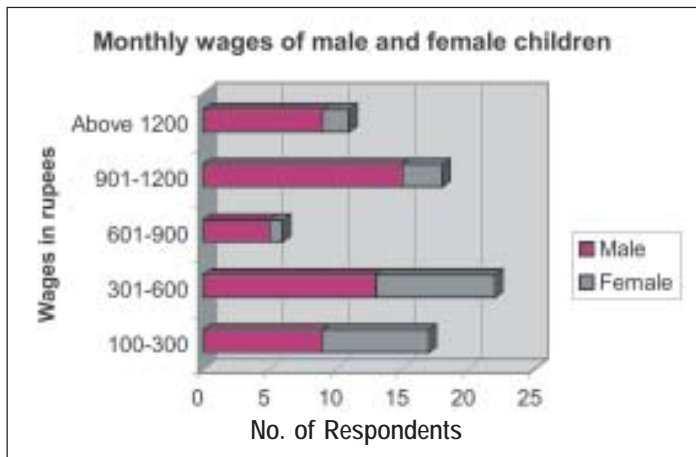


Diagram 26

It is seen from the diagrams 25 and 26 that, whilst male children are highly paid in comparison to female, the variance in working hours is not so much.

Status of child marriage

In Madhushudanpur, the majority of girl children have been found to be married off in the ages between 15-18 years. The surveyors commented that, in reality, girl children get married between

12-14 years. The parents know that marriage below 18 years for female children is not legal. So, they did not disclose it.

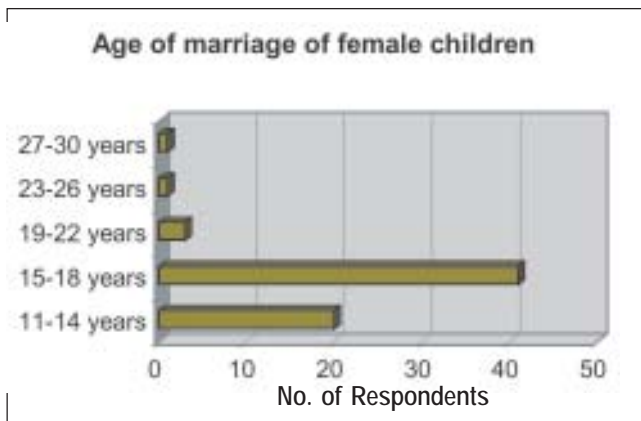


Diagram 27

The workers of Samadhan felt that from their experience, if we want to prevent child marriage, the adolescent girls should be imparted any kind of training through which they can earn some money. If daughters can add something to their family income, the parents do not want to get them married.

Trend of migration

Migration for marriage is not so rampant in this place. The majority of girls got married

within the block, followed by Gram Panchayat.

Since there is little scope to get any work within the village, there is a tendency to migrate. But, as the level of education is poor, the male members get chance to work only as daily labourers and the females as domestic help.

Most of the villagers are dependent on agriculture. Aman paddy is produced during rainy season. One fifth of the total land can be harvested twice. The rest of the land remains barren

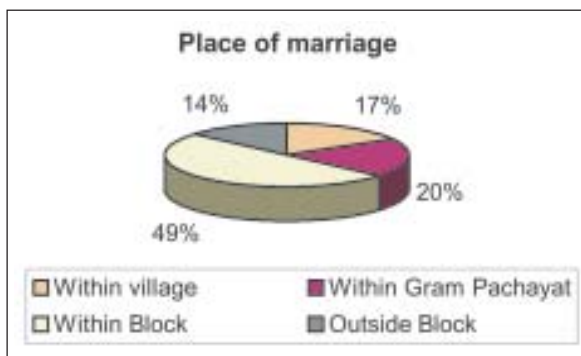


Diagram 28



during summer because there is no irrigation system. There is no cottage industry within the village.

Some of the children migrate to work in the brick kiln, as helpers in construction work. Some of them work as van pullers. A large section of women and girls of Madhushudanpur village have been forced to engage themselves in prostitution, especially in Sonagachhi. As a result, male members of those families prefer to spend their days staying idle in their house. It is a surprising feature in Madhushudanpur that no shame, hatred or accusation is associated with this.

Some illegal country liquor shops have been opened within the village. The villagers know about it, but no one dares to protest as the trade is backed by the local political leaders and police. Everybody gets their cut of money from it. The owners of these shops themselves told this to the workers of Samadhan without any hesitation.

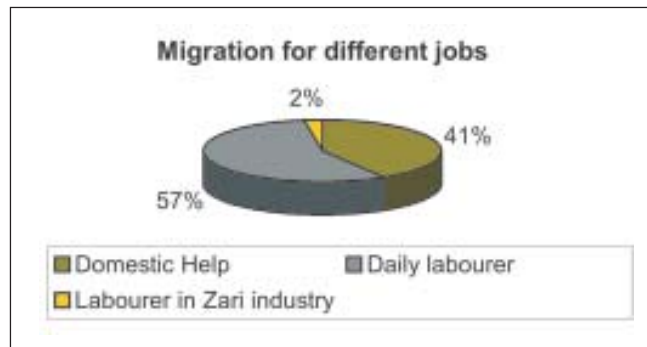


Diagram 29



Study conducted by

SARISHA DISHARI PALLY UNNAYAN SAMITY

Introduction

The three villages of Khargachi, Bagaria and Srichanda Burir Pukur are densely populated areas. Although most of these families are farmers the amount of land that they hold is so little (approximately 5 to 7 Kathas) that it does not give them enough earnings to sustain the family, and therefore they are forced to work as daily labourers for less than the minimum wage. The irrigation system in the area is also not good enough to support the cultivation process. The girls from these families become dropouts at the age of 10 or 11 years due to poverty. These girls are either forced to join the Refill Factory (Linc Pens) located in the area itself so as to support the income of their families or they are married off at the tender ages of 13 or 14 years. The majority of the workers in the Refill Factory are young girls and below 18 years. They work on a daily wage system ranging from Rs.12 to Rs.30 per day for the production of 150 – 200 refills each day. Moreover the process of making the refills involves handling a lot of chemicals with their bare hands and is a hazardous job.

The organisation had been functioning from the year 1990 and was involved in activities like organising medical camps, village road repairs, relief work and providing educational aid to the children. Based on their experiences while working in these three villages, the organisation realised the minor girls were immensely vulnerable to all forms of exploitation. Thus the study was conducted to understand the magnitude of the problem and to make necessary interventions in this regard. Sanlaap supported the organisation in carrying out this venture.

Study Area

Village	Gram Panchayat	Block
Bagaria	Srichanda Burir Pukur	Mograhath I
Srichanda Burir Pukur	Srichanda Burir Pukur	
Khargachi	Srichanda Burir Pukur	

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 1000

30% of total households is 300, which was drawn as sample size.



FINDINGS

General Information

From Diagram 30, it is clearly visible that the majority of the population is within the age range of 9 to 13 years and 14 to 18 years, meaning that the entire range is that of minors and a vulnerable age group to any form of exploitation.

Educational scenario

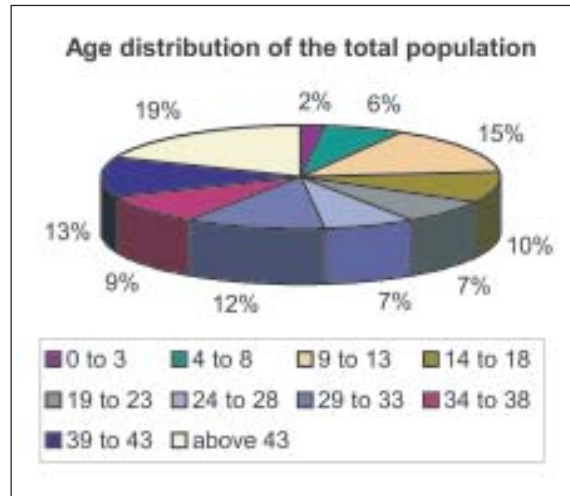


Diagram 30

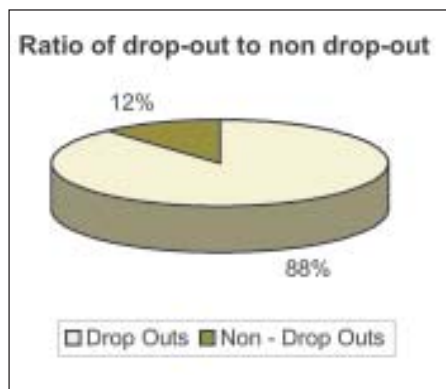


Diagram 32

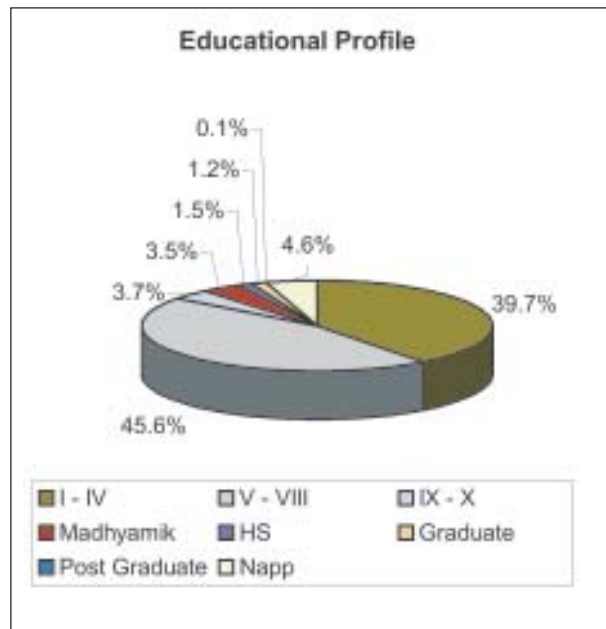


Diagram 31

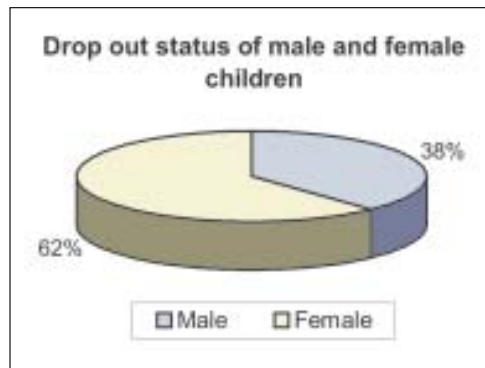
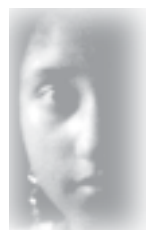


Diagram 33

Diagram 31 indicates that the majority of the respondents have enrolled their names in the primary and above primary level. Though the range has been specified from Class V to VIII to make the frequency distribution scientific, it is worth mentioning that the respondents who have fallen in this category left the school after being enrolled in Class V. Comparing Diagrams 32 and 33, it is deduced that out of the total enrolled population, 88% have dropped out from school and the ratio of female drop out is alarmingly high. There are two main reasons for this high rate of drop out:



1. Due to lack of economic options and landlessness, the villagers do not get employment except 5-6 months in a year. It has been mentioned earlier, that there is a demand of young girls in refill making factory. The parents take this opportunity and send their girl children to work in the refill factories without considering the vulnerabilities in the workplace and hazards involved in the process.
2. The parents do not bother to continue their daughters' education because of the strong prevalence of gender discrimination. If there is an option of sending a child to school, depending on the financial situation of the parents, the male child will be given preference. The parents get their daughters married off at very young ages as early as 12 years, whenever they get the opportunity to relieve the burden of a girl child.

There are neither any hospitals nor any primary health centers in these three villages. There is only one hospital in Sirakol, which is 30-40 Kilometres away from the villages but no doctor is available there. There are some quacks, who treat the patients whenever needed.

The children of 0-6 years attend the ICDS center only when food is provided. Obviously, the objective of running the ICDS center is not being fulfilled.

Information on migration

It has been found that migration of young children for the purposes of work is happening in the villages adjacent to the areas where the study has been done. They migrate for the work of zari making, diamond cutting and as helpers in jewellery shops. So, there is every chance of the young children of these 3 villages to be affected by migration at any point of time. Moreover, there are lots of instances where the young girls of Mograhat I block have been trafficked with the pretext of jobs in the past few years.



Study conducted by
SUNDARBAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CENTRE

Introduction

SRDTC primarily started participatory development work in the remote areas of Sundarbans and North Bengal. As women empowerment is the primary motivation of their developmental activities, it has been presently engrossed in safe migration and anti trafficking actions.

The surveyed area is highly susceptible and in jeopardy as it is the biggest delta of the world and is crisscrossed by various rivers and rivulets. The area is a source zone for migration and women trafficking. Child marriages and trafficking to other places are unbridled here.

The area is divided into small islands and separated from each other by big rivers. Thus most of the parents of married girls cannot contact their daughters regularly. It has been discerned that many young girls are missing from their in-laws houses after marriage.

Study area

Villages	Gram panchayats
1. Paschim Surendra Nagar	Durbachati
2. Krishnadaspur	G.Plot
3. Gangapur	Banashyam Nagar
4. Dakshin Gobindapur	Ramganga
5. Bhabatpur	Pathar Pratima
6. Durgagobindapur	Gopal Nagar
7. Kamdevpur	Achintanagar
8. Gobindapur Abad	Braja Ballavpur

The Pathar Pratima block is the largest block of Sunderban political division. It consists of 15 Panchayats out of which 8 have been selected. These rivers not being navigable due to ebbs and tides have rendered the place geographically problematical and out-of-the-way. People move by boats and machine boats. This area is more or less isolated from the main land. Poor infrastructure makes the place more rearward.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 5000

30% of total households is 1500, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS



General Information

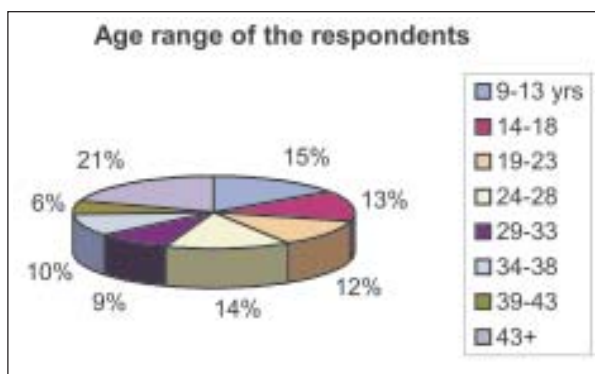


Diagram 34

97.06% of the respondents were Hindus and 2.9% Muslims. Out of the total 1500 families, 803 families belong to General Castes, 559 belong to Scheduled Caste, 11 belong to Scheduled Tribes and 127 belong to OBC.

The vulnerable age group, i.e. 9-13 years is quite high in number.

Educational Scenario

It is easily evident that the illiteracy rate is not so alarming. But the number of dropouts is not to be overlooked.

The table below shows the drop out rates.

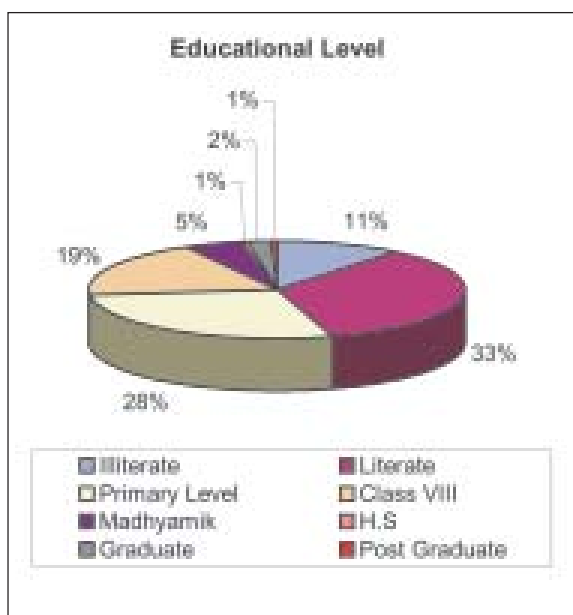


Diagram 35

There are various reasons for drop out, like, poverty, gender discrimination, lack of guidance, early marriage, lack of awareness, father's death, illness, more involvement in domestic chores, failures in the classes etc.

Villages	Male	Female
Paschim Surendra Nagar	226	126
Krishnadaspur	142	112
Gangapur	218	261
Dakshin Gobindapur	236	184
Bhabatpur	179	129
Durgagobindapur	155	90
Kamdevpur	267	199
Gobindapur Abad	114	94

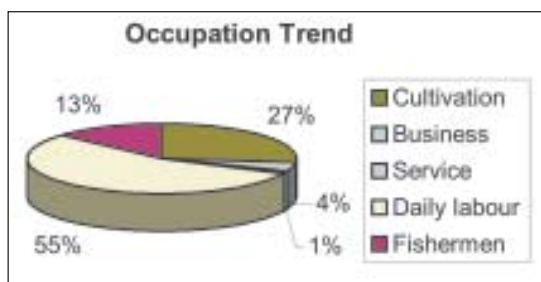


Diagram 36

Occupational profile and trend of migration

The daily labourers work in different cities, nearby villages, even some migrate to Arabian countries. It was declared by the respondents that their employers misbehave with them. Out of 5315 persons, 1026 are dissatisfied with low wages, two women reported to have faced sexual harassment and the rest loss of profit, maladjustment to city life etc.



Cultivation becomes non cost-effective due to lack of irrigational facilities.

Trend of child marriage

Occurrence of marriage of girls below 15 years is quite high.

The rationale for such are lack of awareness, traditional system, societal reasons, poverty, love marriage, father's death etc.

Case studies

- Durga Shyamal of Dakshin Gopal Nagar had to get married off to a mental patient as she came from poor family. She could not bear the torture of in-laws and left the place and had to come back to her father's house. After his death she left that house and till date she and her son are missing.
- Puspa Sardar of Durga Gobindopur had to leave her in-laws place due to confrontation with her husband. She came to stay with her sister and from there she left with a stranger. Her whereabouts are not known by anyone.

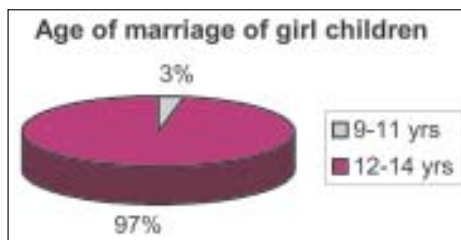


Diagram 37

Suggestions

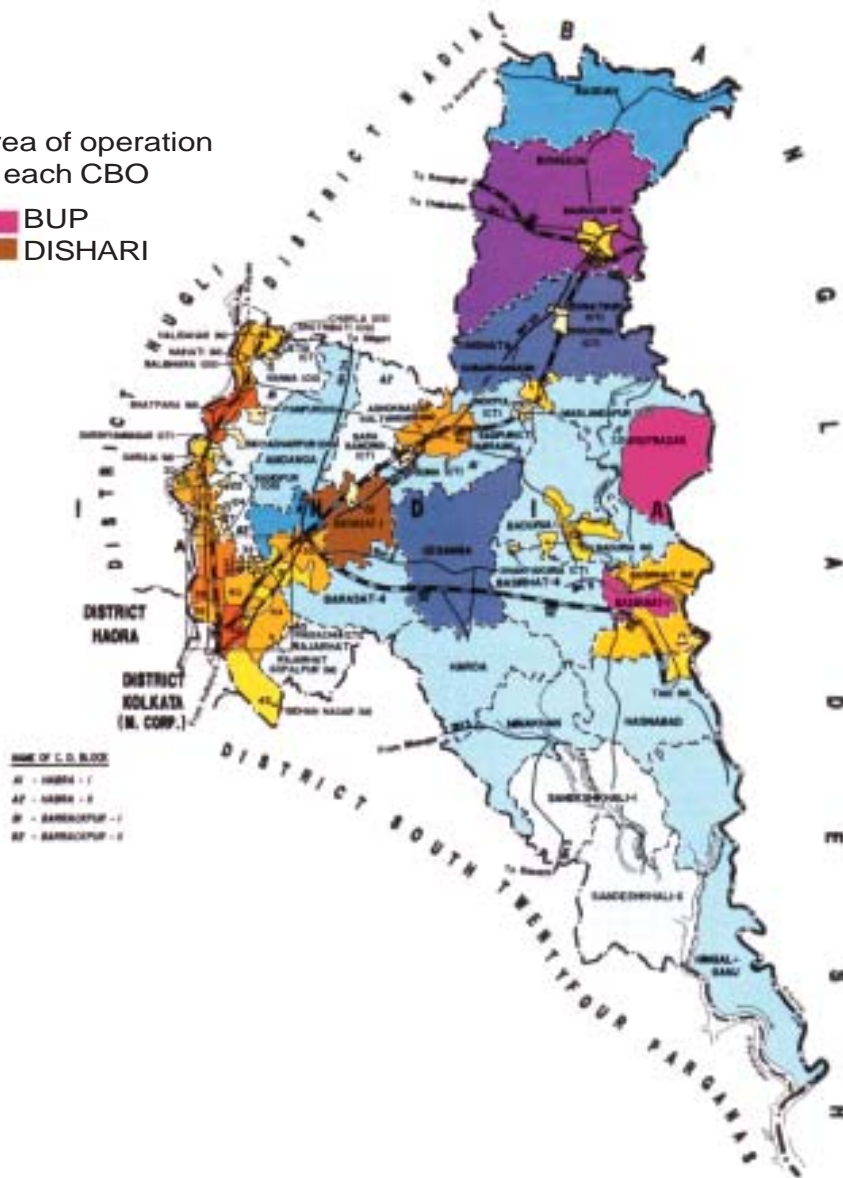
- The acuteness of poverty leads the populace to move out to far away places. The area is basically inhabited by the agriculturists. But land is mono cropped and there has been a lack of irrigation facilities which is not affable for multi cropping. Sunderban rivers and rivulets are salty, unbecoming for agriculture. Rate of productivity is low. Proper knowledge on improved cultivation is of the utmost importance.
- The dowry system is nonetheless being carried out. Proper awareness should be imparted on this issue.
- Rural entrepreneurship development schemes are important to curtail the migration and trafficking of women.
- Gender discrimination, drop out, lack of health facilities and early marriages give rise to manifold encumbrances for development. These matters should be looked into.



West Bengal North 24 Parganas

Area of operation
of each CBO

■ BUP
■ DISHARI



North 24 Parganas

District Profile

North 24 Parganas is the second largest district of India and West Bengal in terms of population content. Its total population of 89.30 lakhs is only second to Medinipur. Situated on the northern flank of Kolkata on the eastern bank of the Hoogly river North 24 Parganas is a very important district in terms of industry, trade and commerce. Various industries including jute, paper, engineering and textile mills etc. were set up along the banks of Hoogly river. North 24 Parganas has the highest number of registered Small Scale industrial units in the State numbering 37,865 and employing 2,32,403 (13.93% of the State total) as on 31.3.2000.

In 2001, it has 27 municipalities and 1 cantonment Board and 22 CD blocks comprising 1581 villages.

The urban decennial growth rate of North 24 Parganas has always been above the state average. The district had to cope with the influx of population in the aftermath of the partition of the country and the 1971 Bangladesh war. It also had to offer shelter to a considerable number of people from neighbouring Kolkata who had shifted from the core city areas to the outskirts, possibly due to economic considerations, as the Kolkata growth rate has stabilized in every census since 1951.

The general sex ratio has increased from 907 females per 1000 males in 1991 to 927 in 2001 for the district as a whole. Among the C.D blocks the highest sex ratio has been recorded in case of Baduria block with 961 females per 1000 males followed by Swarupnagar and Basirhat I block each with 957 and Basirhat II with 954.

In case of rural areas, the child population in the 0-6 age group has declined in North 24 Parganas from 15.13 % of the total population in 1991 to 11.44 in 2001.

The literacy scenario of North 24 Parganas presents a study in contrast. On the one hand we find spectacular progress in the drive for improvement in literacy while in some areas the progress is very poor, even to the extent of having negative growth in literacy rate.

Source: Census of India 2001



Introduction

Barasat town is the headquarter of North 24 Parganas. The distance from Kolkata is 23 k.m. In 1985, when Barasat was declared as the district headquarter, many people from surrounding villages rushed there to settle including the migrants from Bangladesh through crossing either Swarupnagar or Bangaon border. Slums have been developed in different areas of 30 wards in the municipality area. Most of them live below poverty line. Government facilities are not enough to support the community.

Study area

Dwijoharidas Nagar Colony of Ward no.22, Nivedita Pally of Ward no.19, Kazi Para of Ward no.11 and Netaji Pally of West Khilkapur Panchayat adjacent to Ward no.21 of Barasat were selected.

Sample Size

Name of the area	Total households	No. of samples
Dwijoharidas Nagar Colony	420	126 (30% of total households)
Nivedita pally	433	130 (30% of total households)
Kazi para	360	108 (30% of total households)
Netaji Pally	833	125 (15% of total households)

FINDINGS

General information

Except Kazipara, Hindu community dominates all areas. Most of the inhabitants of Dwijoharidas Nagar Colony, Nivedita Pally and Netaji Pally are Scheduled Castes and all of them are Bengali speaking.

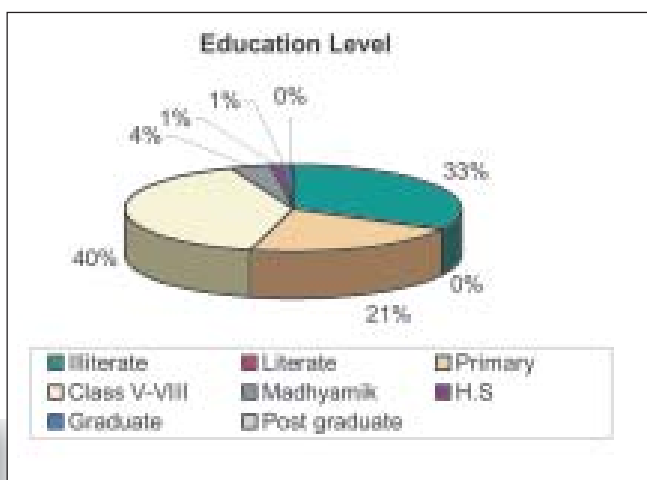


Diagram 38

Educational scenario

The Diagram 38 shows a very distinctive feature. The majority of the people are either illiterate or studied up to class VIII. Nivedita Pally is much developed compared to the others. Among the sampled population, there are 13 persons who have passed higher secondary. Six persons are graduates and 5 are postgraduates.

Status of migration

From Diagrams 39 and 40, it is seen that out of the total population 84% are migrants. The majority of them have migrated from Bangladesh.

The respondents have cited the following reasons for migration:

1. Acute poverty in Bangladesh
 2. Better job opportunities in India
 3. For better education of children
 4. People belonging to the Hindu community find it unsafe to stay there.
 5. House rent is cheaper in Kolkata comparing to Bangladesh.
- Since the majority of them have already migrated they are planning to stay here permanently.

Following are the advantages and disadvantages due to migration:

Advantages

1. The scope to earn money is much better than in Bangladesh.
2. The provision of social security is much better.
3. Children can get the educational facility.
4. Economic condition is much better in India than in Bangladesh.

Disadvantages

1. The ill ventilated room and poor sanitation facility makes it difficult to stay in a colony.

Status of child labour

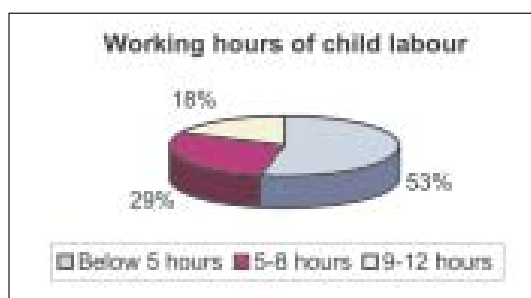


Diagram 41

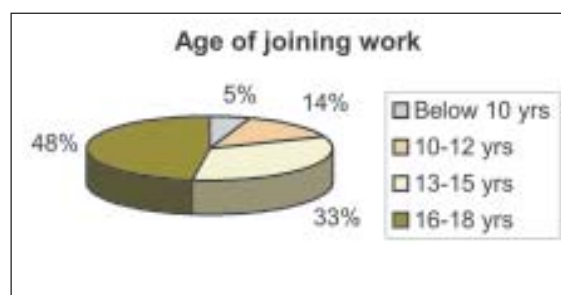


Diagram 42

Taking cue from Diagrams 41 and 42, it can be said that, the majority of the working children fall in the age range of 16-18 years followed by 13-15 years. 14% children are aged about 10-12 years. Though a person above 14 years is not regarded

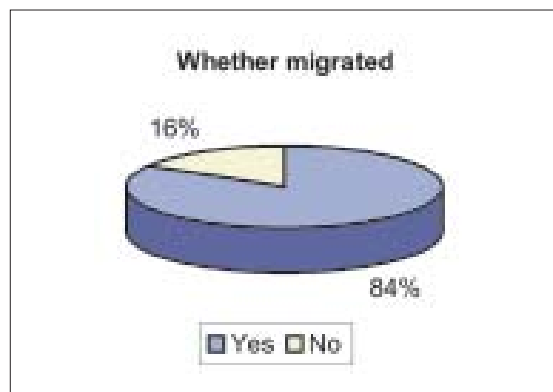


Diagram 39

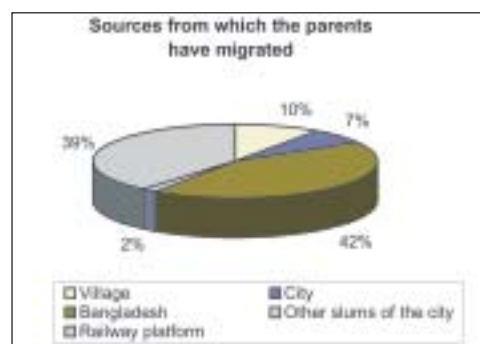


Diagram 40



as a child according to the *Child Labour Prohibition Act, Factory's Act 1964*, it inevitably denies their rights as per the Fundamental Rights ensured by the *Convention of Rights of Child*.

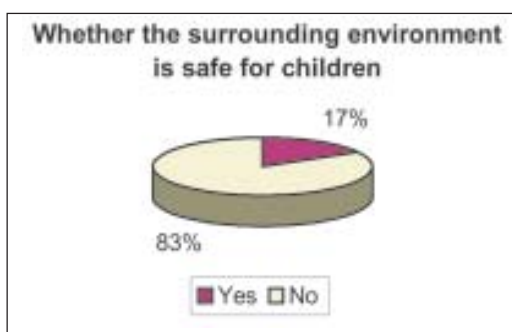
These children are not entitled to any kind of leave. They work on the basis of “no work, no pay”.

Though the percentage of children working for 9-12 hours is not high, it should be taken into consideration.

It is obvious that whatever little that they earn, there is no scope for them to save for themselves as they contribute to their family expenditure.

It is evident from the above facts that there is a strong prevalence of child labour.

Child protection



It is alarming to note that, 83% of parents do not think their surrounding environment safe for their children. Because of their vulnerable age group and low levels of education and illiteracy these children are pushed into the world of exploitation.

Among the adolescent boys and girls, addiction to *ganja* is increasing.

Diagram 43

Occupational Profile

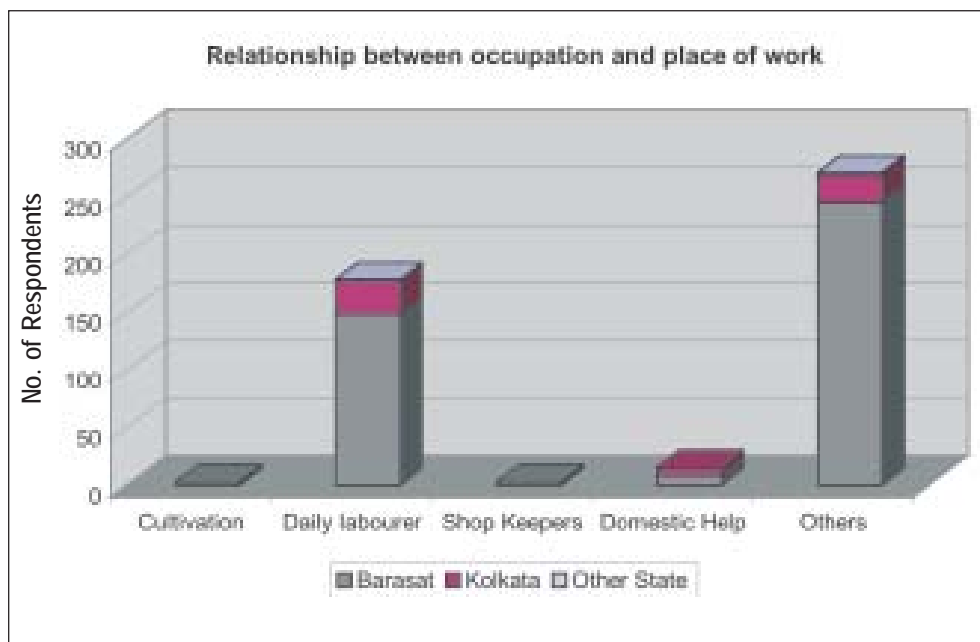


Diagram 44



In the earlier diagrams we have seen that 84% of inhabitants have migrated from other places, yet, the majority of the respondents are working in Barasat .

Identity as citizen

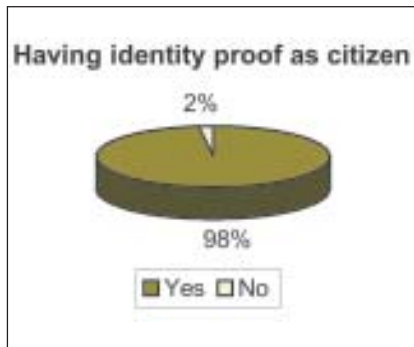


Diagram 45

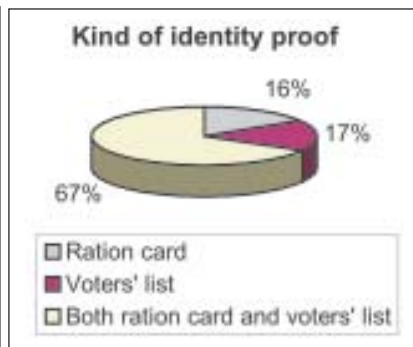
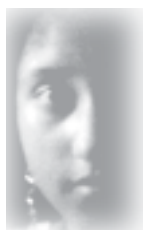


Diagram 46

From both the diagrams, it is clearly evident that though majority of the victims have migrated from Bangladesh, 98% have the identity proof as Indian citizen.



Study conducted by
DISHARI

Introduction

Swaroopnagar and Basirhat blocks of North 24 Parganas district are confronted with many social problems. Trafficking of women and children for exploitative purposes has been identified as an increasing issue in these areas. The two blocks being located at 1-kilometer distance from the Indo-Bangladesh border act as a facilitating factor for cross-border trafficking.

The other reasons, which have contributed towards push and pull factors of human trafficking, are that most of the households live below poverty line (BPL) and the area has been severely infested by anti-social elements. Thus the economic pressure on the people living in these blocks has resulted in women and children becoming victims of trafficking through the medium of such anti-social elements.

Study Area

Village	Block
Nityanand Kathi	Swaroopnagar
Goalbathan	Swaroopnagar
Panitor	Basirhat I
Ghojadanga	Basirhat I

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 5580

30% of total households are 1674, which was drawn as sample size.

Limitation

Since the study area is located at the Indo-Bangladesh border and hence is under the vigilance of the border security force, the surveyor had to face some extent of resistance from the BSF.



FINDINGS

Educational scenario

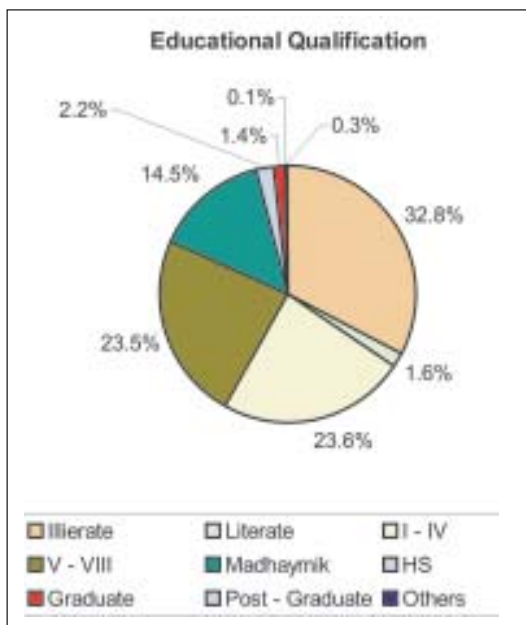


Diagram 47

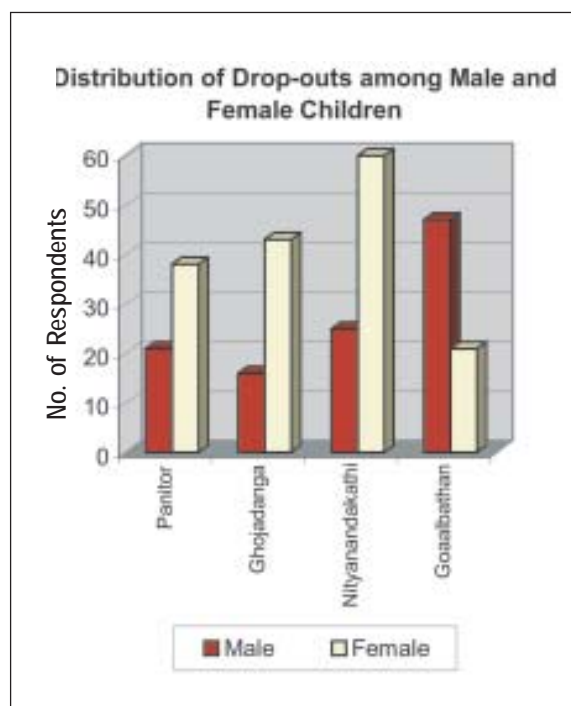


Diagram 48

Diagram 47 indicates that 32.85% of the targeted population are illiterate and amongst them, a remarkable percentage are women.

It is clearly evident from Diagram 48 that there is a higher percentage of female dropouts from schools as compared to that of male children.

As reasons for dropout of children, 44.28% have stated that poverty is the prime reason, followed by 25.09%, who cited gender discrimination as the other reason for dropout. This then raises the question that if poverty is the major contributing factor, then why are only female children being affected. Thus implying a strong prevalence of gender discrimination. If there is the option of sending a child to school, depending on the financial situation of the parents, then the male child will be given preference.

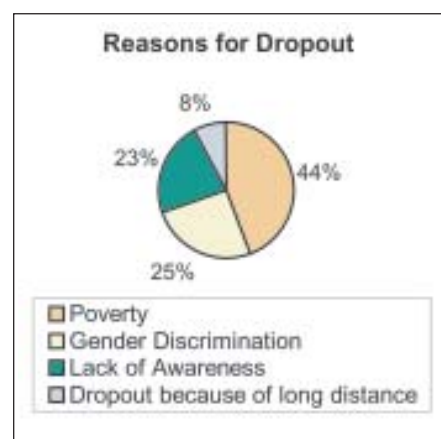


Diagram 49

As far as the places are concerned where migrants have gone for work, a remarkable percentage have migrated as domestic help in places like Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi.

This is contrary to the fact that employees prefer to have people as domestic helps, who share the same lingual and cultural background.

Places where migrants have been forced into prostitution are Kolkata, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



Four years ago there was a Handloom Industry organized by a womens co-operative society in Ghojadanga village in Basirhat block, which was funded by NABARD. But, due to internal disputes, the industry failed. Though there exists adequate infrastructure along with skilled workers no initiative is being taken to revive the unit.

Trend of child marriage

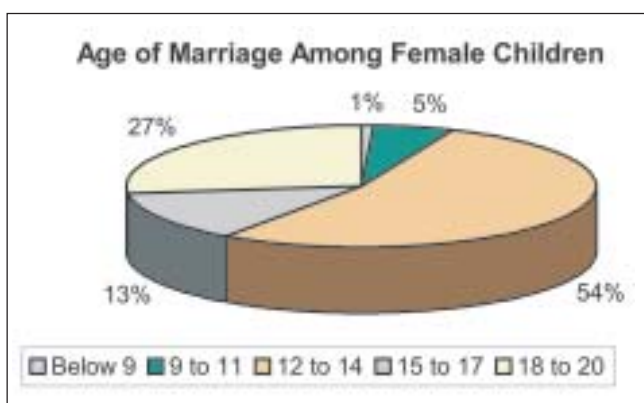


Diagram 50

Diagram 50 suggests that there is a high rate of child marriage in the study area. This can be cited as another reason for the dropout of the girl child. It also implies the inevitable manifestation of gender discrimination. Married at such tender ages with no education and support system the girl is left absolutely optionless and hence highly vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Diagram 51 suggests that lack of awareness is the major reason for the girl children being married off at early ages of their childhood. There are some people who act as a mediator of these marriages. They take the opportunity of the ignorance of parents and lure away their children in the pretext of marriage and sell them off in the red light areas.

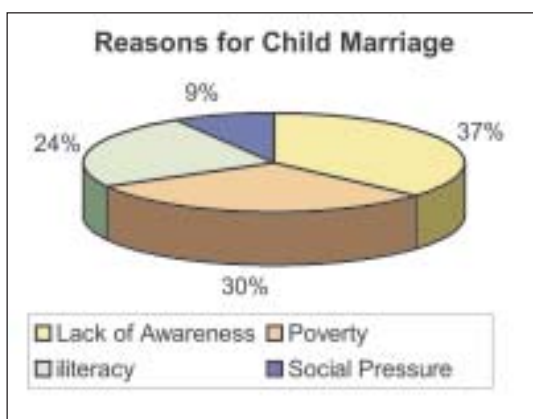


Diagram 51

Information on trafficking

It has been found that, in the last two years, more than 100 girls below the age of 18 years have been trafficked to Mumbai for the purposes of forced prostitution. Some of them are being forced to work as dancers in the city bars. The girls who are already engaged in the flesh trade in Mumbai come back to take more girls from the area and

coerce them into prostitution with the consent of their parents. These girls keep regular communication with their family members.

When the parents of these young girls notice that their neighbours, who have sent their daughters to Mumbai, are able to buy land and properties they do not hesitate to force their daughters to go to Mumbai without considering the exploitative situation. Some of the parents expressed their willingness to send their daughters as soon as they get the chance.

In these areas, facing the tortures of the border security force is a regular phenomenon

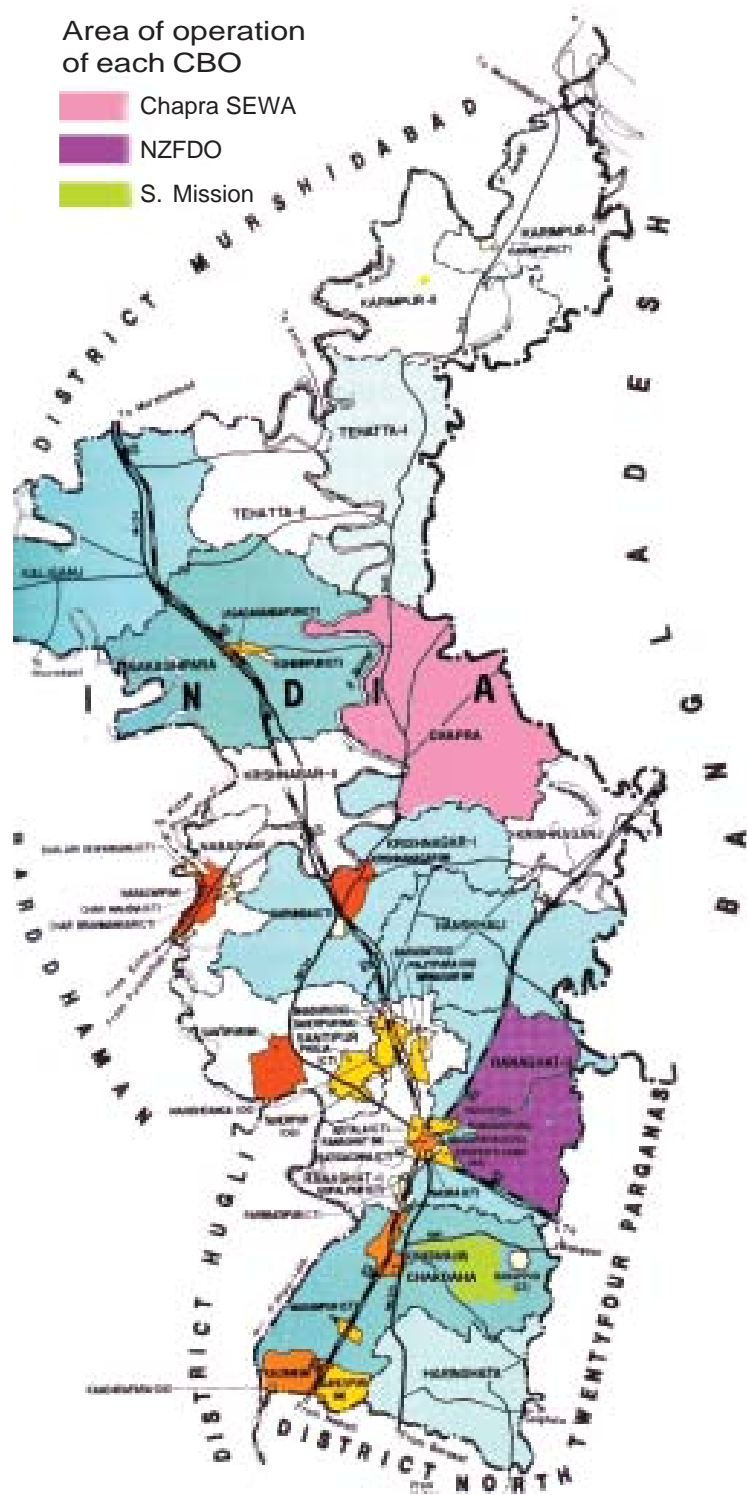


in the lives of the young girls. They abuse the girls sexually and even rape them whenever they find scope.

Both BSF and BDR are involved in cross border trafficking. When the girls are trafficked from Bangladesh to India they are paid Rs.100 each by the trafficker.

A few land holdings and absence of any industry force the people to involve in 'Black marketing' of commodities from Bangladesh to India.





West Bengal
Nadia



Nadia

District Profile

Situated on both the eastern and western side of the Hoogly river as it flows in its southward journey to the sea, Nadia has been famous both as a place of historical importance as well as for its cottage and small industries, particularly hand woven textile.

Total number of blocks: 17

District Headquarter: Krishnanagar

During 1991-2001, the total decadal growth rate for Nadia district was 19.51 with rural growth rate being 21.62 and urban growth rate 12.30. Nadia is one of the five districts in the State where the rural growth rate has exceeded the urban growth rate. The total sex ratio for the district has improved from 936 females per 1000 males to 947. Nadia is one of the few districts where the urban sex ratio is higher than the rural sex ratio.

The total child sex ratio for Nadia has declined from 983 per 1000 males in 1991 to 975 in 2001.

The district has achieved 14.02 percentage point increase in literacy from 52.53 in 1991 to 66.55 in 2001.

Source: Census of India 2001



Study conducted by
CHAPRA SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Introducion

The area under study is positioned on the Bangladesh border. These seven villages covered within the study fall under Chapra I and II gram panchayats.

The block consists of 13 Gram Panchayat and 100 villages. The total population of the block is 2,72,284. The area is highly migration prone. A huge number of people migrate to several places in India for various purposes.

Study area

Block	Gram Panchayat	Villages
Chapra	Chapra I	Balirmathpara
	Chapra I	Subhas pally
	Chapra I	Gandhi pally
	Chapra II	South Banglajhi
	Chapra I	Chapra Muslimpara
	Chapra I	Chapra Chrtianpara
	Chapra I	North Banglajhi

Sample size

Total no. of households: 3063
 30% of total households is 919, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

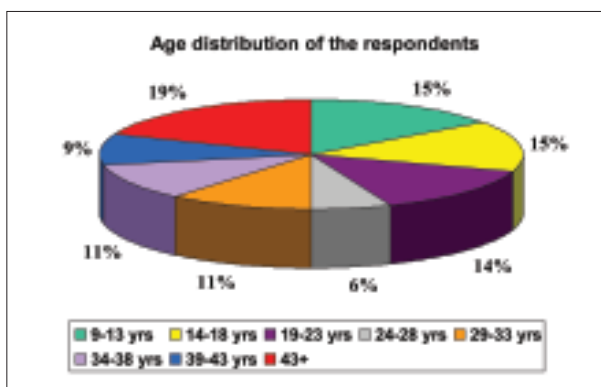


Diagram 52

General information

Among the sampled population, 22.9% are Hindus, 62.8% are Muslims and 14.1% are Christians. Bengali is the main language spoken in this area.

The age distribution, literacy rate, occupational pattern and age of marriage of the sampled population have been shown below graphically.

Diagram 52 shows that the highest age range is 9-13 years and it is susceptible to exploitation.

Educational scenario

The illiteracy rate is quite high (29%). In all of the villages the drop out rates are high, especially in cases of females.

The reasons for dropouts are poverty, traditional culture, lack of awareness, and



prevalence of dowry system, which forces the parents to get their daughters married at an early age. 44% of the males left schooling because of poverty and 19.4% dropped out for lack of educational guidance. 9.7% of the females left due to gender discrimination.

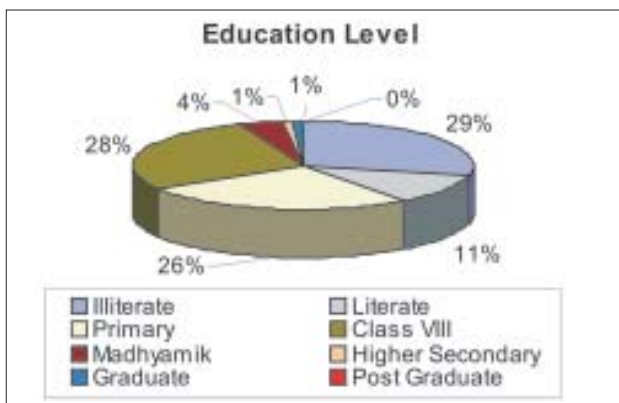


Diagram 53

Occupational profile and trend of migration

A large number of the working people are engaged as daily labourers (56.9%). 19.65% are employed in small business. Due to wretched fiscal structure 33% of the villagers have to move about to different places both within and outside the district.

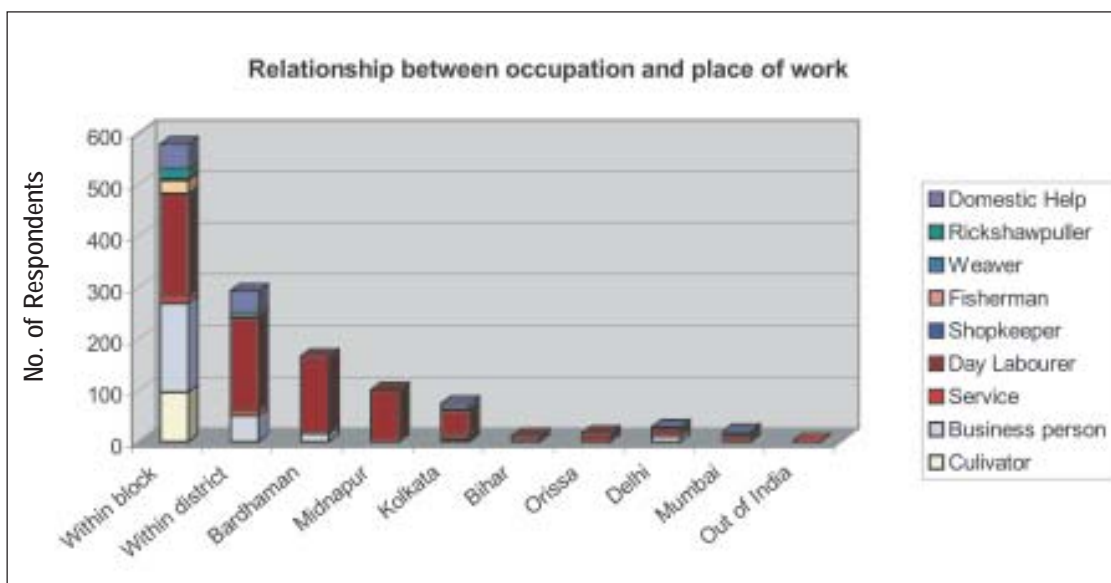


Diagram 54

The wage earners asserted they have to face diverse problems such as low wage (26%), ill treatment (8%), physical and sexual abuses (1%).

Trend of child marriage

The cases of early marriages on average are more or less high, especially for the age group of 15-17 years. The reasons are poverty and social practice.

Five girls were married off to Delhi, Jammu, Kashmir and Bihar. It has been found that the families have no contact with these girls.

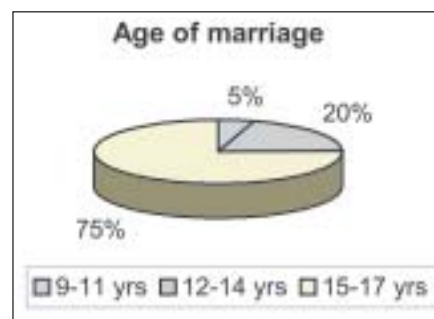


Diagram 55



Study conducted by

NADIA ZILLA FARMERS' DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Introduction

The area under study is positioned at the side of NH-34. The general population is settled at the embankments of the river Churni. At least 500 fishermen have been unable to maintain their existing income due to the silted riverbed.

Though agriculture had been the main source of income for a considerable number of families it has not turned out to be beneficial for them. They are compelled to find alternatives. The number of people engaging in building construction, weaving, and other odd jobs are increasing day by day. Some women are engaged in weaving, making of silver ornaments and handicrafts. The rate of migration has been steadily increasing in the past few years. A remarkable percentage of women migrate to Kolkata and some other places to work as domestic help. The trafficking of women and girl children also happens under the guise of migration. It is also known that some women are being engaged in prostitution.

Study area

	Villages	Gram Panchayats
1.	Paharpur	Kalinarayanpur
2.	Shibpur	Barasat
3.	Kamgachhi	Kalinarayanpur
4.	Khisma	Khisma
5.	Radhanagar	Kalinarayanpur
6.	Barasat	Barasat
7.	Taherpur	Barasat
8.	Arkhisma	Khisma
9.	Nazirpur	Barasat
10.	Ushagram	Barasat

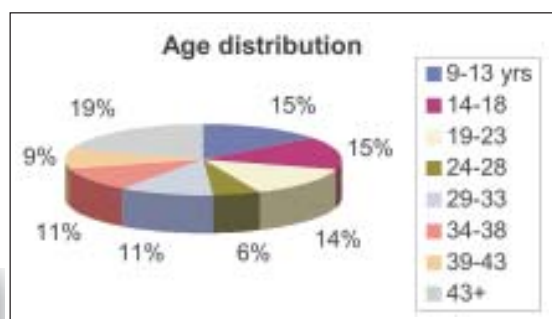
Sample size

Diagram 56

Total no. of households: 3870

30% of total households is 1161, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS**General Information**

It was observed that out of 1161 households, 982 (84.58%) were from the Hindu community and 15.42% of the respondents (179 families) were Muslims. The

sex wise distribution had been 47.44% (males) and 52.05% (females) respectively. Bengali is the mother tongue of the local inhabitants. Most of the families are nuclear families.

The vulnerable age group, i.e. 9-18 years is quite high.

Educational scenario

In spite of having at least three universities nearby the persons with higher qualifications are atypical. The illiteracy rate is quite high (31.68%) whereas literates are only 13.32%.

Occupational profile

Though agriculture is the primary occupation of the general people of the area, most of them do not have cultivable lands, those who possess lands are marginal farmers and small farmers resulting in a non-profitable source of livelihood. They tended towards seasonal migration to Delhi, Mumbai etc.

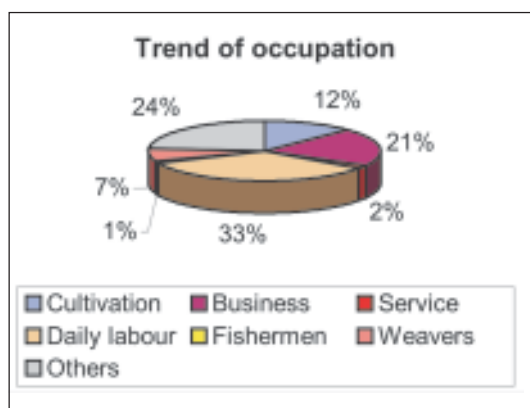


Diagram 58

In some cases we have been informed that even some parents are involved. One case in particular can be pointed to in this perspective. One girl, namely Ms.Sabita Mondal, was lured for a job to Mumbai when actually she had been sold. Her father took money (Rs.30,000/-) from that person and withdrew all complaints.

Moreover it has been observed that

- The persons who are agents for trafficking are familiar to the concerned families.
- The parents are excessively poor who do not hesitate to sell their children.
- The rate of early marriage is quite high in these villages. Pressure of giving dowry to the bridegroom is the major contributing factor.

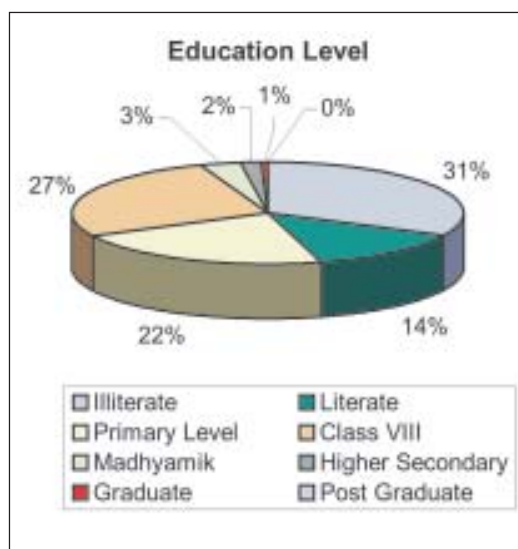


Diagram 57

Due to inescapable conditions the villagers are compelled to take loans from the Mahajans at a high rated interest. When they become incapable to pay it back to the Mahajans they are forced to leave their houses.

Information on trafficking

It had been heard while taking interviews, that within a short span of time nearly 19 females had been trafficked in different places in a clandestine manner.



**Study conducted by
SATYANANDA MISSION**

Introduction

Satynanda Mission has been working in six villages of Deuli gram panchayat under Chakdah block of Nadia district for a couple of years. Through the process of implementation of Reproductive and Child Health project among the adolescent girls, the organization was exposed to the incidence of trafficking of girls for commercial sexual exploitation. Since the organization had no database on the above-mentioned issue it initiated a situational analysis in 6 villages of Deuli gram panchayat.

Study area

Village	Gram Panchayat	Block
Rasulyapur	Deuli	Chakdah
Deuli		
Kundulia		
Sarappur		
Chineli		
Narikeldanga		

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 3623.

30% of total households is 1087, which was drawn as sample size.

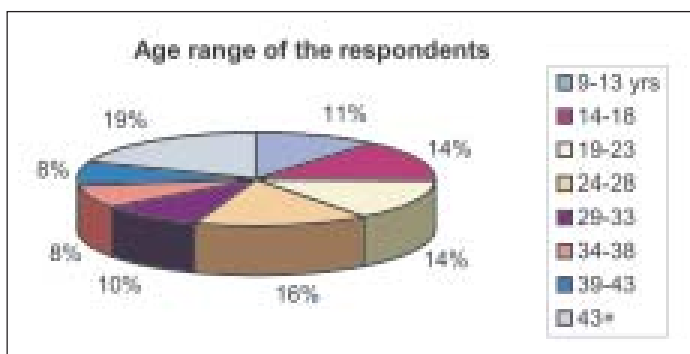


Diagram 59

FINDINGS

General Information

To understand the vulnerability of trafficking the age group was taken from 9 years onwards. It shows very explicitly that this age group is susceptible to exploitation.

Educational scenario

The majority of the respondents are literate, followed closely by illiterate people. It has been found that women constitute the major portion among the illiterate population because the parents show reluctance in sending their girl children to the formal school.



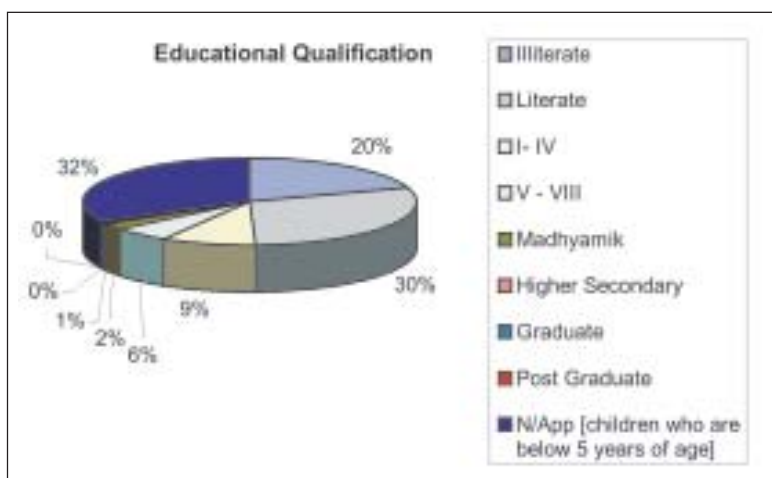


Diagram 60

Trend of child marriage

The number of cases of early marriage on average is more or less high, especially for the age group 12-14 years, and 15-17 years. The reasons are poverty and gender discrimination.

It is seen mostly among the Muslim community. The parents get their daughters married in places like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Bangladesh.

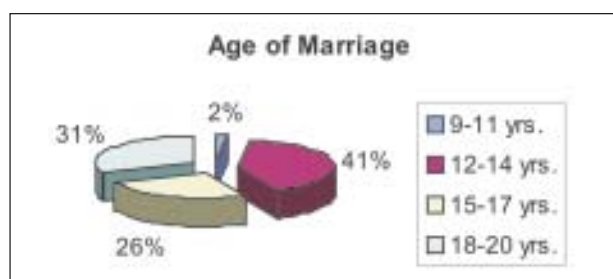


Diagram 61

Occupational profile and trend of migration

The majority of the respondents are daily labourers who earn below Rs. 500. Women are mostly found to be working as domestic help.

The amount of child labour in the weaving industry is alarmingly high, among which there are more girl child labourers than boys, aged between 8 – 12 years.

The rate of migration is very high among the villagers because

- There are few people who own land
- There are no economic options left for them in the village, because of a lack of any industry.

Most of the people migrate to work as daily labourers probably because of being unskilled. They migrate to Kolkata, Bihar, Mumbai, Delhi, Madras, Assam etc. A remarkable feature is that men and women both migrate to do odd jobs, mostly in Mumbai, followed by Kolkata, Dubai, Maharashtra and Assam.

Information on trafficking for prostitution

The statistics show that girls are being forced to migrate for prostitution in Kolkata, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai. Sometimes the mediators take them away to work



Place of Migration	Business	Farmer	Service	Labour	Shopkeeper	Fisherman	Weaver	Van rickshaw puller	Domestic help	Prostitution	Odd jobs	Dancer	Total
Nadia	304	46	6	569	24	46	38	32	216	6	-	-	1287
24 Pgs	-	6	3	63	10	14	-	7	86	4	-	-	193
Kolkata	-	20	12	44	16	-	-	5	75	8	149	-	329
Bihar	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	6	6	10	19	43
U.P.	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	11	9	29
Mumbai	-	7	2	17	-	-	-	-	10	3	203	7	249
Delhi	-	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	31	-	7	-	46
Gujrat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Chennai	-	6	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	33
Assam	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	35
Orissa	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-
Kochbehar	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	13
Maharastra	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	38
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
Dubai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	41
Andaman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
Arab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Nepal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Total	304	107	23	719	50	60	38	44	225	31	577	35	2412

as dancers and singers in hotels and bars in Bihar, U.P. and Mumbai. These girls realize the situation when they find themselves in the brothel. Most of the time, these girls leave no trace after being migrated from the locality. However, their parents never get money from the mediators.

In the month of March 2004 four girls were trafficked in Bihar and taken away by the mediator for the purpose of dancing in a hotel. But, after reaching Bihar, they were forced to engage in prostitution. Within one month, one of them could communicate with her parents over telephone. The West Bengal police went to Bihar and rescued these four girls. It is worth mentioning that all these girls were below 18 years of age.

The surveyors have identified some girls who would migrate any day to Bihar and U.P. for the purpose of dancing in hotels.

There is no hospital in any of those six villages. The villagers approach the quacks whenever they need. A high rate of RTI and STD has been observed. No governmental projects are running in these villages. Neither of these villages have any cottage industries.



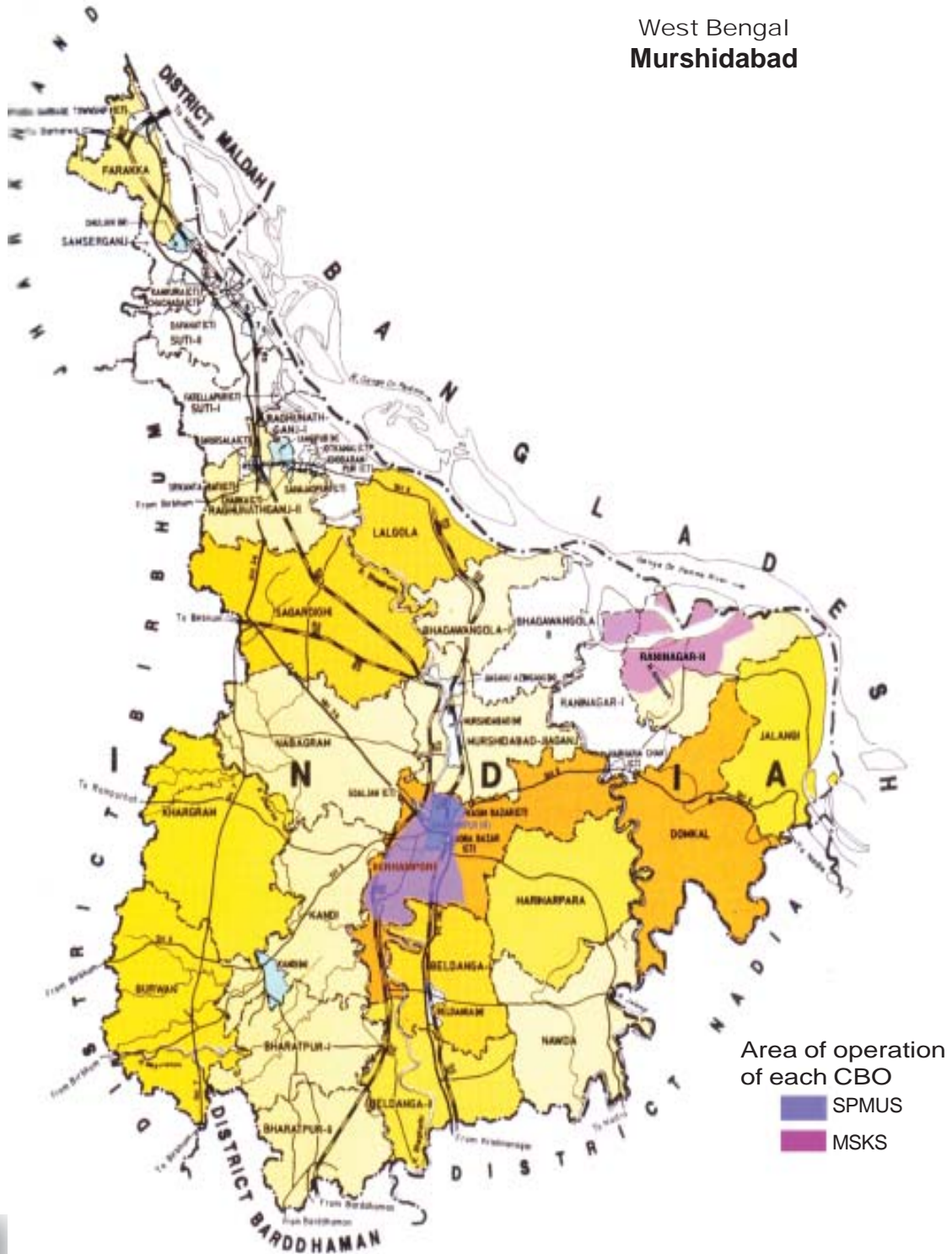
A few information of the trafficked women

Name of the victim	Trafficked from	Age	When trafficked	Destination
Jamuna Biswas	Sarappur village	15 yrs	December,2003	Uttar Pradesh
Ganga Hira	Deuli village	13 yrs	February,2004	Uttar Pradesh
Padma Majumdar	Chineli village	13 yrs	January,2003	Bihar, Mirgunj
Ichamati Sardar	Deuli village	13 yrs	March,2003	Bihar,Mirgunj
Kaberi Mandal	Chineli village	14 yrs	2004	Uttar Pradesh, untraced till now
Meghna Khatun	Rasulyapur village	14 yrs	2004	First at Bihar, then Mumbai
Churnki Haldar	Rasulyapur village	11 yrs	2004	First at Kolkata, then Bangalore
Godabari Sardar	Kundulia village	14 yrs	2004	Bihar, untraced till now

The plight of the girls is really atrocious and horrifying. One of the girls is rescued and staying with her parents. Another girl is at Liluah home presently. The future of the rest of the girls is uncertain.



West Bengal Murshidabad



Murshidabad

District profile

Murshidabad district has a rich historical legacy. It is basically an agricultural district with 87.5% of the population living in rural areas and 12.49% living in the urban areas. Murshidabad has the fourth highest rural density of population with 9888 persons per sq. km. after Howrah, Hoogly and North 24 Parganas.

There has been no change in the number of 26 C.D blocks in Murshidabad district between 1991 and 2001.

Against the total decadal growth rate of 23.70 during 1991-2001, the rural growth rate is 20.86 while the urban growth rate is 48.14.

In case of rural areas of this district the sex ratio has gone up from 941 to 949 and in case of urban areas from 959 to 970.

The percentage of child population to the total population has decreased in Murshidabad district from 21.3% in 1991 to 17.855 for the rural areas and from 17.36% to 15.10% for the urban areas. Like many other districts of West Bengal the child sex ratio has also declined in Murshidabad.

The literacy rate for Murshidabad district has gone up from 38.28 in 1991 to 55.05 in 2001, a decadal increase of 16.77 points. The increase is more pronounced in the case of rural literacy, which has increased by 17.47 points to 52.99 from 35.52, than urban literacy, which has increased by 8.23 points to 69.03 from 69.80.

Source: Census of India 2001



Study conducted by
MURSHIDABAD SAMAJ KALYAN SAMITY

Introduction

Murshidabad Samaj Kalyan Samity has been involved in developmental work in different villages under different blocks for 15 years. In their experience, those villages are mostly affected by the antisocial elements, which are lying on the India Bangladesh border. Since the landless people residing in the border area face financial hardship, they do not hesitate to sell their children for any reasons, known or unknown to them. Using the vulnerabilities of these poor people mediators have got involved, luring the parents of the young girls with the pretext of money generated by a job or marriage. The majority of the people live far below the poverty line. Lack of educational opportunities, employment, and even a place of dwelling have made these people more vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation.

The organization has observed that due to such poor socio-economic scenario, 30% of young girls are being trafficked each year.

Study area

Village	Gram Panchayat
1. Hasanpur	Hurshi
2. Hasanpur Colony	Hurshi
3. Sishepara	Hurshi
4. Sishepara Colony	Hurshi
5. Dakshin Gopalpur	Lochanpur
6. Char Daulatpur	Lochanpur
7. Purandapur	Lochanpur
8. Char Begumpur	Lochanpur
9. Boarakuli	Lochanpur
10. Islampur	Islampur Chak
11. Islampur Chak	Islampur Chak
12. Harharia	Islampur Chak

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 2400

30% of total households is 720 , which was drawn as sample size.



FINDINGS

General Information

Following is the profile of the villages in relation to status of health and education, occupation, income, child marriage, child labour, pattern, mode, reasons of migration and trafficking through migration and interventions initiated by governmental and non-governmental organisations

1. There are no primary, Madhyamik or Higher Secondary schools in the villages. The villagers have to go at least thirty km. from their villages. There are no adult literacy centers in either of these villages.
2. There are no provisions of any hospital, or even a primary health center within 30 km of these villages.
3. In some villages, Khadi, Matka and silk industries are running on a small-scale basis, but with the increase in price of raw materials the demand in the local market has decreased. On one hand, the traders do not have capital to run the business, on the other, the government is reluctant to cooperate with them.
4. No governmental and non-governmental projects are running in these villages.

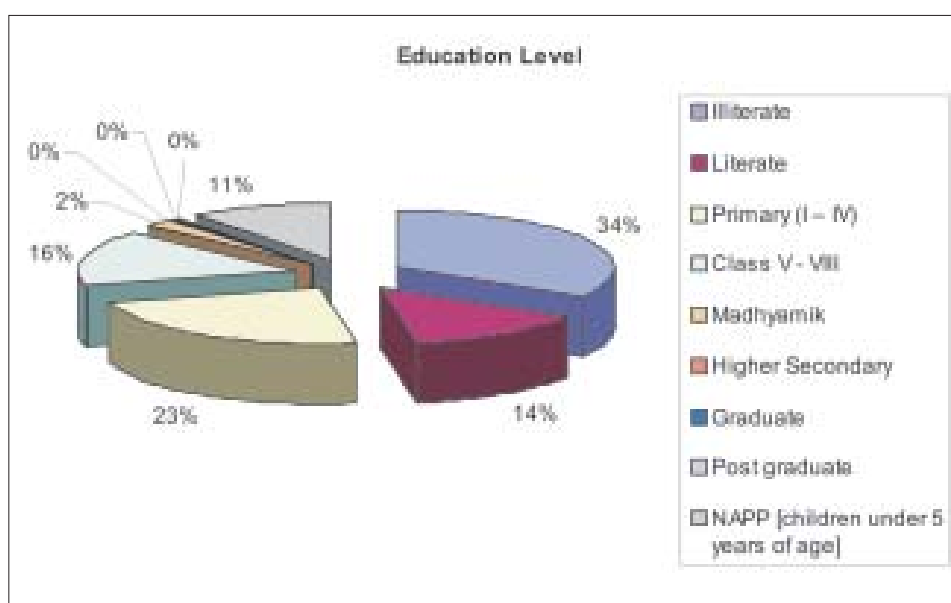


Diagram 62

Educational Scenario

- The findings have revealed that 34% respondents are illiterate followed by 14% literate who can only sign their names. Poverty has been identified as the major contributing factor of dropout, which affects both the male and female children equally. Since there are no schools within the village, the parents cannot afford to send their children to those schools, which are far off from the village.



Moreover, the students are not getting books from the government up to the primary level, which also results in apathy among the parents towards sustaining the education.

Number of total drop outs was 1501, i.e. 38% of total population. Among 1501, 751 (50%) were male and 750 (50%) female.

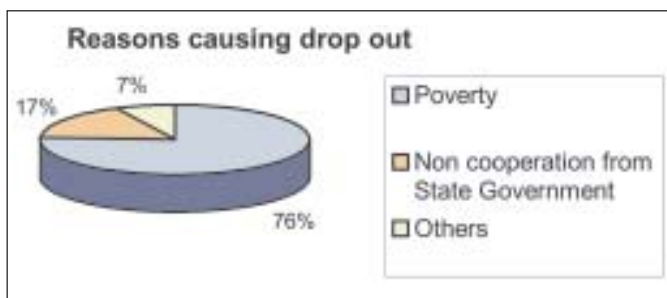


Diagram 63

Occupational profile and trend of migration

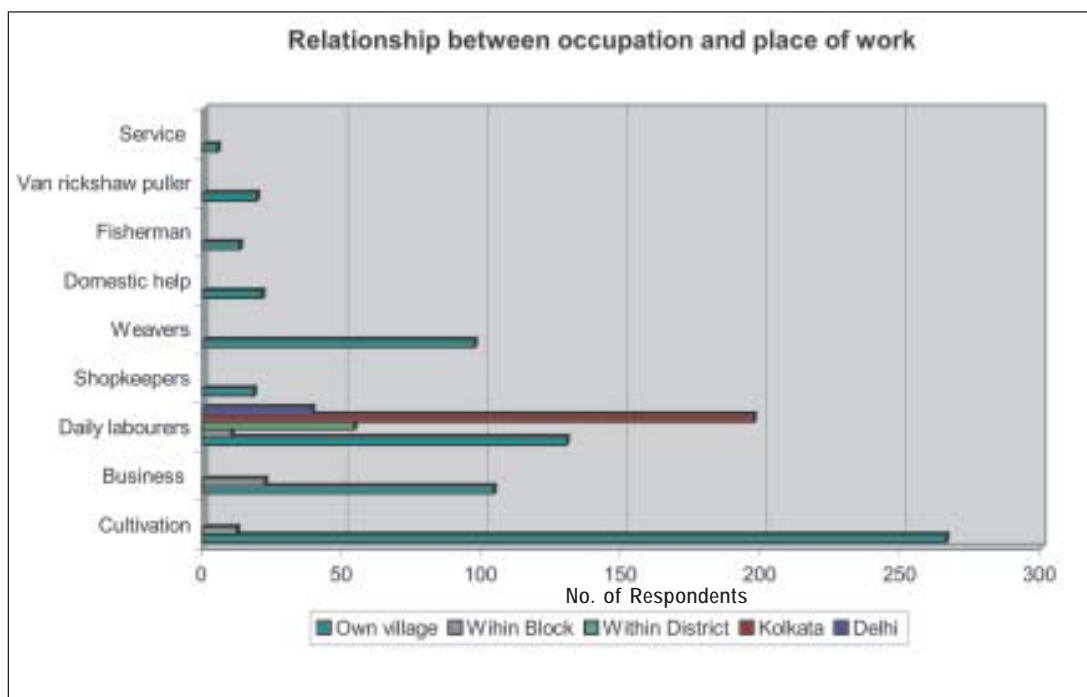


Diagram 64

Most of the respondents are daily labourers who work in the agricultural field. They earn between Rs. 501 and Rs.1000. 23% of respondents have been found to have migrated to Kolkata and Delhi. In the opinion of the surveyors the trend of migration is ascending because

- There is no industry in the village
- They do not have land to sustain their livelihood



- Absence of any developmental projects aimed towards the marginalized section of people.

Trend of child marriage

The prevalence of child marriage is alarmingly high in these localities where the girls get married off in the age range of 9 – 18 years.

Distribution on the basis of age when married

Total no. of married persons	Age when married (in years)													
	9-11		12-14		15-17		18-21		22-25		26 - 29		Above 29	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1849	-	8	2	255	15	324	236	438	294	78	105	16	73	5

Information on trafficking

On the basis of the information and findings, Murshdabad Samaj Kalyan Samity has not identified poverty as the root cause of trafficking women and girl children who belong to the lower strata of society. Child marriage, domestic violence and a deprivation in rights to inherit property have added to their suffering. In such scenarios, they want to migrate in search of economic opportunities to lead a better life. A group of middlemen take the opportunity and transport these uninformed persons to places where the demand for such trafficked victims is high for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

The organization has identified some families in Hurshi & Lochanpur from where the young girls of 10 – 13 years have been trafficked mostly in Bihar with the pretext of marriage. In some cases, there is no trace of these girls. In a few cases, they may have fled from their in-laws house because their husbands forced them into prostitution.



Study conducted by

SUPRAWA PANCHASHILA MAHILA UDYOG SAMITY

Introduction

Following the socio-economic indicators, Murshidabad district has been declared a backward district in West Bengal as well as in India. Geographically, the district is located in a very crucial position because of its international border with Bangladesh and border with other states like Bihar and Jharkhand. Everyday a remarkable percentage of people are arriving from Bangladesh, crossing the border and starting to live permanently without any valid citizenship identity.

These migrants are settled in slums of different towns like Berhampore, Moregram, Dhulian, Domekal, Lalgola, Kandi of Murshidabad.

The slums of Berhampore town are populated by poverty-stricken families. They work as rickshaw pullers, daily labourers, construction workers, and domestic help. Illiteracy, lack of employment, under employment, lack of production in the agricultural sector and lack of knowledge and skills in marketing force them to get engaged in smuggling and other anti-social activities. The young girls and women are being forced into prostitution. Even parents force their daughters to get married below the age of 18 to people coming from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi, Kashmir and also Arabian countries. The parents are given a lumpsum amount by the bridegroom's party. These girls do not maintain any communication with their parents and family members.

Suprawa Panchashila Mahila Udyog Samity has been working since 1993 to ensure mother and child health through sustainable management, prevention of STD, HIV/AIDS among the high risk group, and empowerment of women to make them self reliant.

Study Area

Subhash colony, Gandhi Colony and High Road slum area in Berhampore of Murshidabad.

Sample Size

Slum dwellers: Total no. of households: 1500

30% of total households is 450, which was drawn as sample size.

Key influential persons: 13

Doctors: 5

Municipality councillors of targeted area: 3

Chairman of municipality: 1



FINDINGS

Educational Scenario

Name of the area	Illiterate			Below Primary			Primary			Secondary			Don't Know			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Subhash Colony	122	110	232	76	93	169	69	29	98	29	5	34	11	22	33	307	259	566
Gandhi Colony	121	303	424	93	71	164	78	28	106	35	7	42	-	-	-	327	409	736
High Road slum	37	78	115	21	6	27	3	8	11	3	0	3	14	4	18	78	96	174
Total	280	491	771	190	170	360	150	65	215	67	12	79	25	26	51	712	764	1476
Percentage	19	33	52	13	12	24	10	4.4	15	4.5	0.8	5.4	1.7	1.8	3.5	48	52	100

*<5 years age group population has not been considered

The above figure indicates that the majority of the slum dwellers are illiterate (52.2%), among which the female literacy rate is remarkably low. Though there are 50 primary schools, 22 secondary schools and 20 higher secondary schools in the town, the low literacy rate specially among females, indicates three factors:

- Ignorance about the importance of education
- Inability to sustain education because of financial constraint
- Gender discrimination

Official reports of the literacy programme claims success for the programme but indications of such reports reflect the other side of the picture. Though 14.6% of children have enrolled their name in 'primary level' and 5.3% in secondary level, 34.6% of respondents have found to be drop-out from both these levels.

The prime reason of dropout is poor economic condition (38.2%) followed by early marriage of the girl child (29.4%).

Occupational profile

Distribution of Source of Income

Name of Area	Source of Income								
	Daily Labour	Domestic Help	Migrant labourer	Prostitution	Petty business	Student	Service	Others	Total
Subhash Colony	102 (31.19%)	89 (27.21%)	13 (3.97%)	8 (2.44%)	22 (6.72%)	38 (11.62%)	20 (6.11%)	35 (10.70%)	327 (100%)
Gandhi Colony	388 (58.97%)	78 (11.85%)	59 (8.96%)	7 (1.06%)	15 (2.28%)	97 (14.74%)	11 (1.67%)	3 (0.45%)	658 (100%)
High Road	18 (15.65%)	14 (12.17%)	17 (14.78%)	22 (19.13%)	19 (16.52%)	12 (10.43%)	—	13 (11.30%)	115 (100%)
Total	508 (46.18%)	181 (16.45%)	89 (8.09%)	37 (3.36%)	56 (5.09%)	147 (13.36%)	31 (2.81%)	51 (4.64%)	1100 (100%)

The above table shows that the majority of the respondents are daily labourers (46.1%) because they are illiterate and unskilled.



It was mentioned earlier that the slum dwellers are migrant. 36% have migrated from rural to urban areas, 35.1% from outside India and rest of them from other urban areas, slum areas and outside states.

Information on the trend of prostitution

There is no red-light area in Berhampore municipality. 3.4% of girls and women, who have been forced into prostitution, take their customers to hotels and roadside *dbabas* (inns).

It may be possible to say, given the facts revealed here, that the girls and women in prostitution might have found other options if they were equipped with education.

Migration- advantages, disadvantages....

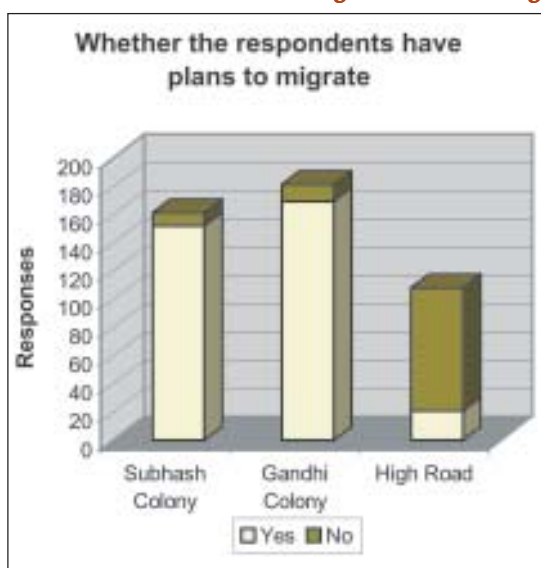


Diagram 65

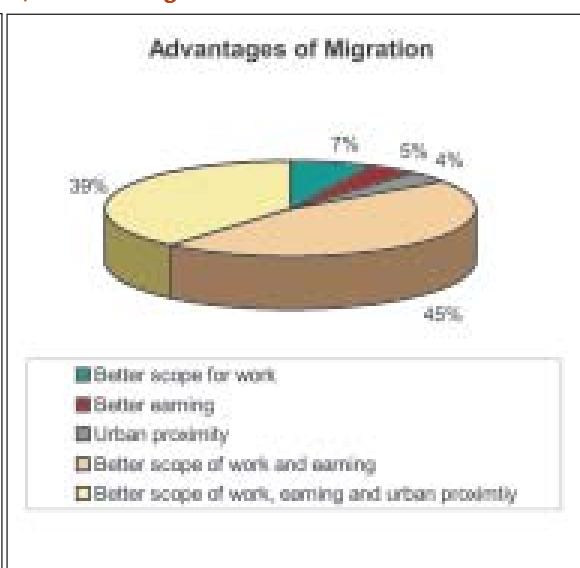


Diagram 66

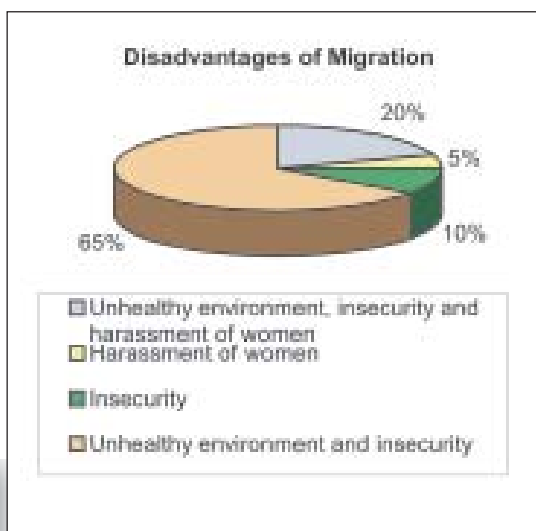


Diagram 67

The respondents have migrated to the city from different areas to get a better chance of a job with better earnings. However, the majority have complained of insecurity and harassment of women caused by migration, which is alarming and makes the young girls especially vulnerable. It is also worth mentioning that these people have already gone through such experiences when they migrated initially. In spite of that they are planning to migrate negating further scope of abuse and exploitation.



Status of child labour**Age of joining the work**

5-6 years	7-8 years	9-10 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	Total
4	5	2	34	12	57
7.01%	8.77%	3.51%	59.65%	21.05%	100%

Reasons for working

Name of the area	Reasons			Total
	To support family	Forced by parents	Orphan	
Subhash Colony	9	4	2	15
Gandhi Colony	11	7	1	19
High Road	5	13	5	23
Total	25 (43.85%)	24 (42.10%)	8 (14.03%)	57

Working hours of the children

6 Hours	8 Hours	10 Hours	12 Hours	14 Hours	Total
6	3	21	10	17	57
10.54%	5.26%	36.84%	17.54%	29.82%	100%

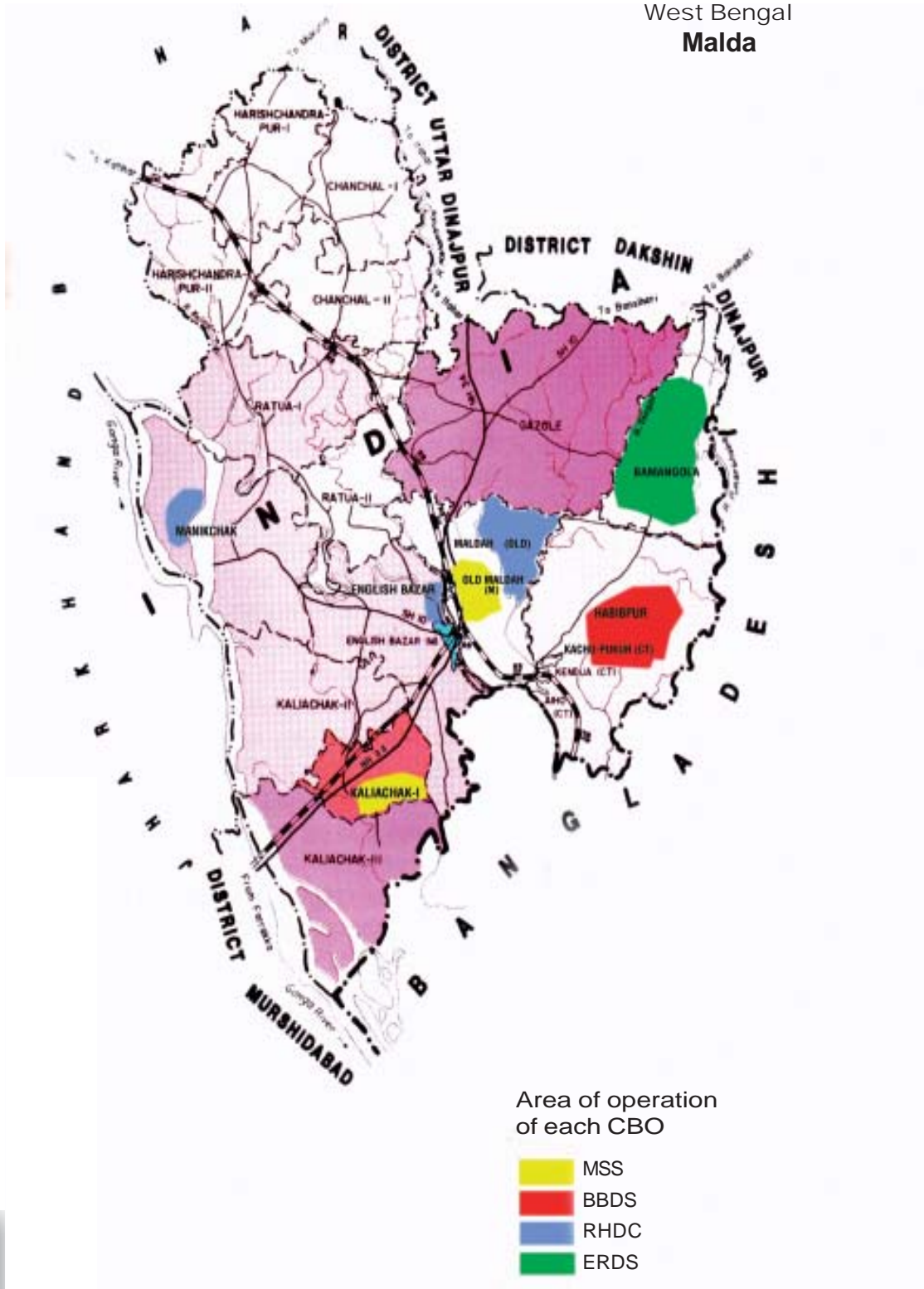
Looking at the above figures, the following deductions could be made:

- Among the total number of child labour, 59.6% are between 11-12 years and 21% are between 13-14 years. According to the factories act 1964 and convention on the rights of the child, the rights of these children are being grossly violated.
- Moreover, 36.8% of children are working for 10 hours, 17.5% for 12 hours and 29.8% for 14 hours, which is beyond the normal working hours even for an adult person.
- There is a remarkable percentage of children between 15-18 years who are also working in different sectors. Though this age group does not fall within the purview of 'The Factory's Act, 1964', it is definitely a violation of child rights as per the convention on the rights of the child.

The statistics referred to in the table indicate that 86% of children have been forced to engage into some kind of work due to economic pressure.



West Bengal
Malda



Malda

District Profile

Situated on the eastern bank of the River Ganga, north of its confluence with the Mahananda and before the main stream of the Ganga goes into Bangladesh, Maldah district is the entry point for North Bengal. It is basically an agricultural district with paddy and jute being the main products. Maldah has the second highest rural decadal growth rate in 2001 at 24.43, next only to North Dinajpur at 30.61.

Number of blocks: 15

District Headquarter: Malda

In case of rural areas the sex ratio has steadily declined between 1951-91 from 971 females per 1000 males to 939, but has risen in 2001 to 948. In case of urban areas the sex ratio steadily improved from 1951 to 1981, declined in 1991 and has risen again in 2001.

Maldah has the second highest percentage of child population to total population for both total as well as total areas next only to Uttar Dinajpur.

During the decade 1991-2001 literacy rate in Maldah district has improved by 15.09 points which is the highest for this district in the post Independence period.

Source: Census of India 2001



Study conducted by
BULBULCHANDI AND BARIND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Introduction

The organisation mostly works in Habibpur and Bamongola Block of Malda. The area is predominantly populated by tribal people. The agricultural land is uneven and mono yielding. There is no provision of irrigation system. Most of the people are poverty stricken.

Study area

Kantakura, Mongalpara, Dhompur G.P of Habibpur block.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 4400

30% of total households is 1320, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

Educational Scenario

Though the government is running the literacy programme, the educational scenario of the area is quite alarming. 38.58% of people are illiterate. Only 15.52% of people have studied till class VIII, and 2.88% of people have studied till class X.

Thus there is a marked trend of dropout after class VIII. Out of the total dropouts, 40.78% are males, and 59.22% are females. So, we find gender discrimination to be an important reason of dropout. However, poverty happens to be the major reason (66.50%)

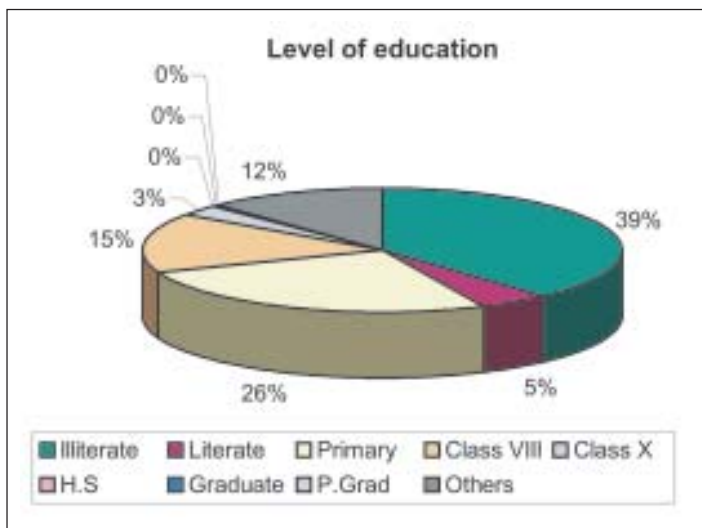


Diagram 68

Occupational profile and trend of migration

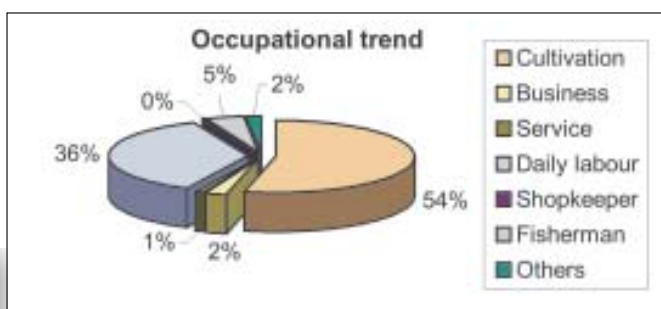


Diagram 69

53.64% of the respondents are cultivators. After cultivation, the next predominant occupation is working as a daily labourer (36.44%). The source of this work is mainly neighbours (42.89%), friends (11.59%) and relatives (13.33%), but an alarming percentage of people (24.63%) get their work from strangers.



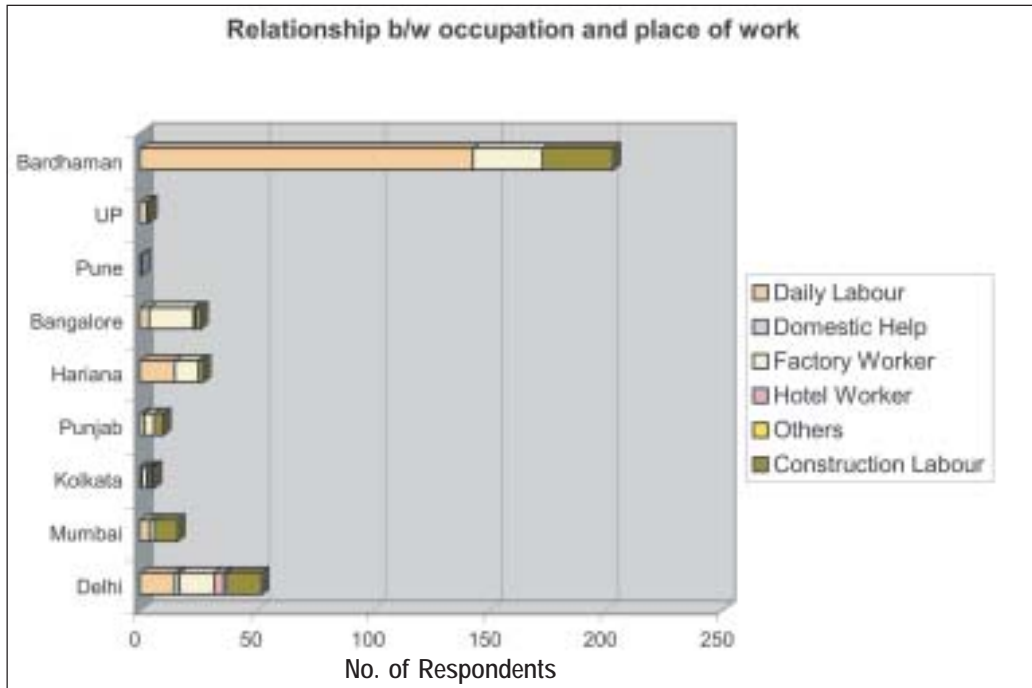


Diagram 70

As the land is of mono-yielding type, most of the people remain unemployed for most of the year. Many people of this area live below the poverty line. Due to all these reasons, there is a general tendency to migrate for work. Agents have a considerable role to play in the process of migration. During this process of migration, some people might get trafficked, or get associated with the flesh trade

Migration has been occurring mostly in Bardhaman. Since Bardhaman is enriched by agriculture most of the migrants work as daily labourers in the agricultural field.

Trend of child marriage

Looking at Diagrams 71 and 72, it can be said that the rate of girl child marriage is

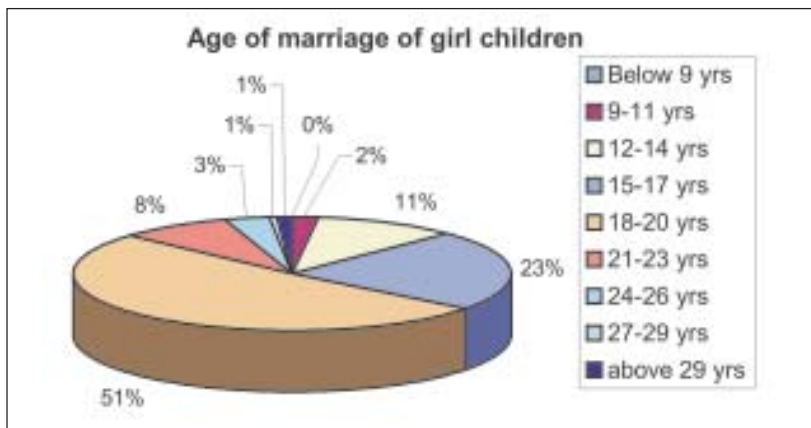
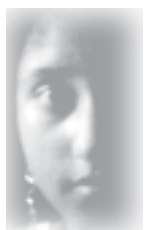


Diagram 71



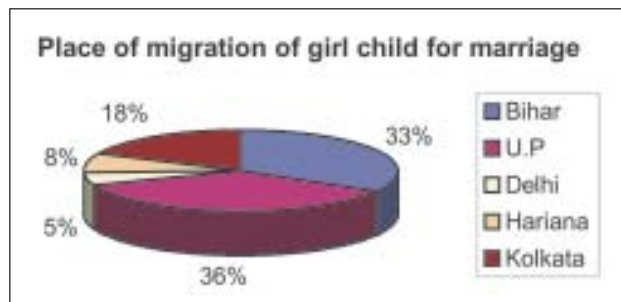


Diagram 72

married in Bihar, U.P do not maintain communication with them.

high. Poverty and social pressure have been referred to as the contributing factors of child marriage. Even the percentage of girl children who got married at the age of 12-14 years is quite alarming.

A remarkable percentage of girl children have migrated for the purpose of marriage. Sometimes, the parents who got their daughters



Introduction

The study area is close to Bangladesh border, and thus serves as a source and transit point for traffickers. The villages also suffer from the occasional natural disaster like storms and excessive rainfall.

Study area

The study was conducted in 8 villages under Bamongola Block of Malda.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 5033

30% of total households is 1510, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General information

Out of the 1510 families surveyed, 98 % are Hindu by religion. 11.96 % belong to General Caste, 65.2 % to Scheduled Caste, and 22.84 % are Scheduled Tribes. So, it can be noted that the population of this area predominantly consists of SC and ST communities.

Females constitute 52.06 % of the total population. It can be mentioned, that within the SC and tribal communities, gender discrimination is not acutely evident. Hospitals and primary health centres are far away from the villages. Generally the villagers depend on the quacks. Presently, industries running in these villages are

- Earthen pottery
- Rice processing
- Puffed rice making
- Handicraft work using bamboo and thermocal.

These industries are facing problems like

- Depressed market
- Lack of capital
- Bad communication

Educational Scenario

The people who can only sign their names are counted as literate. Even then, the no.



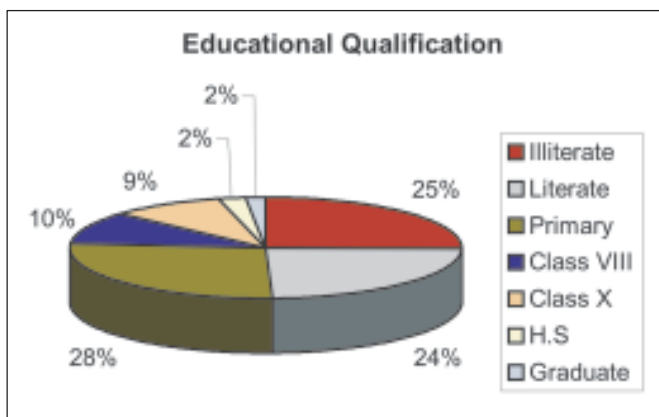


Diagram 73

of illiterate people is really high. 28% of people have primary education, where as only 10% have studied till Class VIII. Thus, the trend for dropout commences in the post-primary stage, and assumes alarming proportions after H.S stage.

The number of drop-out children in the area is 279. However one interesting fact that was revealed in the study was that the percentage of male drop-out (67.38%) is much greater than female drop-outs (36.22%). So it can be inferred that gender discrimination is not

the reason for causing dropouts. Poverty (56.98%) is one of the potential causes.

The drop out children mainly work as unskilled labourers. Gradually they imbibe the skill relevant for that particular occupation.

60% of the dropout children mainly work in the villages and the nearest commercial hub, while 40% migrate to Malda town for work.

The children are paid nominal wages and are made to work for long hours. In case they protest, they are physically abused. Instances of sexual abuse of children, especially of girl children are prevalent, but they are hardly reported.

Occupational profile and information on migration

The above diagram shows that the main occupation of people is cultivation

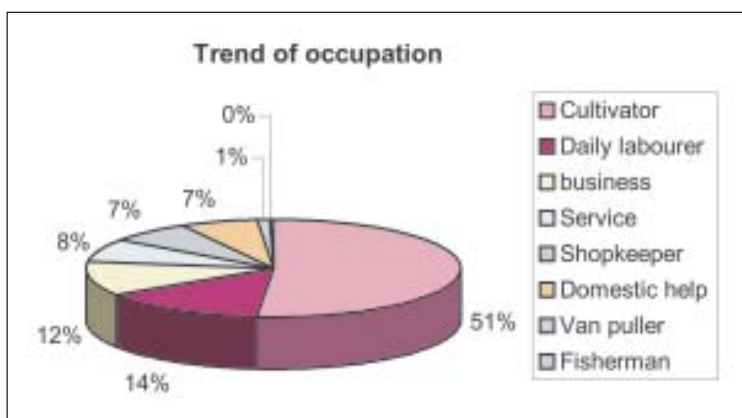


Diagram 74

(51. %), followed by daily labourer. The local cottage industries are in a very bad shape, due to lack of a good market for the products and lack of capital. So there is very little chance of employment in the local industries, therefore, people tend to migrate to other places in search of employment.

Out of 1510 families, 784 (52%) possess land. Out of these 52% landowning families, 17.09% own

only homestead land, while 82.9% own both homestead and agricultural land.

There is no arrangement for irrigation in the area. Very insufficient tank irrigation is available in some places. The agriculture in the concerned areas is rain fed.



Therefore during the lean months, able-bodied persons migrate to other districts or states.

Information on child marriage

As per the statistics on the age of marriage of female children, nobody got married below 18 years. But according to the surveyors, since the parents know that marriage below 18 years is illegal, they did not disclose it. The surveyors came to know that at least 40% of the total marriages take place before the age of 18 years.

There is no defined and specific *red light area* in the villages under survey, but it was learnt from secondary sources that young girls from needy families travel to nearby BSF camps to offer sexual services. But no case of trafficking of girls could be traced.



Study conducted by RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Introduction

The geographical position of Malda district is very significant. On one hand it has interstate borders, for example with Bihar, on the other hand, it has an international borders with Bangladesh. The area as a whole is flood prone, which contributes to its vulnerability. Malda, thus serves to be both a source and transit point for trafficking.

RHDC started working in Malda from 1992 in the sphere of health issues. Though it is basically a health care organization, at present, it aims at a total development of the under privileged community of rural society.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 5000

30% of total households are 1500, which was drawn as sample size.

Study area

Block	Gram Panchayat	Village	Selected Household
Manikchak	South Chandipur	Bamacharantola	125
Manikchak	South Chandipur	Bhabanathtola	75
EnglishBazar	Mahadipur	Khirki	100
EnglishBazar	Mahadipur	Mahadipur	200
Old Malda	Jatradanga	Halna Mohd.Pur	100
Old Malda	Jatradanga	Jatradanga	100
Old Malda	Muchia	South Char Lakshmipur	100
Old Malda	Muchia	Adampur	100
Old Malda	Muchia	Ajaynagar(Rampara)	100
Old Malda	Muchia	Monoharpur	100
Old Malda	Muchia	Palpara	100
Old Malda	Sahapur	Kadirpur	100
Old Malda	Sahapur	Nityanandapur	100
Old Malda	Sahapur	Charkadirpur	100
Total			1500



FINDINGS

General Information

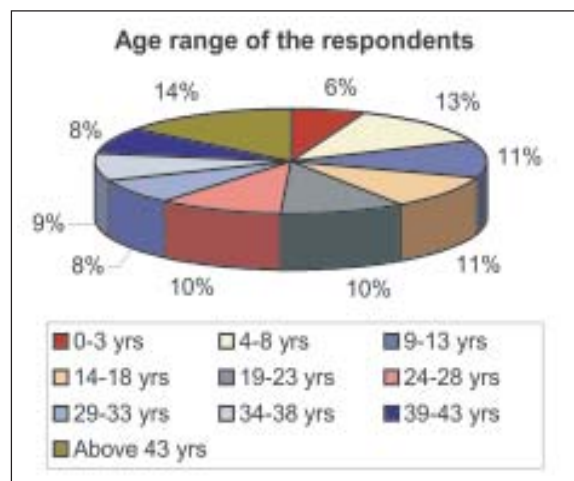


Diagram 75

Diagram 75 shows that a remarkable percentage of children fall in the age range of 9-18 years, which is vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation.

Educational scenario

By 'literate', we mean the people who can *only sign their names*. Even by this standard, the number of illiterate people (36%) is quite alarming. 26.4% people have studied till class IV, while 18.17% till class VIII. But only 8.11% have completed Madhyamik. Thus, it can be inferred, that the trend of dropout is highest at this point

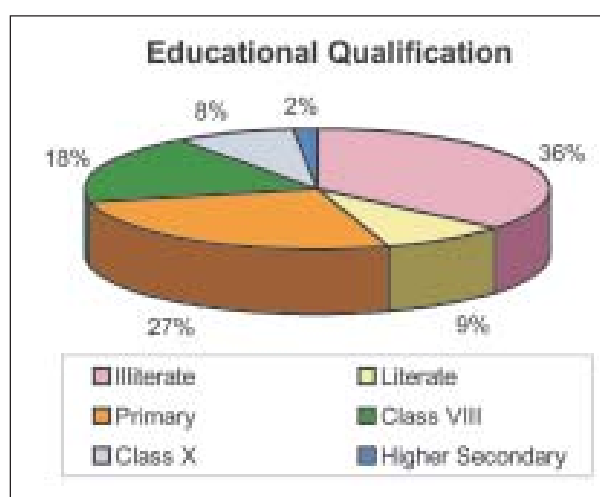


Diagram 76



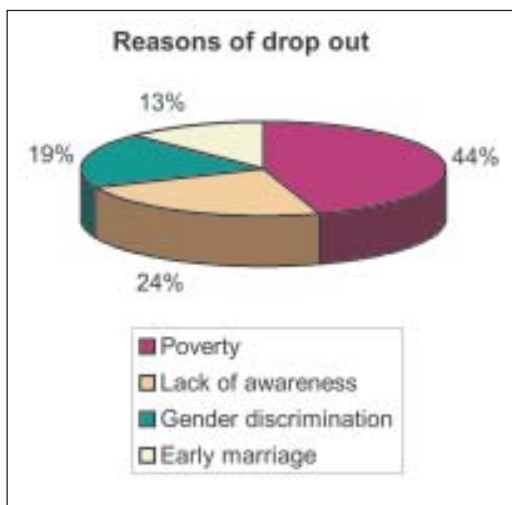


Diagram 77

It has been observed that in all the study areas, the female dropout rate is remarkably higher than the male dropout rate. Most of the students are first generation literates. They do not get guidance at home, which again increases the rate of failing. This happens to be a potential reason for dropping out, along with the prevailing identified reasons like poverty, lack of awareness, and gender discrimination. Here one question arises, though poverty has been identified as the major contributing factor, why do only the female children suffer?

Trend of child marriage

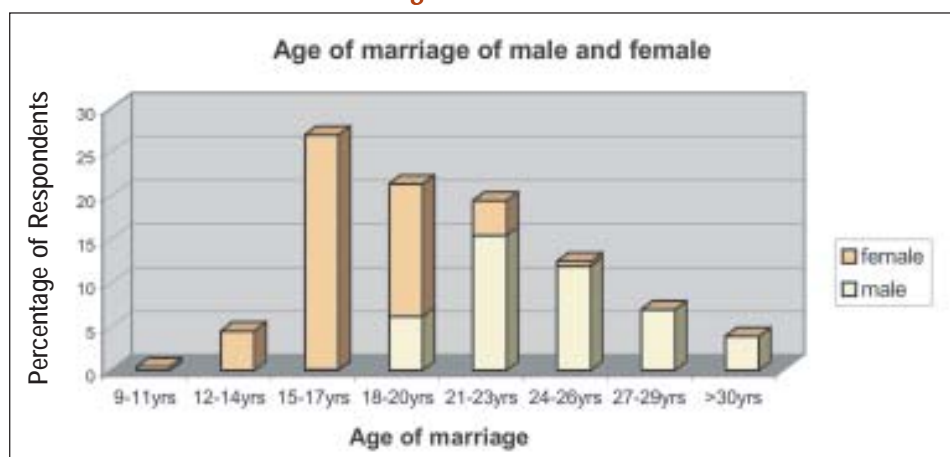


Diagram 78

Child marriage is alarmingly prevalent in the area. From Diagram 78, it can be seen that most of the girls have got married within the age of 15-17 yrs. 43 girls (0.42%) have got married as early as 9-11yrs of age. Out of 5483 women, 5026 (91.66%) were married before 18 yrs. Out of these, 80% marriage occurred due to the poverty and 20% due to social pressure, traditional belief, and lack of awareness.

Due to early marriage, and very scarce education, women are often thrown into option less situations, increasing their vulnerability, which on the other hand increases the chance of these women to get trafficked. Domestic violence is very common in this area. There is a regular habit of consumption of country liquor among most of the male members of this area. Torturing wives and children physically after getting intoxicated is a common practice.

While surveying the rate of landholding within the respondents, it was seen that 72.25% of people hold land. Among the landholders, 45.82% have only homestead



land, and 54.17% have both homestead and cultivable land.

Occupational profile and trend of migration

As seen from Diagram 79, rickshaw pulling and working as hired labourers are the

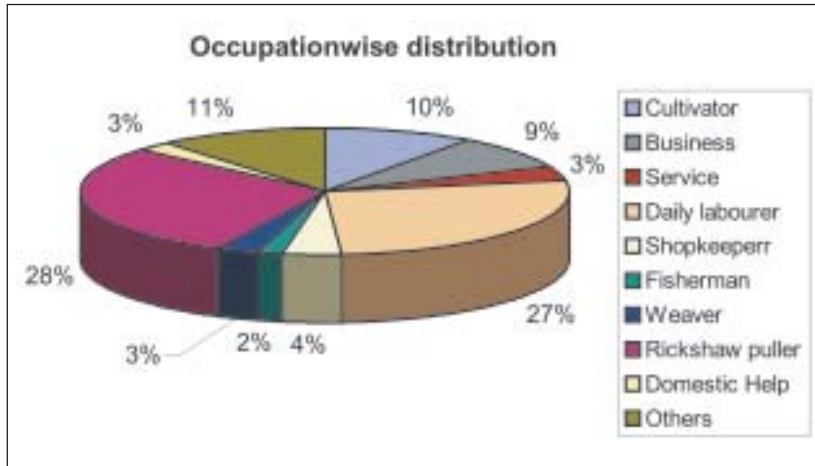


Diagram 79

predominant occupations of the area. 49% of the families live below the poverty line.

Other than working in their own village, 36.91% migrate to other villages within the district, 3.05% migrate within the state, and 3.26% migrate to other states like U.P, Delhi, Assam, Tripura for a living. Out of these people, for 27.67% the source of procuring the living has been neighbours, for 22.69% friends, for 17.51% relatives,

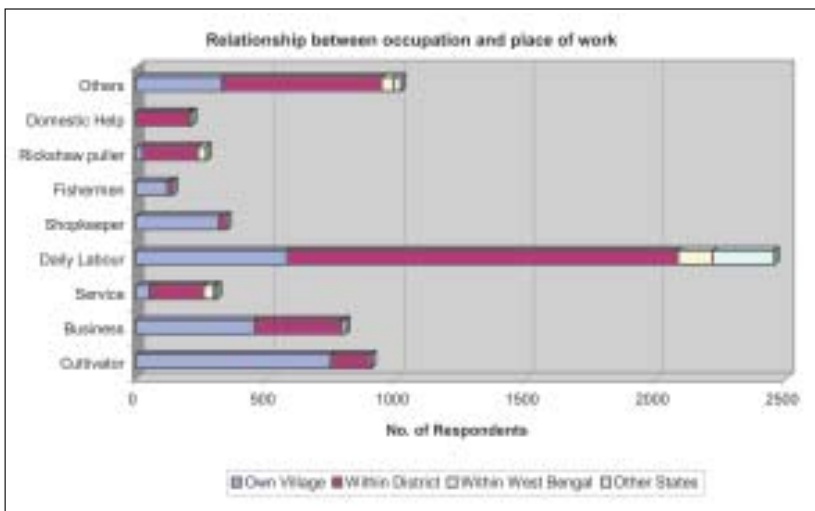
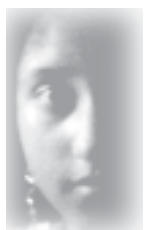


Diagram 80



and for 31.95% family members. Of the problems faced in the fields of occupation, 37.98% complained of low wages, and 3.05% of ill treatment. But no case of sexual abuse was reported.

There have been cases of trafficking in this area, triggered by different socio-economic factors. These factors being prevalent, and the area being vulnerable, the number of cases of trafficking may be on the increase.



Study conducted by
MALDA SAHAJOGITA SAMITY

Introduction

Most of the people of the Kaliachak block are Muslims. In the Old Malda Block, the people are predominantly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The tribe belongs to the Kol community. Though all the people know Bengali, the Rajbanshis speak Rajbanshi language, and the Santhals speak Santhali. The Muslims speak a mixed up language. 52.9% of the villagers have homestead land, whereas only 0.3% has cultivable land. Most of the respondents are living in occupied vested land.

Study area

The Study was conducted in six Gram Panchayats of Malda - Goyeshbari, Jaluabadhal and Jalalpur which are in the Kaliachak-I Block; and Mangalbari, Mahisbathani and Bhabuk under Old Malda Block.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 3333

30% of total households is 1000, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

Educational scenario

The educational scenario of this area is quite alarming. Those people have been regarded as literate who only can sign their names. Even by this standard, more than half of the population (50.04 %) is illiterate. Only 12.83 % have studied up to primary level, 6.08 % till class VIII and 6.08% till Class X. Only 1.26 % has studied till High School. Thus, there is a gradual trend of drop out amongst the few people who go to school.

Occupational Profile

45% work as daily labourers, 23% are bidi workers. However,

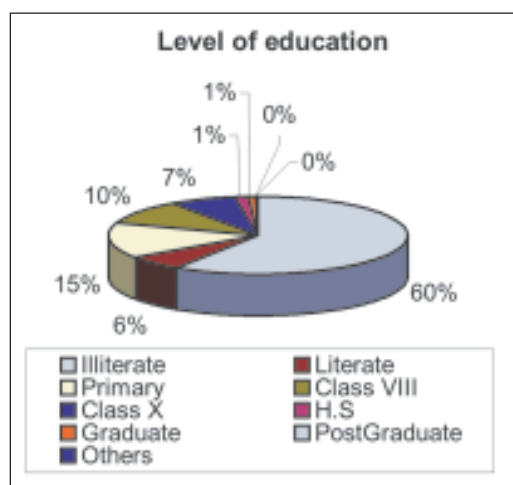


Diagram 81

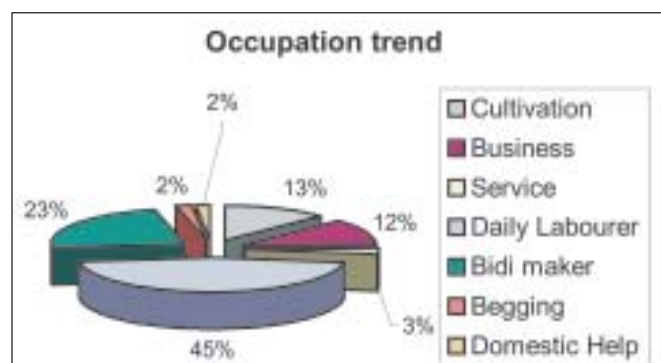
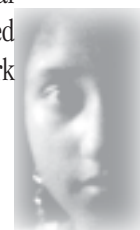


Diagram 82

99% of Muslim women (including girls under the age of 10 yrs) are bidi workers. Only 12.8% of the population work as cultivators. The area is extremely flood prone. The area also does not have an adequate irrigation system. The cultivation is mainly dependant on ponds and seasonal rainfall. The daily labourers are unskilled seasonal workers, and they migrate for work



to other states. 50.9% complained of low wages.

Wages for male and female labourers are different. 8.4% complained of physical abuse. 14.8% complained about the seasonal availability of work.

Trend of child marriage

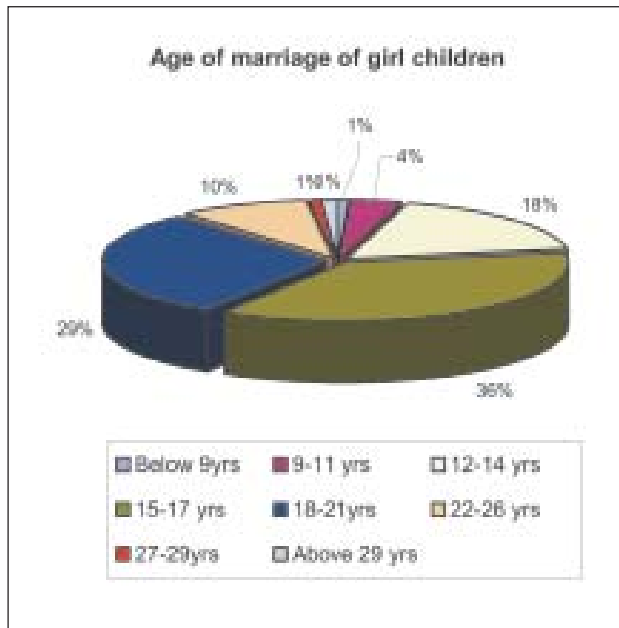


Diagram 83

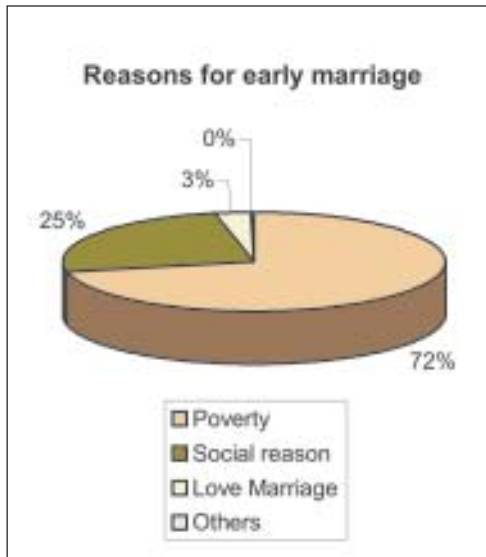


Diagram 84

Diagrams 83 and 84 reveal that, the majority of girl children got married between the ages of 15-17 years. The percentage of girls who got married between 12-14 years is also not negligible.

Poverty, and social pressure are the main reasons for this rampant child marriage. The parents have to pay more money as compensation to the groom's party if their daughters grow older. To avoid this economic pressure, they want their daughters to get married as early as possible.



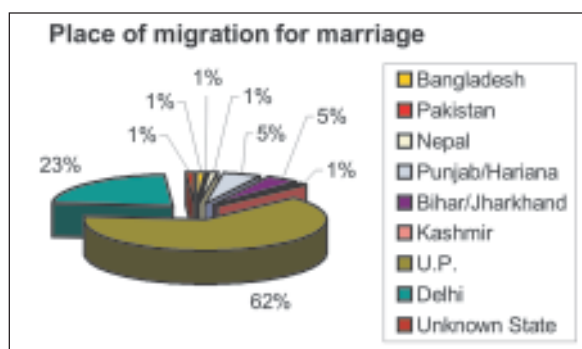
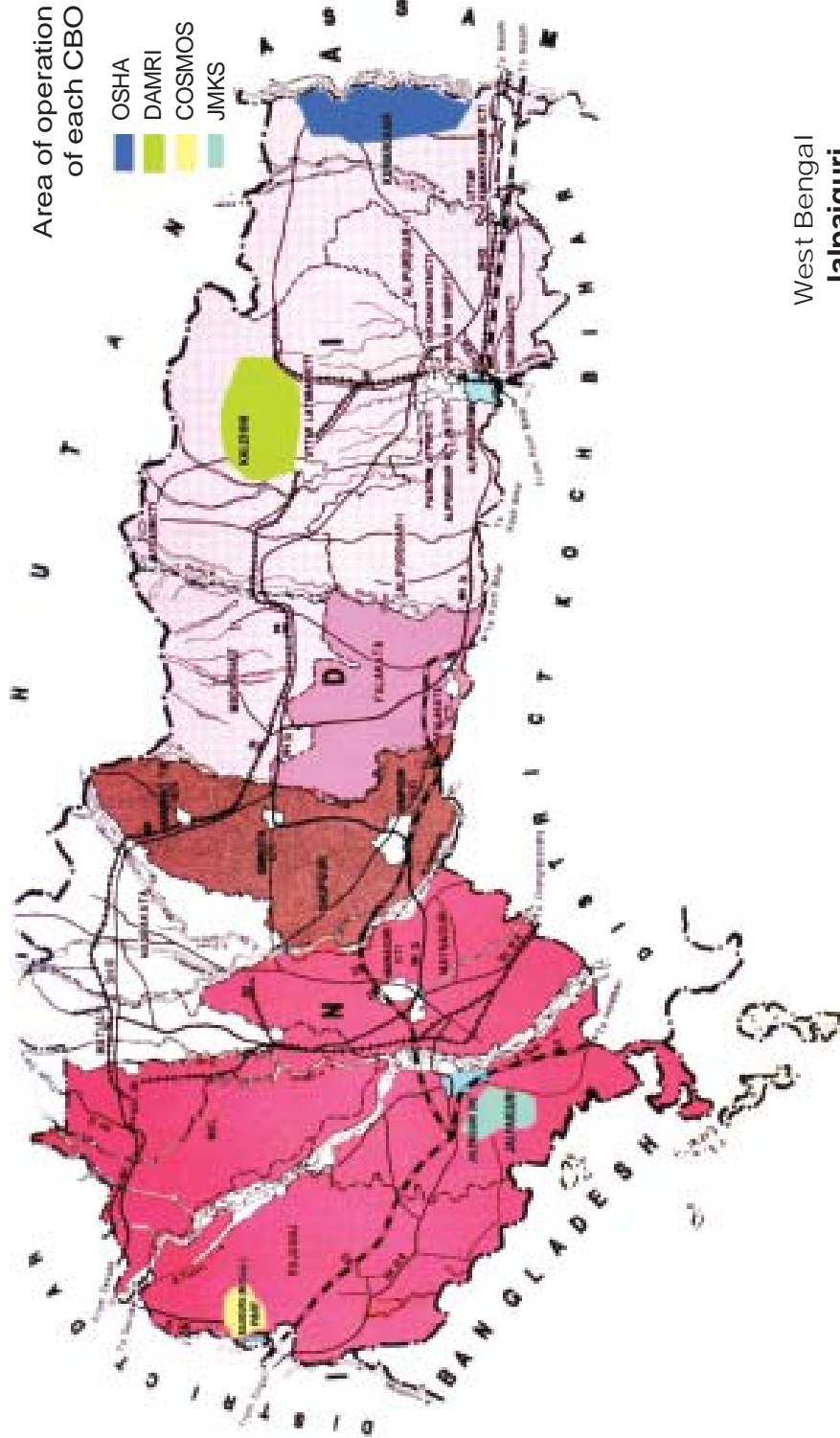


Diagram 85

Trend of migration

Most of the girls (63.31%), have migrated to U.P for marriage, 22.69% to Delhi, 4.5% to Bihar, and 5% to Punjab and Haryana. After marriage, they seldom return to their village.





West Bengal
Jalpaiguri



Jalpaiguri

District Profile

Situated at the foothills of the Himalayas, most of Jalpaiguri district was earlier known as the Doars region. National Highway No. 31, which runs across the length of this district, is the lifeline for the seven sisters in the North East. Jalpaiguri is known for its large number of tea gardens. Apart from tea, the other major products are paddy, jute, betel leaves and fruits.

The district headquarter is Jalpaiguri.

Jalpaiguri has 13 C.D blocks under which the rural areas are spread. The rural population consists of 82.26 percent of the total district population.

So far as the male female sex ratio is concerned, the rural sex ratio in Jalpaiguri has increased from 929 females per 1000 males in 1991 to 932 in 2001.

With regard to the literacy rate, Jalpaiguri has made significant progress and is second among all districts in terms of decadal improvement in literacy rate by gaining 18.53 percentage points from 45.09 to 63.62 between 1991-2001. Among the C.D blocks, Nagrakata has the lowest literacy rate at 49.24.

Source: Census of India 2001



**Study conducted by
COSMOS**

Introduction

The distinctive feature of these areas is that 14 wards of Siliguri Municipal Corporation fall within Darjeeling district but they are within Rajgunj block of Jalpaiguri district as well. Moreover, the area and the people are precariously placed on the borders of Bangladesh and Nepal, lacking socio economic and infra structural facilities. People living in this area are vulnerable to trafficking arising out of poverty, negligence, lack of protection and awareness. The children from the urban centers and semi urban centers of North Bengal are being trafficked to different parts of the country and also to other countries for a variety of purposes like flesh trade, cheap labour, domestic maid etc.

Study area

The slums are Rajaholi, Ramnagar and I.O.C.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 1986

30% of total households is 596, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

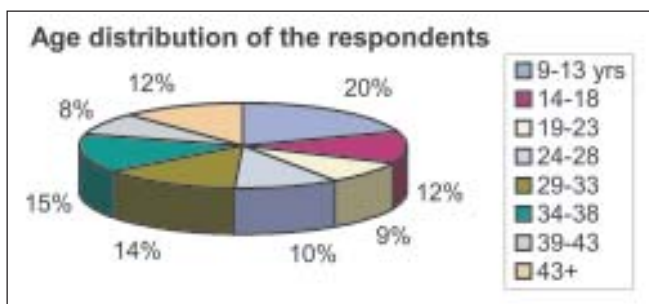


Diagram 86

The most vulnerable age group as victims of trafficking is concerned are the pre adolescents (15%) and the young adults (9%).

General Information

Out of the total interviewee families 78% belong to Hindu religion, 20.13% are Muslims and 0.16% are Christians.

Hindi is the language spoken by 57%, because most of the families have migrated from Bihar. 42% are Bengali speaking persons and Nepali is spoken by 2%.

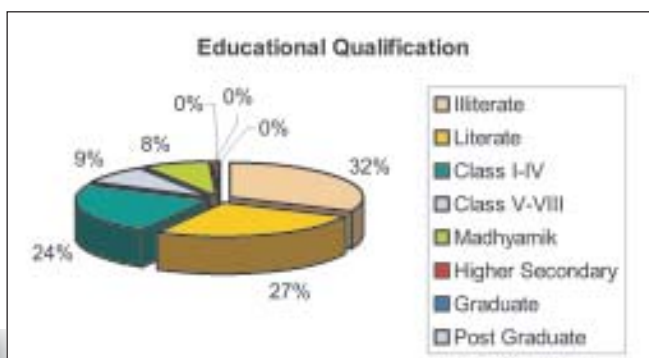


Diagram 87

Educational scenario

32% of the respondents are illiterate. 27% of people admitted to being literate, 24% had been to primary school. The overall literacy rate is not at all encouraging.



The drop out rate is also alarming. The male and female drop out ratio in each area is as follows:

Area	Male	Female
I.O.C	60%	40%
Ramnagar	67%	33%
Rajaholi	47%	53%

The causes are poverty, uninformed parents, gender discrimination and lack of interest in studies.

Occupational Profile

The poor economic scenario is reflected in the above diagram where 50% of the total population are daily labourers.

Cultivation of cash crops had to be discontinued for the last three years as lands are illegally handed over for unauthorized tea plantations.

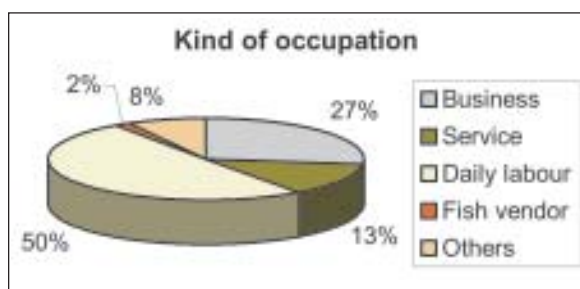


Diagram 88

Origin of the inhabitants

Only 8% of the respondents have admitted that they have migrated though we see that around 57% of the total population speaks in Hindi. This reflects the fact that the respondents do not want to disclose that they are migrants.

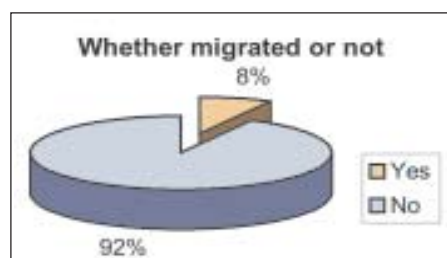


Diagram 89

Occupational Profile

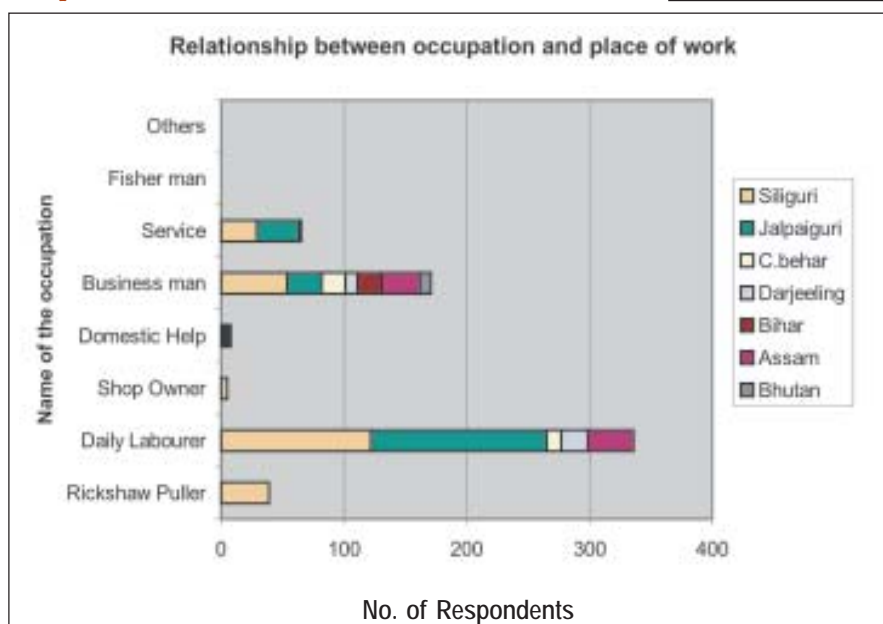


Diagram 90



The diagram shows that the rate of migration is low, because 92% have already migrated from some other places.



Diagram 91

66% of respondents among the working population have faced problems in their work but they did not clarify the nature of it. Though the rate of physical and sexual abuse is not so high, the matter should be looked into because the amount of child labour is high in these areas.

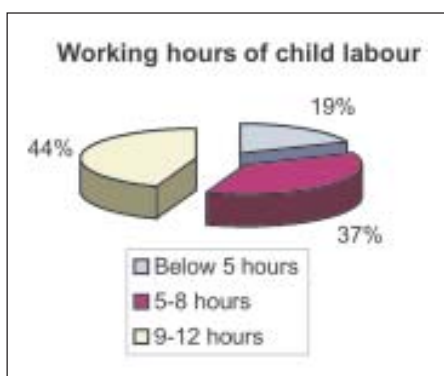


Diagram 92

Status of child labour

Diagram 92 clearly indicates that the majority of child labourers work for 9-12 hours. Moreover, 51% of the child labourers had started to work when they were 10 –12 years old.

When a family migrates from a place, every member needs to earn money for their survival. It is very easy for a child to get some kind of job in a teashop /hotel/garage/cycle repairing shop or rag picking. The employers do not miss the opportunity to get service at a cheaper rate. On the other hand, once their parents get money from their children, they force their children to continue their work.

There are some children of 5-18 years of age who steal sugar, potato, and onion from the 'goods train'.

The trend of child marriage has been seen, but it was not possible to collect relevant data.

Information on prostitution and trafficking

Non-brothel based prostitution is carried out in some places of the railway platform in Siliguri. A woman used to bring two to three girls often from Dinhat and also from other areas of North Bengal. She arranged customers for them. COSMOS noticed this incidence and prevented it.

Looking at the above findings, it can be said that the area under study is not trafficking prone but is vulnerable to trafficking.



Study conducted by
DOOARS ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Introduction

Alipurduar I block is adjacent to Assam and Bhutan. Families living in this area are poverty stricken. For the last two years, the closure of tea garden has worsened the economic condition. Whilst the girl children are trafficked from this area, it also serves as a transit point. Trafficking to Assam happens through this place.

Study area

North Paro Basti (North Rava basti), South Paro Basti (South Rava basti) and Satkodali under Banchukamari and Rajabhatkhawa of Alipurduar I block, Jalpaiguri.

Sample Size

Total no. of households: 1333. 30% of total households is 400, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General Information

Among the sampled population, 56.09% are Christians, 26.07% are Hindus and 17.8% are Buddhists. In the earlier period, most of the people of Rava community worshipped "Nature" & "Lord Shiva". Later, they converted to Christianity and Buddhism. 92.9% are scheduled tribes.

69.9% speak in Rava (local) language, 28.1% in Bengali, 0.3% in Hindi. The male members can speak in both Rava and Bengali, but the female members can speak only Rava.

Educational Scenario

From Diagrams 93, 94 and 95 it is evident that the level of illiteracy is very high.

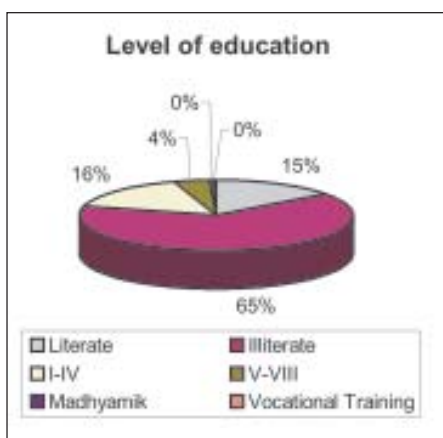


Diagram 93

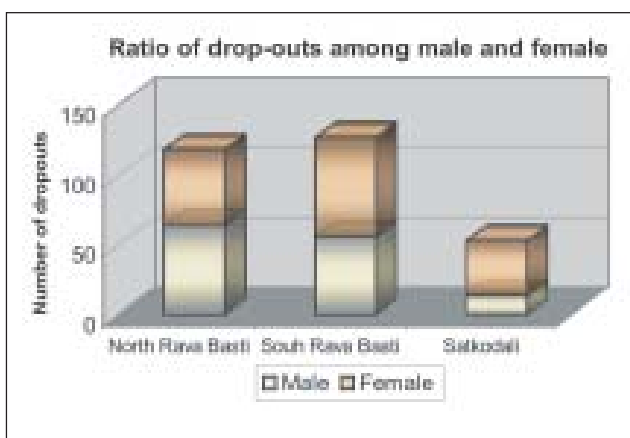


Diagram 94



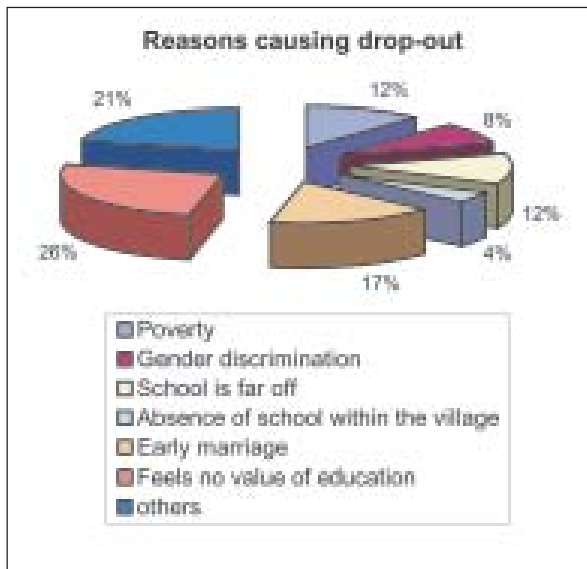


Diagram 95

The enrollment in Class V to VIII is much less than that of Class I to IV.

It seems that the children mostly drop out after studying up to Class IV. At this point parents victimise their female children, which is evident from diagram no. II. The parents feel that there is no value of education for female children. There is no school within the village and they do not feel safe sending their girl children to any school that is far from the village. Moreover, they prefer to get their daughters married at an early age.

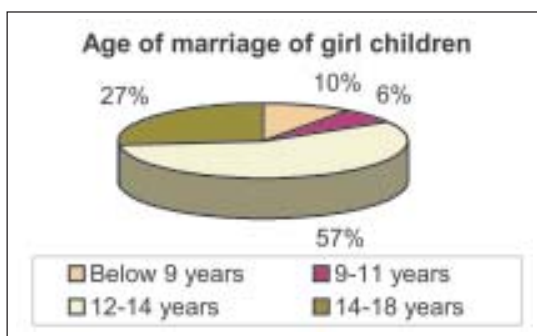


Diagram 96

Trend of child marriage

Parents get their girl children married off at a very early age. It is a surprising fact that the percentage of children married off below the age of 9 is higher than that of children belonging to the age range 9–11 years.

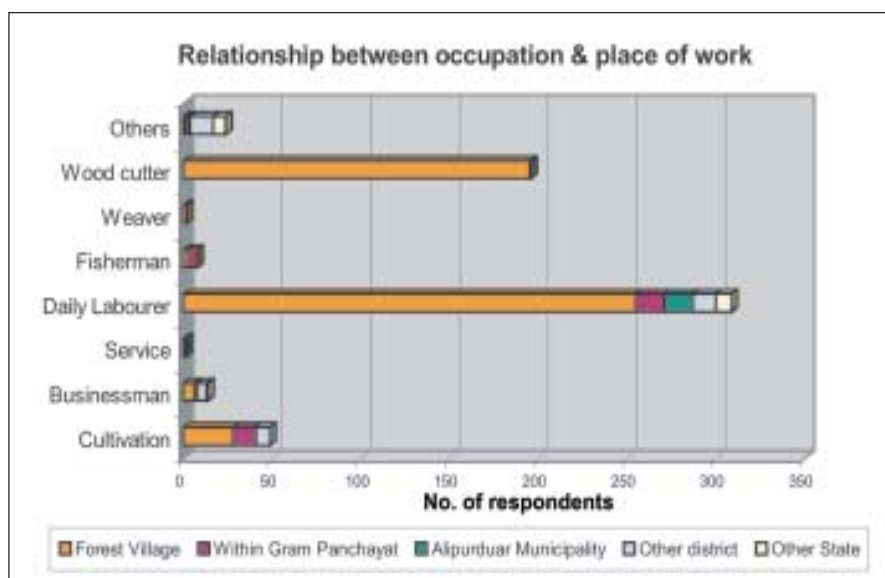


Diagram 97



Given the diagrams 97 and 98, it can be noted that the trend of migration is not high among the inhabitants. Since the study area is a forest village, a remarkable no. of respondents work as woodcutters and daily labourers. But, looking at Diagram 99, it is seen that the majority of the respondents live below the poverty line. It can therefore be inferred that they do not get the minimum wage as prescribed by the government.

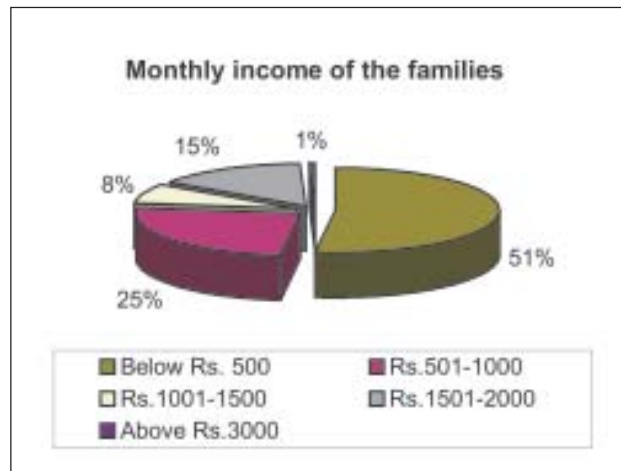
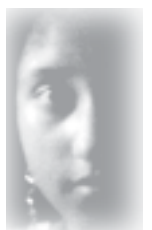


Diagram 98



Study conducted by
JALPAIGURI MAHILA KAIYAN SANGHA

Introduction

Raninagar and Paharpur are adjacent to Jalpaiguri town. Some part of the study areas fall within the premises of tea garden, some areas belong to the industrial area. So, a varied socio cultural environment is seen here.

Study area

Paharpur and Raninagar villages under Sadar block.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 2366

30% of total households is 710, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General information

In Raninagar, the percentage of Hindu family is much higher. On the contrary, in Paharpur, Muslims constitute the major portion. There are a few Christian families living in Raninagar.

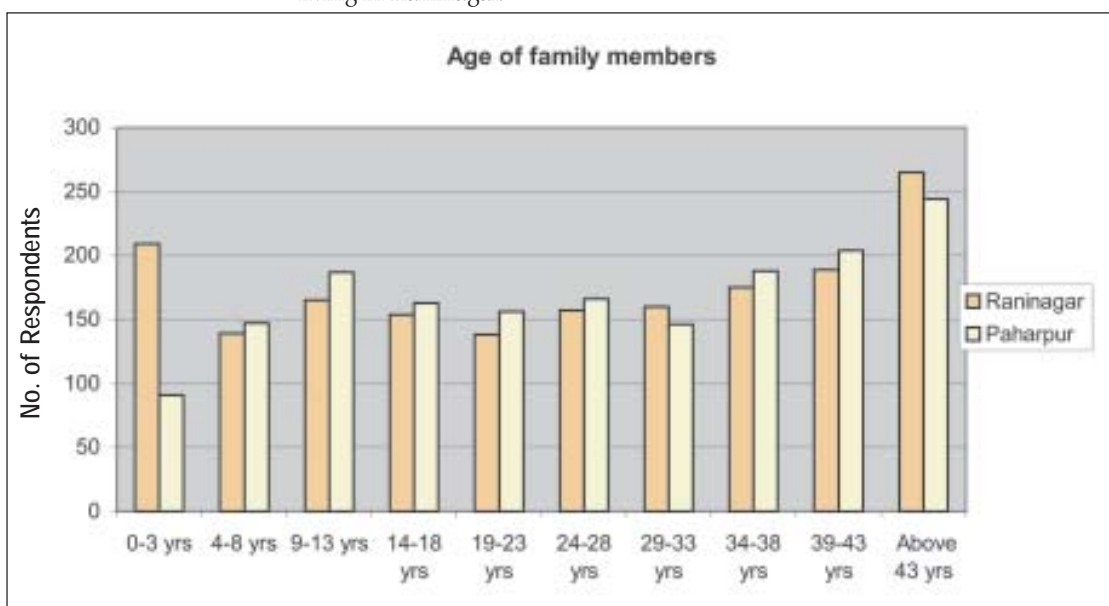


Diagram 99

Diagram 99 suggests that the age group between 9 to 18 years (minors and adolescents) constitute the majority of the population, which indicates that a large portion of the population is vulnerable to exploitation in any form if they are not provided with options of livelihood.



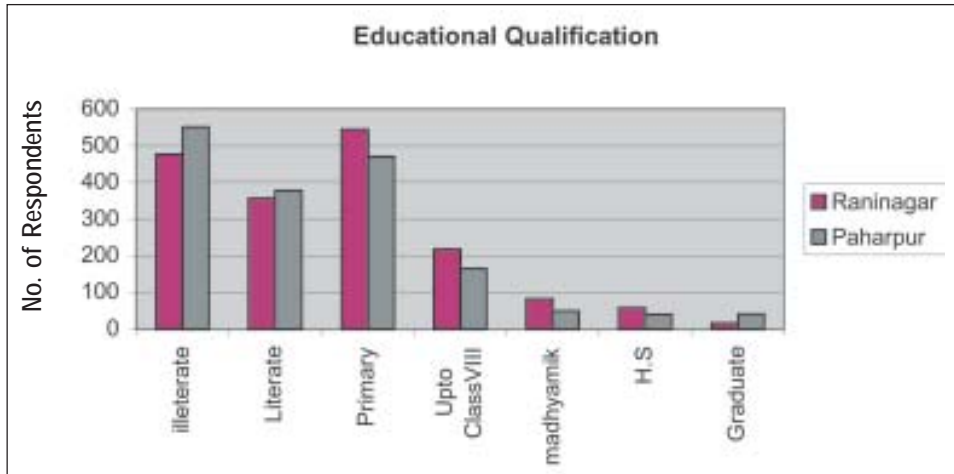


Diagram 100

Educational Scenario

The percentage of illiterate and persons studied up to primary level is almost the same. But on the other hand, the number of people studied up to class VIII is less than that of primary level. This proves that the drop out rate is remarkably high.

When the parents were asked about the reasons behind the drop out rate they referred poverty, along with gender discrimination. But the surveyors observed that the parents are not interested in women’s education, rather they believe that women are born to do household work.

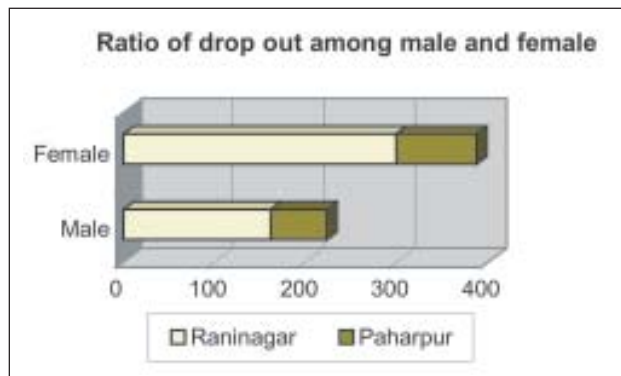


Diagram 101

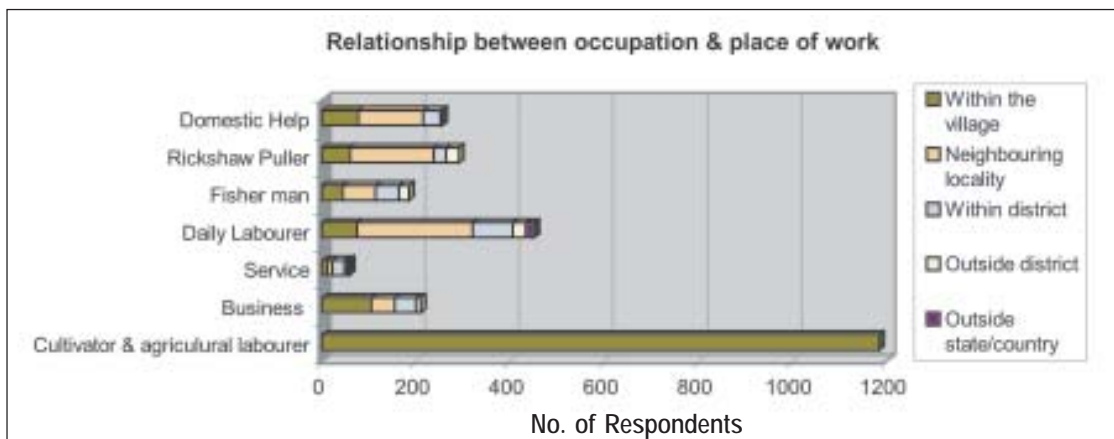


Diagram 102



Occupational profile and trend of migration

Here, the trend of migration is not so high. The majority of people are engaged in their own villages. A few of them have migrated to outside districts.

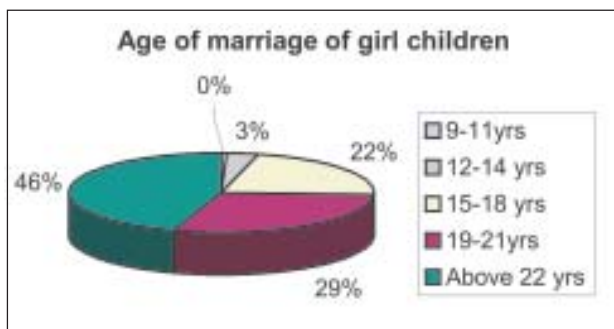


Diagram 103

Trend of child marriage

Though child marriage is prevalent, the rate is not so high. Poverty has been identified as the prime contributing factor. It is worthy of mention that among those who got married between the ages of 12-14, 29% have been deserted by their husbands and in-laws. In both the villages, domestic violence is rapidly increasing.

Here, generally, marriages take place in the local areas. But there are some cases where the girls got married in Bihar, U.P, Delhi, Assam and Bangladesh. The villagers did not want to disclose anything regarding this particular issue.



Study conducted by
ORGANISATION FOR SUFFERING HUMANITY AND AWARENESS

Introduction

Rahimabad, a tea estate of Kumargram block of Alipurduar is encircled by dense forest. One of its bordering areas is Bhutan. Most of the people had been tea garden workers, however for the last two years it has been closed, depriving the local inhabitants of their only source of income.

The study area is highly vulnerable and at risk as Jalpaiguri town is in the vicinity, which is a source zone for women trafficking. Trafficking to Bhutan, Nepal, Delhi, Rajasthan, U.P, Haryana, Punjab is rampant here. Agents from brothels frequently come to this block and take away the young, uneducated girls with the pretext of marriage and work.

Study area

A part of Rahimabad tea estate in Kumargram block.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 833

30% of total households is 250, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General Information

In the study area 66% were Hindu families (165 families), 23% were Muslims (57 families) and 11% were Christians (28 families).

The majority (172) of the respondents were Scheduled Tribes.

Among the respondents 52% were females and 48% were males.

76% families speak Sadri (local tribal language), 22.8% speak Bengali, 1.2% is Hindi speaking and 0.4% speak Nepali.

Two vulnerable age groups are (9-13 yrs and 14-18 yrs) more or less high.

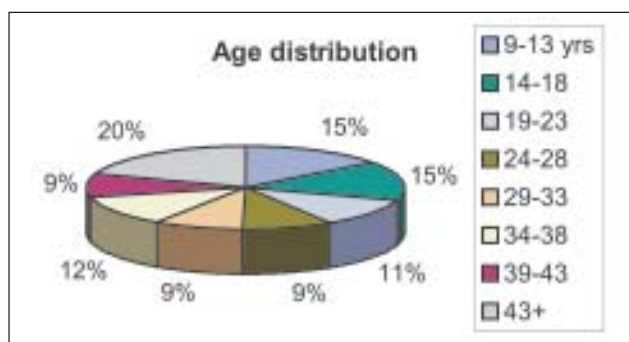


Diagram 104



Educational Scenario

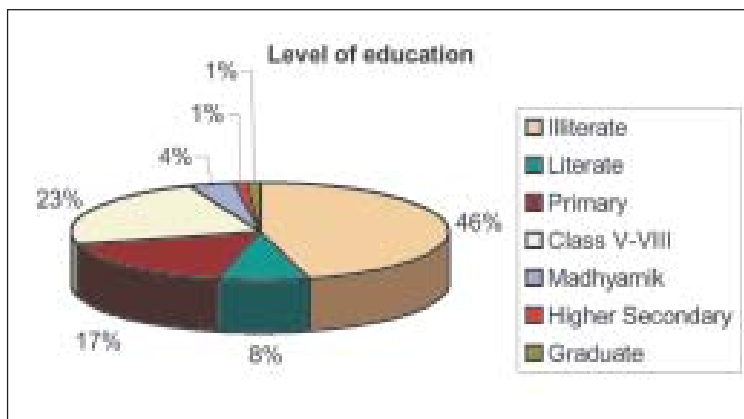


Diagram 105

It is easily evident that the illiteracy rate is very high. 9% of people are only literate. 15% of the respondents read up to class V-IX level.

The number of dropouts is not to be ignored. 63% of males and 36.9% of females discontinued studying. The foremost cause is lack of interest in studies. Gender discrimination is another reason for drop out in the case of girls. The unaware parents believe the girls are meant for marriage and household chores.

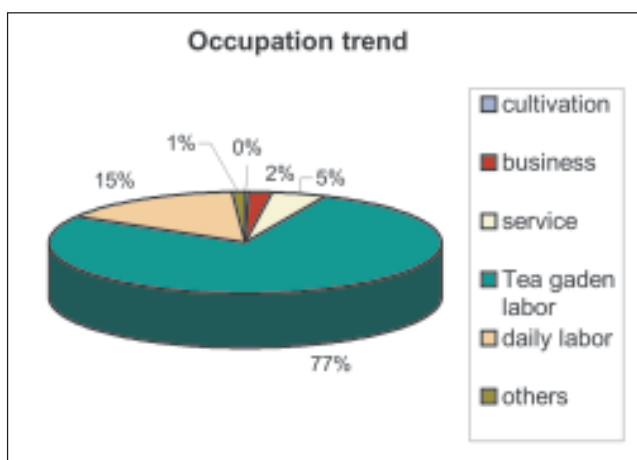


Diagram 106

Occupational scenario

Among the total working population, 77% are tea garden workers, followed by 15% daily labourers.

The tea garden has been shut down, resulting in a massive redundancy on the part of the tea garden workers. They are working as daily labourers in the nearby villages. The nature of work undertaken by those who have left the area is yet unknown. It was declared by the respondents that they are badly treated by their employers.

None of them possess any land and have no other resource to live on.



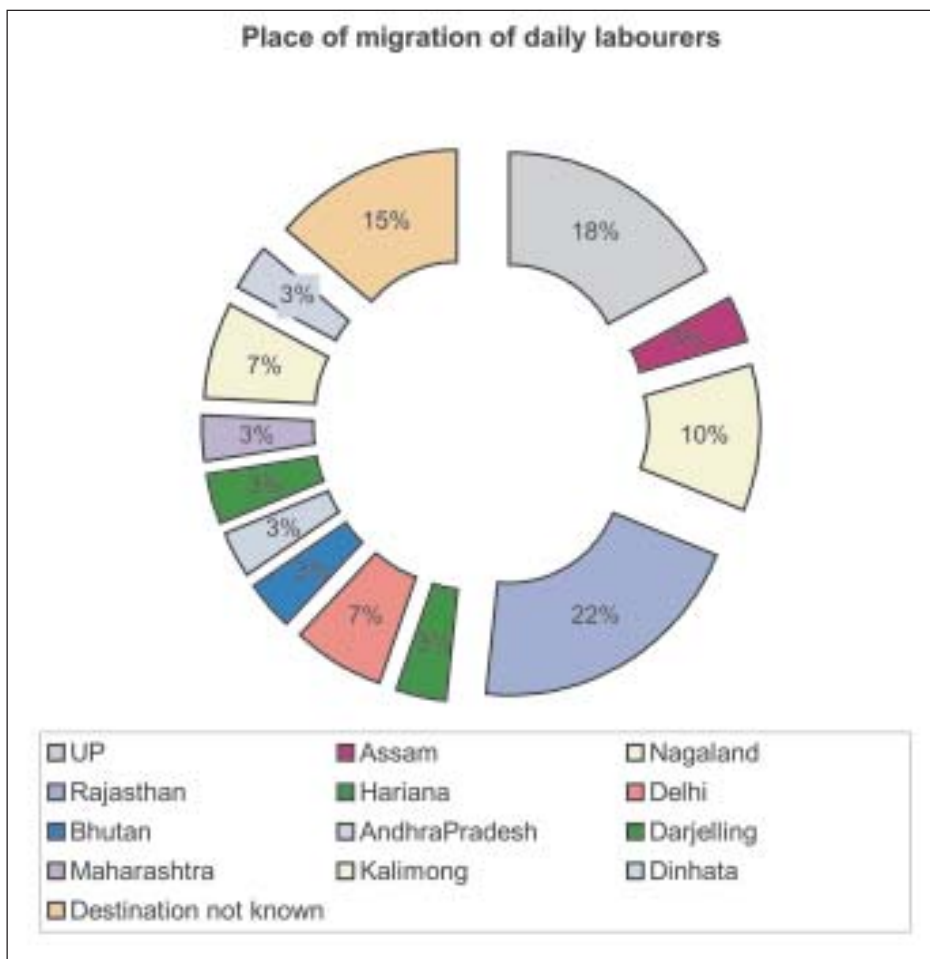


Diagram 107

Trend of migration

It has been found that most of the migrants are daily labourers. Since the level of illiteracy is very high and there is no provision of getting any skill development training, they can get only this kind of work. The above diagram indicates that the majority of the daily labourers migrate to Rajasthan, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

Trend of child marriage

The rate of marriages below 18 years is quite high. The Rahimabad tea garden, upon which the villagers were totally dependant, has been closed for the last two years. More than 50% people are facing financial hardship. In such a situation, when anyone from any place comes with a proposal to marry their daughters, they do not oppose. The young girls have been forced to migrate to Bhutan, Nepal, Delhi, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. There have been many instances where unknown people took these girls away and they were forced into prostitution.

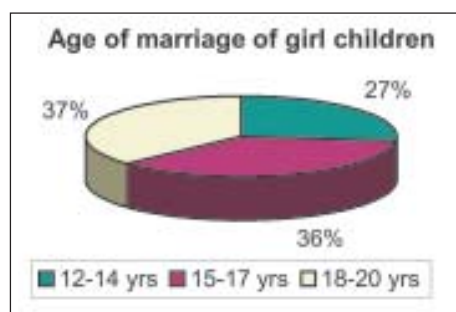
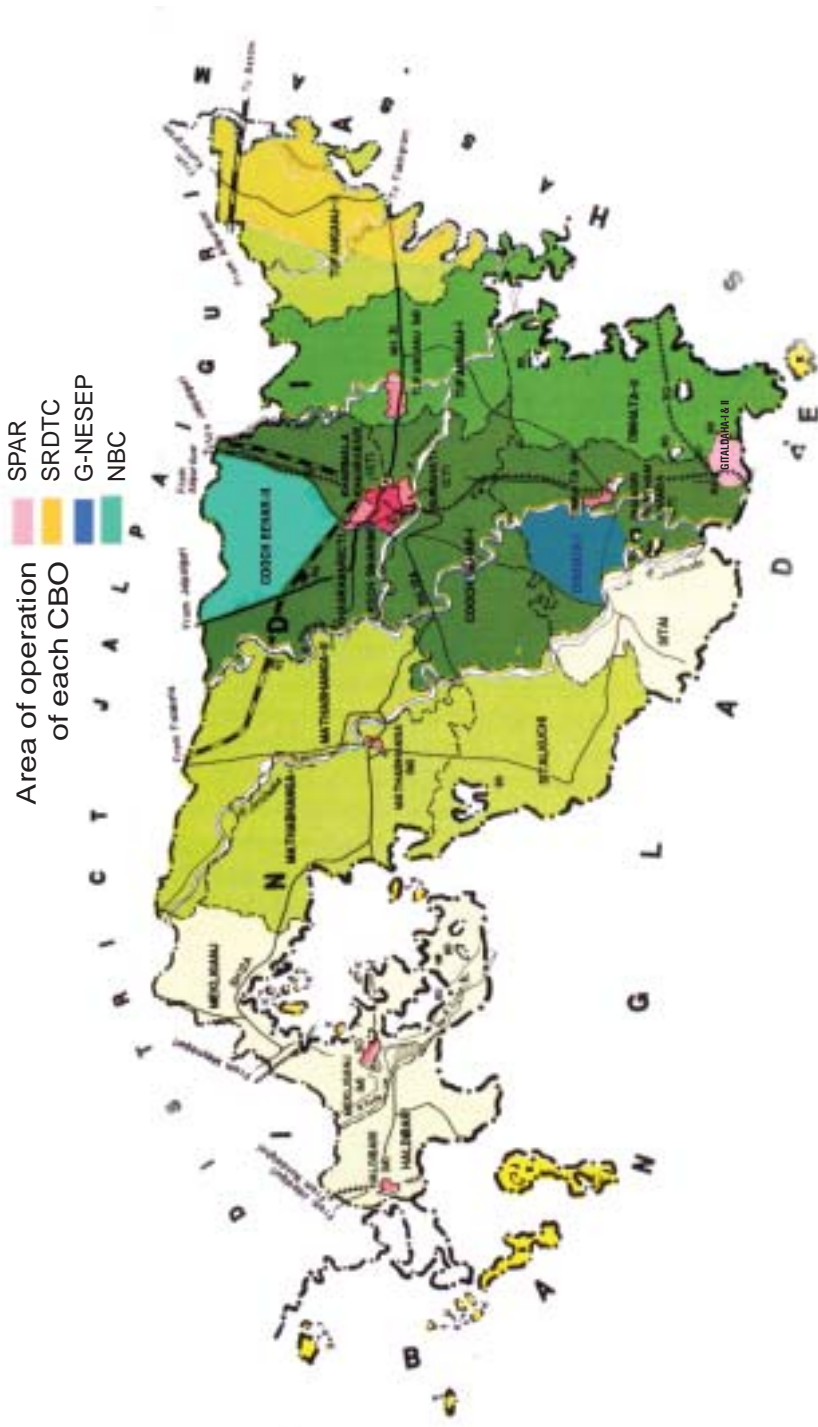


Diagram 108





West Bengal
Coochbehar

Coochbehar

District Profile

Coochbehar district is the northeastern part of West Bengal; bounded by the district of Jalpaiguri in the north and northwest, the state of Assam in the east (bounded by the districts of Kokrajhar & Dhubri in Assam) and the International Border with Bangladesh in the south and southwest. Beside this bounded area there are enclaves (called Chhits) which are outlying and detached tracts of land situated inside Bangladesh. There are 110 such Chhits. The area of the district is 3387 sq. kms, which contributes to 3.82% of the land mass of the State of West Bengal.

Total Number of blocks: 12

District Headquarter: Coochbehar

Agricultural Area : 111.16 ('000 ha) [2530.63 sq. kms] . Forest Area : 3.15 ('000 ha) [56.99 sq. kms]

Cooch Behar is essentially a flat district with a slight south-eastern slope along which the main rivers of the district flow. The soil is mostly sandy and loose. The surface soil is loam and hardly any good clay is found.

The rivers flow in a slanting course from north-west to south-east. Six river systems cut through the district flowing in a south-easterly direction.

	Male	Female	Total (Rural/Urban)
Rural	11, 57, 241	10, 96, 296	22, 53, 537 (90.9%)
Urban	1, 14, 853	1, 10, 765	2, 25, 618 (9.1%)
Total	12, 72, 094	12, 07, 061	24, 79, 155

Sex Ratio (no. of females per 1000 males) - Urban : 964, Total : 949

Favorable climate helps agricultural activity become the main source of income. Wheat is one of the most important cereal crops in Rabi season; Pulse is another important cereal crop and attempts have been made to increase the productivity as well as production; the district is marginally surplus in rice production.

Source: Census of India 2001

Note: *Total Household: 5, 17, 878 (as per 2001 census)*
Total Population: 24,79,155 (as per 2001 census)



Study conducted by
GODHULIBAZAR NORTH EAST SOCIETY FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE

Introduction

Matalhat G.P is one of the poorest and underdeveloped places in the Coochbihar district. Out of the 17 moujas 2 were chosen for their penury and deprivations.

Due to poverty, migration is usual among the young generation. The women are lured and trafficked with the pretext of job opportunities and fake marriages.

The interviews did not run smoothly at first, as the villagers were apprehensive about the actual motive. Moreover they did not realise the seriousness of the problem of trafficking in spite of the fact that there has been a case of a trafficked girl.

Study area

Bhutkura and Bhalka villages of Matalhat G.P in Dinhata block I.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 4826

30% of total households are 1448, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General Information

In the study area 84% were Hindu families and 16% were Muslims.

Among the respondents 50.57% were females and 49.43% were males.

Bengali is the only language spoken here.

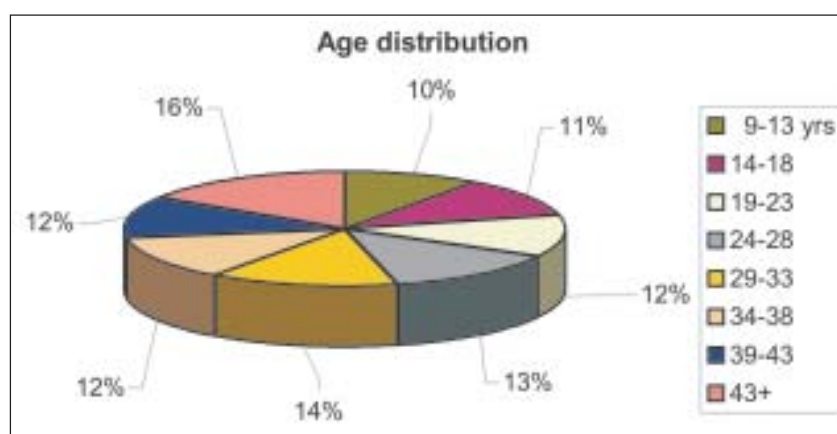


Diagram 109



The vulnerable age group is more or less equal to the other age groups.

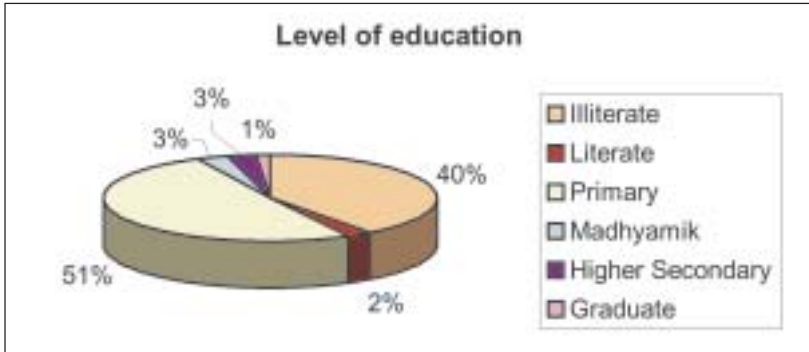


Diagram 110

Educational Scenario

The majority of the respondents had completed their education up to primary level but the illiteracy rate is of an alarming percentage. The drop out rate is 3.54% for males and 3.90% for females. The reasons for most of these cases are poverty and gender discrimination.

Trend of child marriage

Though the age of marriage is not so frightening, the rate of marriage below 18 years is quite high. This is due to poverty and the social system. Even some of the girls involved had been deserted at that early age.

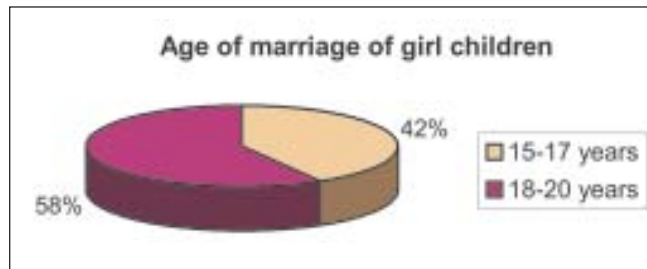


Diagram 111

Trend of migration

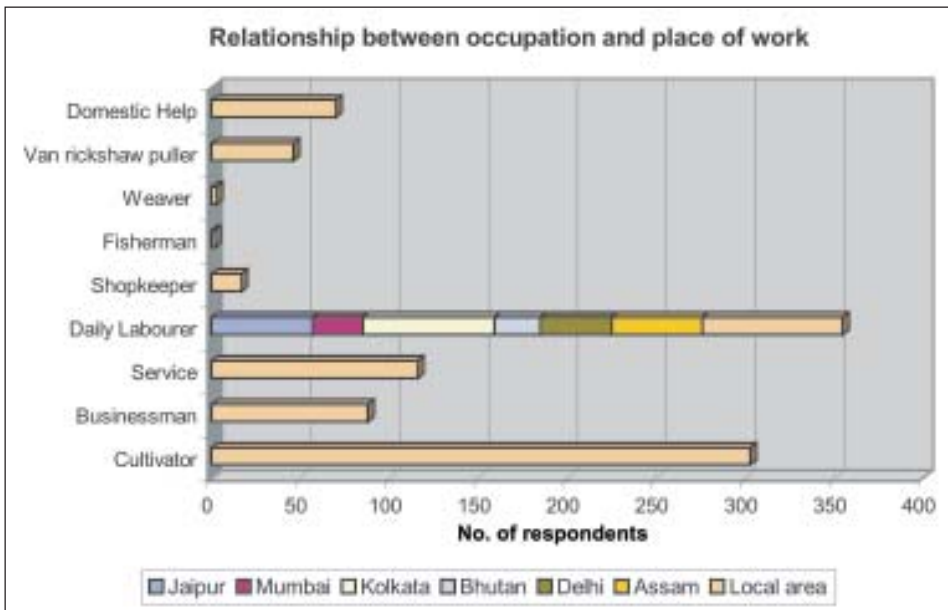


Diagram 112



Though the area under consideration is basically mono-cropped.14.63% of the population is engaged in cultivation. There is no provision of an irrigation system. As the job prospects are fewer, the people have to migrate on a customary basis.

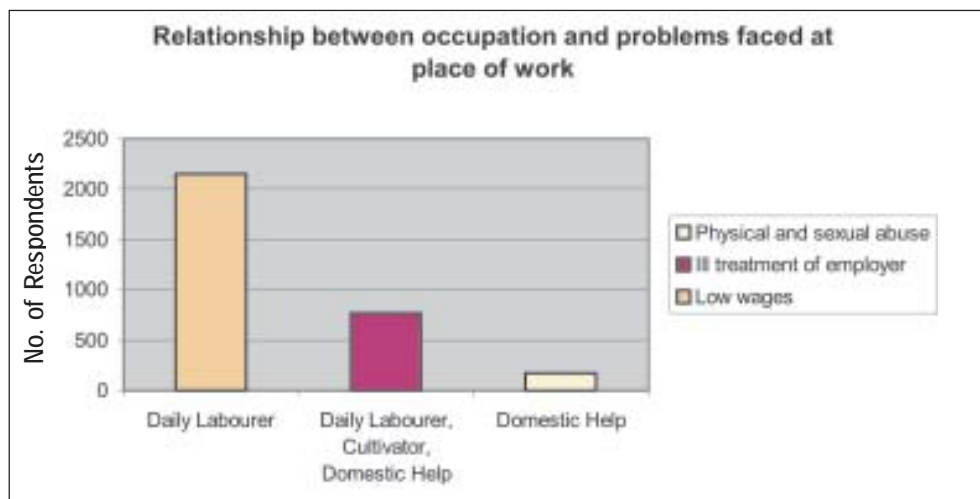


Diagram 113

It is seen that the domestic helps are the worst sufferers among the working population. Being a woman migrant makes them more vulnerable to exploitation in various forms.

Three years ago, a girl was trafficked from Matalhat. But no case had been registered.



Introduction

The villages under study are situated at the borders of Bangladesh, Bhutan and NH-31. Most of the villagers live on the banks of Kaljani and Torsa rivers. Only 20% of the populace possesses cultivable land, the rest are daily labourers. The trend of migration is high in these villages. The women are vulnerable to trafficking. It was alleged that the agents of brothels come frequently to these villages and lure the uneducated women and girls with job opportunities and marriages.

Study area

Ambari(N),Balabari and Baraibari under Ambari G.P,Coochbihar II block.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 2100

30% of total households is 630, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General Information

Out of the total interviewee families 94.92% belong to Hindu religion, 3.17% are Scheduled tribes and 1.90% are Muslims.

The sex ratio had been 50.74% (males) and 49.26% (females) respectively.

Though Bengali is the main language Olchiki (Santhali language) is another major dialect.

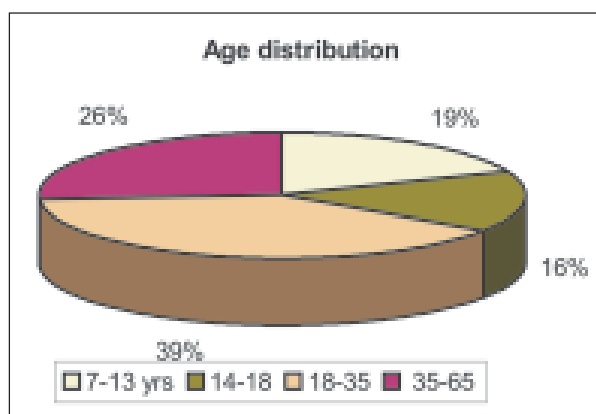


Diagram 114

Among the 3035 population 19% are of 7-13 years age group and 39% belong to 18-35 years age group.



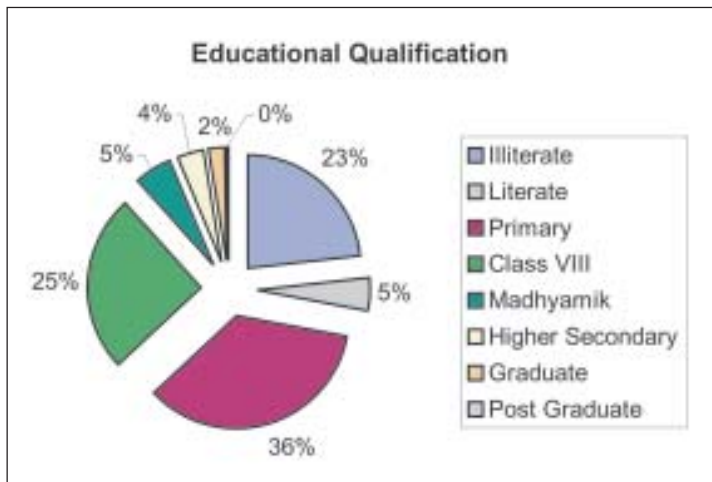


Diagram 115

Educational Scenario

Approximately 23% of the respondents are illiterate, which needs to be addressed. The rest are either literate, studied to primary level, Madhyamik level, graduates and 2 of them are postgraduates. Out of 125 drop outs in the village Ambari (N) 3.99% are males and 5.07% are females. At Balabari, the rates are 6.13% and 4.19% respectively and at Baraibari they are 3.55% and 6.50% respectively. The causes are not difficult to find. These are poverty, ignorance of parents, gender

discrimination and lack of interest in studies by the students.

Trend of child marriage

The percentage of early marriage cases is high. The girls were married off to far away places like Jaipur, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bhutan, Rajasthan, Delhi and Assam. Nobody knows whether they were lured by fake marriages or not.

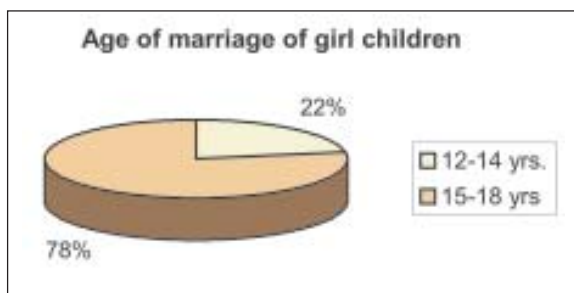


Diagram 116

Occupational Profile

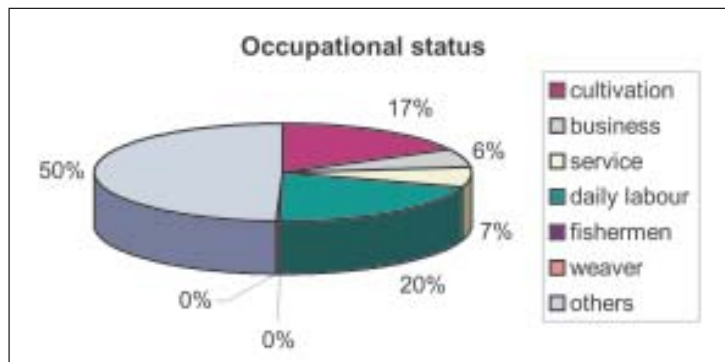


Diagram 117

The “others” category include the people who work in odd jobs. As only 11.9% have cultivable lands, the villagers have limited scope to work as agricultural labourers in the field of another cultivator. Sothe majority of them do whatever they get. It was discovered that women are paid low wages in comparison to men.



Trend of migration

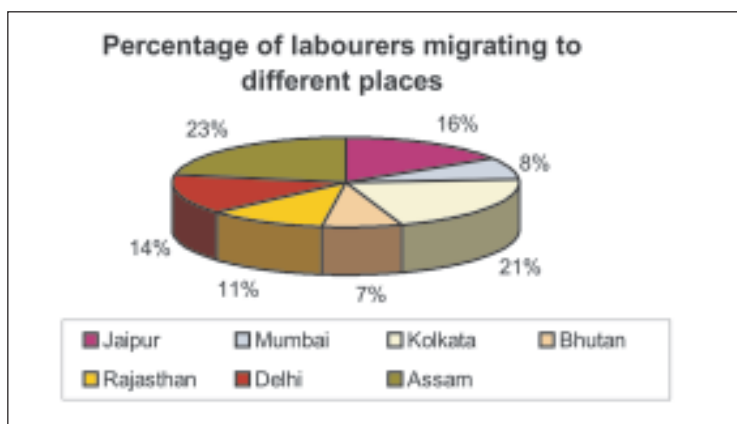


Diagram 118

It has been found that the migrant villagers work as daily labourers in Assam, Kolkata, Bhutan, Mumbai and some other places. Though the literacy rate is not so poor, an absence of any skill development training makes them incapable to do any other job.



Study conducted by
SOCIETY FOR PARTICIPATORY ACTION AND REFLECTION

Introduction

Most of the area of Gitaldaha II G.P remains submerged during the rainy seasons. Despite the fact that agriculture is the elementary livelihood, it is a mono cropped area due to a dearth of irrigational facilities. There is lack of proper communication, education, health and proper sanitation provisions. It is a common fact that those villagers who stay near the Bangladesh border are engaged in illegal supplying of consumable goods to the border districts of Bangladesh, causing an artificial scarcity in local markets.

Study area

Gram Panchayat	Villages
Gitaldaha I	1. Dolgobindo 2. Jyotsrinarayan 3. Bhorum 4. Daribash 5. Ratinandan 6. Konamukta 7. Haridas Khamar
Gitaldaha II	1. Kharija Gitadaha 2. Deonbosh 3. Bharbanda 4. Jaridhallah 5. Bhorum Poyesty 6. Nabani

Sample size

Total no. of households: 3400

30% of total households is 1020, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General Information

It was observed that out of 1020 households, 752 were from the Muslim community. The sex wise distribution had been 53% (males) and 47% (females) respectively. Bengali is the mother tongue of the local inhabitants. Most of the families are nuclear families.



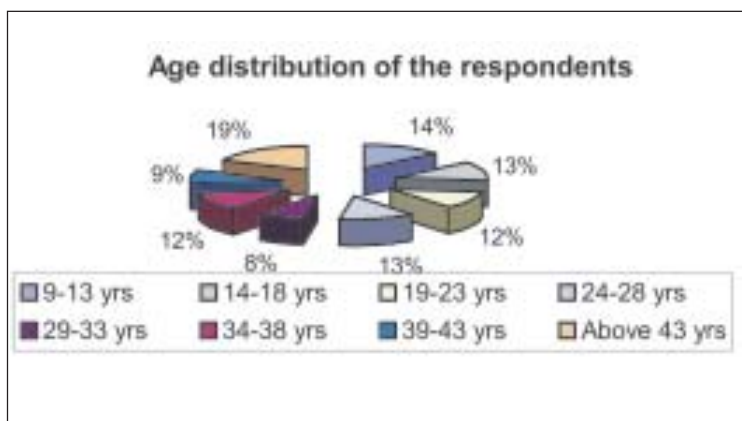


Diagram 119

The vulnerable age group, from 9-18 years, is quite high.

Educational Scenario

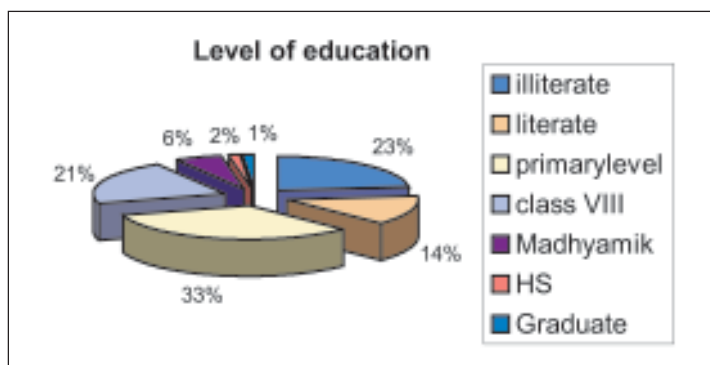


Diagram 120

Due to inadequate educational centres or any technical institutions and a lack of

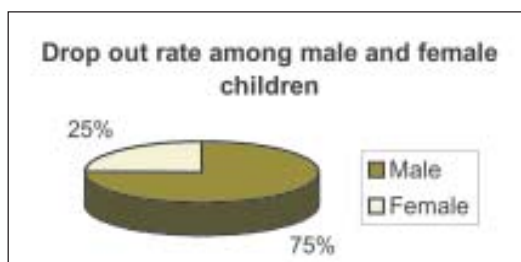


Diagram 121

awareness the educational status is not up to the mark. There have been no post graduate or technically educated persons in the area.

Diagram 121 indicates that the rate of male dropouts is higher than that of female



dropouts. The reasons behind this are poverty, migration, lack of parents' awareness and engagement in illegal activities. Here, the male drop out rate seems higher, because the female children are getting married at an early age.

Trend of child marriage

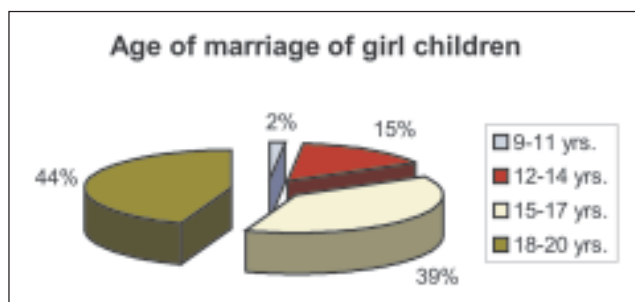


Diagram 122

A remarkable percentage of girls got married between 12-17 years. Poverty, migration and an absence of social security are the main reasons for early marriage.

Occupational profile and trend of migration

The 'others' category include different kinds of odd jobs. Most of the working population belongs to this category. Though agriculture was the primary occupation of the common people of the area, nowadays they have become more inclined to seasonal migration as flood and drought are a regular feature here. Due to soil erosion farmers are losing their cultivable land day by day. Most of the migrants are daily labourers. They migrate to Delhi, Gurgaon, Gajiabad, Sahabad, Haryana, Sikim, Bangalore, Assam, Mumbai, Tripura, Arunachal, Jaigaon and Siliguri. Only 30% of

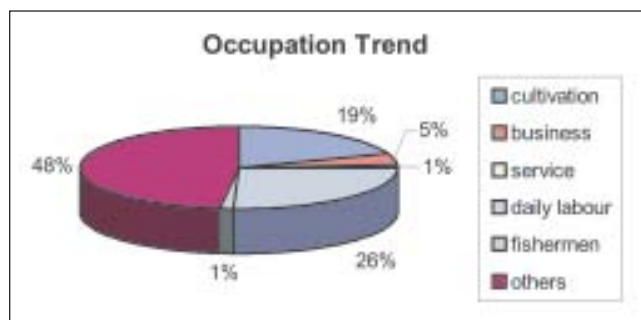


Diagram 123

the total land is under irrigation facilities. There has been no cold storage, the agriculturists have to depend on middlemen and do not get the right price for their products. A large number of families residing on the Indo Bangladesh border are engaged in the smuggling of goods.

Moreover, the migrants face the problems of low wages, ill treatment, physical and mental abuses.



Study conducted by
SUNDERBAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CENTRE

Introduction

The district is a major tobacco growing area of the state. It has the potential to grow one of the best quality cigar wrappers and filter tobacco.

The transport and communication system is bad. The existing cottage industries are weaving, bamboo works, bidi making, earthen ware making and mat making. But the villagers do not have as much capital and forward and backward linkage as is necessary.

The constraints faced during the study were the appalling communication system and the unfavourable political scenario.

Study area

Village	Gram Panchayat
1. Fersabari	Mahiskuchi I
2. Mantani	Bhanukumari II
3. Dorko	Salbari I
4. Piglirkuthi	Mahiskuchi II
5. Haripur	Barokadali I
6. Chata Lalkuthi	Bhanukumari I
7. Jirati salbari	Salbari II

Sample size

Total no. of households: 2703.

30% of total households is 811, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

General information

The majority of the respondents were Hindus. Bengali is the main language spoken in this area. In every village the interviewees are almost 50% males and 50% females.

Age distribution

The diagram in the next page shows very explicitly that this age group is susceptible to exploitation.



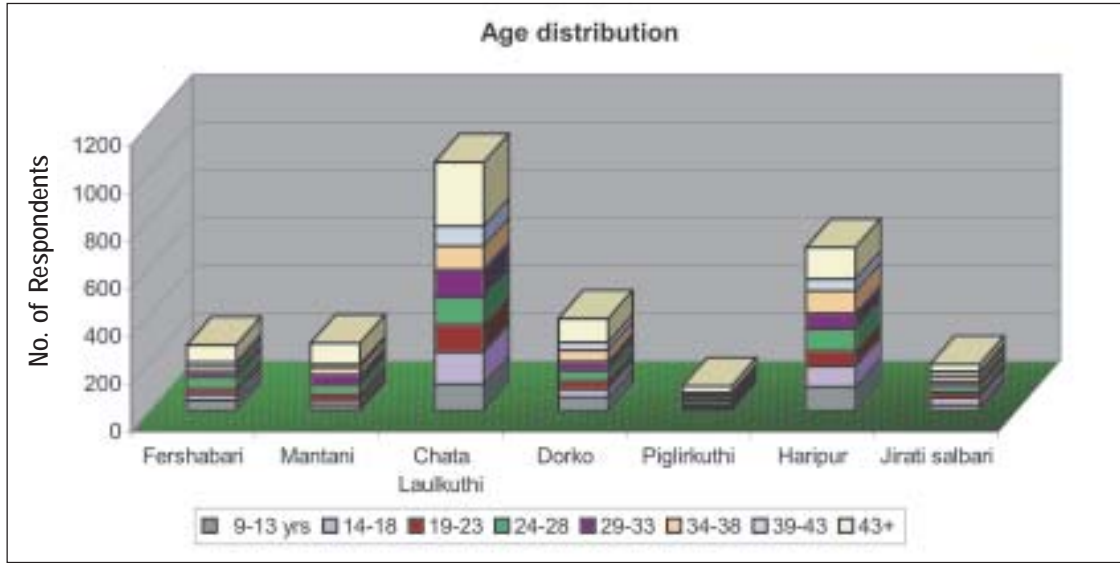


Diagram 124

Educational Scenario

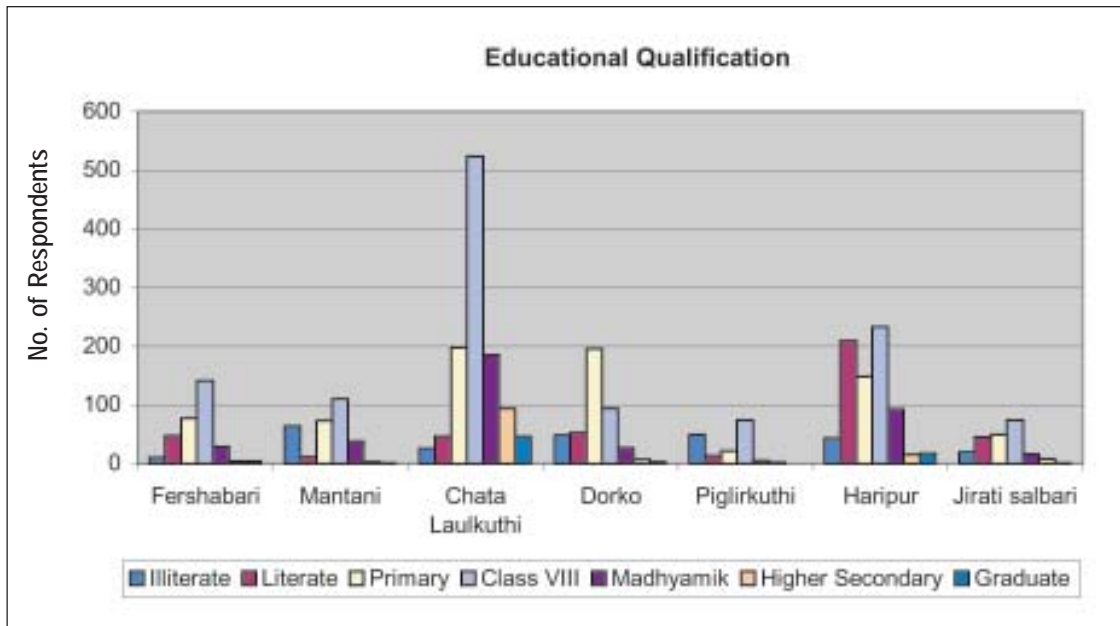


Diagram 125

It is understandable that the educational qualifications of the villagers is comparatively better than other areas.

It is interesting to note that the ratio of drop outs among male and female children is almost same, which is unlike other areas. However this statistic keeps parity with Diagram 126. The drop out rate is high in Mantani, Haripur and Chata Laulkuthi. The reasons for dropouts are poverty, traditional culture, lack of awareness and gender discrimination. Parents want to get rid of the burden of their daughters.



Moreover they have to pay more money as dowry if their daughters grow older. So they get them married at an early age.

Occupational profile

Trend of migration

Though the district has the potential to grow

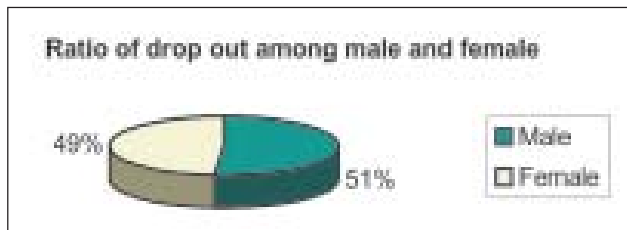


Diagram 126

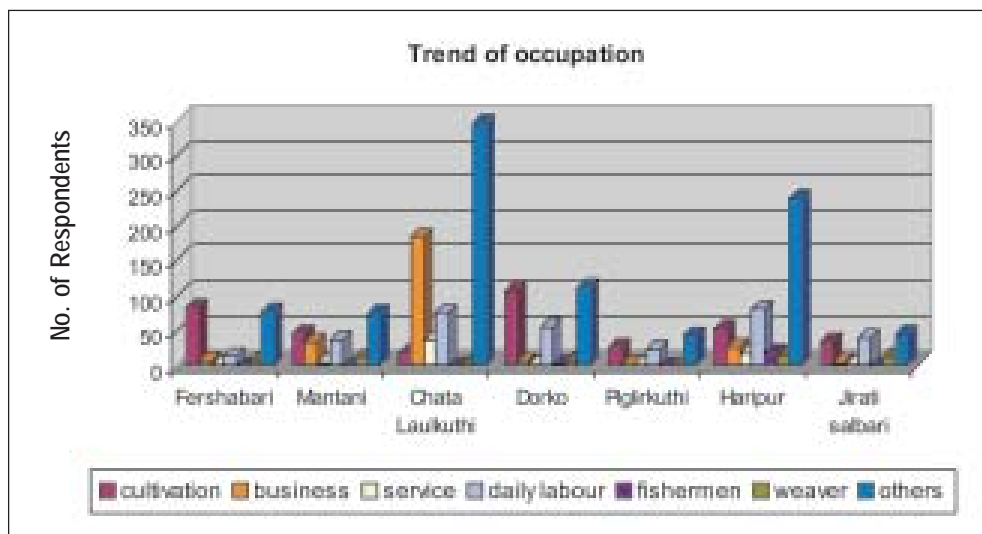


Diagram 127

jute, Aoush & Aman paddy the marketing linkages and technical know how are not compliant. 59% own homestead land, 33.6% own cultivable land and 7.2% own both. Th irrigation system is not favourable for most of the families. But the rate of migration is not so high. 'Other districts' include Bardhaman, Nadia and Jalpaiguri . Among these places, most of them have been migrated to Fulia to work as weavers.

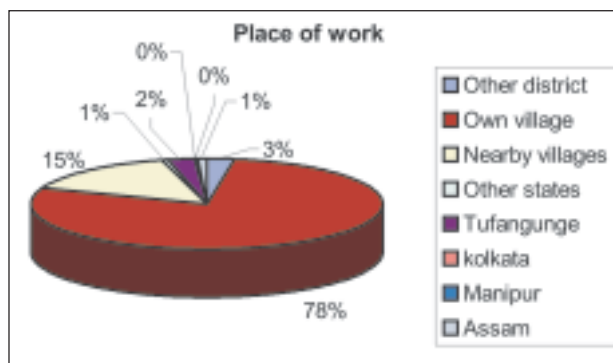


Diagram 128

Trend of child marriage

The rate of child marriage between the ages of 12-14 years is quite high. They get married in nearby places like Kamakhyaguri, Boxirhat, Kalljani, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri. Some of them have migrated for the purpose of marriage to areas of Assam.

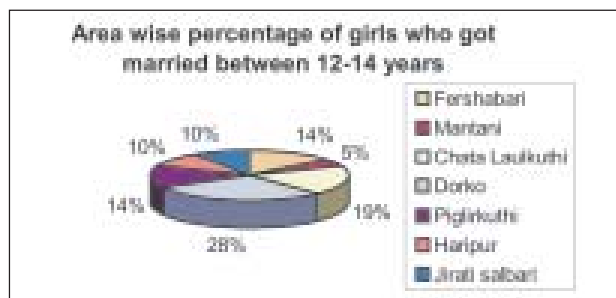


Diagram 129



Uttar Dinajpur

District profile

Among all the districts of West Bengal, Uttar Dinajpur has very peculiar geographical features. Most of the district passes along a long and narrow stretch of land from Darjeeling in the North, Bangladesh in the east, Uttar Dinajpur in the South and South East and Bihar on the West. Uttar Dinajpur is basically an agricultural district with paddy and jute being the main agricultural products. However, some industries have come up at the southern tip of the district based around Raigunge.

There are nine blocks in this district.

Raigunge is the district headquarter.

Out of a total population of 24.42 lakhs in Uttar Dinajpur district, 87.94% live in the rural areas and 12.06% live in the urban areas. The growth rate in the rural areas of Uttar Dinajpur for almost all the blocks is higher than that of the urban areas of this district. This is contrary to the general trend in other districts where the urban decadal growth rate is higher than the rural growth rate.

Uttar Dinajpur like other districts of West Bengal has recorded improvements in the general sex ratio.

The percentage of child population to total population in this district has increased from 20.49 in 1991 to 20.68 in 2001. In fact, Uttar Dinajpur is the only district in West Bengal where the percentage of 0-6 population to total population has increased between 1991-2001.

Uttar Dinajpur is the only district in West Bengal in 2001 which had a literacy rate below 50.0. The male literacy rate is 59.27 and female literacy rate is 37.16.

Source: Census of India 2001



Study conducted by
ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Introduction

Uttar Dinajpur is completely surrounded by Bangladesh in its eastern part and Bihar in its western part. People from both areas easily come here and engage themselves in illegal activities. Naturally they can earn much more than the local people. The poor local people then fall into temptation and do not hesitate to get their daughters married to them. Soon after marriage, the couple leave the place. It has even been understood that sometimes the children have been lured away with the pretext of marriage and then sold off in the red light areas.

Study area

The survey was done in the following areas:

Block	Gram Panchayats
Raigunge	Bindole, Jagadishpur and Bhatole
Kaliagunge	Malgaon, Bhandar, Baruna
Karandighi	Bazargaon I, Domohana, Ranigunge.

Sample size

Total no. of households: 5076

30% of total households is 1523, which was drawn as sample size.

FINDINGS

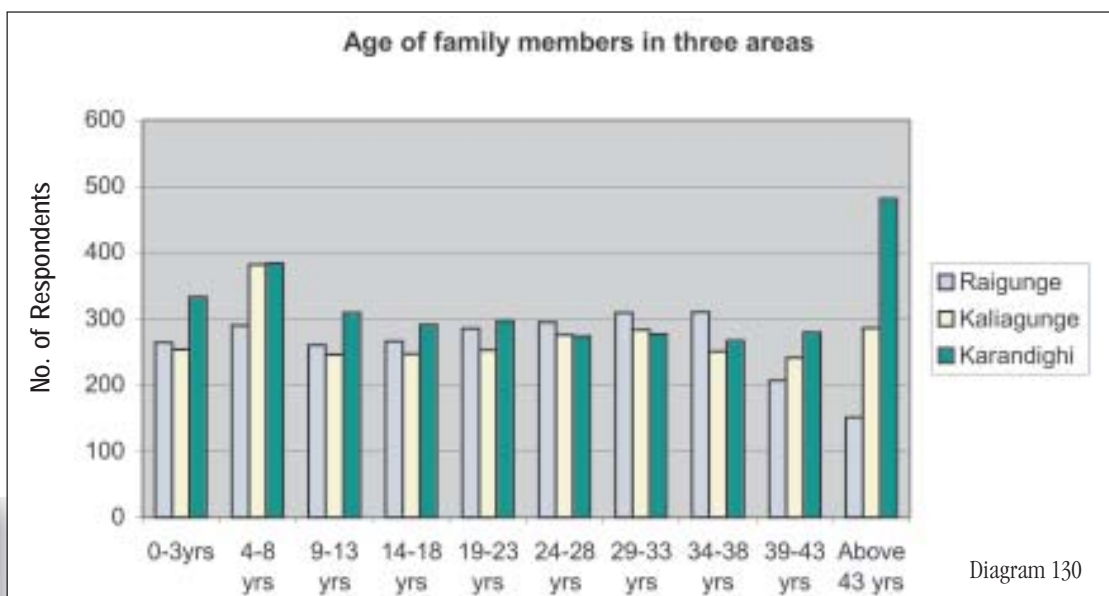


Diagram 130



General information

Raigunge: Among 2637, 1719 are Hindus and 918 are Muslims.

Kaliagunge: Among 2719, 1739 are Hindus and 980 are Muslims.

Karandighi: Here, the percentage of Muslim is much higher, i.e 960 are Hindus and 2232 are Muslims.

It seems that, the percentage of boys and girls within the age range of 9-13 yrs and 14-18 yrs is remarkable.

Educational scenario

The level of illiteracy is very high. Even the percentage of people who have studied up to class VIII is negligible.

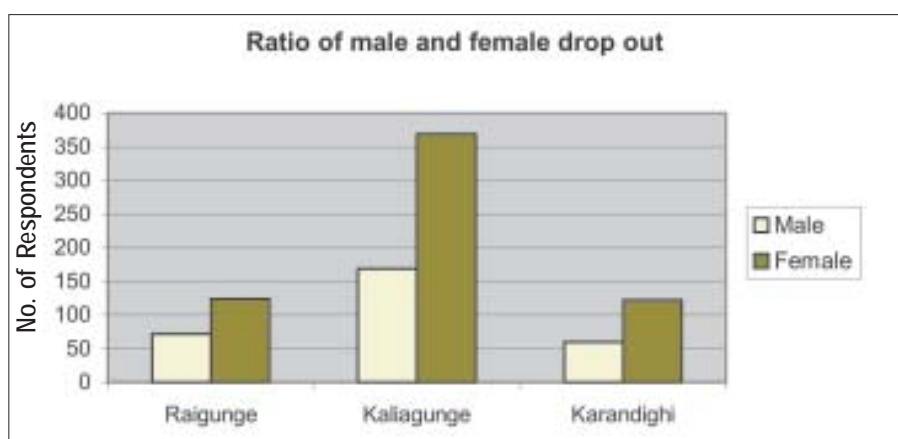


Diagram 131

The parents do not bother to continue their daughters' education because of the strong prevalence of gender discrimination. Where there is the possibility of sending a child to school, depending on the financial situation of the parents, the male child will be given preference. Parents also force their children to work in small shops in the locality. Sometimes they send their children to other areas to earn money. The children have no other option besides migration to any unknown place for any unknown job.

Occupational profile and trend of migration

In Diagram 132 it may be seen that the majority of the inhabitants are illiterate. So, the job opportunities are less. These illiterate people are bound to migrate and work as labourers.

During the survey, the surveyors observed that in Momintola village under Bhatol Gram Panchayat there were no men, because they work as seasonal labourers.



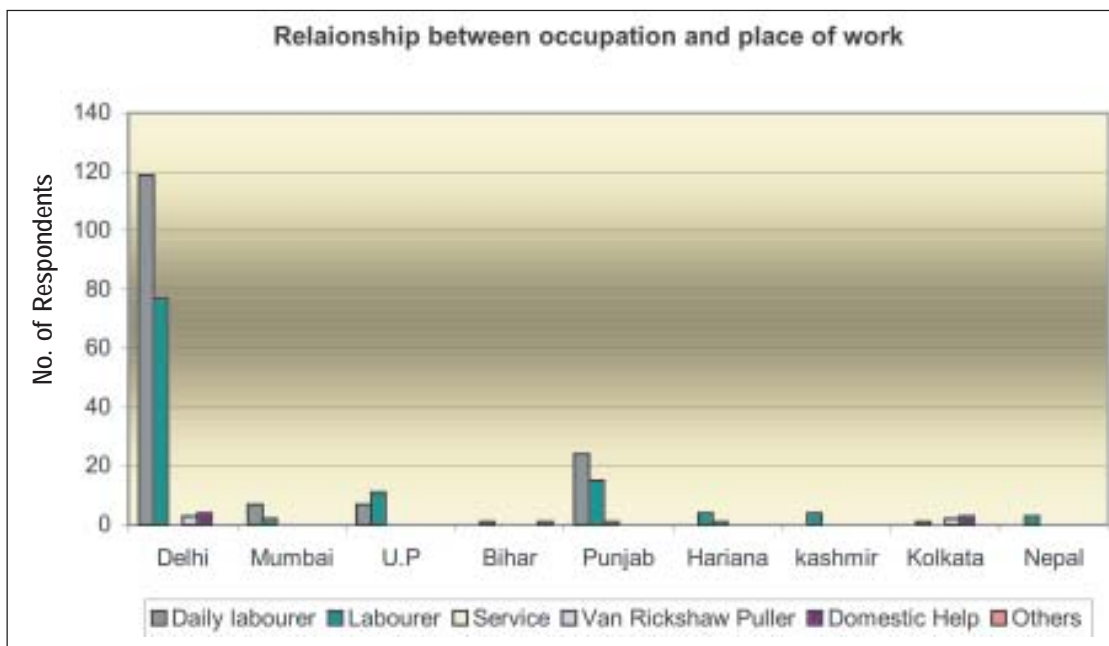


Diagram 132

Trend of child marriage

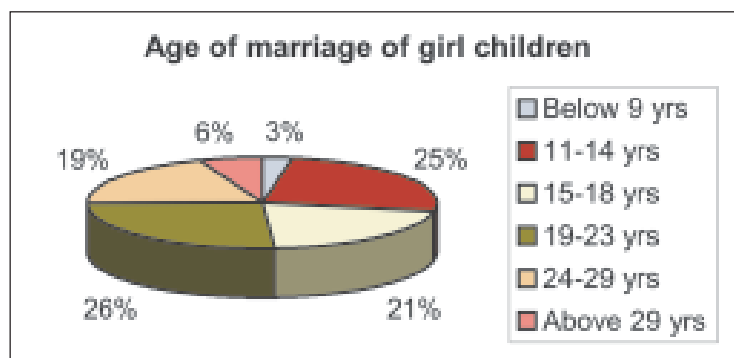


Diagram 133

Girl child marriage is highly prevalent in three Gram Panchayats, especially in karandighi and Raigunge block. Here there is a tendency to get girls married off as early as 9 years, because this is their ritual. Due to their poor economic condition these parents are eager to relieve themselves of the burden of the girl child. Moreover, if their girls become older they have to pay more money as dowry.



4 Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Education

- Looking at the statistics regarding educational qualifications, it was discovered that the majority of the respondents are illiterate. In some places, e.g. the villages of Bagadia, Srichandapur, Khargachi under Magrahat I of 24 Parganas South, and villages under Bamangola Block of Malda district, the percentage of respondents who have read up to class IV is higher than the number of illiterate people. But after this level they dropped out from the school. In almost all cases, those respondents who have passed Madhyamik, Graduation, and beyond, are men. In most of the areas, the drop out rate of female children is much higher than that of male children. Interestingly, there are some areas, e.g. Villages of Gitaldaha I and II under Dinhata block I, where the male drop out rate is higher than that of female. It may seem that the people of these localities are gender sensitive. However, in reality the scenario is just the reverse. Since parents get their daughters married at an early age, they do not get the chance to be enrolled in the school which results in the lesser number of drop outs than the male students. It is perhaps because of the prevalence of gender discrimination that the education of the boy child is given priority when there is an option of providing education to both male and female children. However, there are some other factors responsible for this poor educational scenario, for example bad condition of the roads, non-availability of drinking water and electricity, inadequate number of teachers, and that the conventional methods of teaching does not attract children to the school. Again the lack of safety of girl children going to school is a reason behind the higher drop out rates of older girl children.

Child Marriage

There is no single block, Gram Panchayat or village among the study areas where girl children do not get married at an early age. 10% of girls have been found to be married off below 9 years in north Paro & South Paro *basti* under Satkodali of Banchukamari, Rajabhakhawa of Alipurduar I block, Jalpaiguri. In Rahimabad Tea Estate of Kumargram Block, Alipurduar 26.7% girls got married when they were 12–14 years old. The young girls of 6 villages under Kaliachak I and Old Malda block and Habibpur block of Malda, Karandighi and Raigunge block of North Dinajpur are forced to marry the people arriving from U.P and Bihar. In the case of marriage with migrants from far off places with different culture and language, the prime reason cited is relaxation in dowry. The girl's



parents need to give dowry in case of marriage to a local boy. However, when a man comes from areas like Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, no dowry is required. On the contrary at times the parents are given a lump sum amount with other assets by the bridegroom's party. With such opportunities at hand the parents do not bother to find out the whereabouts of the bridegroom or his family. They are happy to get rid of the daughter's burden without having to pay any dowry, and in fact often receive a bride price from the groom. Studies¹ and experiences have revealed that there exists a strong demand for young girls belonging to poor and option less families from the places stated above, because getting married to girls in their own states means that the groom will need to pay huge amount of money to the bride's party, as compared to the amount given in case of marriage with girls outside their state. There is also a strong demand for girls from poverty stricken families because widowers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are not given in marriage with any girls within their respective communities. Sometimes the marriages do not take place here. The parents do not hesitate to allow their daughter to go to an unknown place and marry an unknown person of a different culture, speaking a different language. In some cases there is no proof of the marriage actually taking place, because none of the parents had seen a photo of the marriage ceremony. It is clearly evident that the parents themselves are often responsible for getting their daughters married to an unknown person and putting them at risk.

The National Commission for Women is deeply disturbed by the rising trend of child marriage. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 exists only on paper, and has no impact in reality. Though the legal marriageable age for women is 18, for men 21, the census statistics states that 6.4 million Indians under the age of 18 are already married and as many as 1.3 lakh girls under 18 are widowed and another 56000 divorced or separated. The incidence is understandably higher in rural areas, but not as low as expected in the cities.²

Migration

The trend of migration has been visible in almost all places except the slums, namely Rajaholi, Ramnagar and I.O.C of Ward No 35 of Siliguri Municipal Corporation and Subhash Colony, Gandhi Colony and High Road Slum at Berhampore of Murshidabad, because the people of these localities had migrated already from other villages, towns and even from Bangladesh. Lack of economic options and poverty have been identified as the contributing factors of migration. Mono cropping land, inadequate or absence of irrigation systems,

¹Ref: A study on Vulnerabilities in Mobility, Migration and Trafficking in Person (A Sanlaap study in the 5 blocks of Murshidabad district, 2004)

²Source: (Rashtra Mahila –Published by the National Commission for Women-June 2005)



and low levels of literacy are the prime factors of poverty. There are a few landholders in the villages. So, the number of farmers is negligible, and for this reason, people do not find any scope of work as daily labourers in any other sector. In Ambari (N), Balabari and Baraibai under Ambari G.P of Coochbehar block II, the level of literacy is not so poor. But there is no provision of skill development training.

Previously, wood and honey were exported from Sunderban. The local people of Canning, Basanti and migrants from Bangladesh were engaged in this trade. But, the Indian government has declared 1330 square Kilometers of Sunderban as 'National Park'. Henceforth, the government has imposed restrictions on trading of wood and honey. The men and the women of these families are forced to migrate.

In 13 villages under Gitaldaha I and II G.P. flood, drought and soil erosion are regular occurrences, resulting in migration. The closure of the tea garden is the prime factor of migration in North Bengal.

In the urban slums of Murshidabad, on one side, the respondents prefer to migrate to the city from different places to get a better chance of work along with better earnings. But on the other side, the majority of them have referred to insecurity and harassment of women caused by migration. This is really alarming, in particular when considering the vulnerability of young girls.

Indigenous industries

The indigenous industries in the villages can provide an opportunity to the inhabitant.

In 6 blocks of South 24 Parganas, Clay modeling and weaving were well-developed industries. But, were closed due to lack of capital and training facilities. In Basirhat I Block, four years ago there was a Handloom Industry organized by a womens' co-operative society, funded by NABARD. The initiative failed due to internal disputes.

In Canning I, Canning II & Basanti, Kaantha stitching, Batik, Zari making, Bidi making, Shell breaking, Jaggery producing are the running industries. But these industries face the problems of a depressed market, decrease in wages, bad communication and a prevalence of skin diseases because of handling chemicals for batik printing. Unless these problems are not taken care of by the local self-government, the future of these industries is not hopeful.

Plight of urban children

- The findings have shown that the urban children who are living in slums and on platforms are vulnerable like rural children. Along with the chances of being trafficked, they face violence in many ways. A remarkable percentage of child



labourers live on the platforms and in slums (names mentioned earlier). They start to work at a very young age; even below 9 years. Sometimes, they work beyond the normal working hours of the adult. It becomes obvious that, burdened with the responsibilities of adulthood at such a tender age, the child's physical and mental development are affected. Moreover, it inevitably denies their rights as per the Fundamental Rights ensured by the Constitution of India, Child Labour Prohibition Act, Factory's Act 1964 and United Nations Convention of Rights of Child. Economic constraints, unhygienic living conditions, and exploitation in the work place leads to tensions and makes the children feel disgusted with their immediate environment.

Trafficking and Prostitution

In the last two years, more than 100 girls below the age of 18 years have been trafficked from Swaroonagar and Basirhat I to Mumbai for the purposes of forced prostitution.³ Some of them are being forced to work as dancers in the city bars. The girls who are already engaged in the flesh trade in Mumbai come back to take more girls from the area and coerce them into prostitution, sometimes with the consent of their parents. The more frightening point is that, during the survey, some of the parents expressed their willingness to send their daughters as soon as they get the chance.

In Diamond Harbour II, many girls are lured away and trafficked to the red light area of Asansol.

During the course of the study we have discovered that, on Baruipur platform, it is becoming very easy for the perpetrators to lure women and children into forced prostitution. Some of the girls stay in the red light areas based in Kolkata and often visit their families living in Baruipur.

Many girls living on the platform & adjacent slums are being forced regularly to practice prostitution and most of them travel to the tourist spots in Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas.

Non brothel based prostitution is carried out in some places on the railway platform in Siliguri. A woman used to bring two or three girls often from Dinhata and also from other areas of North Bengal. She arranged customers for them. *COSMOS* noticed this incidence and prevented it.

There are many families in Hurshi & Lochanpur from where the young girls of 10 – 13 years have been trafficked, mostly to Bihar, with the pretext of marriage.

In some cases, there is no trace of these girls. In a few cases, they fled away from their in-laws house because their husbands forced them into prostitution.

With reference to the findings of the study, the following recommendations can be

³Source – Situational Analysis done by Dishari ,Ariadaha,2004



Recommendations

made:

Education

Role of the local self government

- Low level of literacy is one of the facilitating factors for trafficking. Despite Sarba Siksha Karyakram (SSK), the status of girl's enrollment in school and the ratio of drop out in comparison to male children continues to be pathetic. Gender discrimination, distance from the school, engagement of the girls in domestic works, active part in sibling caring, lack of toilet facilities in school, and adverse students–teacher ratio are some of the stumbling blocks for girls in accessing education.
- The implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme had been a welcome move. However, the number of teachers should be increased. Panchayat should take an active role in infrastructure development and also in linking the existing Government programmes phase wise to ensure sustained support for the child.
- The conventional method of teaching in formal schools needs to be complemented with non-formal and innovative methods of teaching keeping in mind the child psychology.
- Monitoring of the drop-out children listed under the ICDS, DPEP, Kishori Shakti Yojna and other similar government run programmes should be done on a regular basis, and in a scientific manner.
- In a welcome move, the Government of West Bengal had put the onus of identification of beneficiaries for government programmes on the Local Self Government through Gram Unnayan Samities (Peoples' Committees at the village level). Thus the role of Local Self Government in development is more specific today.

Child Marriage

According to the HDI indicators, countries with a high incidence of child marriage are more likely to have higher levels of persistent poverty, low level of education of girls, higher rates of children and maternal mortality, and greater levels of child and



maternal malnutrition.

Though the legislation on child marriage was enacted long ago, and we have also been party to many international treaties on child rights, child marriage is still happening at an alarming rate. However, India could not ratify the child marriage section of CEDAW, stating that we are a multi religious country and marriage is a religious practice. Though in both Indonesia and Bangladesh, the two largest Muslim countries in the world, the minimum age of marriage of a girl is 18, ironically in India the age of consent for marriage of a Muslim girl is still 15. It would be prudent to, in this context, look at a statement from the government in 1996, which reflects the usefulness of such acts. It states,

“it has been the consistent policy of the government not to interfere in the personal laws of the different communities unless the initiation comes from the community themselves. The govt. is of the view that it is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections of the community that the practice can be eradicated.”

Nobody would challenge the correctness of the statement but one cannot escape the suspicion that this is an excuse for non-action, or, is just a statement of intent on eradicating the menace of child marriage. As long as abolishing child marriage is not seen as an issue that can win elections we cannot really hope for anything more than politically correct statements against it. Above all honest political will can bring about a change.⁴

Role of Community Based Organisations

- Undoubtedly, a considerable portion of trafficking occurs in the guise of marriage. There is a strong need to generate awareness on the issue of trafficking and ill effects of child marriage in the existing platforms of ICDS mothers' meeting, Anganwadi mothers' meeting, Gram Sansad Meeting, Meeting with the BDO and with the community at large. The CBOs should take the opportunity of using these platforms.

Role of Panchayat

- The Panchayat needs to take up the responsibility of registering births and issuing certificates, they should also be empowered to register marriages. This would enable them to monitor and prevent child marriage.

Role of Government

- Government should rest considerable power with the Panchayat by enacting laws to intervene for mandatory registration of marriage.
- The Peoples' Representatives at all levels which includes MLAs and MPs should be made accountable on social issues concerning their respective electorate.

⁴Source: Wedding Hells-Nightmare begins at Childhood's End –by Sunil Mehra, Times-Kolkata,16.07.03



The Women's Reservation Bill that has been sidetracked for a long time, mainly due to political will, should be tabled without any further delay to ensure more participation of women in Legislative Houses. This on the one hand will be a major step towards elimination of gender discrimination and on the other hand will accommodate more women's voices in these Legislative Houses.

- A new legislation, Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004, to replace the loop-hole ridden 1929 Act is awaiting Parliament's approval. The Commission recognises that law alone can not check the problem. It has suggested some recommendations which include, constitution of village level committee, appointment of child marriage prevention officers at the village/Panchayat level, proper maintenance of records pertaining to child marriages and action initiated thereof. .⁵

Prevention of trafficking

Role of Government

- Poverty is frequently quoted as a reason for trafficking. There is a dearth of programmes and policies for poverty alleviation. What is lacking is the proper implementation of such programmes. All programmes should have a gender dimension, because women and girl children are mostly victims of trafficking. Stress should be given on implementing the central and the state government policies and programmes for the welfare of women and child development.
- Most of the development programmes for women and children address issues of motherhood, nutrition, Reproductive and Child Health Programme etc. Since trafficking is a criminal offence as per the Books of Law, its time to revamp the criminal justice system for the protection of women. Infrastructures need to be developed for the implementation of existing laws, new laws like Section 498A, Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques Act (2000) are welcome. The administration at the block and village level needs to be sensitized and trained on issues concerning women, the community at large needs to be made aware of consequences and prevention of crime against women and children.
- The Gram Panchayat should take the responsibility to ensure that the developmental programmes reach the beneficiaries, and the block administration should play a supportive role.
- Political will coupled with pragmatic programme design could yield positive results.
- The present government deserves kudos for taking path-breaking initiatives in land distribution. But in reality, the small landholder fails to retain their land



⁵Rashtra Mahila –Published by the National Commission for Women June 2005

in the face of various pressures. The gradual decline of cultivable land due to rapid urbanization and transformation of agricultural land into non sustainable industries like brick fields or fishery dams are also posing a great threat to landless farmers. We always talk about training for the rural people. They have skills and expertise in cultivation only, however where can they cultivate in the face of such huge land erosion. Government should take immediate initiatives to measure and identify the nature of land and its ownership. A proper survey is long overdue.

- The Panchayat is not at all empowered to deal with the traffickers. Keeping in mind the nexus of traffickers with muscle power, clandestine modus operandi, influence within the Law Enforcement Agencies, only a comprehensive effort along with police and administration could bring tangible changes. It would be naïve to expect much from the Panchayat personnel without proper training, NGOs could be the best option for imparting such training on gender sensitivity and programme delivery.
- Unfortunately the role of the people's representatives including M.P , M.L.As in social issues is not defined. In order to make them more accountable to their electorate, peoples' representatives should be incorporated in an Anti –trafficking Task Force Committee or Committee for the Welfare of women and Children
- The law enforcement agencies, BSF and BDR should take initiative jointly to prevent cross border trafficking and ensure constant vigilance in the border area.

Role of Community Based Organisations

- The CBOs must organize awareness generation programmes both among the members of administration and PRI and community at large to familiarize the word trafficking, its route, reason, profile of the trafficker and its manifestation on the victims. It should reach those people whose vulnerability is extremely high in terms of poverty and social conditioning.
- A Body of Community policing involving the local clubs, community members, Panchayat, grass- root level government workers and the police needs to be established and activated to monitor safe migration and combat trafficking. At the same time this body should have measures to keep constant vigil on those agents who act as mediators in the process of migration.



Interview Schedule for Rural Area

1.

Name	Age	Sex	Educational Qualification	Occupation	Monthly Income	Comments
a)						
b)						
c)						
d)						
e)						

2. Religion

3. Caste

4. Mother Tongue

5. If there is any drop out in the above table, state from which class and the reason behind it.

From which class	Reason
a)	
b)	
c)	

6. Occupation

(State separately in each case)

a) Place of work

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

b) How did they get the work?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

c) Nature of work

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

d) Income per month

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

e) Problems faced in present work place

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

7. Whether having land: Yes/No

If yes,

1. Cultivable
2. Homestead
3. Both Cultivable and homestead

8. If cultivable, whether irrigation system exists or not



9. Marital Status

Name	Marital Status	Age when married
1.		
2.		
3.		

10. Reason of marriage, if it happened below 18 years.

11. Place of marriage in case of girl children

Interview Schedule for Urban Area

1.

Name	Age	Sex	Educational Qualification	Occupation	Monthly Income	Comments
a)						
b)						
c)						

2. Religion

3. Caste

4. Mother Tongue

5. If there is any drop out in the above table, state from which class and the reason behind it.

From which class	Reason
a)	
b)	
c)	

6. Whether names of family members are registered Yes/No

a) If yes, how many?

b) Where the names have been registered?

c) Ration card/Voters' list/Others

d) If no, why?

7. Do you have ever migrated? Yes/No

a) If yes, from which place-village/city/country/other slum of the same city/any railway platform/others

b) Reason of migration (Not applicable for those who have not migrated)

8. Do you have any plan to migrate from the present place of stay? Yes/No

a) If yes, why?

9. What kind of advantages did you face due to migration?

10. What kind of disadvantages did you face due to migration?

11. Occupation (State separately in each case)

a) Place of work

1.

2.

3.

b) How did they get the work?

1.

2.

3.



Tracking our children _____

c) Nature of work

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

d) Income per month

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

e) Problems faced in present work place

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

12. In case of child labour

- a) Working hours
- b) Age of joining the work
- c) Reason of joining the work

13. Do you have any land or property?

14. Marital Status

Name	Marital Status	Age when married
1.		
2.		
3.		

15. Reason of marriage, if it happened below 18 years.

16. Place of marriage in case of girl children

17. Does the surrounding environment keep your children, especially your girl children unprotected? Yes/No

a) If yes, how?

18. Do you prefer any kind of change in your surrounding environment to keep your children safe?



Field work supported by



Printing supported by

