

Chapter IV

Research Setting

In a social science research of this kind, it is not possible to know and understand the data and draw the interpretations more accurately unless a fair understanding of the characteristic of the area and attitude of people is at command of the interpreter who intend to unveil an understanding of the implications and behavioural complexes of persons who live in the area under reference and form a representative part of the larger community. The socio-demographic background of the respondents is required to understand their behavioural complex.

Area of study

The area of investigation of this study is situated in the state of west Bengal located in the eastern part of India. The state of West Bengal in eastern India has a unique social, cultural and ecological background, which influence the living standard and behavioral patterns of the people in many ways. The area of investigation belongs to the Chakdah Block of Nadia district. The area of study is comprised of villages Ghoragacha.

Description of the state

West Bengal is situated in the north-eastern part of India and lies between 21⁰31' and 27⁰14' north latitude and 85⁰51' and 89⁰53' east latitude.

It is flanked by the Bay of Bengal on the South. Sikkim on the north, Assam on the east and Bihar and Orissa on the west. It also has common borders with the three neighboring countries viz., Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Bangladesh in the east. The tropic of cancer run across the middle of the state. The state has a total geographical area of 8.85 million hectares representing only 2.7 Percentage of the total area of India. It is territorially divided into 19 districts. It has a total of 41,112 villages and 291 towns (1991 census). majority of its people (73.5%) live in rural areas.

Climate of the state

In terms of the standard climatic types, tropical climates viz., humid, sub-humid, and semi-arid and arid occur over different region of the state.. its climate is very much influenced by the monsoon rains Which, in turn, are of two types (i)south-West monsoon during the rainy season and (ii) North-East monsoon during the winter season. Rainfall in west average about 1750 mm, ranging from 2,500 to 3,500mm in the Terai regions to 1,200 to 1,800 mm in the plains. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during March to October are 30-40⁰c and 16-26⁰C respectively in the plains while those in the hills are 15-20⁰c and 3-15⁰C respectively.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF NADIA (DISTRICT)

Location of area

The district is located in the Bengal delta bound by the Ganga (Bhagirathi). The district lies between 22⁰53' and 24⁰11' North latitude and 88⁰09' and 88⁰48' of east longitudes. The district is bounded by the district Murshidabad on north and northwest, Kathie and Rajshahi have around the east and north east of the district, the river Bhagirathi from the western boundary except for a small strip of land around Nabadwip town. The district is bounded by the district north 24 pagans in the South and South Eastern part.

The total area of the district is 3927 sq.kms. The headquarters of the district of Krishnagar.

Population

Total population of the district according to 2001 census is 4603756 persons, consisting of 2365054 males and 2238702 females. Rural population of the district is 2980279 persons comprising of 1544725 males and 143554 females. Urban population is 871818 persons comprising of 445116 males and 426702 females.

Geographical and physical features

The entire district of Nadia lies in the alluvial plain of the Ganga and its tributaries. The role of forest in the economy of the district is 13 sq km only which accounts for 0.33 percent of the total area of the district.

Rivers, canals and waterways

All the rivers found in the district can be said to be either off shoots of Padma or main channel of the Ganges. The Bhagirathi commonly known as Hooghli, from the confluence of Jalangi, the Bhairab- Jalangi and the Mathabanga the main rivers of the district and they are called the Nadia Rivers collectively.

Some important information about the Chakdaha Block

Chakdaha Block at a glance

1.	Name of the Block Office	:	Chakdaha
2.	Number of Gram panchayat	:	17
3.	Number of Mouza	:	164
4.	Number of Village	:	195

General Information

5.	Total population	:	3,02,949	
	a)male	:	15,73,13	
	b)Female	:	14,56,36	
6.	Total area	:	32824.7 ha	
7.	Rural area	:	24210.9 ha	
8.	Urban area	:	8613 ha	
9.	Net irrigated area	:	19500 ha	
10.	Flood prone area	:	40 %	
11.	Soil type	:	Sand loam	
12.	Water supply	:	<u>No.</u>	<u>Area covered</u>
13.	a)Deep tube-wells	:	59	3722.3 ha
	b)River lift irrigation scheme	:	11	880.3 ha
	c) Shallow tube-wells	:	5218	13897.1 ha
	d)tank	:	405	90 ha
	e)Other source	:	-	910 ha