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Selected indicators for rural development: A case study of Berhampur block, Murshidabad district, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

In general, "rural development" refers to the process of raising the standard of living and financial security of residents in comparatively distant and remote places. In this study, an attempt has been made to analyze some current issues with related suggestions for the rural development in Berhampur Community Development block, Murshidabad, West Bengal. Since the majority of the population in the block is rural, the concept of rural development is crucial for the overall improvement of the economy. The study is based on both primary and secondary data, and its main goal is to raise the standard of living for the rural population by offering strategies for developing the rural areas of Berhampur block. A few fundamental aspects of rural development, including agriculture, industry, health, sanitation, electricity, transportation infrastructure, and human development, have been taken into account in order to meet the study's goal. It is discovered that rural residents in this block have extremely bad socio-economic conditions and inadequate infrastructure. But in order to give the grass-root level the greatest advantage possible, there is Coordination between different government departments and other organizations involved in rural development is necessary. In terms of the fundamental infrastructure amenities needed for the sustainable development of rural communities, this will also help to reduce the gap between rural and urban areas.

Keywords: Agriculture, electricity, human development, sanitation, and health

Introduction

Rural development has gained international attention, particularly in poor nations. Is among the most crucial elements for the expansion of the Indian economy. According to the 2011 Census, about 68 percent of India's population still resides in rural areas, making rural areas the country's dominant demographic, and Literacy rate (2011) 73.51% of Berhampur. Indian planners have focused on several development programs for the expansion of rural areas since the beginning of planning in the nation. The Indian planners have focused on several development programs for the expansion of rural areas since the beginning of planning in the nation. Remote rural places have extremely inadequate socioeconomic conditions and infrastructure. Therefore, the residents of those locations must fight for their lives. In order to address the issues of poverty in developing nations, planning experts and policymakers are particularly interested in rural development. The fourth five-year plan prioritized district-level planning and placed a strong emphasis on grassroots planning strategies in an effort to lessen the regional imbalance. The main focus of micro-level planning is on certain socioeconomic activities and how they relate to one another across a region. The following factors for rural development are taken into account by micro-level planning at the block level: agriculture, industry, health, sanitation, electricity, transportation infrastructure, and human development. In berhampur C.D. block of the Murshidabad district of West Bengal, the study focuses on a few chosen indicators of rural development and offers recommendations for planning strategies of rural development programs. The majority of the people living in this block are from rural areas. The region's economy is dominated by agriculture, and industrial growth is quite limited. Therefore, the core of rural development in this region is crucial right now. Cultivators made up 17.01% of the total workforce in the Berhampore CD block in 2011, followed by agricultural laborers (35.2%), home industry workers (4.23%), and other workers (43.63%). Infrastructure modification The Berhampore CD block contains 124 inhabited villages. 123 communities (99.19%) have access to potable water, and all villages (100%) have power.

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37 villages have post offices, or 29.84 percent. There are telephones in 112 villages (90.32%), including landlines, public call centers, and cell phones. 51 villages (41.13%) have transport communication (including bus service, rail facilities, and navigable waterways), while 57 villages (45.97%) have a pucca approach road. 14 villages (11.21%) have banks, whereas 17 villages (13.71%) have agricultural credit societies.

West Bengal saw significant land reforms starting in 1977. The peasants were given land that was more than the land ceiling. The pattern of land ownership has changed as a result of land reforms. Those working in agriculture in the Berhampore CD Block in 2013-14 were divided into the following categories: bargadars (4,950, or 4.78%), patta (document) holders (10,008, or 9.66%), small farmers (4,432; 4.28%), marginal farmers (29,946; 28.92%), and agricultural laborers (103,550, or 52.36%). In 2013-14, the Berhampore CD block contained 80 fair price stores, 3 seed stores, and 119 fertilizer depots. The Berhampore CD block produced 43,306 tonnes of Boro paddy (spring crop) from 11,293 hectares in 2013-14, and 34,732 tonnes of Aman paddy, the primary winter crop, from 11,654 hectares. 2,533 tonnes of wheat from 8,478 hectares, 227,638 tonnes of jute from 13,631 hectares, 4,405 tonnes of potatoes from 154 hectares, 79 tonnes of sugar cane from 1 hectare, 306 tonnes of Boro paddy (spring crop) from 11,293 hectares, and 3,161 tonnes of Aus paddy (summer crop) from 1,093 hectares. Oilseeds and pulses were also produced there. With 1,120 hectares of tank water irrigation, 1,417 hectares of river lift irrigation, 1,204 hectares of deep tube wells, 108 hectares of shallow tube wells.

Literature review

In his paper "Resource planning of Purulia District and its impact on regional development," Mukhopadhyay, M. (1986) ^[6] described how resources (both human and physical) can be used for the sustainable development of the rural area of Purulia district. Swaminathan (1991) ^[7], in his book "Science and Integrated Rural Development," talked about the brain drain from rural to urban areas as well as resource from village to towns, which causes the urban region to develop day by day while the villages remain underdeveloped.

Vishwanathan (1994) ^[5] in her book, 'Women in Agriculture and Rural Development' has discussed gender inequalities in male dominance culture. According to her study the basic factors behind the unequal development of a region is different wages and scope given to male and females of the area.

Objective of the study area

1. To examine the C.D. Block's rural development indicators;
2. To identify the block's numerous issues and suggest some potential solutions to address the issue of rural development.

Methodology

With the aid of a questionnaire, the field study provided the primary data. secondary data has been collected from records, journals and office publications. The study area's information and data were gathered from a variety of sources, including magazines, journals, the Statistical Department, the Block Development Office, Village Gram

Panchayats, the Soil and Meteorological Department, and other published documents of the government and non-governmental organizations, among others. A questionnaire was created, and a thorough field survey was carried out for households and educational institutions to determine the socioeconomic and sociocultural standard of the area. A number of parameters, including those related to agriculture, industry, electric facilities, health, sanitation, drinking water facilities, and the degree of human development, were taken into consideration. The collected data was then compiled, tabulated, quantified, cartographically represented, interpreted, and analyzed to determine the state of the desired aspects of the study area.

Research area

Berhampore C.D. Block has been chosen for the present study which is located in Murshidabad district, which belongs to West Bengal, India. The Coordinates of Study Area is 24°10 North and 88°25 East. The study area is also associated with the Bhagirathi River. The Ganges-Bhagirathi Basin is a long, narrow river valley where the Berhampore CD block is located. The district is divided into two natural physiographic zones, Bagri on the east and Rarh on the west, by the Bhagirathi River. It has cultivable soil that is rich in nutrients. The district's eastern region, known as the Bagri, is an isosceles triangle-shaped low-lying alluvial plain. Other Ganges offshoots meander around the region, while the Jalangi forms the complete foundation and the Ganges/Padma and Bhagirathi create the two equal sides. It is susceptible to flooding brought on by the Bhagirathi and other rivers spilling. One of Bengal's and India's most significant commercial, administrative, educational, and political centers is Berhampore. It is among West Bengal state's most well-liked urban agglomerations. The first East India Company center in India was Berhampore. This city became a production center for India as a result of the establishment of businesses there by the British, Dutch, and French. It is well-known for its sweets, including Rasgulla, Manohara, and Chanabara, among many more. Berhampore participated in the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, which happened in the Berhampore Cantonment area (Barrack Square). Approximately 186 kilometers (116 miles) from Kolkata, the state capital, is Berhampore, the administrative center of the Murshidabad district and, according to the 2011 census, the seventh largest city in West Bengal. Berhampore C.D. the block is located in the central part of the district and covers an area of 194.67 square kilometers.

Discussion

Selected Indicators for the Rural Development

The necessity to protect the economic interests of the poorer segments of society is a concern for planners and policymakers. Expanding social services and wellbeing has also gained prominence in recent years as a means of eradicating poverty and enhancing quality of life. It is clear that over time, the district's economy has undergone a fundamental transformation. Agriculture's GDP share has decreased, while the non-agricultural sector's contribution has increased dramatically. Because they are not receiving enough rewards from these industries, people are becoming disinterested in agricultural pursuits. For a better standard of living, people are therefore shifting to different economic areas. Small and marginal landowners, as well as landless

laborers, are suffering more from having comparatively better position. Low income is another issue for small fisherman. It is imperative that this situation be improved by concentrating on a few chosen indications.

They are as follows

Agriculture: Farming In general, the term "agriculture" refers to any extension of land use that can be done for production. Agriculture is crucial to the development of rural areas across India. The primary ways that farming can support rural development are through creating jobs, supporting ancillary industries, and providing environmental benefits. The contribution of farming to rural development differs from area to region depending upon the different physio-cultural set up of that particular location. Paddy, jute, potatoes, green vegetables, sugar cane, oilseeds, and mustard are the principal crops farmed in this district.

Irrigation

Irrigation is one of the main aspects of the agricultural sector, deep tube well, high capacity deep tube well, middle capacity deep tube well, low capacity deep tube well, shallow deep tube well and river lift irrigation are the main modes of irrigation here. The maximum area irrigated through shallow deep tube wells. The number of shallow deep tube wells is also highest in the study block relative to the overall district. As the arrival of monsoon rainfall is erratic and intermittent, irrigation plays a very important role in the agricultural sector.

Important Sectors: The district's industrial sectors are not doing well. The main cottage industries include bamboo work, terracotta, carpet making, jute work and handloom sericulture, spinning mill, rice mill, oil mill, plywood industry, flour mill, paper mill, plastic industry, brick making industry, etc., but many traditional and small industries are also stagnating in various places, operating below their potential capacity, and some units have fallen ill primarily as a result of low-level technology, poor raw material availability, inadequate marketing strategies, low-level institutional credit flow, etc.

Drinking Water Supply: The number of tanks and ponds are numerous in this block. The villagers mainly depend on the ponds for their drinking water. That's why they are mainly suffering from 80% water borne diseases. In recent years many deep tube wells are dug through different rural development programmes. But still the distribution is very few in respect to the requirements. The maximum concentration in Berhampore CD Block is 635 mg/litre, and all but one of the 26 blocks of Murshidabad district have arsenic contamination above the WHO level, all but two of the blocks have arsenic concentration above the Indian Standard value, and 17 blocks have arsenic concentration above 300 mg/litre. Berhampore CD Block is one of the areas of Murshidabad district where groundwater is affected by high levels of arsenic contamination. The WHO guideline for arsenic in drinking water is 10 mg/litre, while the Indian Standard value is 50 mg/litre.

Rural Health Care Facility: A healthy diet and nutrition are the most important prerequisites for children's physical and mental development. This index is determined by taking

into account the subindices for sanitation, safe drinking water, safe delivery, and immunization. According to the Sanitation and Conservancy Regulation, a "conservancy service" is one that offers moveable toilets or other temporary restrooms, as well as services for cleaning or emptying septic tanks. Public health issues pertaining to safe drinking water, as well as the handling and disposal of sewage and human waste, are referred to as sanitation. Sanitation includes hand washing with soap and avoiding human contact with excrement. For instance, proper cleanliness helps lessen diarrhea, which is a major contributor to malnutrition and stunted growth in children. Numerous additional illnesses, including cholera, hepatitis, polio, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and ascariasis are also easily spread in areas with poor sanitation.

Rural Credit Institutions

Institutions of Rural Credit Over the years, the Reserve Bank and the Indian government have established a number of committees and inquiry organizations to investigate the issues with the rural credit system and to help the rural economy thrive. The NABARD is directing the growth of cooperatives to engage in more commercial endeavors in rural regions. There are a lot of cooperatives in rural areas. Their lending activity has significantly increased since 1980.

Infrastructural Facilities in berhampur C.D Block

An important factor in a region's development is its infrastructure. Roads, bridges, water supplies, power, telecommunication, health care services, and much more are all considered forms of infrastructure. In order to comprehend the current state of infrastructure, a spatial distribution map shows that the southern portion of the berhampur community development block has the highest concentration of infrastructure. There are many facilities in this location because it is one of the districts of Murshidabad major headquarters. The presence of educational institutions, a high road and rail density, medical facilities, a variety of secondary activities, and more are examples of major facilities. The remaining portions are regarded as isolated rural areas; there aren't many amenities here, and they're insufficient.

Under the mission, which is called Mission Nirmal Bangla, the West Bengal government works to reduce child mortality and morbidity as well as overall mortality and morbidity by lowering the risk of fecal borne and water-borne diseases due to the prevalence of open defecation; lowering the number of active work days lost to diarrheal diseases among wage seekers; lowering the number of children who drop out of school, particularly girls, because of inadequate restroom facilities in schools; and improving village cleanliness, which in turn improves the environment. Therefore, the mission's main objective will be to improve the physical quality of life in the communities by promoting hygiene, cleanliness, and open elimination. The Mission's specific objective is to make all West Bengal villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) by October 2, 2019, in order to accomplish these broader effects on the villages and the community. Creating community-run solid and liquid management systems in rural regions will also be a top priority in order to enhance environmental sanitation and general cleanliness in the villages.

Level of Human Development

In essence, the Human Development Index ranks the nation by combining indicators of life expectancy, education, and per capita income. Life expectancy at birth is used to assess the health dimension, whereas years of education for adults aged 25 and older and the anticipated age at which children will start school are used to assess the education dimension. Per capita gross national income serves as a proxy for living standards.

Major findings

1. This district's primary crops include mustard, sugar cane, green vegetables, jute, potatoes, paddy, and oilseeds.
2. A sizable portion of the population in this neighborhood works in the bidi manufacturing sector. However, their pay is inadequate.
3. There is serious concern about the district's inadequate internet and telecommunications access. The quality of the internet and phone services is subpar.
4. The study area's connection is mostly provided by roads.
5. Everywhere on the block, there are daily market and weekly headgear. On the hat days, business transactions are going rather well.
6. The primary source of drinking water is a tube well. People even gather water from ponds and tanks in certain areas, which is not safe for drinking.

Problems of the study area

1. The literacy levels of the male and female segments of the population are significantly different. The residents of this community development block are unaware that education is a possibility.
2. The region's cattle basis is not adequately cared for. This can be brought on by the region's economic hardship and poverty.
3. A significant portion of households lack a latrine.
4. Very few percent of households have electricity facilities. Even after the seventy one years of the independence maximum villages are not electrified.
5. The performance of the medical sector is not very good, thus the health status of this area is very feeble.
6. The standard of living conditions is very low.
7. Berhampore CD Block is one of the areas of Murshidabad district where groundwater is affected by high levels of arsenic contamination.

Recommendations

1. The rural economy is based on agriculture, so the expansion of the agricultural sector leads to the advancement of rural areas.
2. Proper land use planning and a greater focus on sustainable development are necessary.
3. Women should be employed in traditional occupations such as food processing, embroidery, and tailoring.
4. Roads, railroads, and waterways must be expanded for better transportation.
5. Postal, telephone, and telegraph services must be extended to the interior part of the block.
6. An area-specific literacy program must be implemented.
7. Local leaders, educators, and volunteers must participate for this literacy program to be successful.

Conclusion

There is a close relationship between the physical condition and economy of Berhampur block. This block is industrially one of the most underdeveloped regions of Murshidabad District. Only a small percentage of the population is employed in industries. The economy is essentially agricultural but agro based industries have not been well developed. Since it is an agro-based district, all planning is directed towards The government has been encouraging the program's periodic evolution by a number of research institutions in order to improve its efficiency and content. The government should take the appropriate steps to implement development programs at the district level for a balanced regional development, particularly in rural Areas of Berhampur Community Development Block, Murshidabad District. The development of agriculture, including the development of banking systems, transportation, and communication. The chronic problem of food supply and rural syndrome of poverty continue to be a top concern for the government and the nation as well.

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