

UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT AT THE CORE OF BARASAT MUNICIPALITY: CASE STUDY OF AN ADIWASI COLONY

Mithu Roy⁵ & Mallicka Banerjee⁶

Abstract:

Barasat is the old town among whole urban agglomeration of Kolkata and situated under the administrative jurisdiction of North 24 Parganas. This most growing inhabited town of the district is on the verge of vulnerability due to the population pressure. Barasat city is governed by Municipal Corporation which comes under Kolkata Urban Agglomeration. But like every urban agglomeration there is some inequality in terms of physical development. Barasat town is growing very fast but within this fast growth a section of tribal people dominated area within ward no. 26 (by the side of municipality) is isolated. This isolated section come under the developmental progress by some government projects.

Key Words: Urban agglomeration, Inequality, Tribal people.

INTRODUCTION:

Barasat is the old town among whole urban agglomeration of Kolkata and situated under the administrative jurisdiction of North 24 Parganas. This most growing inhabited town of the district is on the verge of vulnerability due to the population pressure. The net land increases from 14.25 sqkm to 34.50 sqkm from 1951 to 2011. Barasat town is the district headquarters of North 24 Parganas district and junction corridor of North Bengal and Bangladesh. The growth of population of this town is very high that is @ 3.5% per year. As per 2001 census the population of this town was 2,31,521 and now it is 2,75,000 (approx) and the projected population by the year 2025 it will be 5,25,000. This progress also carry out an uneven physical development.

The "Adiwasi colony" with an area of 1000-1500 sq.meters is located at the center of Barasat town (at ward no 26) and close to municipality building. This area is dominated by the S.T population, with one adiwasi primary school, dealt with piggery and "handiya". Most people of this area are labour class people, maximum engaged in municipal service. Being the S.T population some of them are also

⁵ Department of Geography- Naba Barrackpur Prafulla Chandra Mahavidyalaya.,W.B.

⁶ Department of Geography- Naba Barrackpur Prafulla Chandra Mahavidyalaya.,W.B.

engaged in central government offices. Financially all of them are substantially solvent yet their culture is still continuing. At present almost all children are seeking education in Bengali and Hindi medium school. The area is rectangular in shape and connected by Rishi Bankim Chandra Road and two by lane with 84 households, one school, one club named "adiwasi unnayan samity" and five tubes well, a small pond. These adiwasi people came from Ranchi, Jharkhand for searching jobs in Greater Kolkata, and settled down on land by the side of municipal building illegally without any land deed.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To identify the Socio Economic condition of the Tribes.
- ❖ To analyze the Cultural composition
- ❖ To analyze the amenities provided to them
- ❖ To find out educational pattern and working categories

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCE

A well defined methodology is followed. Investigations is carried out to assess the socio economic condition of Adiwasi colony using a standard questionnaire. A primary data is collected randomly. Various secondary data"s are collected from District Statistical Handbook, Barasat Municipality, and Department Of Tribal affair (State & Central Govt), Articles and E Sources. The methodology can be considered to include multiple methods, each as applied to various facets of the part of the whole scope of methods. The study is divided between two parts qualitative and quantitative. This involved obtaining background information of the area with the help of secondary data sources, fixing up the venue and time of survey, etc. Socio economic aspects of the study area has been observed. This process relates to primary data collection method for example questionnaire as a set of questions used mainly in direct interview and to gather data from a respondent in a qualitative way. The subject of research is mainly on economy, health, education, house type, income, Govt. scheme facility, basic amenities etc. Sometimes it includes quantitative data also. For the sample survey a structured questionnaire has helped to interpret the socio-economic data in quantitative way. Post- field work are basically depend on the analysis of the collected data, tables and report writing.

STUDY AREA

Barasat is a city in the outskirts of Kolkata, West Bengal India and is the district headquarters of the district North 24 Parganas. It is a part of the area covered by Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority. The town is an important railway and roadway junction. Barasat is also the name of a sub-division centering the city. As an

urban setup in the vicinity of the Kolkata, the town is within the area of Greater Kolkata. Several significant roads like National Highway 34 (Krishnanagar Road leading towards North Bengal), Jessore Road (road leading to Jessore in Bangladesh via Bongaon); road leading to Basirhat etc. cross through the town.

FINDINGS OF THE AREA

Cultural Condition:

The tribal people express their **cultural identity** and distinctiveness in their social organization, language, rituals and festivals and also in their dress. They have retained their own way of managing internal affairs, mainly through institutions namely local council. The dormitory is the core of tribal culture and it reinforces the age-old traditions.

The tribes believe that their life and work are controlled by **supernatural beings** whose abode is around them in hills, forests, rivers and houses. It is very difficult to standardize the Gods and spirits as their composition continually changes when old ones are forgotten with the introduction of new ones.

The **ceremonies and festivals** of the tribes can be classified into two groups, that is, those that relate to the individual families and those that relate to the colony as a whole. The ceremonies and rites relating to birth of a child, marriage, deaths are observed family-wise whereas those relating to para puja, etc. are observed by the community.

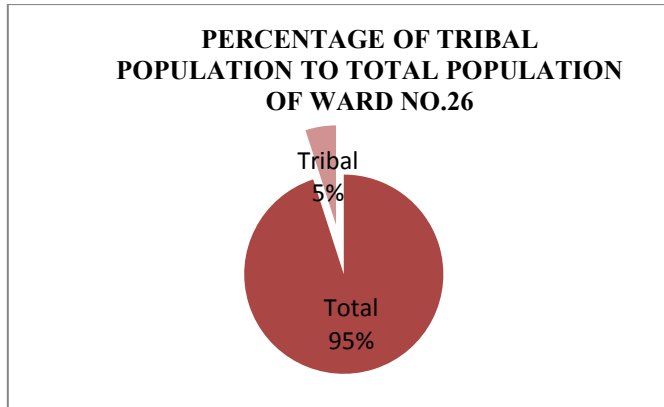
Some of the important festivals observed by the tribal communities of include Guar ceremony, Karam festival of the Oraon..

Although the pattern of dance and music prevalent among them vary from tribe to tribe yet there are certain features common to all. Tribal dances have some accompaniments by means of which the rhythm is maintained. This consists of clapping of hands or beating of drums or an orchestra of different instruments. Every dance is accompanied by a song, which is sung by the performers. Men and women, young and old dance and invariably sing but the accompanying orchestra or the male members usually provide music.

Tribal dance is characterized not only by its originality and spontaneity but also for its wide range of movements. Many parts of the body such as head, back, arms, feet, finger, etc. are brought into play. Some of the tribal groups put on colourful dancing costume during their performance.

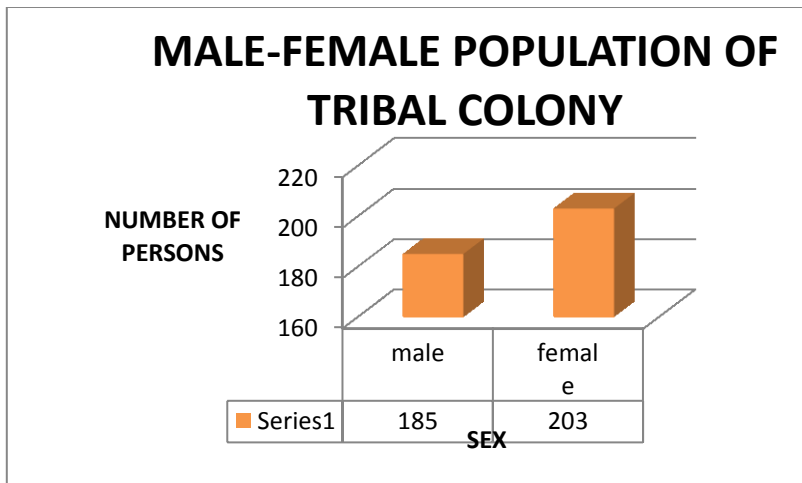
Population Characteristics:

The total population of adiwasi samity is 389 persons (according to 2011 draft report) and from that male population is 185 and female 203 . In Barasat town area as well as in West Bengal also the sex ratio is low but in this area the female persons is more than male persons.



Source: Municipal data

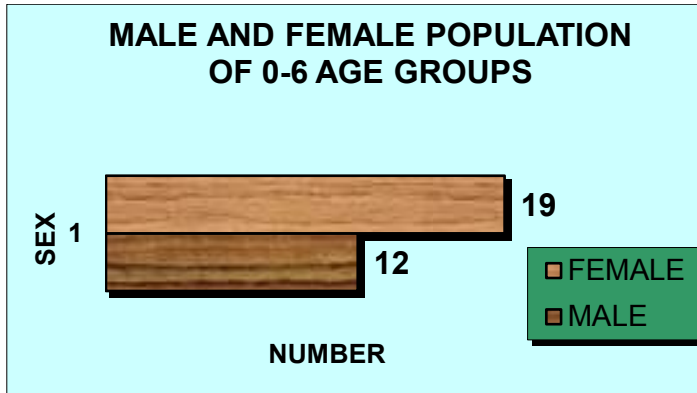
From above diagram we can see that only about 5.23% population of ward number 26 , belongs to the tribal area. So from this quantitative aspect the population belongs to minority caste and the minority caste have less vocal sound so their importance are also limited to the developmental aspects.



Source: Municipal data

We know that in tribal population female are regarded as pradhan, in modern society female are burden. But this thing of tribal community has to adopt by modern society. In this colony the sex ratio is 1093 / 000 male.

- ❖ The male population of the colony is addicted to country liquor named “handiya” and also locally available liquor that destroy the immunity power of the male people and they die in-between 55 to 65 years.
- ❖ The culture of “handiya” creates a bad environment that has a bad impression of that area to outsiders causing many girls remaining unmarried.

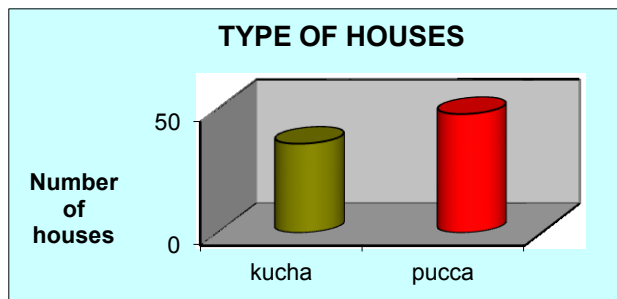


Source: Adiwasi Unayan Samity

AVAILABILITY OF BASIC AMENITIES

House Type:

The houses are formed by tiles and non-concrete material, basically semi pucca. the floor is cemented in most of them. Most families have one room. But now the local government has constructed 48 houses under the project of VAMBAY (Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojona), funded by the central government. Except these 48 houses, others are kucha. VAMBAY houses have two floors with 3 to 20 families under one complex with 9/11-sqft rooms



Source: Municipal Report and Primary Survey.

Sanitation Facilities:

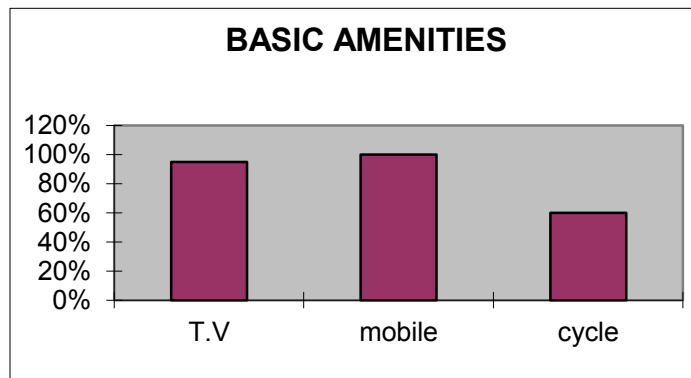
Sanitation relates to health, safe sanitation means safe health. In this area 49.2% people have common sanitation provided by municipality and the rest have own sanitation. The common sanitation is unhygienic, ill maintained causing diseases. Drainage system also very vulnerable, there is one drain beside the colony and connected to municipal drain. Except this, there is no formal drainage system.

Water Consumption:

The availability / accessibility of water is very promising. The total area of 1000-1500 sq.mt. is covered by 6 tube wells. The relative position of tube well is about 160 to 250 sq.mt / tube well and relative accessibility is about 65 persons/ tube well. But the depth of this tube well is moderate about 500-600 ft. As Barasat town is under high rate of arsenic contamination, the depth should be more than 700 ft. There has also one road side tap.

Electricity:

The total adiwasi colony is provided with good electricity grid system. All the houses have electricity, 95 % houses have television sets and all houses have mobile.

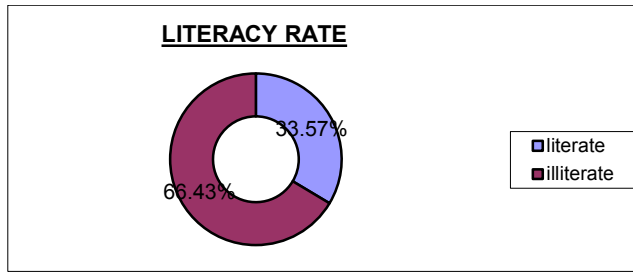


Source: primary survey

The availability of cycles is included in basic amenities as it acts as a medium of transport. Only 60% people have cycles, it is due to the high accessibility of the area and nearness to the location of working sector.

Educational Facilities:

Though the colony is located at the center of Barasat town and easily accessible to the schools and colleges, but the spread of education is very low only 33.57% people are literate (mainly modern generation). In young generation also, many persons just know their signature. In 2009, one ICDS project was launched in this locality within Adiwasi Unnayan Samity, where children come with very low enrolment.



Source: primary survey

Road:

The locality is connected mainly by R.B.C Road. Within this locality there are two bi lanes which are totally kucha and in rainy season it is troublesome and the width of the road is too narrow. But recently some developmental work was carried out by municipality- which only limited with covering the road by bricks. As there is no channelized drain- so, in rainy season the road make trouble for local people.



KUCHA ROAD IN ADIWASI COLONY



HOUSE BY VAMBEY PROJECT



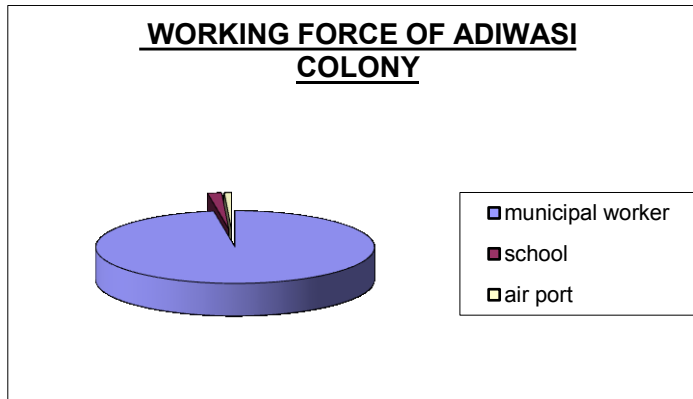
COMMUNITY TOILET IN COLONY



HARIYA CULTURE- BOTH MEN AND

Working Categories :

To define the functional status of any colony or locality, the % of working force is very effective. As describe earlier the Barasat town is totally service sector dominated town as the ratio of working population in this sector is more than 90%. In this locality 65% population are municipal worker (engage in drain cleaning, road construction etc) and the female population mainly engaged in household work. But from this colony 2 persons are in school, 1 in airport.



source: primary survey

PROBLEM AND PROSPECT OF THIS AREA

Problem:

- ❖ Primitive culture of drinking “hariya” is main problem of that area that also spread over surrounding area and leads to enter outsider to the locality. Till now 15 families have made this liquor
- ❖ The spread of education is very low that makes people more backward
- ❖ The area is more congest with a high population density.
- ❖ The expansion of houses is also a big problem, the houses, which are adjacent to municipality cannot expand houses but in other portions houses are expanding by some hanging roof.
- ❖ Common toilet also creates problem
- ❖ Intracaste marriage system prevails

Prospects:

- ❖ High male-female ratio.
- ❖ Low but involvement of people in different working group.
- ❖ Community involvement in government interventions.
- ❖ Organization of anti campaign against “handiya”.
- ❖ Workshop for involving women in handicraft industry.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS RELATED TO “VAMBHEY”

Name of the stakeholder	Interest of the stakeholder	Potential project impact
Primary Stakeholder [Urban poor including BPL families, Marginal worker, slum dwellers. Mainly focus on women & children]	To get healthy and enabling urban environment	It would give adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers.
Secondary Stakeholders [Urban Local Body]	Recommend the name to the higher authority of the government.	Improve the status of the local vulnerable sections of poor.
Key Stakeholder [Program officer of Block, District and State level]	Look after the program and monitor the implementation process	Maintaining participation of 3 tier system and transparent the system.
External Stakeholder [Central government (Ministry of human development and resource) & Ministry of Finance]	Development of marginalized section of the society in terms of housing, sanitation, and health.	Ensure balanced developments and social security.

PLANNING STRATEGIES BASED ON PRIORITIES:**Slum Upgradation:**

The programme should aim at providing shelter or upgrading the existing shelter or people live below poverty line and the slum environment also which gradually upgraded through high pressure of low income group.

Employment Gurantee:

Local government should adopt some programme to provide gainful employment to the unemployed / underemployed urban poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures / provision of wage employment. Municipal government should adopt SJSRY through community development societies formed by the representatives of women from BPL families.

Civic Infrastructure:

Employment generation for the urban poor as well as improvement and maintenance of civic infrastructure in urban areas; by direct engagement of urban poor people without involvement of contractor. Local stakeholder on the basis of priorities- identifies schemes, but to achieve the healthy environment include-

- Include every house under the scheme and provide concrete roof to all with adequate spacing
- Provide sanitation to all households
- Improve the drainage system that regularly clear the logged water
- Provide sufficient road, which connect, to all households with main road.

No Addiction Campaign:

More campaign should be organized by community development body or by local body to create addiction free society. And create healthy habit and also increase awareness towards the wrong side of “handiya”.

Education For All:

Continuous campaigning for spread of education and make habit to get education.

- Include all elderly person to take education
- Understand every family to send their children to SSK or MDM school.
- Give chance to that person who drop out from school, to complete their education
- Provide vocational training

CONCLUSION

Unparallel growth of Barasat town does not only create an imbalance but also isolated this tribal area in terms of development. People are basically work in local Municipality, they does not get proper physical infrastructure like house, sanitation, road. Very shockingly this tribal area till now holds a piggery and consume” hariya” which also point out their primitive nature. But after all Government effectiveness are minimal in nature whereas many central government and also have State Government schemes are there for the tribal but they are totally deprived from those facilities like Scholarships,Loans for Commercial and also for Educational purposes and also deprived from tribal area development programme.

The huge pressure of population in Barasat town create burden on society by providing many slum locality, where the life is not related to modern culture. The basic problem of these locality is low income and as a impact on- non availability of education, health, basic services etc. but now by the modern intervention(housing scheme- VAMBEY, RAY) the transformation of life is done by providing house, sanitation, water and by participation. So Government has to think that how to facilitate the tribals to get rid from all barriers because Tribes are the major backward class of india since before independence. So the positive interventions could carry forward themselves with shining.

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