

Chapter 6

Development-Induced Displacement: A Study of New Township Project at Rajarhat in North 24 Paraganas District

6.1 Introduction: Development presently is a very sensitive issue especially in developing and low developed countries. This is because in the name of development in the last sixty years millions of people were displaced from their own land; this displaced population caused severe social, economical, cultural and political tension in their own country. International organisations like UNO or similar bodies remained silent for those people; elite class of society is also silent because they are the main beneficiaries of any development projects. Theories after theories and calculations on the basis of cost-benefit framework tried to prove that development projects are must for a country's economic growth and for this purpose some people must suffer temporarily; the basic idea is for their present sacrifice their future generation will gain more. But in India after sixty years of sacrifice the plight of these people did not improve. They remained marginalized and vulnerable. Hence, the pertinent question is what justification of their suffering is and whether they would be benefitted at all by development? Eminent social scientist Vandana Shiva termed this development as "mal-development" and activist Arundhuti Roy viewed that this development was for steel tycoons, politicians and land mafias, which according to her was a "triangle of land shark".

In this chapter we intend to take up an analysis of development-induced displacement as it had occurred in the New Town Project in Rajarhat near Kolkata and the impacts of this displacement on the women of the displacement families. The chapter is organised as follows. While Section 1 deals with a description of the study area, Section 2 provides a brief history of the township project. The following section involves the empirical findings of the field survey in the study area. Finally, the concluding section sums up the major findings of the chapter.

6.2 Spatial Location of the Project Area: East of Kolkata there is huge marshy land, known as East Kolkata Wet Land which is extended from $22^{\circ}30'$ to $22^{\circ}40'$ North latitude and $88^{\circ}25'$

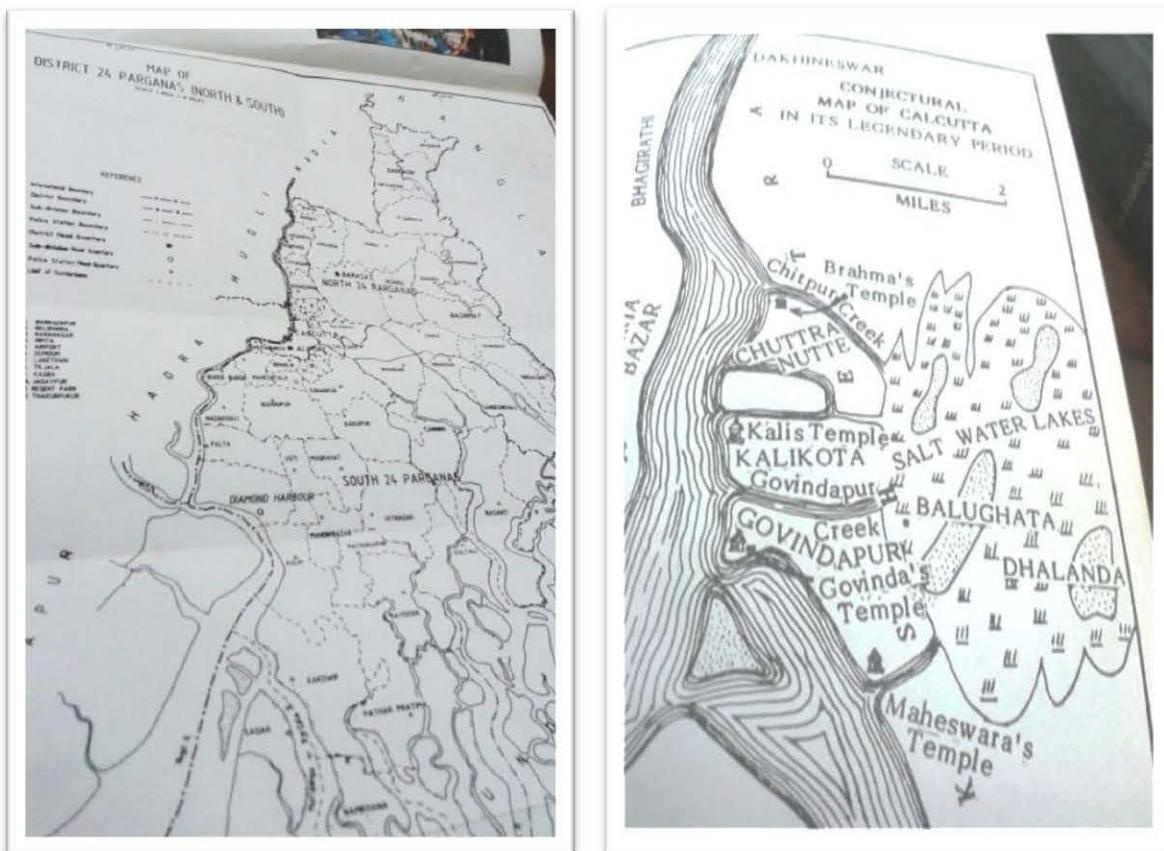
to $88^{\circ}35'$ East longitude. When the project of Salt Lake City was started a large portion of the low land including huge water bodies were filled up and environmentally that was a great loss for Kolkata, especially for sewerage system . In the year 1971 remaining portion of wet land was declared as world environmental heritage area. “Wetlands International under a convention signed in the Iranian city of Ramser, in 1971, has included the East Kolkata Wetland, in a select list of 18 in the country. The east Kolkata wetland is now an international ecological site, where by every land use equations are expectation to change beyond expectation. Henceforth the major projects like the Kolkata leather complex and Rajarhat New Kolkata project being developed in the fringe areas of wetlands shall to be careful about the spillover effects of their projects. Any development even in the vicinity of the borderline areas of the wetlands will be under strict scrutiny of the international watchdog. These inclusions will not permit any type of land use in the areas except for wetland related projects. As a result the fate of several projects off Eastern Metropolitan Bye Pass has come under cloud. The Ramser convention is an international treaty aimed at arresting worldwide loss and degradation of wetlands and promoting conservation of the existing ones. India is one of the early signatories to the treaty which has 133 members. The inclusion of East Kolkata Wetlands in the international list has already been confirmed by Union Environment Ministry and the wet lands section of WWF-India. The West Bengal government needs to be congratulated for applying for Ramser recognition in the face of serious temptation to spread the breadth of the city eastwards. A bold step indeed and it is expected that the concerned governments will discharge their responsibilities associated with the Ramser treaty with greater attention”.⁵⁴

In spite of this restriction the Government of West Bengal decided to establish another planned township on some part of that wet land area ($22^{\circ}34'$ - $22^{\circ}38'$ North latitude and $88^{\circ}25'$ - $88^{\circ}30'$ East longitude). The project area covers 2,750 hectares of land out of which 653 hectares were wetland. So from the beginning of the project there was controversy. Yet

54 Source: Ramsar archives: ‘The bureau’s press release on World Wetland Day’. Cited online www.ramsar.org, accessed on 4/11/2005.

the former Left Front Government moved with that project and decided to establish a new town in Rajarhat in the year 1993. In 1994 a Government Notice (24 Paraganas North, No. 2787 L.A (2)/4H11 /98 Housing) was served for satellite township to acquire land of 21 mouzas (village hamlets)⁵⁵. On 1st June, 1995 the State Government laid the foundation stone of that project.⁵⁶ On 6th December, 1996 by the Governor Declaration any type of buying and selling of land was stopped in 21 mouzas of Rajarhat Panchayat area.

Two Old map of North Kolkata's Wet-Land Areas (Showing Bheris and Bills)



Source: *Marsh to Township East of Calcutta* by Hariprasad Chattopadhyay 1990. 1st edition.

K,P,Bagchi and company

55 Source: Salti research group (2003): 'Rajarhate nagarayan : kishyer binimoy'(in bengali). *Uchhad Uchhad*(in Bengali).Camp ,Kolkata. Pp-39-44.

56 Source: Nilotpal Dutta(2010): 'Rajarhate jami dakatir etihas'(in Bengali). Rajarhat jami bachao committee(2nd edition). Baguihati , Kolkata.

Map of North Twenty four parganas (2008)

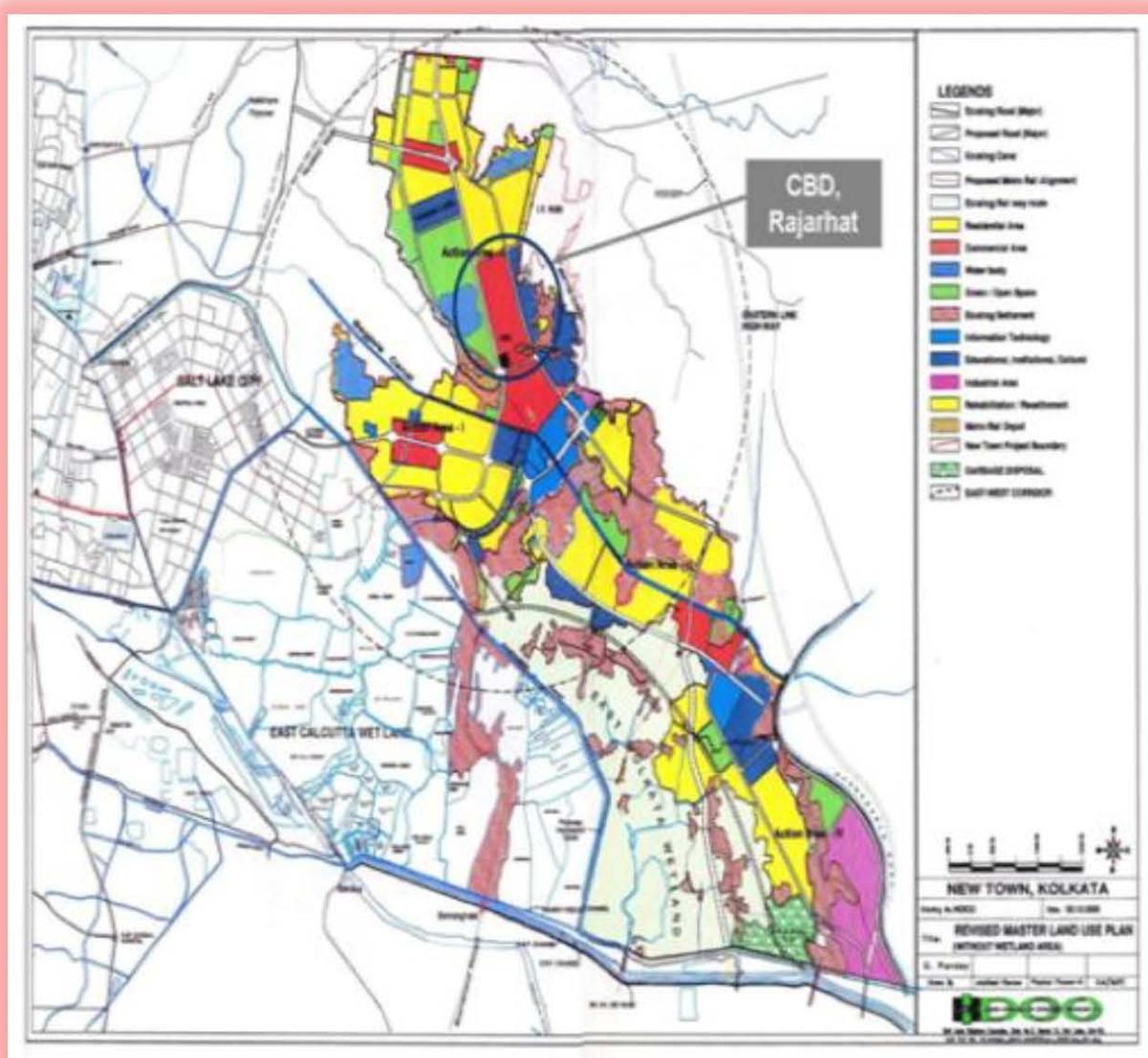


Source: West Bengal tourist road atlas by R,P,Aryay , J,Arya,, G,Arya and A,Arya.Indian map service, Jodhpur..2008

6.3 A brief history of Rajarhat New Township Project: Rajarhat New Town project is an urbanization programme undertaken by the Government of West Bengal since mid-nineties. The project area falls in Rajarhat-Gopalpur Municipality and also in some Panchayat areas. The area is very close to the Kolkata airport and lies in North 24 Paraganas district. It is on the North-East of Kolkata and is adjacent to Salt Lake City. The New Town Project is a story of development-induced displacement. The area was characterised by fertile arable land as well as huge water bodies where local people used to catch fish and sell in the market. Also,

from ecological point of view the area used to provide the necessary balance for the city of Kolkata which is otherwise much polluted.

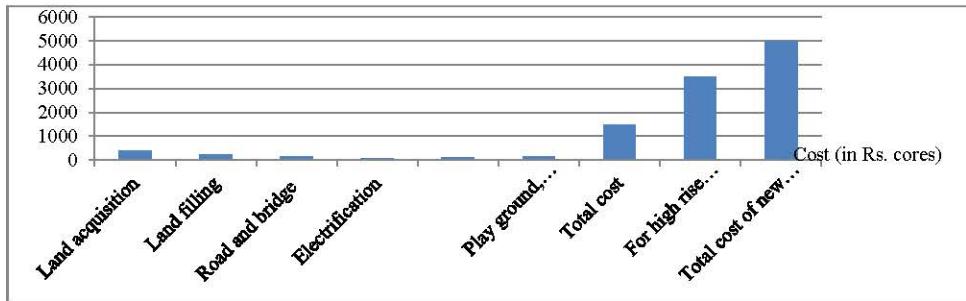
Proposed Map of Rajarhat Township Area (by HIDCO)



Source: www.hidco.com

In 1963 the Government of West Bengal started some projects for development, but those projects could not progress too far due to political turmoil in the state. After 1977 when Left Front Government came to power they had some rethinking about the Rajarhat New Township project. But due to various reasons it could not begin immediately. The project was formerly planned by the first chief minister of West Bengal Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy in the year 1963. At the same time the Salt Lake project was started. Below figure 6.3.1 shows an initial estimated cost for this project.

Figure 6.3.1
Initial estimated cost of the New Town project

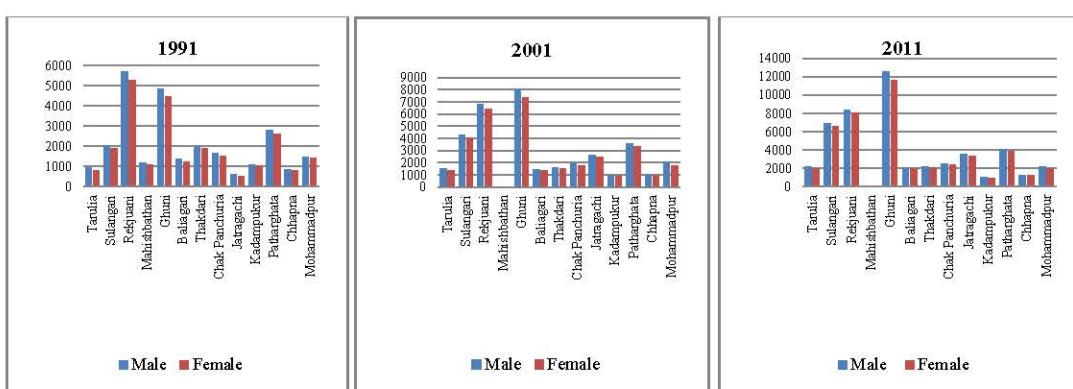


Source: Salti research group (2003): 'Rajarhat nagarayan kisher binimoye', pp-39-44.
 Original source, Nagrayane sarkari path by Rajarhat Jami bachho committee (in Bengali).

It was decided that the above cost will be borne jointly by the Government of West Bengal, Housing Board, TI, LIC of India, Public Business Houses, HUDCO and other solvent companies. Government declared 21 mouzas for this Satellite Township but those mouzas were not vacant or some of the contained marshy land. They were inhabited. So what about the people who were living or earning from that area? Government of West Bengal decided to compensate the people by paying cash for their land, which is a very common practice in development-induced displacement. Following table shows the population of these 21 mouzas since 1951

Figure 6.3.2 shows the male-female distribution of the population along with sex ratios in different displacement affected mouzas Rajarhat Block as per Census of India Report (1991 - 2011).

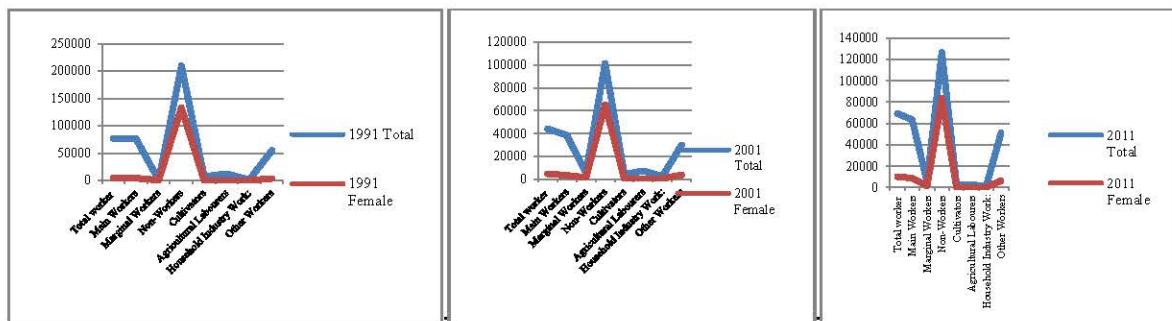
Figure 6.3.2
**Male –female distribution of the population of displacement affected mouzas of
Rajarhat block (1991 - 2011)**



Source: Census of India Report (1991 -2011).

Figure 6.3.3 shows the number of different types of workforce in Rajarhat Block in 1991-2011 as per the Census of India Reports. Note that total number of main workers has declined from 1991 to 2001 but it has increased in 2011; the total number of female main workers increased in 2011. On the other hand, there is an increase in the number of marginal workers. Female marginal workers also increased. There is decline in the number of non-workers. Female non-workers' number also fell. Most drastic is the fall in the number of cultivators in the area, which used to be predominantly an agricultural one. However, number of female cultivators rose marginally. Similarly, the total number of agricultural labourers declined significantly with a marginal increase in the number of female agricultural labourers. There is increase in the number of household industry workers with female household workers also registering an increase. There is fall in the number of other workers also in the area with female workers' number in this category falling marginally.

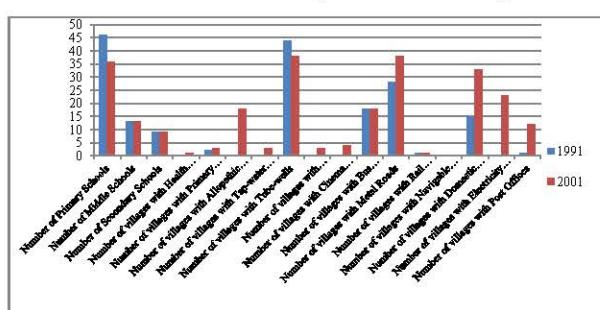
Figure 6.3.3
Different workforces in Rajarhat Block (1991-2011)



Source: census report of India 1991-2011

Figure 6.3.4 provides an idea of the physical and social infrastructural facilities available in the block and their changing pattern during the period 1991-2001. Note that the number of primary schools in the block actually fell over the years. Another noticeable fact in this respect is the fall in the number of villages with tube-wells.

Figure 6.3.4
Infrastructural facilities in Rajarhat block (1991 and 2001)

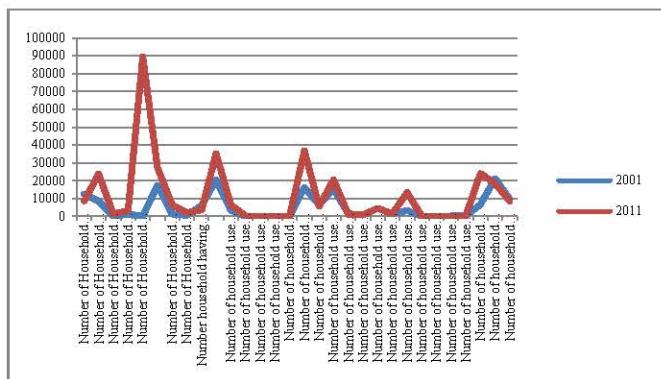


Source: Census of India, Government of India (1991 and 2001). Note: - N.A. = Data not available.

Figure 6.3.5 provides an idea regarding the number of households with different facilities during 2001-11 as per Census of India Reports. As is evident from the table, although the total number of households increased from 2001 to 2011, there is also rise in the number of households having different modern facilities like television, computer and internet, land phone, personal vehicles etc. Similarly, there is an absolute fall in the number of households having no facilities in 2011 compared to what it was in 2001.

Figure 6.3.5

Number of household with different facilities in Rajarhat Block (2001-2011)

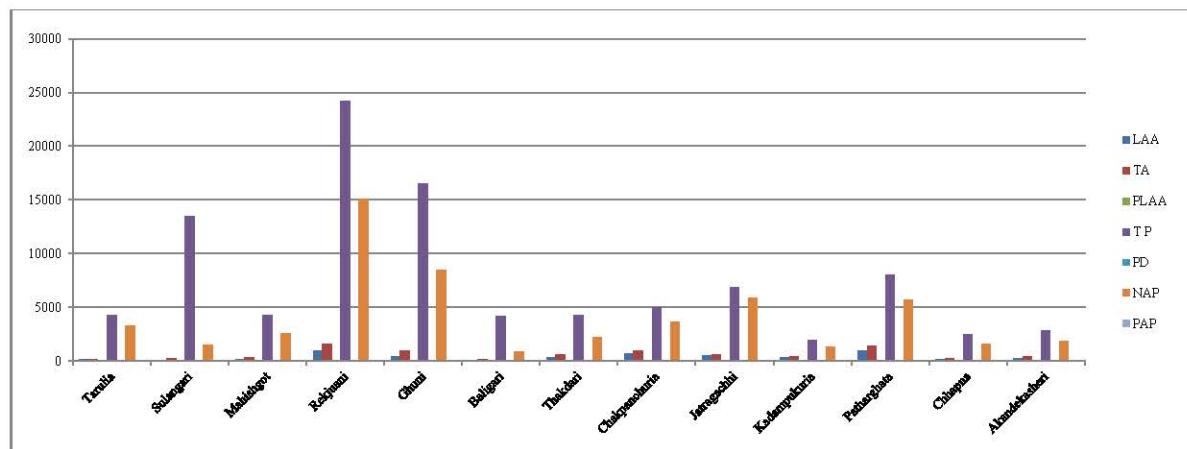


Source: Census of India Report (2001) and Primary Census Abstract, (2011).

Figure 6.3.6 gives information of the land area acquired in different villages/mouzas in the block till the date and also, a crude estimate of the percentage of population affected by land acquisition for the New Township Project.

Figure 6.3.6

Amount of land area acquired for the New Town project in Rajarhat block and the number of affected population (2011)



Source: Census of India (2001) and author's own calculation. Land acquisition data WBHIDCO as on 12/11/2012. Cited on official website www.hidco.co

Note: LAA – Land Area Acquired (in acres), TA – Total Area (in acres), PLAA – Percentage of Land Area Acquired, PD – Population Density (Total Population/Area in acres), NAP – Number of Affected Population (Population Density X Affected Area), TP – Total Population in 2011, PAP – Percentage of Affected Population in 2011.

In Rajarhat block there were 6,170 marginal cultivators, 2,105 small cultivators, 4,605 landless farmers and 4,000 fishermen who depended on the land for their livelihood, and more than 1,31,000 people who were displaced for accommodation of 5,00,000 urban people⁵⁷ and there was hardly any protest regarding the land acquisition at the area unlike what happened in Singur and Nandigram of West Bengal . Hardly any civil society organization or political outfit took up the cause of the displaced people of Rajarhat. So, land acquisition in Rajarhat went away and in some instances local people were forcefully evicted from their land by the State Government.

Rajarhat area lies in the East Kolkata Wet Land Area as mentioned above. This area is full of large shallow ponds (locally known as *bheri*). The importance of *bheries* were not only for their sparkling water or scenic beauty, they are natural kidney for urban waste water, “retention of waste water in the ponds, before the initial stocking of fish allowed bacteria to act upon the organic matters in the sewage and decompose the organic waste. The growth of these beneficial bacteria was supported by algae that thrived in these swallow ponds under the ample sunshine. The algae also provided food for the fish. The ecosystem provides a natural kidney for the city’s organic wastewater. So a double boon was taking place. The organic sewage was being treated by the natural ecosystem, and was producing rich quantities of fish food on which the local varieties thrive.”⁵⁸ Changing the characteristics of the wet land for the sake of township development is a great loss in terms of ecological balance. Those *bheries* were the main source of earning of local people; 4,000 fishermen and more or less 10,000 people of Rajarhat depended on those *bheries* for their bread and butter. More or less 50,000 poor people lost their livelihoods by the Township Project which would cater to the interests of the rich and solvent urban class. This in a sense is a clear case of economic oppression of the poor by the rich.

Landless labourers were not entitled for government compensation; only landowners were eligible for cash compensation. People were forced to change their profession. Many of the farmers became caretaker of the housing projects which came up there. From independent worker they became wage labour. The job pattern had to be changed as they could not

57Source : Salti research group(2003): ‘Rajarhate nagarayan kiser binimoye’(inBengali).pp-39-44,main source from Keya Ds Gupta(2002): ‘evection in WestBengal –a note’.

58 Source: Dhrubajyoti Gupta(2005): ‘The Calcutta wetlands: turning bad water into’. Cited online www.changemakers.net accessed on 4/3/2005.

continue with farming and fishing and other related activities. It was claimed by the Government and also, by some mainstream economists that those 50,000 displaced people by the Township Project would be benefited by the project as the benefits would trickle down them. The concrete reality is otherwise. Further, the recent global economic meltdown all over the world proved that ‘Eurocentric’ development has many weaknesses and the ‘trickle down method’ does not actually work since the current economic growth which we are observing is characterised by widening inequality and joblessness.⁵⁹

West Bengal started the economic liberalisation and globalisation later than other states. It was actually kicked off in the late nineties. The Left Front Government cited that unless some modern development projects including the urbanisation projects like New Township in Rajarhat were taken up no new private investment would be forthcoming to the state. Forced displacement for Rajarhat Township started in the year 1996. Also, in the era of globalisation there is need to attract foreign capital; and for that some mega projects like New Town Project are essential. And for this land has to be acquired however, fertile that land is and this was justified because ultimately those who would be displaced would be benefitted from the project. The question is how they would be benefitted remained unanswered. Why fertile agricultural lands will be chosen for industrial zone or why natural sewerage system will be blocked for development of multi storied buildings? These questions are not answered, as poor have no voice in the society and they are helpless in front of money and muscle power. Above all some economists, some technologists were in favour of this development. It is argued that to regain West Bengal’s lost glory as industrially advanced state new industries have to be set up. For that land is needed. And most of the land in West Bengal is fertile agricultural land barring few places in Bankura and Purulia. So, whenever land is acquired for industry or township project they are bound to be fertile ones. Furthermore, to attract investment in new industries in the state there is a need to build up proper infrastructural facilities with good connectivity with the rest of the country and the world. The New Town near the vicinity of Kolkata and in proximity to Kolkata International Airport is claimed to serve that purpose.

Women in Rajarhat mouza were mainly housewives before displacement - 93.2% women are non-worker, 5% main worker as per the Census of India Report (2001). After forced

⁵⁹Sunanda Sen and Byasdeb Dasgupta (2009), *Unfreedom and Waged Work – Labour India’s Manufacturing industry*, Sage: New Delhi.

displacement they were also forced to join the workforce to supplement their family income. They became mostly workers in the informal sector as household maid-servants. In maximum numbers of cases this outside work, as has been found in field survey, had overburdened them.

In survey areas of Rajarhat Block include five mouzas including Tarulia, Baliagari, Chhapna, Rekjuani, and Patharghata. Table 6.3.1 below indicates the sample sizes in these mouzas which are chosen applying simple random sampling method. Then sample units of each mouza are drawn employing purposive sampling method. All the sample units in the sample are women and they belong to different age groups. Most of these women were housewives before the land acquisition. Many of them have taken up some income generating activities to supplement their reduced family income after displacement. We interviewed these selected women on the basis of a structured questionnaire. Besides we also held group discussions with the local people including Panchayat members, political activists and social organizations who are fighting for these people. The survey was conducted during 2010-11.

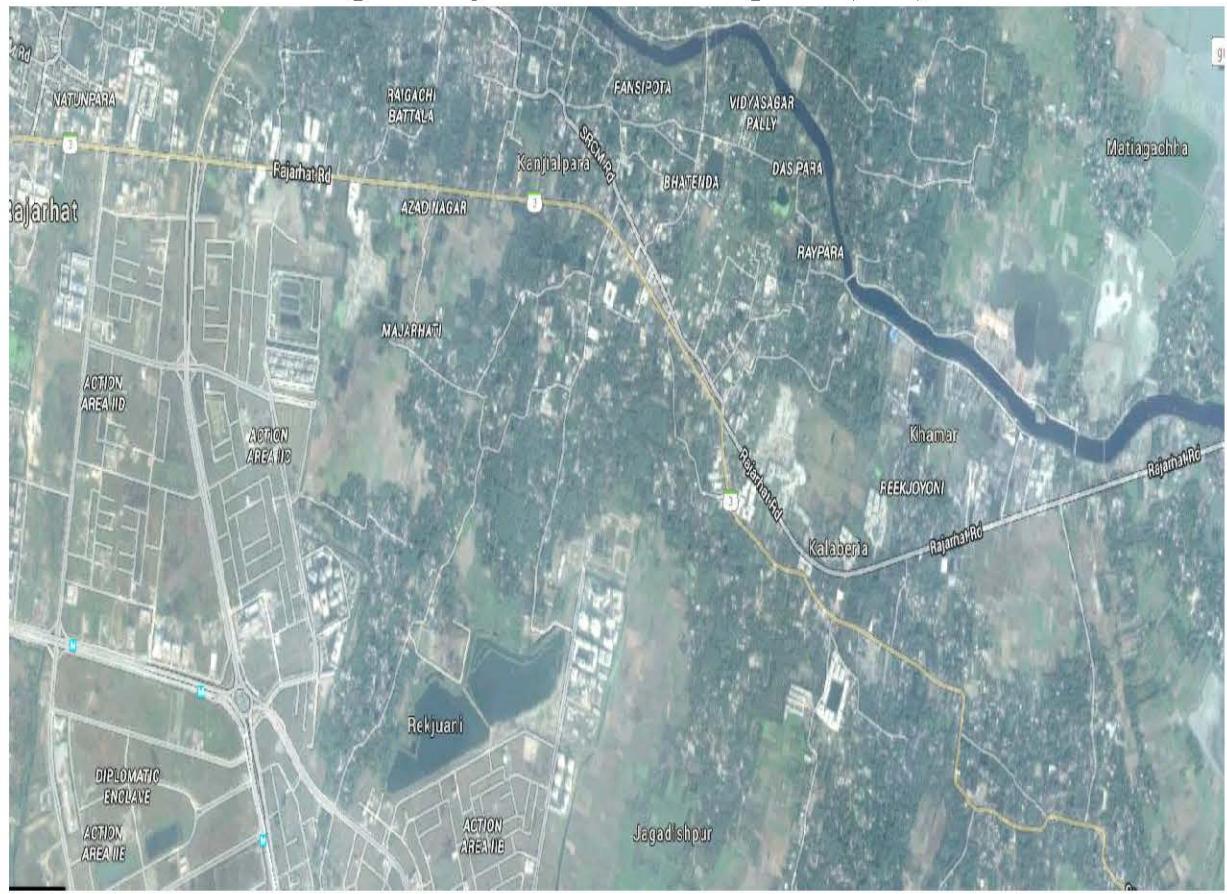
Table 6.3.1

Case study of Rajarhat New Town

Name of the Mouza /village	Total No: of households	No: of person interviewed
Tarulia	721	70
Baliagari	494	50
Chhapna	378	38
Rekjuani	2618	36
Patharghata	1349	140
TOTAL	5560	334

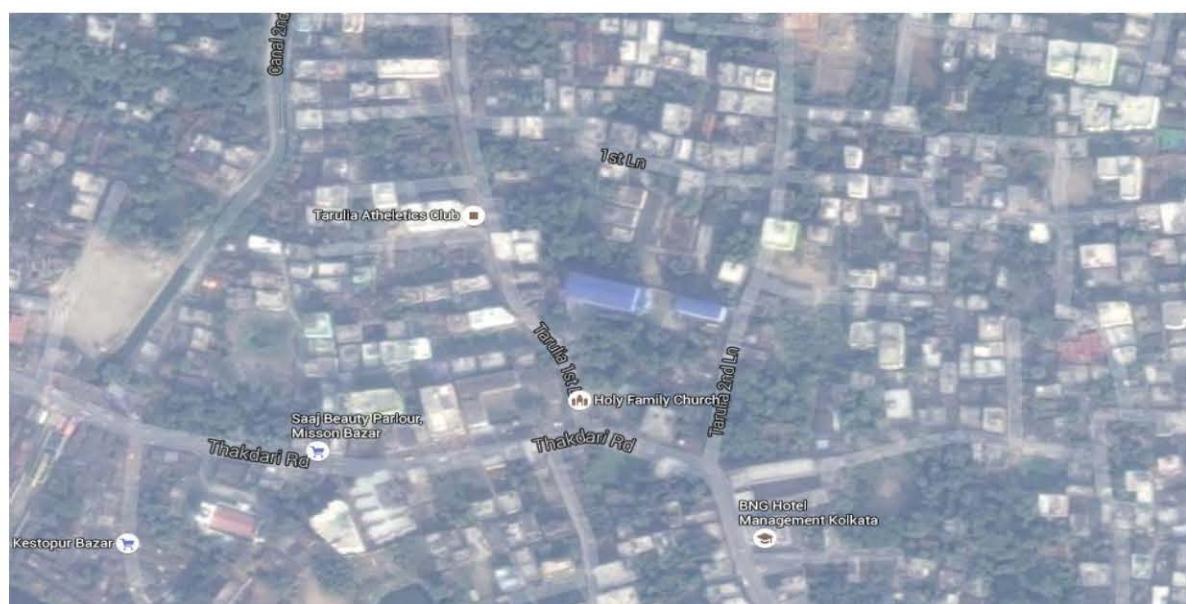
Source: Census of India Report (2001) and primary field survey by the author during 2010-13.

Image of Rajarhat New Township Area(2016)



Source :GoogleEarth(2016)www.mapsgoogle.com

Image of Tarulia



Source: Google Earth (2016). www.mapsgoogle.com

Image of Baligari



Source: Google Earth (2016). www.mapsgoogle.com

Image of Chhapna



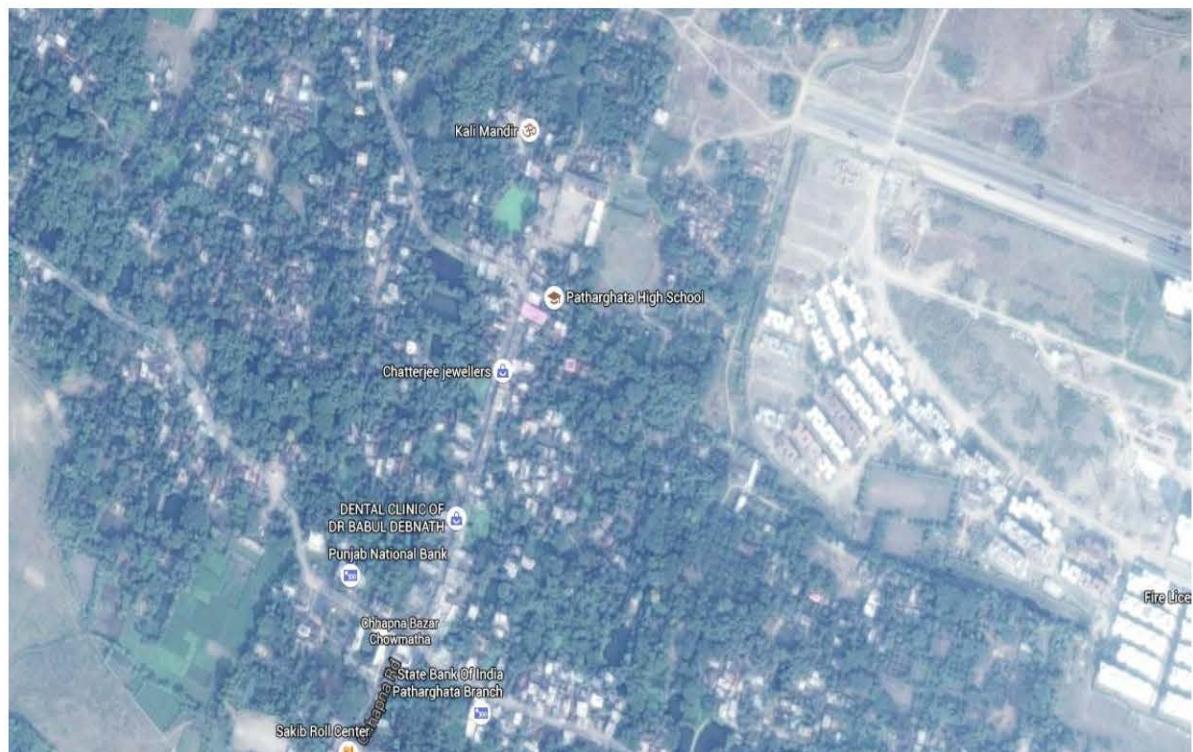
Source : Google Earth (2016). www.mapsgoogle.com

Image of Rekjuani



Source : Google Earth (2016). www.mapsgoogle.com

Image of Patharghata



Source : Google Earth(2016). www.mapsgoogle.com

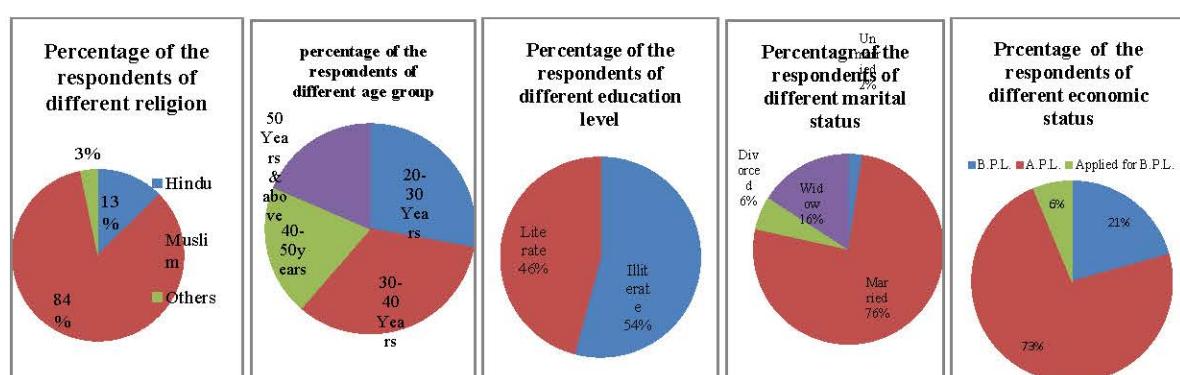
6.4 Empirical Findings Regarding Development-induced Displacement in Rajarhat Block

Block: Now, we will provide an analysis of the primary data collected from the select women respondents of the affected households in Rajarhat Block. The village/mouza-wise analysis of data and information collected through field investigation in the select villages in the block has been made in terms of a structured questionnaire as mentioned already.

Figure 6.4.1 indicates the number of respondents with their various age groups, marital status, educational qualification, religion and economic condition. Total number of respondents is three hundred and thirty four (334); among them eighty four (84%) percent respondent is Muslim, thirteen (13%) is Hindu and three percent and three percent (3%) respondent is from other community. This is indicating that the region is a Muslim dominated area. Literacy rate among women is poor in the area, only forty six percent (46%) of the total respondents are literate and among them fifty six percent (56%) have only four years of learning experience and thirty three percent (33%) respondents have up to eight pass educational qualifications and others have more than eight years of learning qualification. Economic condition of this area is poor; twenty one percent (21%) respondents are from the BPL category. Another six percent (6%) of respondents have applied for BPL category and those respondents are coming from APL category their economic condition is not very good, most of them are just above the poverty line. Maximum number of respondents is married seventy six (76%), in rural area women get married early and they become pregnant too early which causes high rate of child mortality, low birth weight baby and many other neo natal problem. Early age of pregnancy and high rate of pregnancy make women physically ill.

Figure 6.4.1

Some demographic profile of the respondents

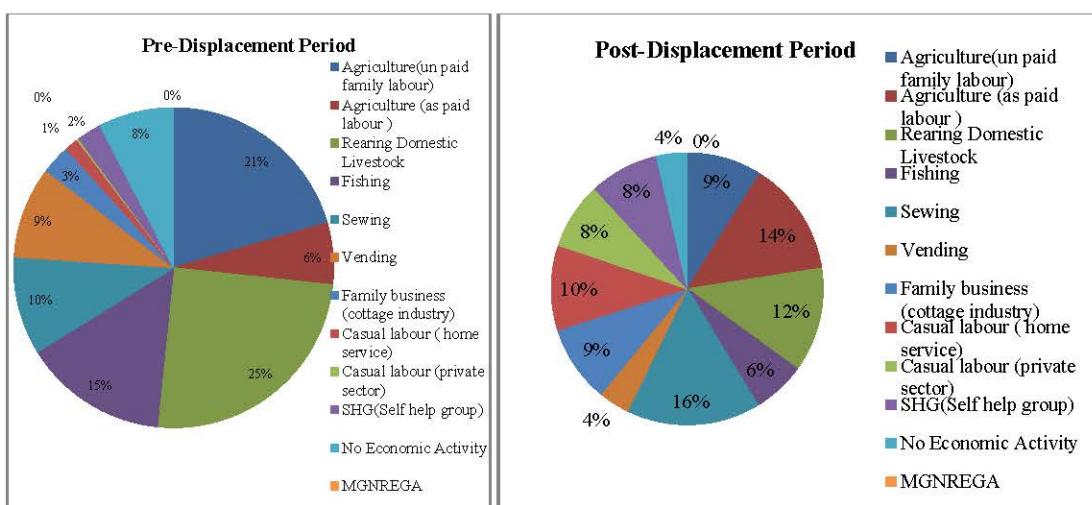


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5 Changes in economic activities of the respondents: Figures 6.5.1 to 6.5.5B indicates the economic activities that the respondents used to perform before and after displacement due to

New Town urbanization project. Economic activities imply money income generating activities of the respondents. In pre displacement period of the study area the major economic activity of women was agriculture followed by other activities. Women used to work as unpaid family labour in agriculture before displacement. After forced displacement there is a shift from unpaid family labour in agriculture to paid casual labour or in other words as maid servants in upper and upper middle class family. In post displacement period, the respondents cutting across ages are engaged in multiple activities to supplement their family income. This shift from independent agriculture worker to casual labour may increase their income but decrease their time for care giving activity at home and time for leisure and rest. Note that a person may at the same time perform more than one economic activity and hence, there is overlapping of numbers and the total number of respondents as per economic activity will exceed the total number of respondents. Figure 6.5.2 indicates the various age groups with different type of economic activity. Before displacement number of casual labour was very few (only 12) of the 20-30 years of age group and after displacement this number has increased significantly (86), the number of self-employed workers also increased after displacement. The government of West Bengal with the help of some NGOs has started some SHG in post-displacement period and these groups were formed by the displaced women. Another important thing to be noted that, after displacement number of women with no economic activity has decreased. This means either they are forced to earn for their family at any cost or displacement has increased their opportunity of income generating activity. In this case study first reason is true.

Figure 6.5.1 Economic activities of the respondents in pre and post displacement period

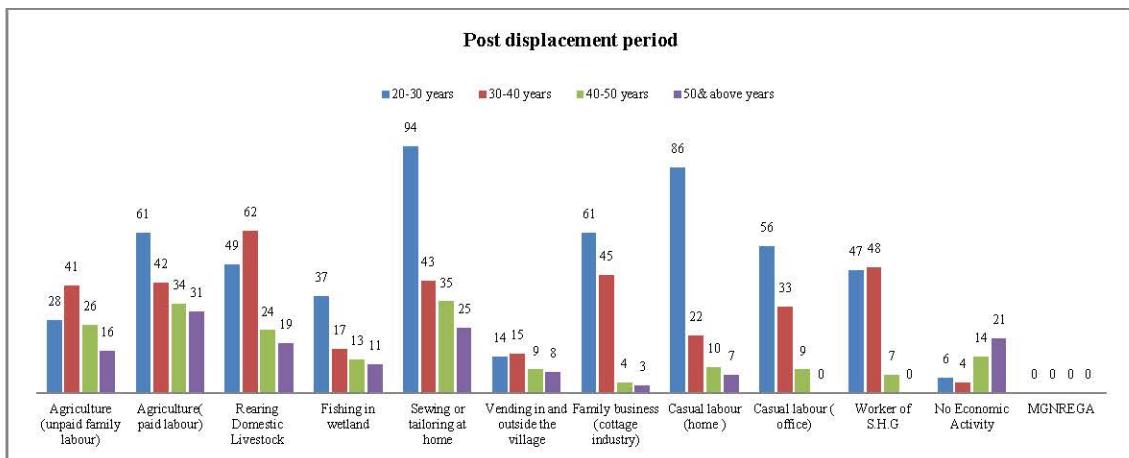
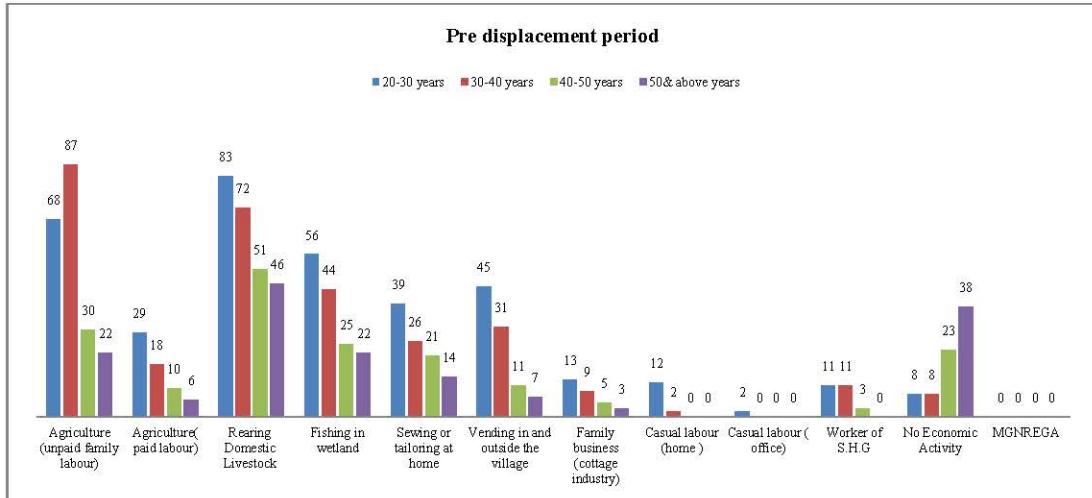


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Note: A person may at the same time perform more than one economic activity and hence, there is overlapping of numbers and the total number of respondents as per economic activity will exceed the total number of respondents in each village.

Figure 6.5.2

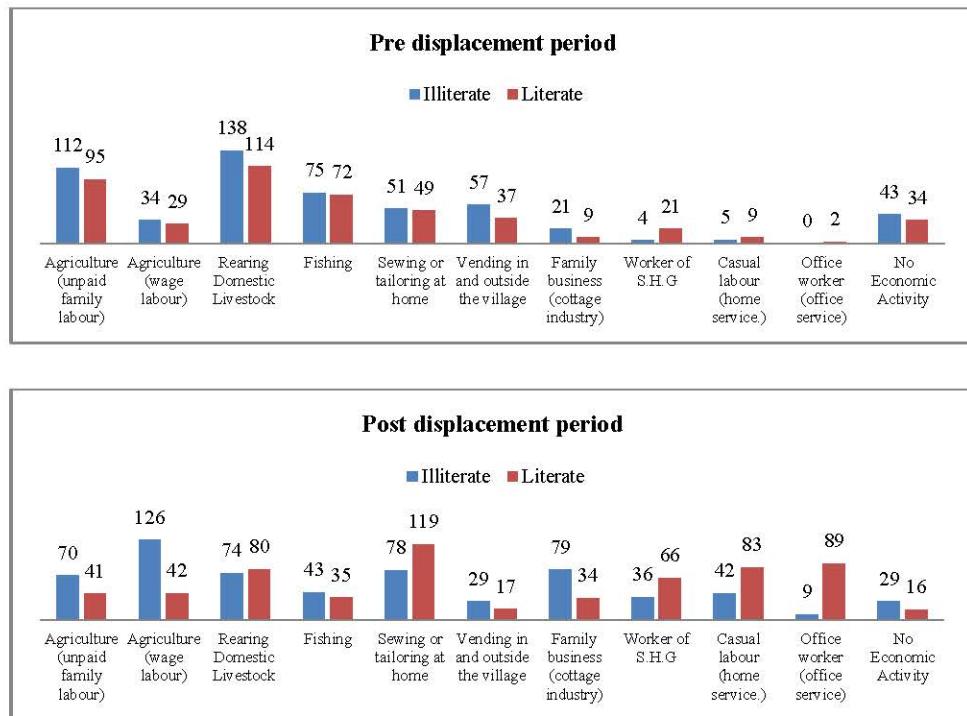
Different economic activities of the respondents of different age group in pre displacement period



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Note: A person may at the same time perform more than one economic activity and hence, there is overlapping of numbers and the total number of respondents as per economic activity will exceed the total number of respondents in each village.

Figure 6.5.3 Different economic activities of the respondents of different education level in pre and post displacement period



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

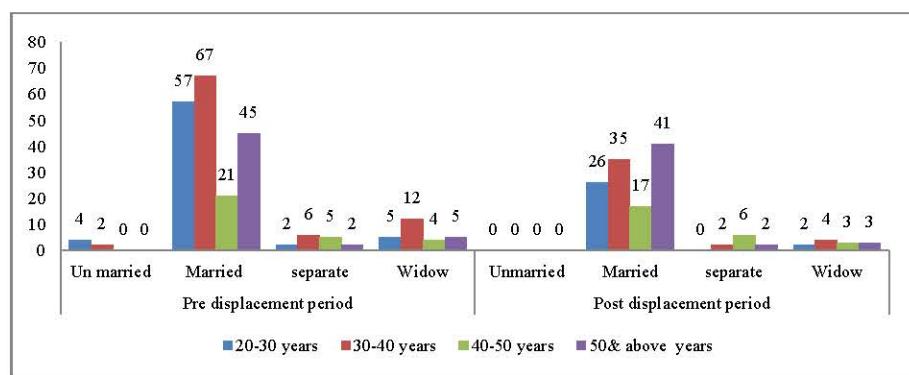
Note: A person may at the same time perform more than one economic activity and hence, there is overlapping of numbers and the total number of respondents as per economic activity will exceed the total number of respondents in each village.

6.5.1 Agriculture as unpaid family labour: In rural West Bengal agriculture is an important way of earnings. Fertile agriculture land with high population density, almost zero percent industrialization, lower rate of literacy have forced all people to involve in agriculture. Women are also directly involved in agriculture; they generally work as helper in agriculture field with their male counterpart as unpaid family labour. After displacement the situation has changed in the study area; most of the agriculture land has forcefully been converted into residential plot; so due to lack of agriculture land women have lost their work as family labour in agriculture field. In our sample, the number of respondents decreased after displacement as unpaid agriculture labour; 202 of total respondents were unpaid agriculture labour before displacement; post displacement the number has decreased to 111. Percentage of widow and separated women as unpaid agriculture labour has decreased from 17% to 9%. Percentage of aged women above 40 years of age decreased from 35% to 31%. As stated earlier that the plight of widow and separated and aged above 40 years was very miserable;

they were almost neglected lot in the society. Those who were illiterate their condition was also appalling as they had less opportunity to get engaged in other works. In Rajarhat block Muslims were majority in population. Our survey indicates that majority of them was BPL and illiterate and hence, the onus of adverse impact of displacement was borne out by them. Figure 6.5.1.1.indicate the various age group and marital status of the respondents of Rajarhat block as unpaid family labour. Married respondents maximum in number and unmarried respondents at 30 and above age group is zero.

Figure: 6.5.1.1.

Respondents of different age group and marital status as unpaid agriculture labour

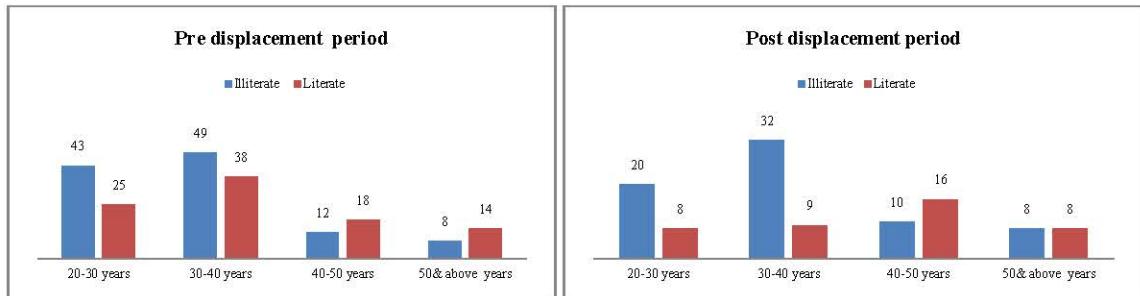


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figures: 6.5.1.2. Indicate the various age groups and educational qualification of the respondents as unpaid agricultural family labour. Number of respondents with eight and above years of learning as unpaid labour is nil. Figure 6.5.1.3.to 6.5.1.7 shows different type of co-relation of the respondents as un-paid agriculture labour from pre to post displacement period. This area is adjacent to a big city like Kolkata and Salt Lake Township, so the respondents have an opportunity to take a job in those areas as casual labour. Though before displacement the number of casual labour was few but after displacement the number is increasing rapidly. Lack of agriculture land number of agricultural labour is decreasing and other unorganised sector's labour is increasing.

Figure 6.5.1.2

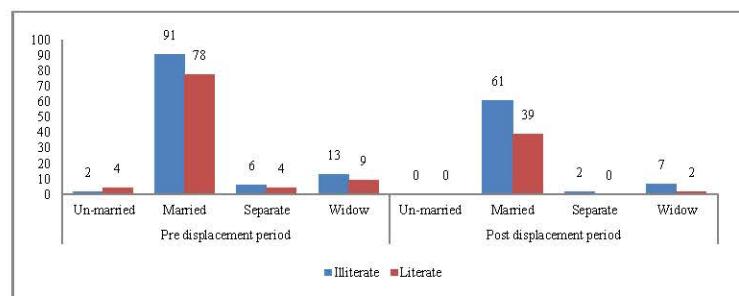
Respondents of various age group and education level as unpaid agriculture labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.1.3

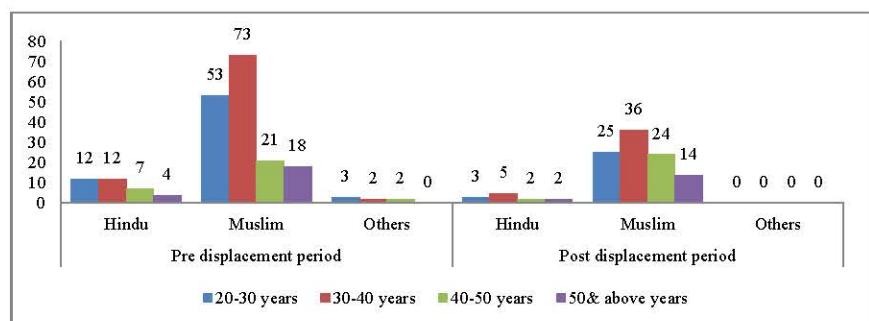
Respondents of different education level and marital status as unpaid agriculture labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure: 6.5.1.4.

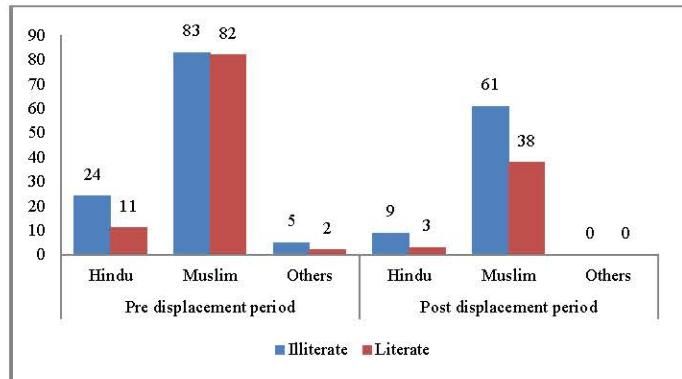
Respondents of different age group and religion as unpaid agriculture labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

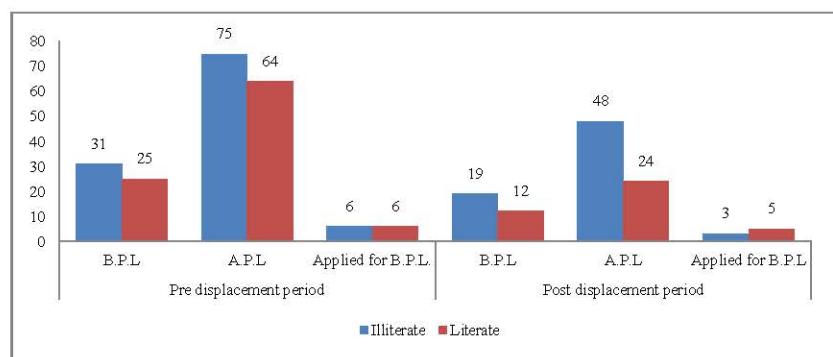
Figure 6.5.1.5

Respondents of different religion and education level as unpaid agriculture labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

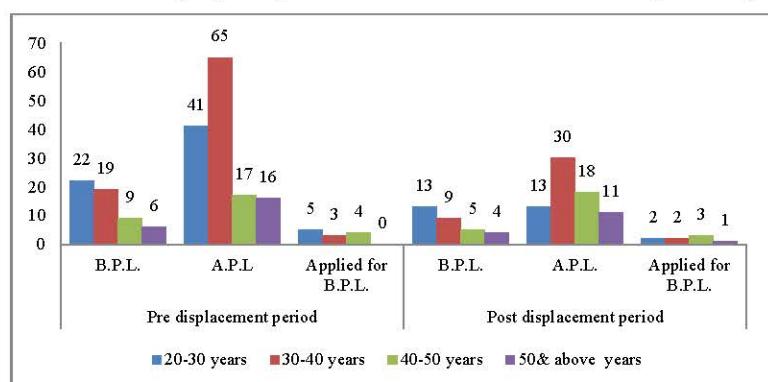
Figure 6.5.1.6 Respondents of different education level and economic status as unpaid agriculture labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.1.7.

Respondents of different age group and economic status as unpaid agriculture labour

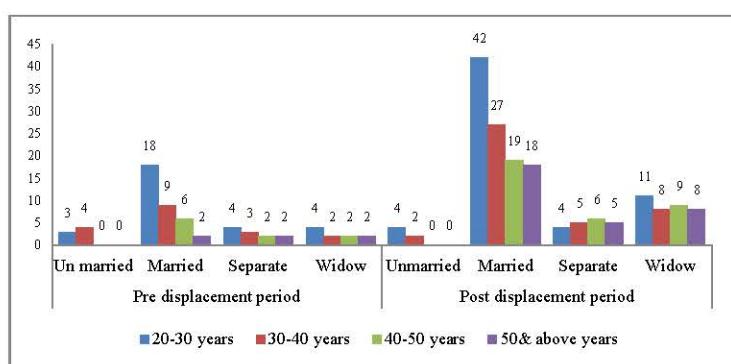


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.2 Wage labour in agriculture: In West Bengal the number of small land holders is high than big land holders especially after operation *barga*. Most of the land holdings are small and many of these small and marginal farmers work as wage labour in others' landholdings. Women generally work as family labour and even if they work, they are paid lower wage than men. They also had no time to work in others field as they generally work in their family land as unpaid family labour. Displacement due to development has changed the entire situation rapidly. Displacement has made some family landless and their family members are forced to work as low wage agriculture labour in others' land. Figure 6.5.2.1 to 6.5.2.7 shows the co-relation of the respondents as agriculture wage labour from pre to post displacement period. Only six percent (6%) of the total respondents (number of respondents were sixty three), were wage labour in agriculture field before displacement; the number has increased to one sixty eight or nineteen percent (19%) after displacement. Only twenty one (21) of widow and separated women among all respondents were wage labour before displacement and after displacement it has increased to fifty six (56), this is indicating the poor situation of widow and separated women after displacement. Percentage of illiterate respondents as wage labour was ten percent (10%) or thirty four of the total respondents, before displacement but after displacement this has increased to thirty eight percent (38%) or one hundred and twenty six respondents. As the Muslim population was high in the Rajarhat block, they were the main victim after the land acquisition. Only forty eight (48) Muslim respondents were wage labour before displacement and after displacement this number has increased to one hundred and twenty eight (128) in this sample. So, it can be said that with displacement due to development there is a shift from unpaid family labour to paid wage labour in agriculture.

Figure 6.5.2.1

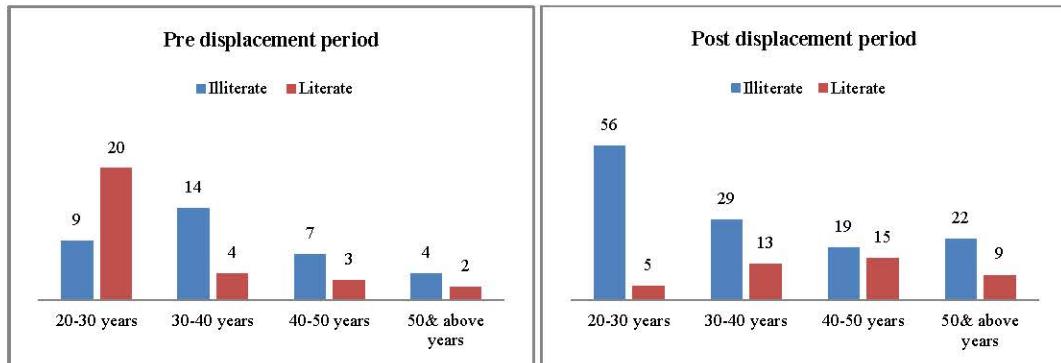
Respondents of different age group and marital status as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

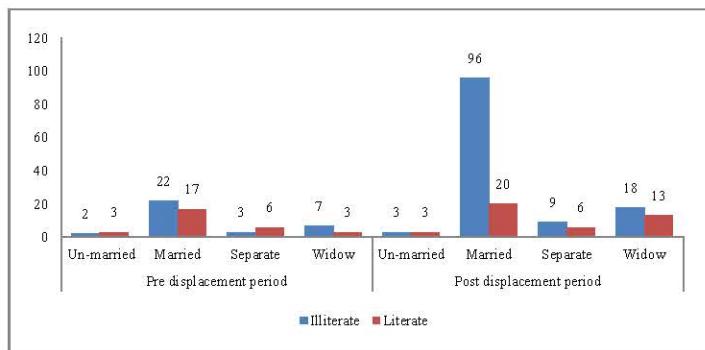
Figure 6.5.2.2

Respondents of different age group and education level as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

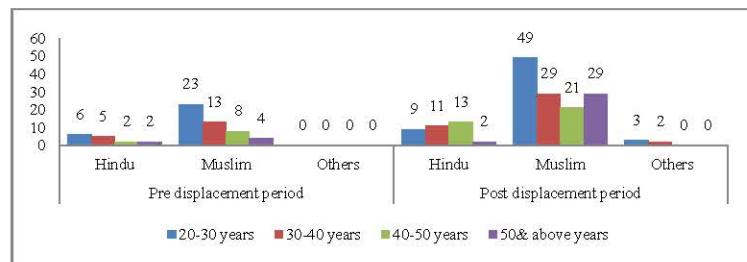
Figure 6.5.2.3 Respondents of different education level and marital status as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.6.2.4

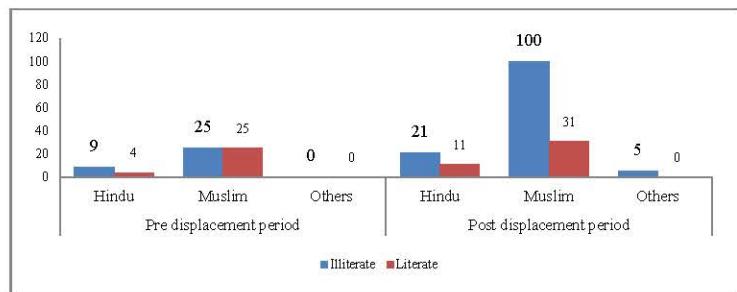
Respondents of different age group and religion as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.6.2.5

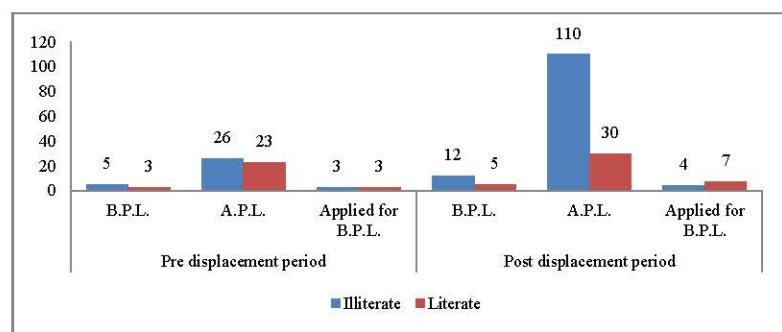
Respondents of different education and religion as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.2.6

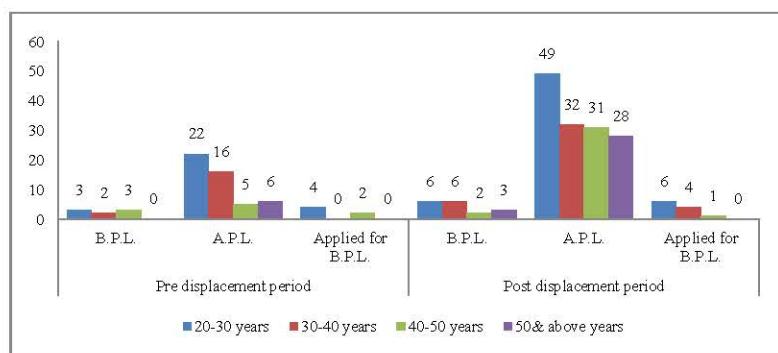
Respondents of different educational and economic status as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.2.7

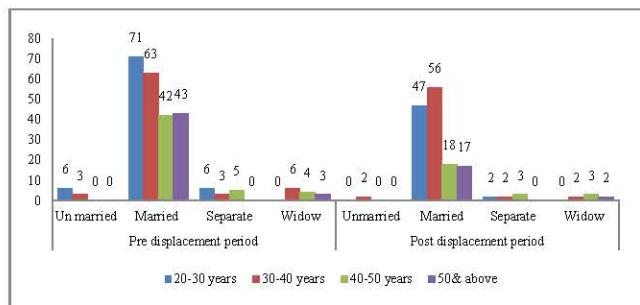
Respondents of different age group and economic status as agriculture wage labour



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

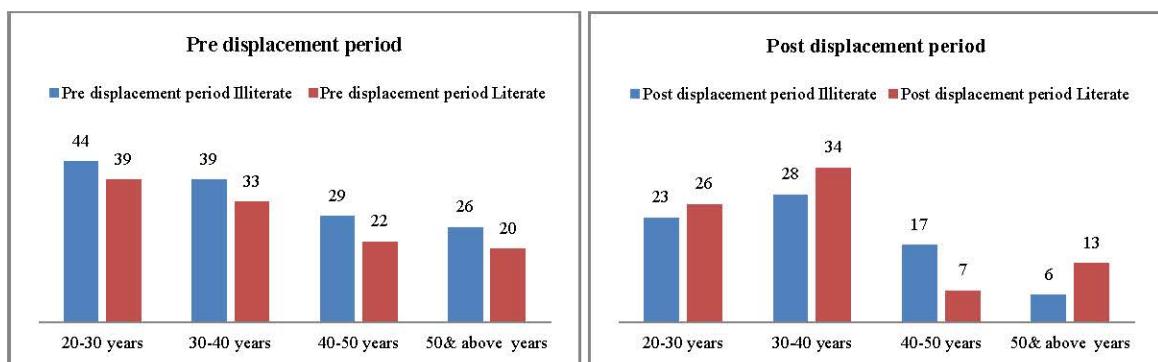
6.5.3 Rearing Domestic Livestock: Domestic livestock in rural India is one of the most important assets after land and rearing domestic livestock is an important activity in rural area. This function is exclusively done by women because men have no time to look after the animals. Generally cow, pig, buffalo, goat and sheep are reared as livestock. Some respondents in our sample had small poultry farm. Rearing livestock is important in rural society on two scores – (a) as assets they generate money income to the owners of domestic livestock and (b) they also supplement the food requirement for the rural households. In survey area it was observed that after displacement respondents had hardly any land for rearing livestock. Figure 6.5.3.1. to 6.5.3.7 shows the type of co-relation of the respondents as rearing livestock. Married women are mainly involved in this work; two hundred and twenty seven or ninety percent (90%) of respondents who were married reared livestock before displacement and this percentage decreased to fifty seven (57%) or one hundred and fifty four respondents after displacement. In the pre-displacement period one hundred and thirty eight respondents or fifty five percent (55%) of respondents were illiterate reared livestock and this became sventy four of the respondents or twenty nine percent (29%) after displacement.

Figure6.5.3.1
Respondents of different age group and marital status as rearing livestock



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

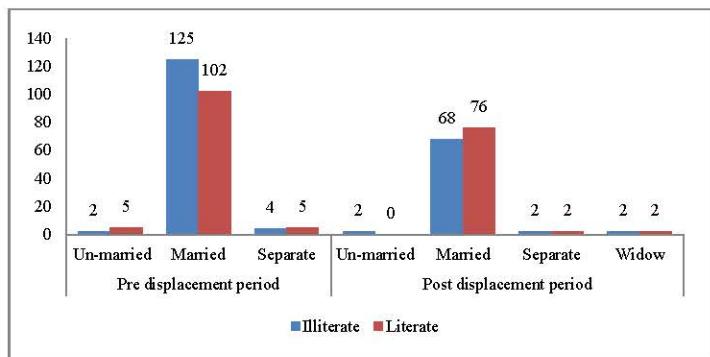
Figure 6.5.3.2
Respondents of different age group and education level as rearing livestock



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.3.3

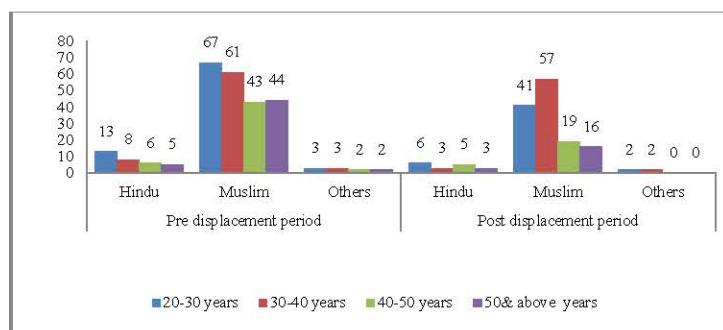
Respondents of various Educational and Marital statuses as rearing livestock



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.3.4

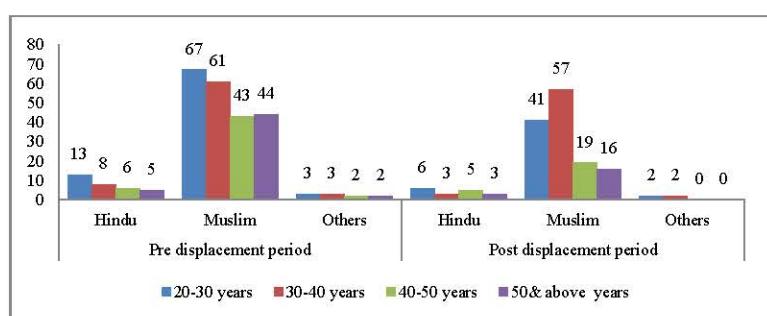
Respondents of different age group and religion as rearing livestock



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.3.5

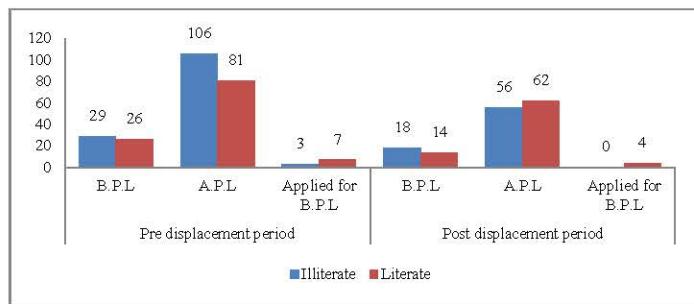
Respondents of different age group and religion as rearing livestock



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

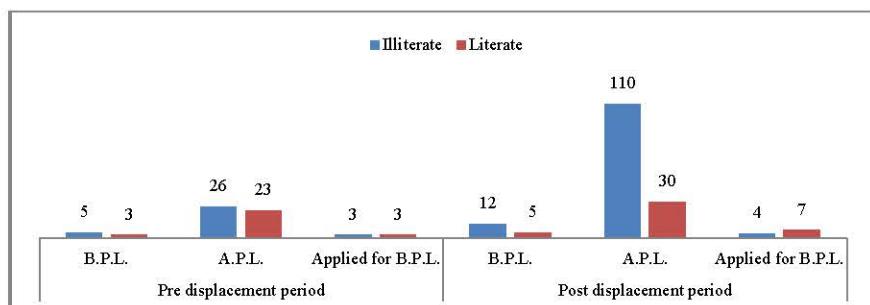
Figure 6.5.3.6

Respondents of different education level and economic status as rearing livestock



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.3.7 Respondents of different age group and economic status as rearing livestock



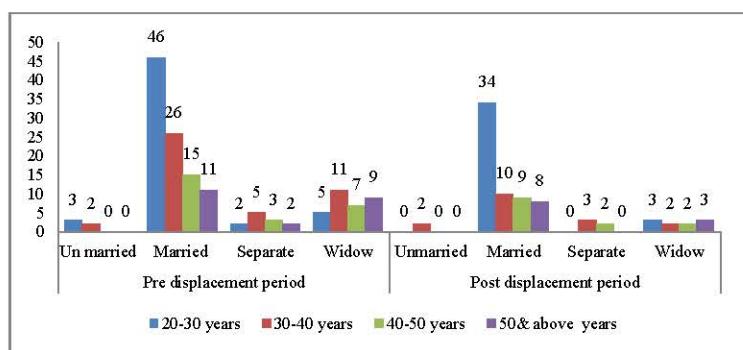
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.4 Fishing in the wet land: Rajarhat block is famous for its *verries* (sweet water fishing area) and fish markets of Kolkata depend upon this area. Many wetland and ponds were filled up for the new township project. This area was the kidney of Kolkata, which purified all waste of the city but after the project work started Kolkata lost her kidney and water logging problem of the Kolkata and its adjacent area is now out of control. Though fishing is fully done by men but women are involved in fish processing and sorting and other works with their male counterpart. In this work those women have named as fisher women. In this sample, one hundred and forty seven (147) no: of respondents and their family were involved in fishing before the township project. This number came down to sixty eight (68) after displacement. Figure 6.5.4.6 to 6.5.4.7 indicates different type of respondents' co-relation as fisher women. Before displacement ninety eight (98) married women were involved in this

work; after displacement the number has decreased to sixty one (61) As stated earlier the Muslims are majority in this area and they are the main victim of this displacement; one hundred and sixteen (116) of Muslim's economic activity was fishing before displacement and after displacement this number has decreased to sixty three(63), the BPL families in our sample,sixty nine (69) people depended on the wetland fishing before displacement and after displacement only twenty eight (28) of them could depend on fishing in the wetland in the area.

Figure 6.5.4.1

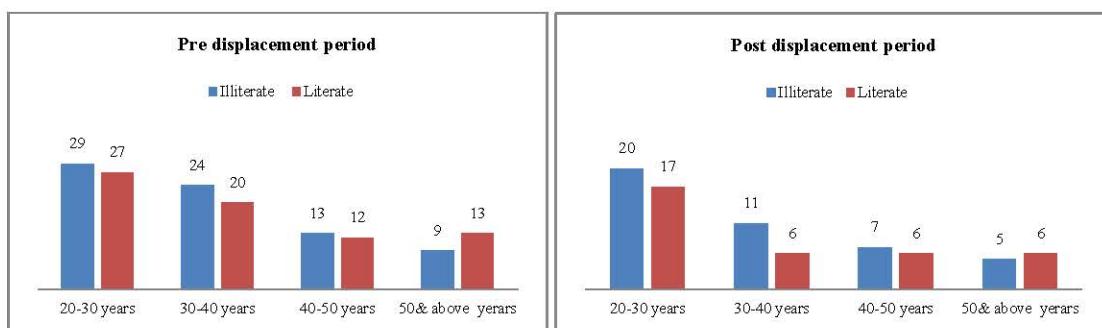
Respondents of different age group and marital status as fisher woman



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.4.2

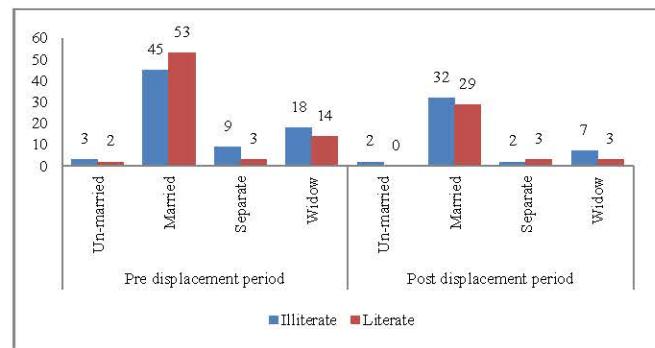
Respondents of different age group and education level as fisher woman



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.4.3

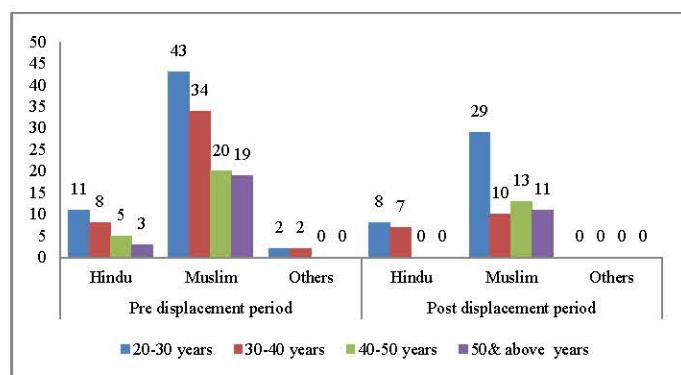
Respondents of different education level and marital status as fisher woman



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

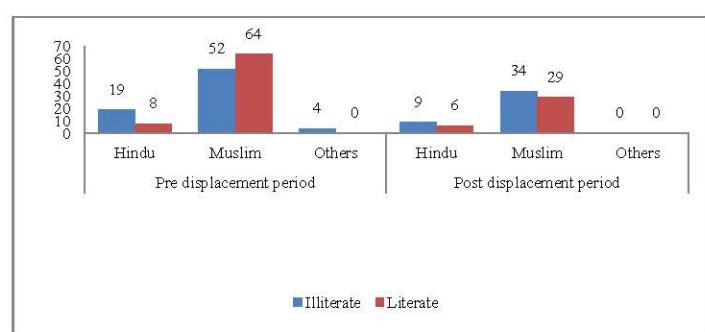
Figure 6.5.4.4

Respondents of different age group and religion as fisher woman



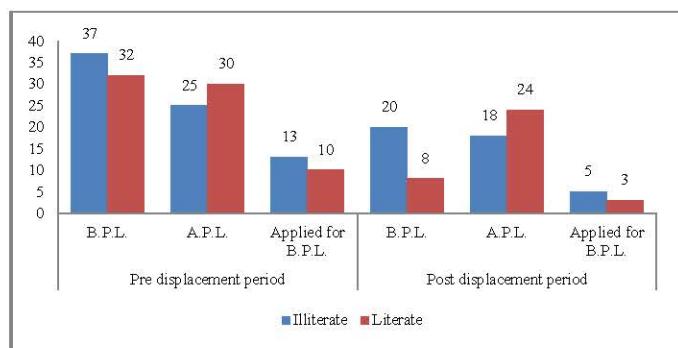
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.4.5 Respondents of ifferent education level and religion as fisher woman



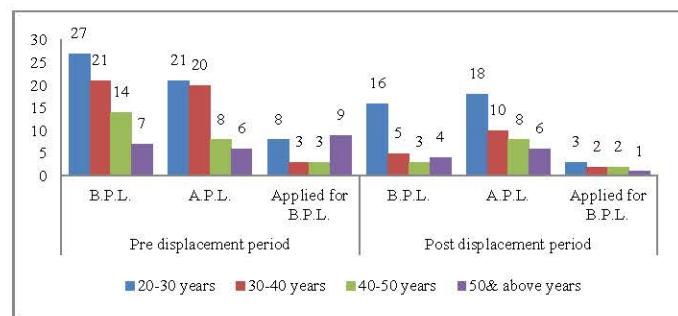
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.4.6 Respondents of different education level and economic status as fisher woman



Source: Primary survey 2010-13)

Figure 6.5.4.7 Respondents of different education and economic status as fisher woman

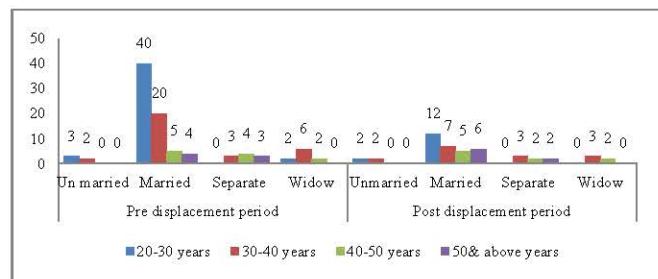


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.5 Vending in and outside the village: Rajarhat block have a close proximity to Kolkata, so vegetables and other agro based products used to be supplied to Kolkata from here. This area was the Kolkata's kitchen garden, especially for North Kolkata and its adjacent part. Many people come daily from Rajarhat to Kolkata for selling their vegetables. They bring their vegetable products on a three wheel cart locally known as *van* or by small truck or by bi-cycle and after selling their product they return home. Many family of Rajarhat depend on this economic activity. After displacement the situation has changed as many agriculture land has been acquired by the government and the land characteristics has totally changed; so this block has lost many agriculture land. Obviously the number of vendor has decreased for the lack of agriculture product. Figure 6.5.5.1 to 6.5.5.7 indicates the different type of respondents' co-relation as vendor. Number of total respondents were ninety four or twenty eight percent (28%) were vendor before displacement and after displacement only forty seven of the respondents or fourteen percent (14%) of the respondents were vendors. Mainly young respondents (20-30 year of age group) and their family are involved in this activity; before

displacement forty five (45) of them were depending on this economic activity and after displacement only fourteen (14) of young respondents and their families are involved in this work.

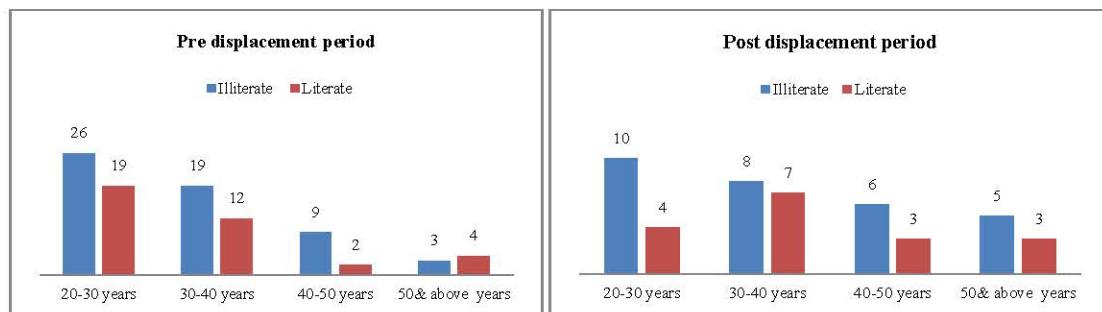
Figure 6.5.5.1 Respondents of different age group and marital status as vendor



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.2

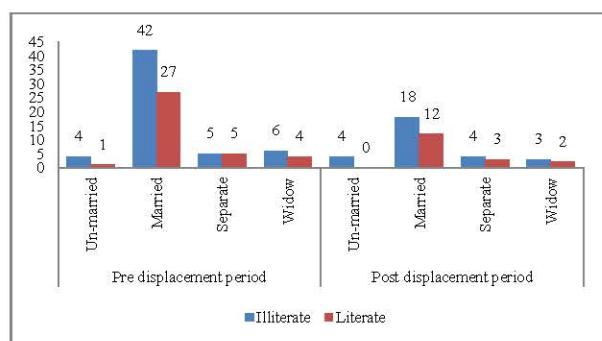
Respondents of various Educational and Age group as Vendor pre and post displacement period



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.3

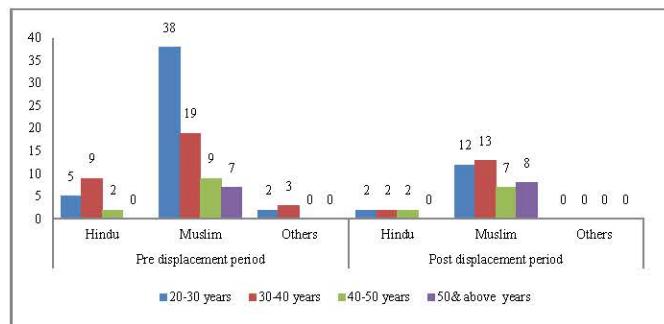
Respondents of various Educational group and Marital status as Vendor



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.5.4

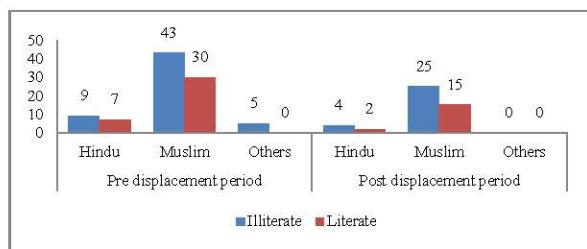
Respondents of different age group and religion as vendor



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.5.5

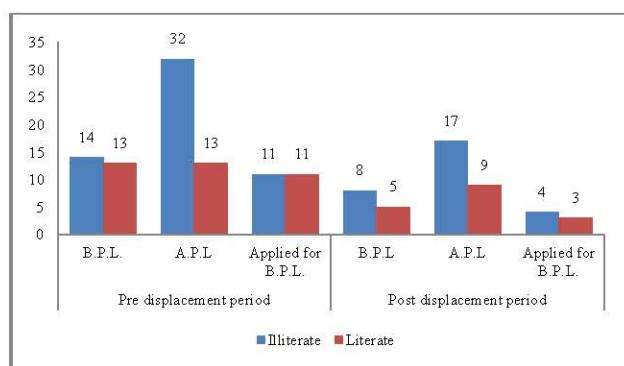
Respondents of different education level and religion as vendor



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.5.6

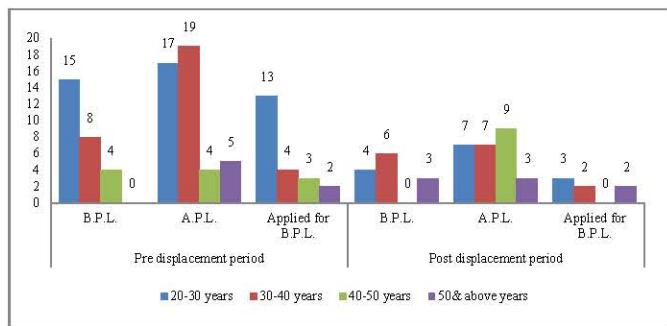
Respondents of different education level and economic status as vendor



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.5.7

Respondents of different age group and economic status as vendor

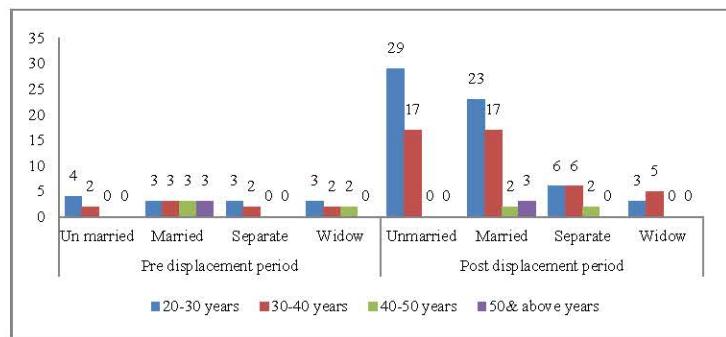


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.6 Dependence on cottage industry: There are many types of small scale cottage industry in this area and these businesses are mainly controlled by the women of Rajarhat block. In this area women make scented stick (locally called *dhup kathi*), knitting on *saris* (traditional dress), tailoring and sewing etc. Before displacement people were mainly involved in agriculture works; after displacement when agriculture land has decreased then women get involved in substitute income generating activities. They used to get order from local agents and agents supplied all materials; women are paid on contract basis. For example some respondents informed that they get 15-20 rupees per thousand scented stick or 500-600 rupees for knitting a whole sari, though the agents and business men are getting three to four times money from these products. Women also know that they are deprived but due to lack of other economic activity they are bound to do this work. Figure 6.5.6.1 to 6.5.6.7 shows different type of respondents' co-relation as cottage industry worker, only thirty respondents or nine percent (9%) of respondents and their families were involved in cottage industry before displacement but after displacement it is now one hundred and thirteen respondents or thirty four percent (34%). Number of muslim respondents as cottage industry worker were increased from twenty one to eighty two, as this is a muslim dominated area and traditionally muslims are good tailor and they also well known for knitting and sewing .

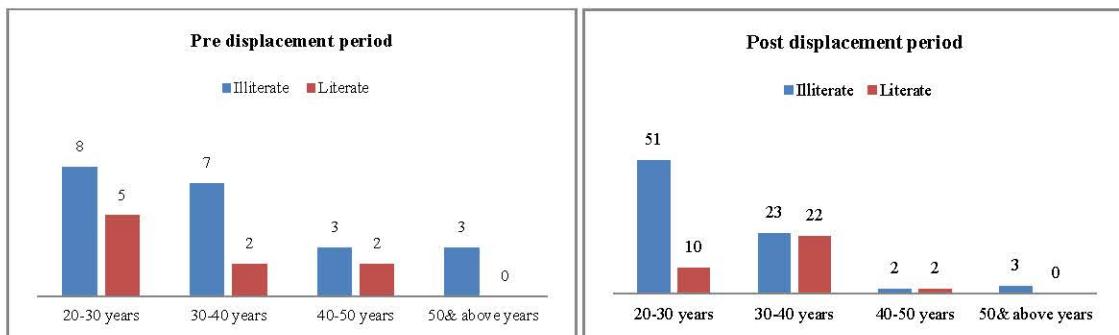
Figure 6.5.6.1

Respondents of different age group and marital status as cottage industry worker



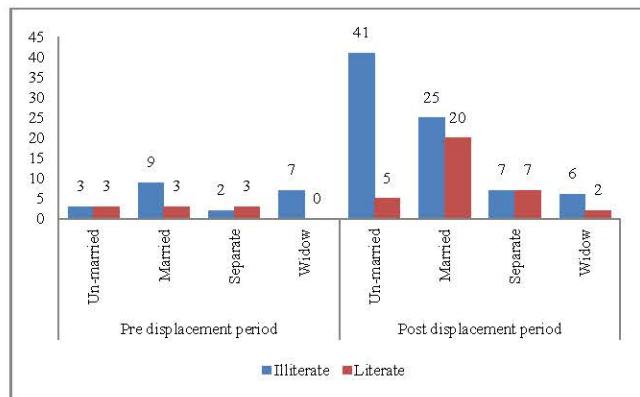
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.6.2 Respondents of different age group and education level as cottage industry worker



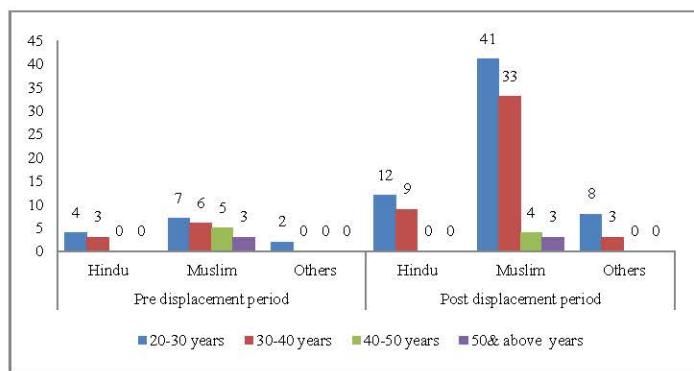
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.6.3 Respondents of different educational and marital status as cottage industry worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

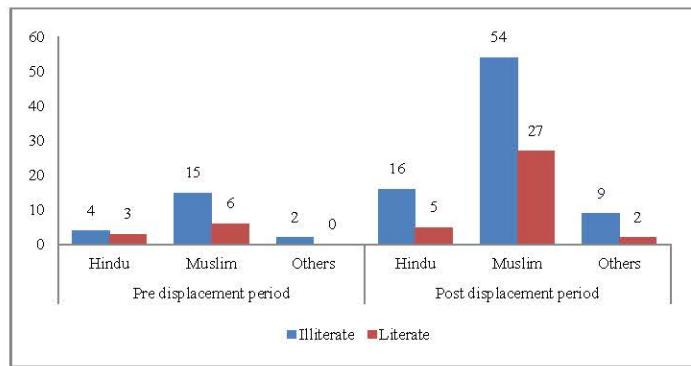
Figure 6.5.6.4 Respondents of different age group and religion as cottage industry worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.6.5

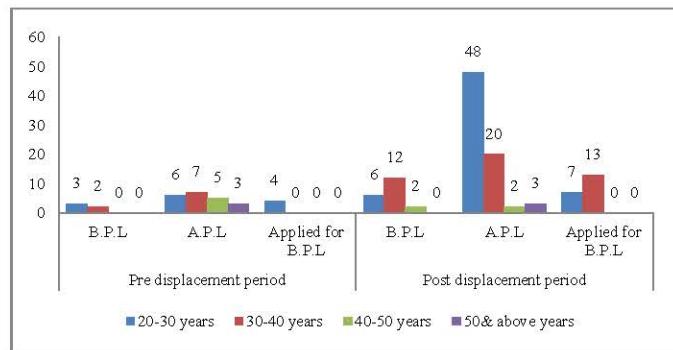
Respondents of different education level and religion as cottage industry worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.6.6

Respondents of different age group and economic status as cottage industry

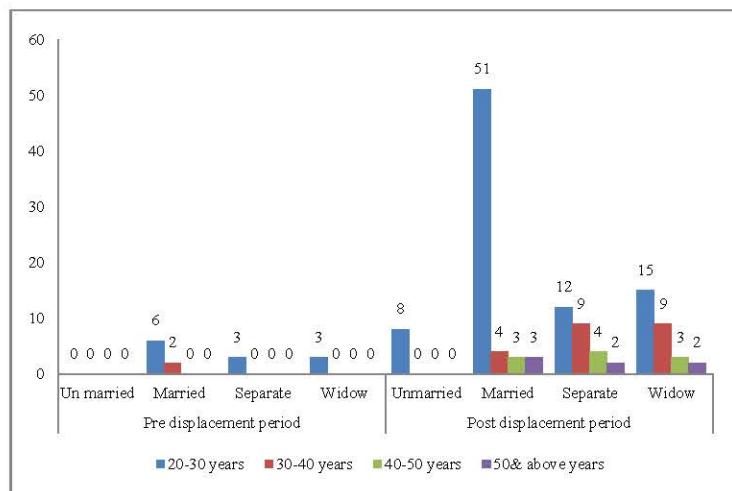


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.7 Dependence on paid domestic work: After losing their agriculture and wet land people of this area was rendered workless and they accepted the low wage work of the new township project. After the high rise building was completed many families needed full or part time paid domestic workers. At the same time women of that area was in search of job to supplement their dwindling family income. So low wage domestic work is the product of the development project. At a glance this holds good for women as they can now earn independently but actual scenario is depressive; aftermath of the joblessness of the displaced people their women are forced to take to paid domestic work. Given the nature of the work and social status pertaining to such work in Indian society, the domestic work does not enjoy full dignity of labour as it should be. Furthermore, there are instances of harassment (even sexually) apart from the uncertainty in earning that such work commands. In this sample, before displacement no respondent was paid domestic worker. However, after displacement one third member of this sample had to take to paid domestic work as their livelihood to save the economic condition of their families. In many cases, it has even found that the women domestic worker in this sample did not have control or command over their own earnings which were actually appropriated by the male head of the families. figure 6.5.7.1 to 6.5.7.7 indicates different type of respondnets' co-relation as domestic worker.

Figure 6.5.7.1

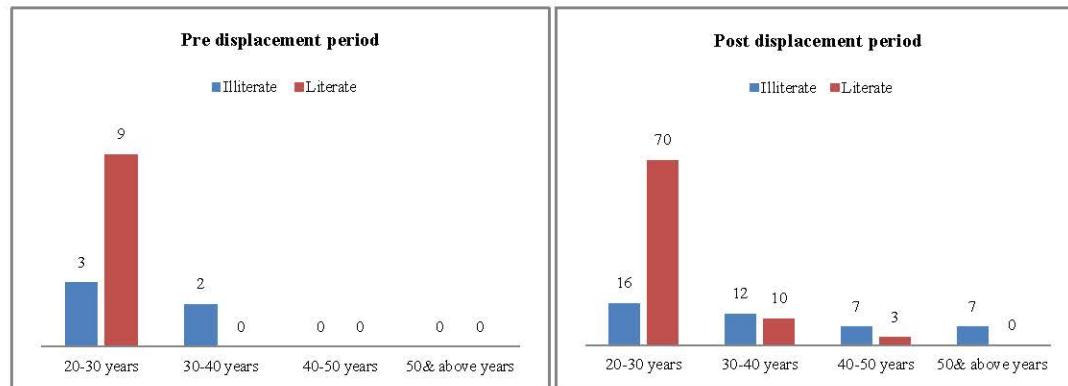
Respondents of different age group and marital status as domestic worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.7.2

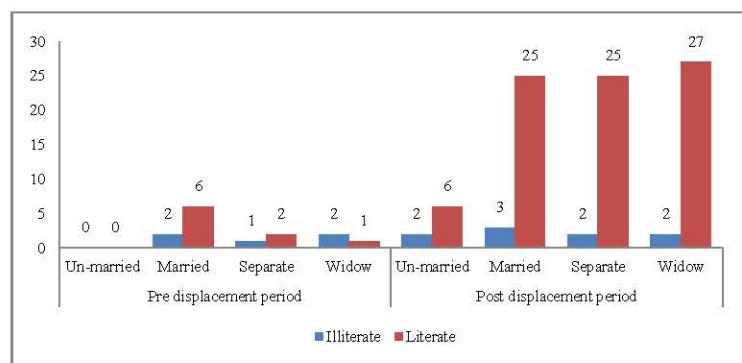
Respondents of different education level and age group as domestic worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.7.3

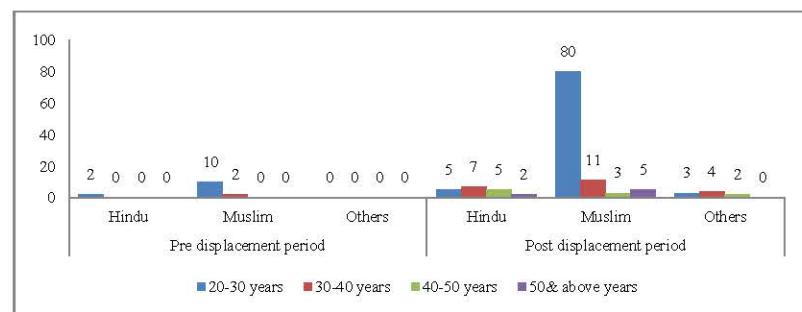
Respondents of different education level and marital status as domestic worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.7.4

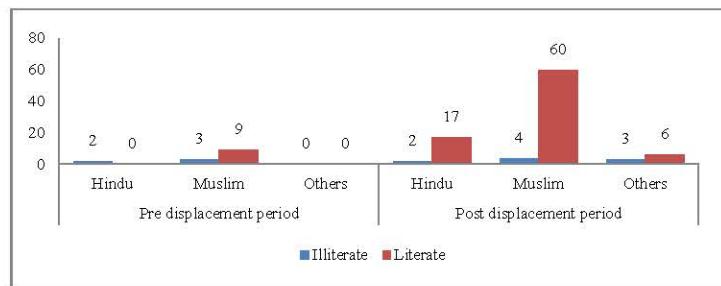
Respondents of different age group and religion as domestic worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.7.5

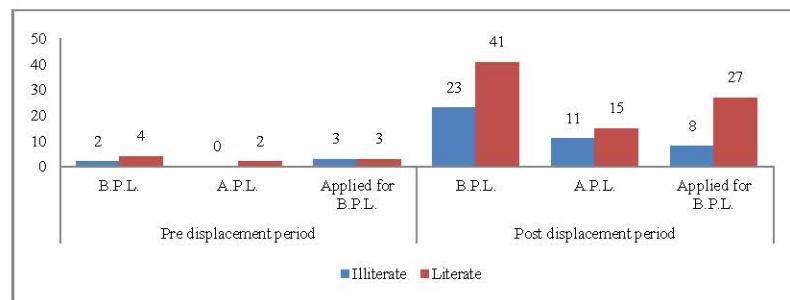
Respondents of different education level and religion as Domestic worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.7.6

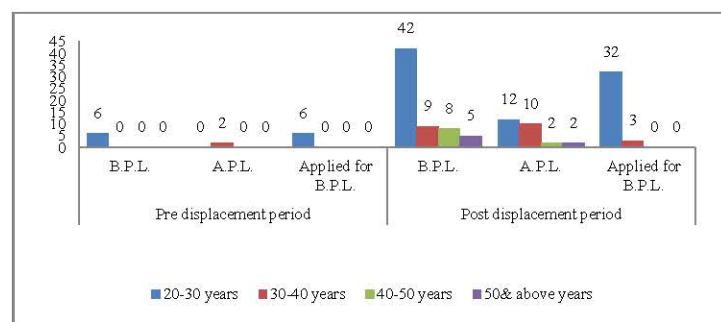
Respondents of different education level and economic status as domestic worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.7.7

Respondents of different age group and economic status as Domestic worker

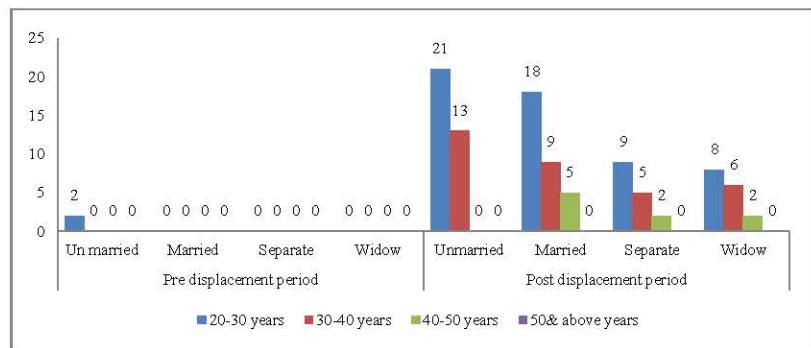


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.8 Growing dependence on casual work in the private sector: When the New Township project of Rajarhat was started then many private companies invested money in the project. This is mainly a new township project and the real estate investors opened their offices there. Those companies recruited unskilled and untrained local people to maintain their office and they hailed mainly from the unskilled landless people of Rajarhat. These jobs are casual in nature with no fixed timing and low paid. These workers are paid only wages/salaries and do not enjoy any other benefits like provident fund, paid leaves and like. Besides these are jobs which entail easy hiring and firing norm and hence, lacks any job security. Moreover, these types of workers are generally recruited through some placement agencies or security agencies and hence, most of the time they are not in the direct payroll of the companies which further complicates their position as worker as they cannot legally claim that they are workers of such and such company. They generally worked as office caretaker, peon, bearer, receptionist etc. Women are recruited as untrained nurse in private hospitals, receptionist at call centres or private offices or as cleaning staff etc. The New Town project paved the way for these types of occupations in this study area. Before displacement in this sample only two unmarried respondents were involved in the office work. They have faced many problems including those pertaining to transportation, ill payment and social subjects as women worker. Presently the situation have changed many women in our sample are now involved in these types of work and they faced the less problems than that two women in this sample faced before displacement. Of all unmarried women in our sample (who are quite young age-wise) 56 women are engaged as casual workers in the emerging private sectors; 89 number of literate respondents in this sample and 9 of illiterate respondents are employed as casual workers of this sort in the private sector and their participation in this local labour market was not out of any voluntary choice; rather, they were forced by the emerging situation after displacement. As casual workers, APL category respondents fared better than the BPL category respondents as sixty (60) of APL respondents were engaged as casual workers compared to nine (9) of the BPL category respondents at the time of our survey. Figures 6.5.8.1 to 6.5.8.5 indicate the various types of respondents as casual labour in private sectors. All unmarried women respondents are involved in the work, percentage of literate respondent (91%) are higher than illiterate (9%) respondents. Sixty one percent of respondents are from A.P.L category.

Figure 6.5.8.1

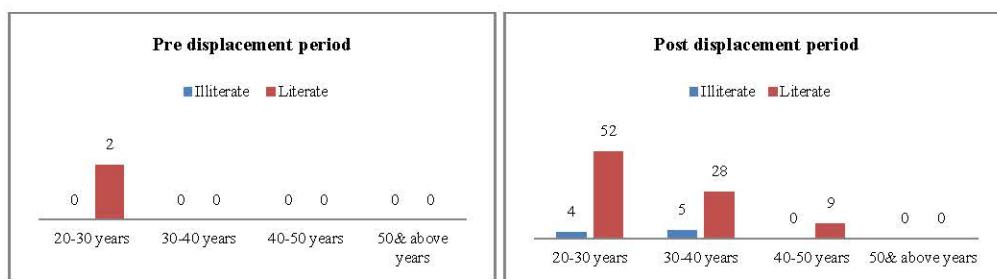
Respondents of different education level and marital status as private sector worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.8.2

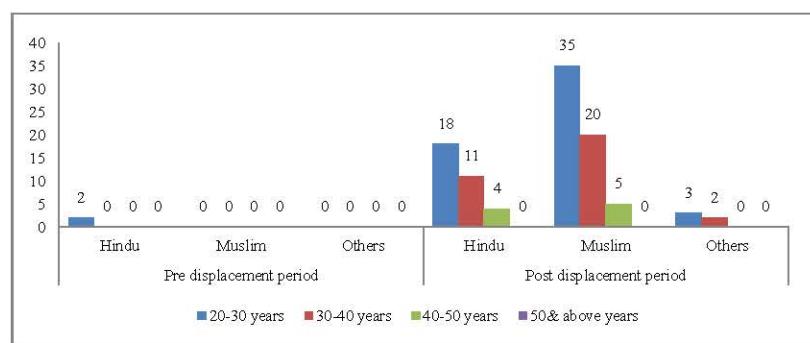
Respondents of different education level and age group as private sector worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.8.3

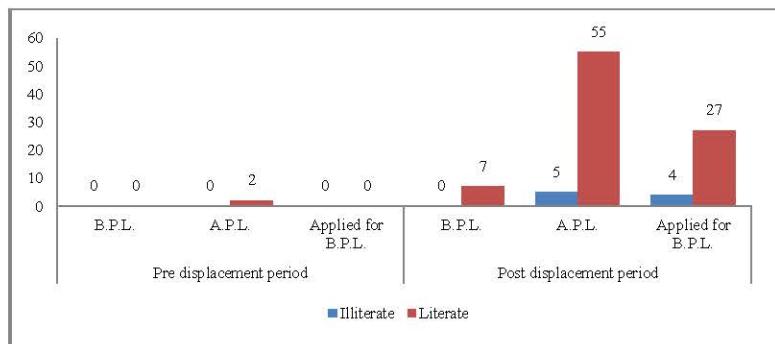
Respondents of different nage group and religion as private sector worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure: 6.5.8.4

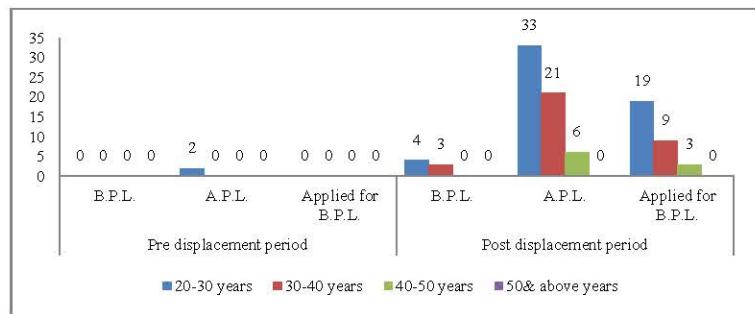
Respondents of different education level and economic status as private sector worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.8.5

Respondents of different age group and economic status as private sector worker

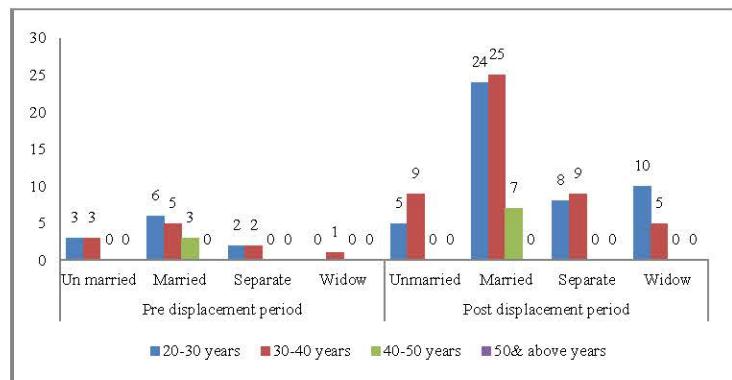


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.9 .Self Help Group (S.H.G.) worker: government of West Bengal with the collaboration of some N.G.O's has started training programme after 1990's. Their main goal was to trained interested women for some specific income generating economic activity. Their main goal was to make poor women economically independent. In Rajarhat there is very few S.H.G and they trained very few women. Figure 6.9.1.a to 6.9.7.c indicates the number of women as trained S.H.G worker. Post displacement period number of married women trained by S.H.G has increased from fourteen to fifty six; number of literate women also has increased from twenty one to sixty six. Though a few numbers of women are trained by S.H.G, this is an important way of poor women to be economically independent and help their distressed family.

Figure 6.5.9.1

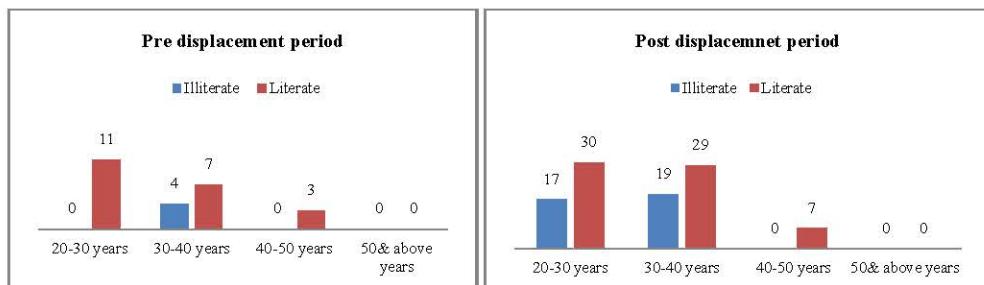
Respondents of different age group and marital status as S.H.G worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

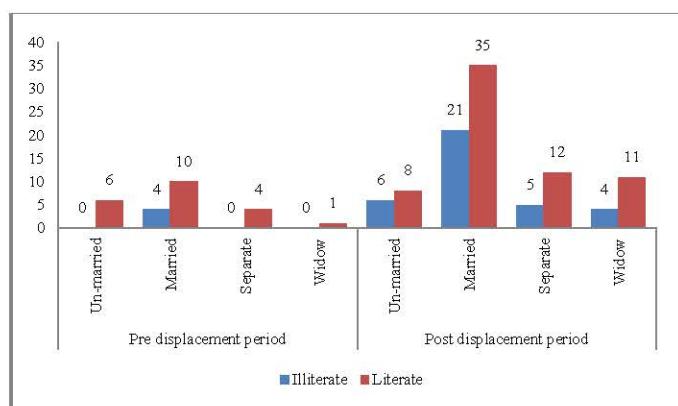
Figure 6.5.9.2

Respondents of different age group and education level as S.HG worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

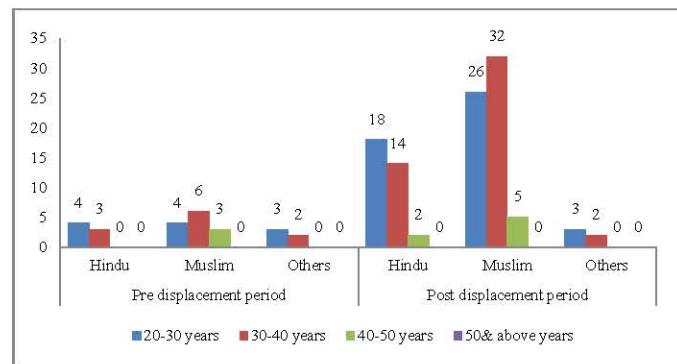
Figure 6.5.9.3 Respondents of different education level and marital status as S.H.G worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.9.4

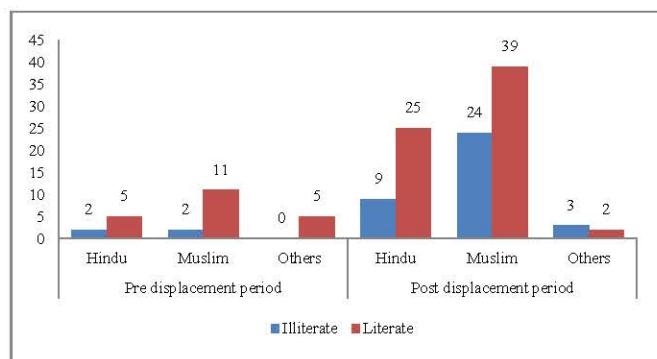
Respondents of different age group and religion as S.H.G worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.9.5

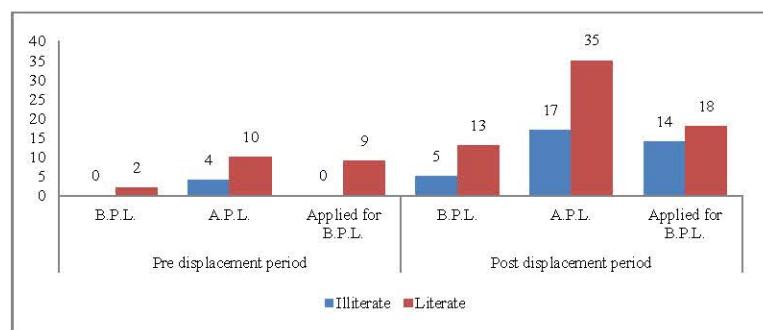
Respondents of different education level and religion as S.HG worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.9.6

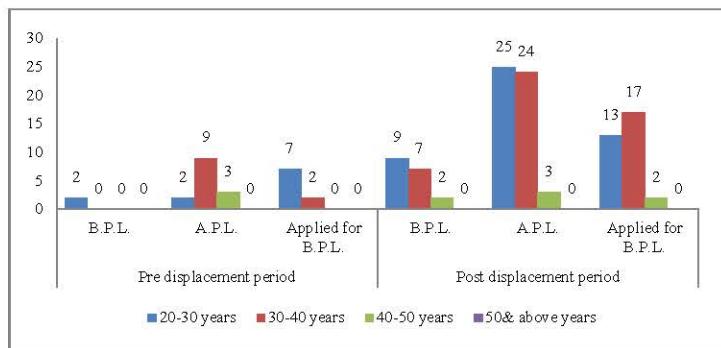
Respondents of different education level and economic status as S.H.G worker



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.9.7

Respondents of different age group and economic status as S.H.G worker



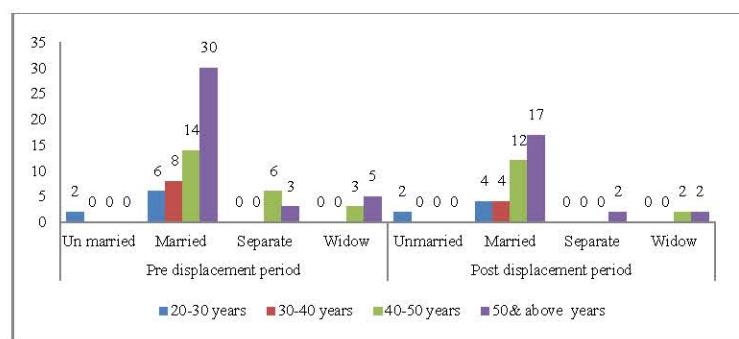
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.5.10 No Economic Activity: An activity becomes economic activity as per mainstream Economics if it generates money income to the worker. Going by this definition when a woman performs her domestic chores within her family she is not performing any economic activity. Hence, no economic activity signifies non-engagement of an individual (in this case woman individual) in any money income generating activity. For when a housewife performs her domestic chores it is not considered as economic activity whereas when the same functions are performed by a domestic servant it is regarded as performance of some economic activity since it then entails money payment to the domestic servant. Figure 6.5.10.1 to 6.5.10.7 indicates different type of respondents' correlation as housewives or without any economic work, it shows that seventy eight respondents or one-fourth (25%) of the total respondents in this sample did not perform any economic activity during the pre-displacement period. They were mostly in the 30 years and above age group. After displacement this percentage has declined to forty five respondents or thirteen percent (13%) of the total respondents. This means twelve percent (12%) of the total respondents who were earlier were with no economic activity are compelled to take to some money income generating economic activity either as daily wage labour in agriculture, self-employed home-based worker, or domestic worker or vendor and like. Note that all the respondents in our sample did perform daily domestic chores and/or worked as unpaid family labour in agriculture and allied activities. One interesting fact to note that in this sample before displacement forty six respondents of the respondents with no economic activity was illiterate and after displacement this percentage fell to twenty nine respondents. Another interesting point to note that in this sample number of sixty eight respondents of APL category respondents were with no economic activity before displacement which came down to thirty eight number of respondents after displacement. This reiterate (as are told by the respondents during our field survey) that this increased participation of women in various labour markets

was not out of their own willingness but out of the financial compulsion of their families caused by this development-induced displacement.

Figure 6.5.10.1

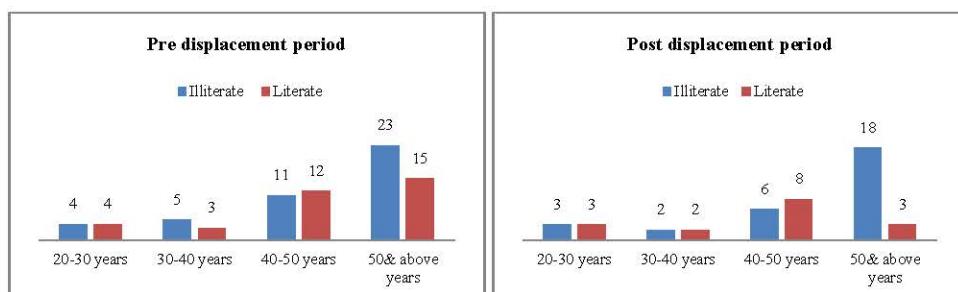
Respondents of different group and marital status without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.10.2

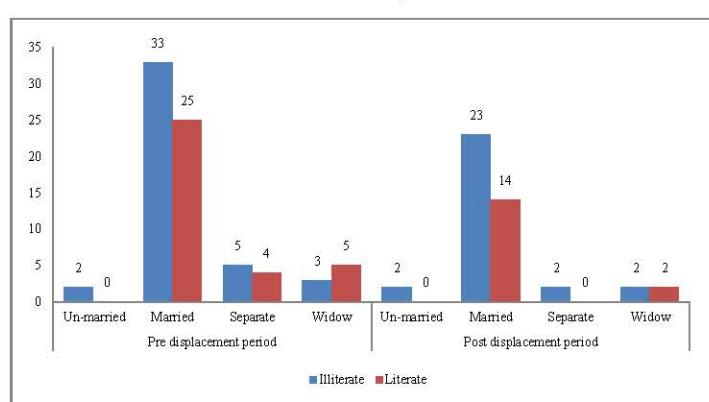
Respondents of different age group and education level without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.10.3

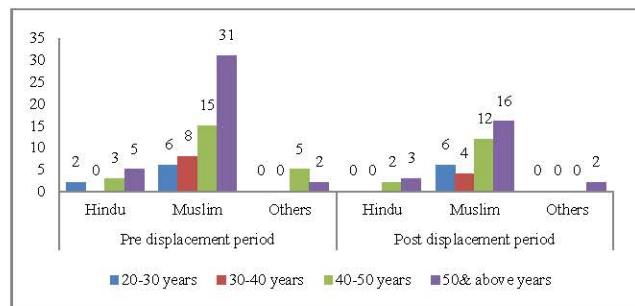
No: of Respondents of various Educational group and Marital status without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.10.4

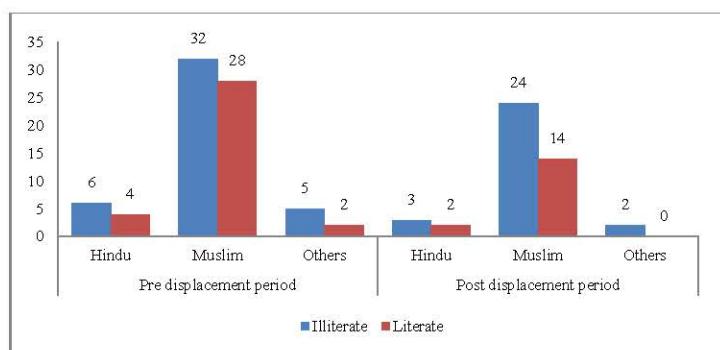
Respondents of different age group and religion without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.10.5

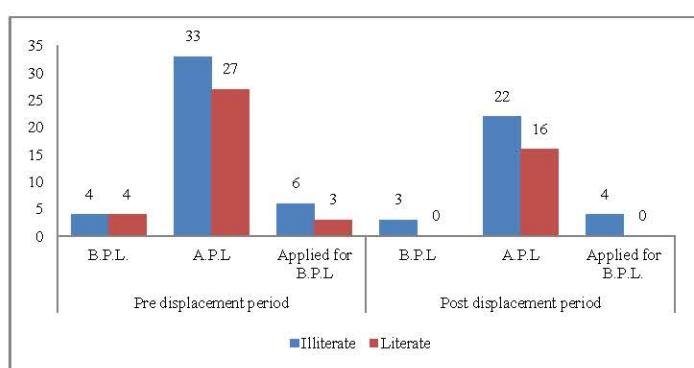
Respondents of different education level and religion without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.10.6

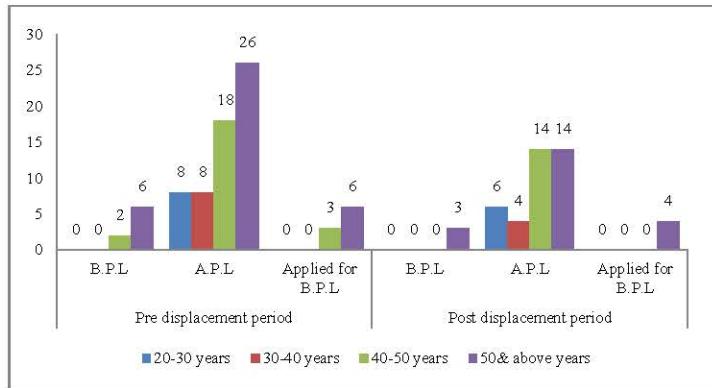
Respondents of different education level and economic status without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.5.10.7

No: of Respondents of different age group and economic status without economic activity



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.6 Findings from this survey: summing up our analysis the following are found from the above survey report of project affected Rajarhat block of North 24- Paraganas district:

- Agriculture land is lost for project affected displacement.
- Agriculture is adversely affected.
- Main family occupation (agriculture) is lost due to displacement.
- Respondents are forced to accept low wage income generating activities.
- Respondents' economic status is adversely affected
- Un-certainty regarding earnings is increased.
- Number of respondents with no economic activity has decreased.
- Women health is adversely affected for displacement. S.H.G is insufficient for displaced persons.

6.7 Displacement and its social impacts: Ours is a study of the socio-impacts of displacement on the affected women. As far as the development induced displacement in the Rajarhat New Town area is concerned we tried to probe this in terms of the following parameters – (a) land loss, (b) increased marginalization, (c) forced migration, (d) change in family structure, (e) psychological effects and (f) gender based violence (physical as well as

mental). Below we present the findings of our study based on the field survey carried out in some selected villages in the New Township area during 2010-11.

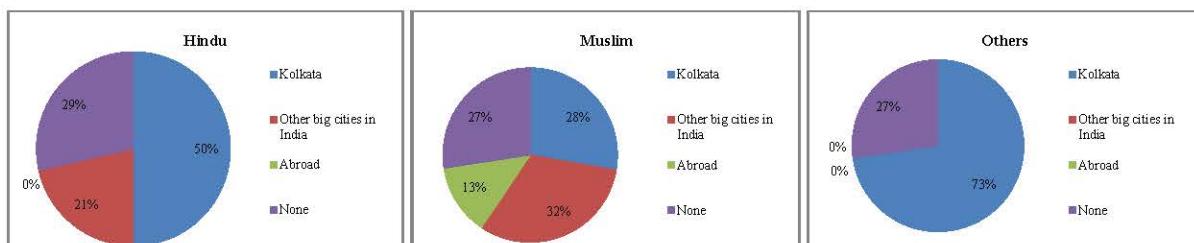
6.7.1 Land lost for the Rajarhat New Town project: The respondents' families owned some land although no woman in this sample was land owner. This implies the respondents' families lost their land due to land acquisition for New Town project. Though the government compensated those families but the compensation money was not properly distributed and the value of land was less than the actual market price of those lands. respondents opined that most of them were coerced into handing over their plots. People were compensated by cash which differed from mouza to mouza. A co-operative of landless and unemployed people named *Syndicate* was established for supplying materials to the builders of Newtownship construction projects, there by enabling them to participate in the development process but there is many complain and political interference against this syndicate, local people and builders both are dissatisfied to this body. Average loss of agriculture land was 10-100 bighas; 67% of land loser were Muslim in religion and 51% of total land loser were from the APL category. Most of the land which was acquired was arable land – not residential plots. So, the majority of the population here did not lose their dwelling places and hence, was not displaced from their residential spaces. Rather, they lost their agricultural land and thereby, they lost their main means of subsistence as they were mainly dependent on agriculture for their subsistence. This is, therefore, a case displacement of population from their livelihood. Some people who were dependent on fishing for their livelihood also faced displacement from their livelihood as few wetlands were filled for this urbanization project.

6.7.2 Forced Migration of people after displacement: As local populace was displaced from their means of subsistence viz. agricultural land they had to seek alternative livelihood elsewhere as the alternatives were not adequate for them in their own areas. Forced migration was consequence of massive land acquisition in Rajarhat New Township project. Those who migrated to eke out an alternative livelihood are mostly male. Few females also migrated. However, in this case there is one unique feature of forced migration. Those who migrated do not take their families with them as they do not lose their residential lands and their income is not enough to establish a new set-up outside their village too. Hence, the families from which migration occurred in many cases became dependent on the female members of those families. There are two types of migration. Firstly, some people permanently migrated to far off places either to big cities in India or abroad. They seldom come back to see their families. Secondly, every day some people used to go to Kolkata to earn their bread and butter and do come back home in the night to stay with their families. In both cases, the onus of running the

families has to be borne by the female members of these households. Figure 6.7.2.1.to 6.7.5 shows migration of respondents' male and female family members, thirty two percent of total Muslim respondents' (32%) male family members have gone to big cities of India and thirteen percent (13%) have gone abroad, whereas of the total Hindu respondents in this sample twenty one (21%) male family member has gone to big cities of India and none had gone abroad. And forty nine percent (49%) of the total respondents' female family members migrated and of them, ninety two (92%) every day used to commute to Kolkata, which was not the case before displacement. Hence, one can safely conclude that the migration from Rajarhat is forced by the displacement of the families from their arable land viz. their means of subsistence.

Figure 6.7.2.1

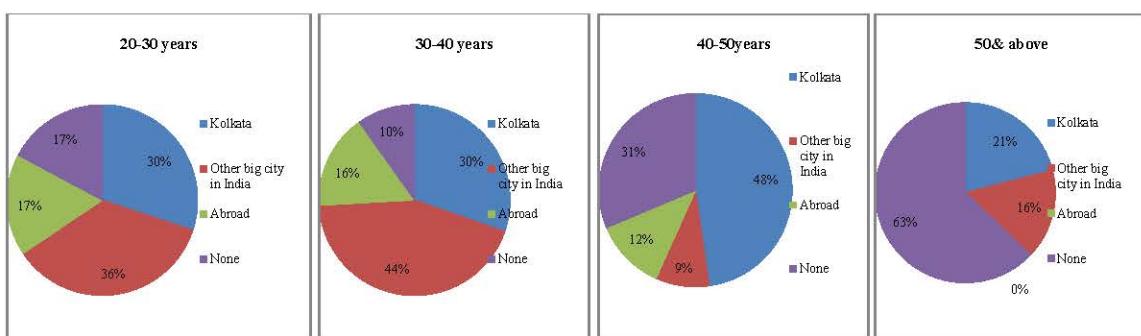
Migration of male members of the respondents of different religion



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.2.2

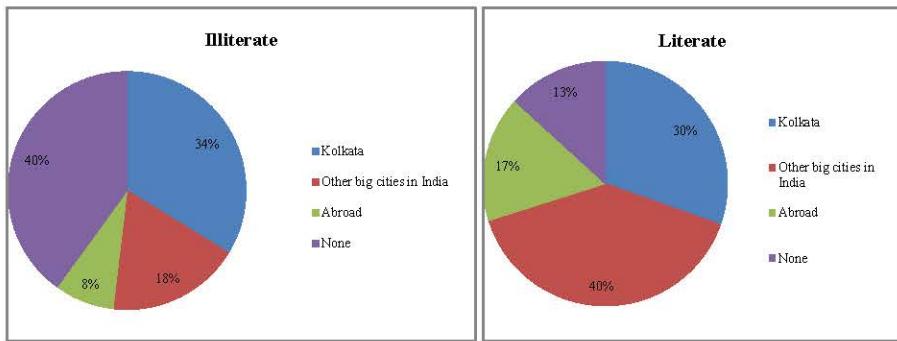
Migration of male members of the respondents of different age group



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.2.3

Migration of male members of the respondents of different education level

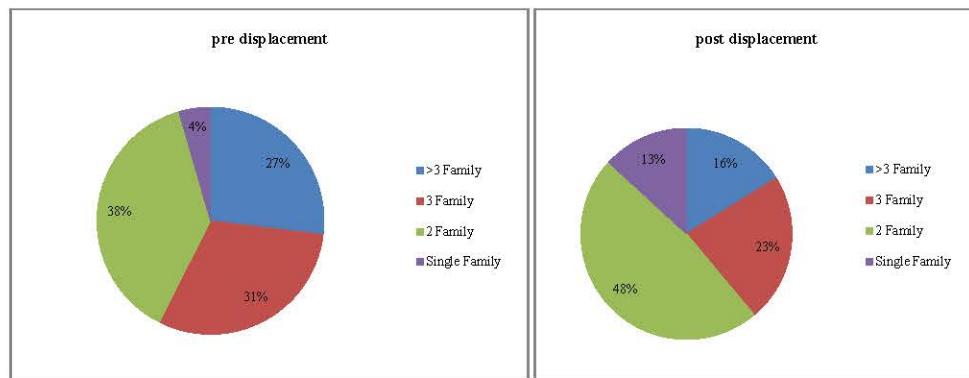


Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.7.3 Breakdown of joint family system: With growing urbanization one generally notices shift in family structure from joint family to nuclear family. There are certain pros and cons of joint family system vis-a-vis nuclear family system. In joint family people live collectively on the principle of sharing daily in-house workload. Rural family in India is still significantly of joint family type. With displacement of local commonplace from their means of subsistence in rural society too there is increasing trend of collapse of the joint family system. In the surveyed area the characteristic of the land has been changed from agriculture land to urban settlements. Though before the urbanisation this area had rural characteristic but the joint family system gradually broke down due to this development induced displacement, which had its toll on physical and mental health of women there. Figure 6.7.3.1 to 6.7.3.5 shows changes of family system in pre to post displacement period before displacement 27% respondents replied that they lived in a family where more than three nuclear families were but after displacement this percentage decreased to 16%. Whereas only 4% respondents replied that they lived in a nuclear family before displacement and after displacement this percentage has increased to 13%. Before displacement 28% and 29% Muslim and Hindu families respectively were big families. But after displacement this percentage has decreased to 18% and 7% respectively. In the pre-displacement period 24% of APL families and 28% of BPL families were big families and after displacement these percentages decreased to 18% and 12% respectively.

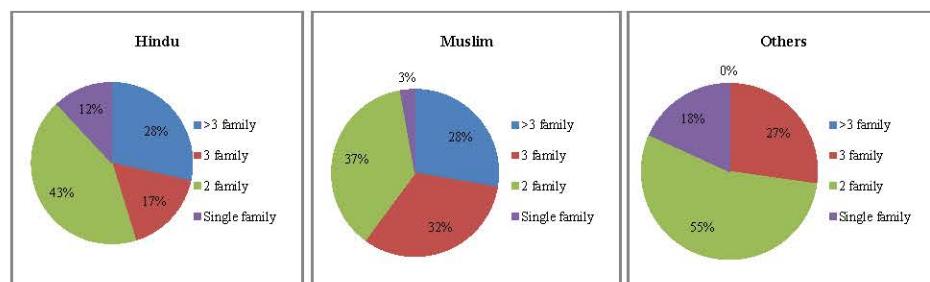
Figure 6.7.3.1

Changes of family system of the respondents in pre-post displacement period



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

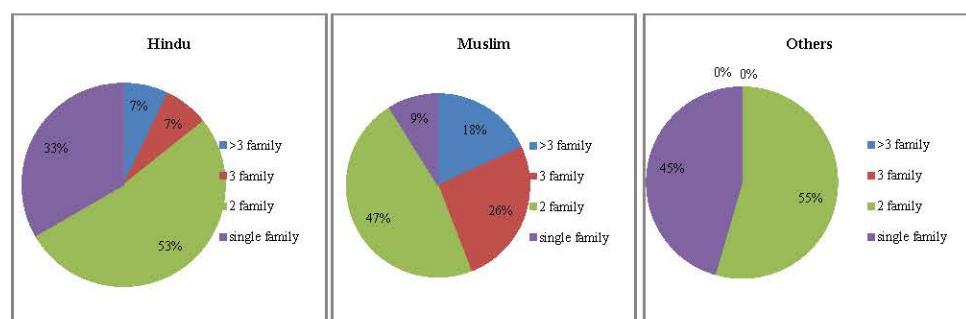
Figure: 6.7.3.2 Family system of the respondents of different religion before displacement



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.3.3

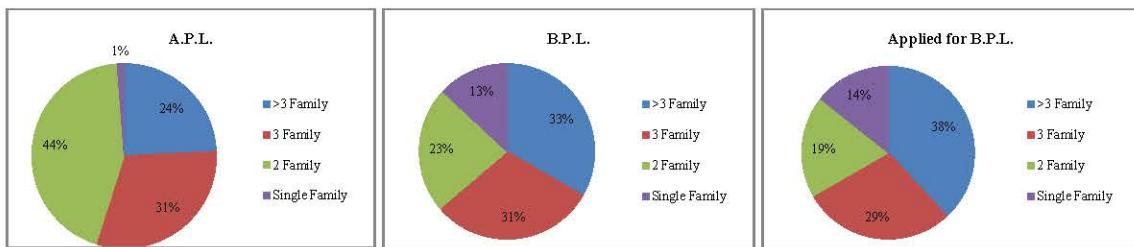
Family system of the respondents of different religion after displacement



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.3.4

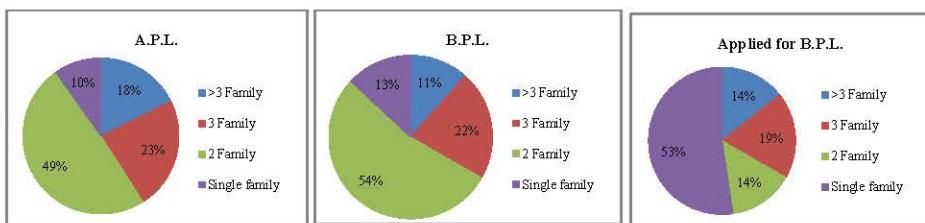
Family system of the respondents of different economic status before displacement



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.3.5

Family system of the respondents of different economic status after displacement



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.7.4 Increased burden of domestic chores for women in the post-displacement period:

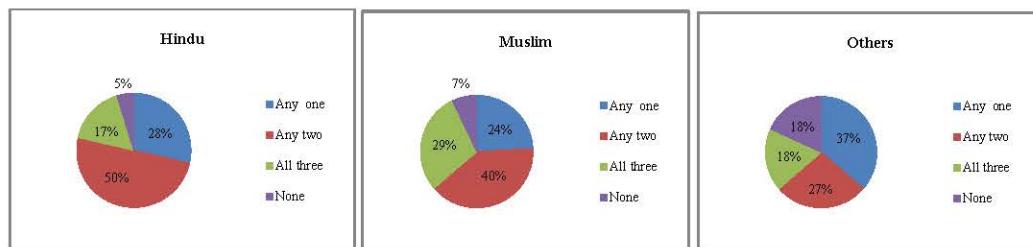
After displacement male members of a family can move outside their village for the search of job, but women cannot do this because they generally are engaged in care giving activity within their family. With post-displacement forced migration of male members of the families, women become more overburdened with their daily domestic chores along with care giving. With the break-down of joint family system, number of female members in a family is decreasing and women are losing their helping hands. It is observed that sometime after displacement the distance of drinking water facilities from displaced persons' house has increased; this is also a responsibility of women to fetch drinking water, so they are forced to spend more time for fetching water. At the time of interview respondents were asked the following questions:

- 1) Whether they have to perform all household works solely?
- 2) Whether they are the only responsible person to perform care giving activity in their family?
- 3) Whether they do personally fetch water?

In all three questions some answered that they performed all three works solely as they had no other family member to help them. Some answered that they have to do any two works. There are some respondents who performed only one work at a time and some respondents are unable to perform any household work for their poor health condition or other problem. Figure 6.7.4.1 to 6.7.4.9 shows the respondents' number of household work in pre and post displacement period, all three types of responsibility of the respondents increased from 17% to 48% for Hindu respondents, 29% to 53% for Muslim respondents and 18% to 55% for other community respondents. The percentage of responsibility has increased for all respondents. Before displacement only 27% of the total respondents performed all the three duties and after displacement this percentage increased to 57%. This burden increased mainly for young respondents; before displacement 54% of respondents from 20 to 30 years of age group were involved in all three household works and after displacement this increased to 76%.

Figure 6.7.4.1

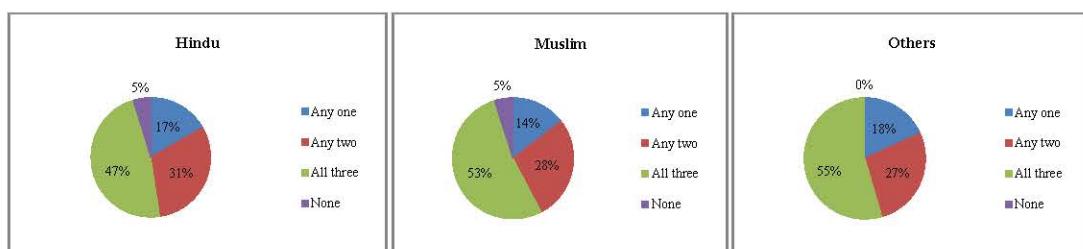
Respondents' no: of household work in pre displacement period



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

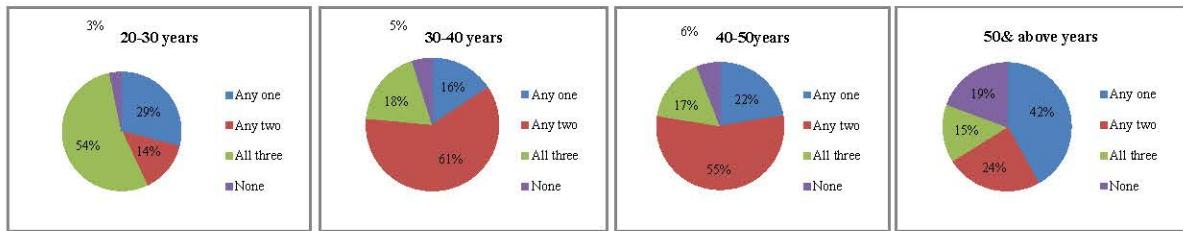
Figure 6.7.4.2

Respondents' no: of household work in post displacement period



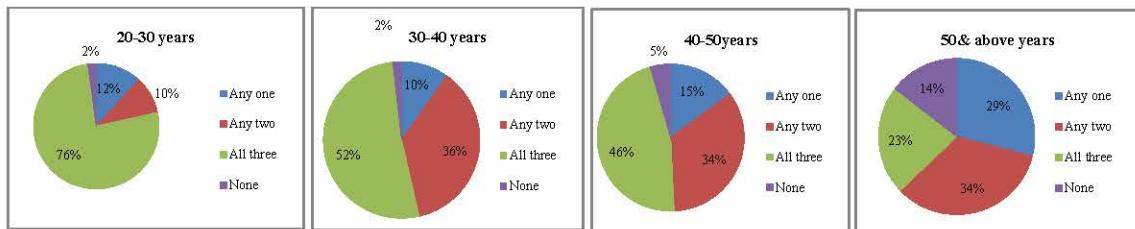
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.4.3 Respondents' no: of household work in pre displacement period among different age group



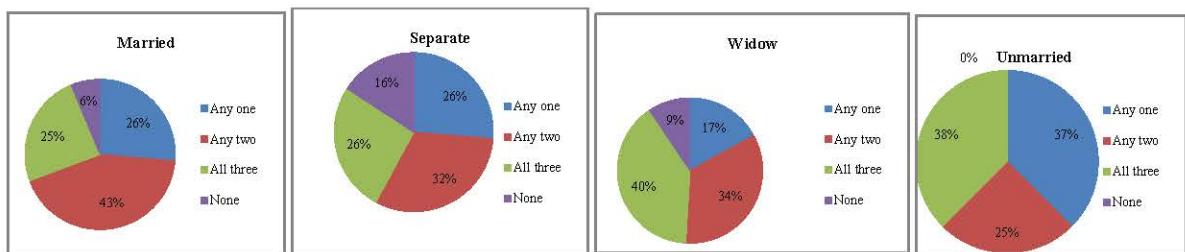
Source: Primary survey (2010-11)

Figure 6.7.4.4 Respondents' no: of household work in post displacement period among different age group



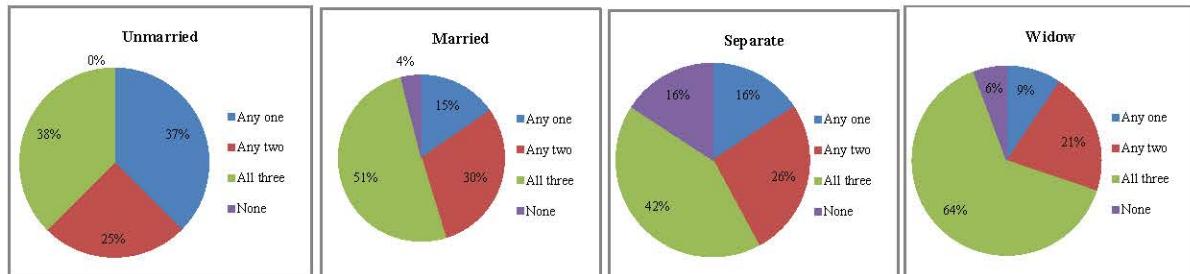
Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.4.5 Respondents' no: of household work in pre displacement period among different marital status



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

Figure 6.7.4.6 Respondents' no: of household work in post displacement period amongst different marital status



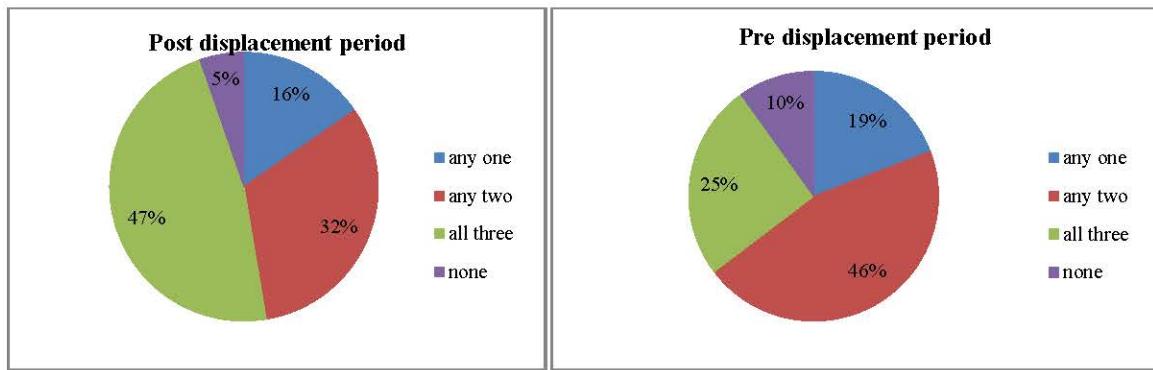
Source: Primary survey (2010-11)

6.8 Displacement and its psychological impacts: Women of the area were affected psychologically in two respects. First of all, they, as they told that felt quite sad and nostalgic about the natural environment in which they used to live and after the commencement of the township project they missed it terribly. Secondly, many a time the law and order situation broke down when large scale eviction started. Men out of desperation took to alcoholism, drug addiction and other unethical activities which had their own tolls on the mental health of the women in their families. Not all men became like this. Furthermore, deteriorating financial condition of their families on the one hand increased the strain on women to supplement their family income somehow and on the other hand, made them mentally depressed – the depression which so far remained ignored and neglected as the local populace took it as their destiny. Moreover, there is increase in gender based violence often leading to sexual harassment. During our field survey, the following questions were asked to the respondents:

- (i) Whether the gender based violence (G.B.V) has increased in the post-displacement period.
- (ii) Whether alcoholism or drug addiction among the male folk increased in the post-displacement period.
- (iii) Whether mental depression has increased or not in the post-displacement period.

The responses that got were of four types – (a) some respondents answered “yes” to all the three questions above, (b) some responded “yes” to only one among the three, (c) some responded “yes” to any two of the above questions, and (d) some responded “no” to all the questions. People were under severe mental stress and they wanted to release their stresses on their family members and women were the main victims of this. figure 6.8.1 to 6.8.7 shows stress among the respondents, before displacement 35% of 20 to 30 years age respondents replied that they faced all three physical and psychological pressures on them but in the post-displacement period this percentage increased to 68%. Illiterate respondents suffered more than the literate respondents; 29% of the illiterate respondents were under stresses before displacement but after displacement 59% of them were under stresses.

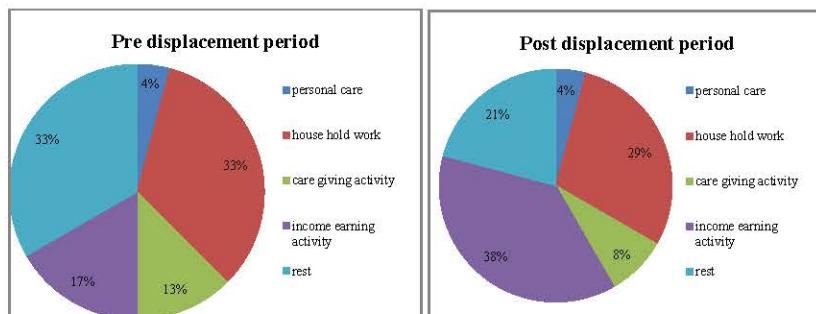
Figure 6.8.1 Psychological stress of the respondents' in pre and post displacement period



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

6.9 Changes in daily time-use pattern of the respondents: Figure 6.9 indicates the change in the daily time-use pattern of the respondent women in our sample from the pre-displacement period to post-displacement period. As can be noted from the figure, in the post-displacement period along with household work the respondents are also engaged in income earning activities to supplement their reduced family income due to displacement. Most of the women in this sample are involved as paid household workers making incense sticks or sewing or rolling biris or vending vegetables etc. So, in the post-displacement period they were subject to double burden of work. Their participation in the labour market was out of compulsion, not out of their own choice. Note that there was significant rise in time spent for income generating activities in the post-displacement period compared to the pre-displacement period. Also, they had less time allocated for care giving and rest in the post-displacement period as compared to the pre-displacement period.

Figure 6.9.1 Change in pattern of time-use of the respondents



Source: Primary survey (2010-13)

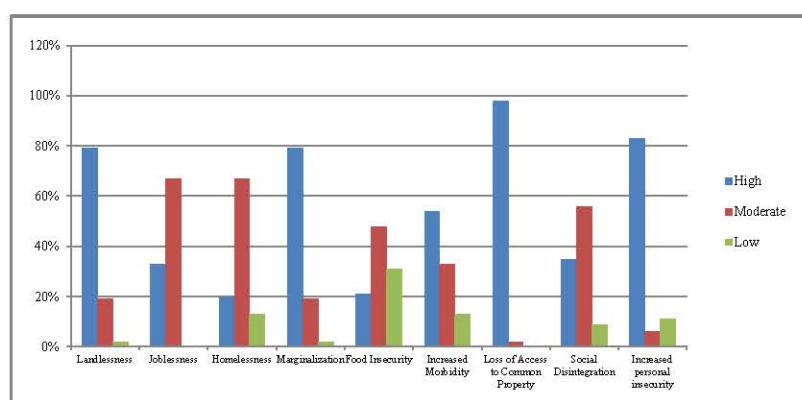
6.10 Impoverishment risk and re construction model: In the Figure 6.10 below following Carnea (2000), impoverishment risk and reconstruction (IRR) were assessed for the respondent women in Rajarhat. The components of IRR include, as can be seen from the figure 6.5 below, (a) landlessness, (b) joblessness, (c) homelessness, (d) marginalization, (e) food insecurity, (f) increased morbidity, (g) loss of access to common property, (h) social disintegration, and (i) increased personal insecurity. The last component viz. increased personal insecurity is added by us. Each one of these components is measured on a scale of 0-2 with 0 defining high magnitude of the component, 1 moderate, and 2 low magnitude of the component.

Landlessness is high (0) when after displacement the respondent has no agricultural or dwelling land, moderate (1) when dwelling land or agricultural land is allotted, and low (2) when both dwelling and agricultural land is repossessed. Joblessness is high (0) when after displacement main job is lost with no alternative good prospect of job, moderate (1) when main job is lost but alternative meaningful employment is gained, and low (2) when main job is not lost. Homelessness is high (0) when the original dwelling place is lost and the present dwelling place is a makeshift arrangement, moderate (1) when the original dwelling place is lost but an alternative home is built, and low (2) when original home is not lost. Marginalization is high (0) when the original job is lost and no sustainable occupation is found, moderate (1) when the original job is lost but some jobs are found which ensure bare subsistence, and low (2) when original job is not lost. Food insecurity is high (0) when due to displacement sustained access to food is disturbed, moderate (1) when just one square meal is available, and low (2) when at least two squares meal is available. Increased morbidity is high (0) if after displacement there is death of family members owing to displacement related reasons and health hazards, moderate (1) when there is death which is not related with displacement, and low (2) when there is no death. Loss of access to common property is high (0) when the community of displaced people loses access to common natural resources due to displacement, moderate (1) when in the new place after displacement they gain some access, and low (2) when there no such loss. Social disintegration is high (0) if there is disintegration of joint family and loss of other friends and relatives due to displacement, moderate (1) when joint family is broken but at the new place the new nuclear families live side by side, and low (2) when joint family is not broken. Personal insecurity is high (0) when there are sexual harassment and violence, moderate (1) when there is only one type of violence, and low (2) when neither sexual harassment nor violence is present.

As can be seen from the Figure 6.10, the scale of five components namely, landlessness, joblessness, marginalization, loss of access to common property and increased personal insecurity was high. Homelessness was not perceived as high risk problem as none of the families actually lost their dwellings. Unlike Murshidabad, social disintegration due to break up of joint family system is low here. However, it is due to landlessness these families to which the respondent women belonged became more and more marginalized in their own society as their socio-economic status changed from independent farming community to dependent low-paid and low-status workers like paid household workers as maid servants. Most of the women stressed this point during the field survey and they perceived this as a risk because now they were dependent on their masters (who were employing them) – particularly the whims and fancies of the masters, which was not the case earlier.

Figure 6.10.

Impoverishment Risk and Reconstruction model amongst respondent



Source: Primary Survey carried out by the author during 2010-13.

6.11 Conclusion: Summing up our major findings in this chapter following observations can be made as far as the impacts of displacement on women in Rajarhat New Town area:

- Displacement caused *landlessness and joblessness* for men and women.
- Joblessness has forced the women of Rajarhat to *change their social status from housewives to domestic workers or self-employed workers or daily wage labourers*
- *Push and pull factors* led some displaced men to migrate resulting *over stress and over burden* for the women in their families.

- Due to overburden women had less time spending for *care giving activity and rest* after displacement.
- Government activity and political interference increased *trauma and stress* with displacement.
- Displacement forced women to accept job with distinct *discrimination in wage structure*. Though this problem is not only for this area; this is a worldwide problem for working women.
- Displacement increased the *vulnerability* of women especially those who belonged to the poor families.



Bridge



Dominating Nature



Change in Landuse Pattern



High rise and huts



Interview at Survey



Some of the respondents



Agriculture in Rajarhat



Change in land-use pattern



Rajarhat – New township



Zari workers



Water bodies in Rajarhat



Water bodies in Rajarhat