



## Socio - Economic Status of Saiberia Village, Shyampur, Howrah District, West Bengal

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### Abstract

*Socio Economic status or scenario refers to the prevailing condition of an individual or community regarding demography, education, occupation, income, living condition etc. The present paper endeavors to examine the socio-economic status of Saiberia village of Howrah district. The caste based village, society and people of different economic strata make Saiberia village a backward area. Not only are problems discussed but paths for overcoming from these conditions have also been explained for developmental purpose. This paper accounts for differences in socio-economic condition of poverty among the inhabitants of Saiberia village. For this purpose a total number of 248 households were interviewed by using a structured questionnaire blended with suitable open-ended questions to study their socio-economic conditions.*

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### Introduction

Being located in the district of Howrah, West Bengal, Saiberia village has a rolling topographic surface with alluvial soil. The village is characterized by linear and clustered pattern of settlements with 248 households connected by unmetalled roads. It lacks sound economy, depends on doublecrop farming system with low productivity, poor education, lack of employment, complete absence of industry and dominance of agricultural labour force and non workers. The village is completely dependent on the river Rupnarayan for fishing and irrigation in the nearby agricultural land. Socio-economic status is commonly conceptualized as social standing or class of an individual or groups. It is the measure of a family's economic and social position based on age structure, occupational structure, education, land holding capacity as well as social aspects.

### Study Area

Saiberia village (J.L. NO.-66, R.S. NO. 2630) lies in the south west part of Shyampur block of Howrah District, West Bengal. The village is about 5.5 miles away from Shyampur P.S. This village is situated in Jhumjhum

and located beside the Rupnarayan river. The northern part of the village is Jhumjhum and the southern part is Bania. The eastern part of the village is Narikeldaha and beside the western part of the village flows Rupnarayan river. The presence of rolling agricultural land, bamboo bushes, stunted deciduous trees, ponds, typical village tracts, distinct life-styles of the inhabitants etc. have made the area a peculiar rural one.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the study are —

- 1) To study the socio-economic condition of the villagers,
- 2) To find out the development constraints of the region and the probable ways of solution of the problems,
- 3) To classify and analyze the various landuse categories.

### Methodology

In order to fulfill the objectives of the research work this research worker has adopted modern methodology, procured the necessary data, information and

evidences. Most of the observations in this study have been based upon intensive field work in the area under consideration. The study thus is based on available data and empirical observation. The present paper is based on the application of modern as well as conventional methodologies which may be divided in to three phases —

#### A. Pre-field Method

Collection of necessary secondary information and data from B.L. & L.R.O, Sosati, Howrah and Mouza map from B.L.& L.R.O.

#### B. Field Method

Collection of primary data through household survey and discussion with local people. Primary data have been generated through questionnaire survey.

#### C. Post-field Method

Processing of primary and secondary data by statistical techniques and cartograms. After collection, the data are analyzed and interpreted. Secondary and primary data have been computed, classified and tabulated for different cartographic and statistical techniques which are used to analyzed and represent the data

### Data Analysis and Discussion:

#### a) Population

As in August, 2014, the total family (Household) of this village was 248 comprising a population of 1111. The village is very congested and the houses are very close to each other. The density of population is 11811/sq.km. The ratio of male and female population is 52 : 48 with a literacy rate of about 60.5%. Most of the people are poor. So they are bound to lead a very simple life.

Most of the families are nucleur in type. Small families (2-5 persons) predominate the village (75.80%) followed by medium size families (6-9 persons: 20.16%), large families (above 10 persons: 2.02%) and a very small families (1 person: 2.02%). Most of the people in this village are in the age group of 18 - 42 years. The birth rate of the people is very high with significantly high population in 1 to 14 age group.

#### b) Caste- class Structure

A distinct caste-class structure prevails in the village. About 75.4% population belongs to the scheduled caste category, mainly *jele* (fisherman). They come under the backward economic class and engage themselves as marginal workers especially fishing and agricultural laborers. General category population comprise 20.16% while the other backward caste (OBC) only 4.44% of the total population.

#### c) Occupation

About 30.78 % people are engaged in different kinds of

work to earn their livelihood. Most of the people earn their bread by fishing. About 57.26% people are fishermen and they catch fishes in Rupnarayan and Hooghly river. They have to go further by trawlers to catch fishes in the Bay of Bengal also. They lead a very risky life.

Except fishing, a major part of the population is engaged in cultivation. They mainly cultivate in the fertile land scattering around Narikeldaha and Jhumjhum. In the rainy season, they cultivate paddy, called 'Aman' and in the winter season they cultivate paddy, called 'Boro'. Only 6.45% people are engaged in cultivation. The office-goers and businessmen are very few in number. They are statistically 4.84% and 5.24% respectively. There are 17.34% labourers and daily labourers in this village, mainly engaged in brick-field, road and bridge repairing works, in the scheme of hundred days works, etc. About 8.07% people of the village work in *Jewelry and Jory* works, mechanical and electrical works, sewing, house-building works etc. to earn their livelihood.

#### d) Income Structure

The inhabitants of the village involve themselves both in agricultural and non-agricultural activities. The sources of income are therefore manifold including agriculture, fishing, Govt. and educational service, trade, business, construction and daily labour etc. Marked disparity is expressed in income among the dwellers of Saiberia. From door to door survey it is found that monthly income of families ranges between Rs. 500 -12000 and more. Maximum families (about 41.94%) earned Rs. 1000-3000 and about 23.79% families earned Rs. 3000-5000. Near 20.98% families had less than Rs. 1000 monthly income.

#### e) Education

The proportion of educated people in Saiberia is low with 60.48% literacy. There are only two child-education centre and one primary school but no secondary school in the village. After finishing primary education, the children have to go further away to study either in Anantapur High School (H.S.) or Lenin Vidyapith High School. The ratio of male educated people is more than the ratio of female educated. Number of uneducated is very notable (about 39.52%). Poverty and under development of this area obstruct the spreading of the light of education. The percentage of educated male and female inhabitants is 33.84% and 26.64% respectively. Economic problems and lack of livelihood are the main obstacles for spreading child education in this area.

#### F) Dwelling

The village Saiberia is a congested area. Houses are very small and erected side by side. 248 families have only 439 rooms. Most of the houses (90.632%) are made of bricks, 8.87% houses are made of mud. Both

kutchra and pucca houses has been noticed. The roofs of the houses are mainly made of tiles (47.58%). Except this, it can be seen that some houses are made of bamboo's, straw, asbestos, tin, chai, plastics etc. On either side of the main road, the houses remain close to one another in linear fashion. Usually the houses beside the river are damaged by the strong wind every year. Most of the houses are equipped with electricity (about 94.76%). About 5.24% houses are without electricity. The entire village is electrified but it must be mentioned that electricity is not used mainly by the fishermen and landless labourers. They have to spend the night by burning candles, using lanterns etc.

#### g) Transport

The main road, called riverbank runs through the north-south side of the village. It is the best way for transportation of this area. The Rupnarayan flows from the western side of the village. As a waterway, the river Rupnarayan is very important. It connects Tamluk and Mayachar of the east Midnapur with Saiberia through waterways. There is only one concrete road, two brick roads and three muddy roads in this village. The importance of the river, Rupnarayan is beyond count. A major part of the people earns their breads by fishing in the noted river with the help of small boats and jetty. Boats and jetty are also used as transportation of this area. 55.24% of the people have to go different places on foot. 41.94% of the peoples use by-cycle for their communication. Only 2.82% high status people use motor-bike and car to fulfill their different aspects.

#### h) Landuse Pattern

Land use manifests the level and degree of human intervention on environment. The household survey had been conducted at Saiberia village to know the extent of land use variations and its productivity. From the land use data of survey, 2014, of the village it is found that net sown area accounts for about 1012500 sq.ft. Out of which about 31.11% are irrigated and 7.70% un-irrigated. The dwelling or settlement area is about 61.19%. All agricultural land is located in the eastern

edge of the village. The cropping pattern of the village follows the seasonal rhythm of climate. The main crops of the village are Amman paddy of Kharif cultivation (during rainy season) and Boro paddy of Rabi cultivation (during winter season). In winter the oliculture is practiced in the sand bank of the river. Most of the irrigated land are double cropped with 31.11% while oliculture accounts for only 1% of the total area.

#### Conclusion

From the above analysis, it appears that the socio-economically it is a poor village and can be uplifted by providing the different infrastructures / facilities. Though several programs have been launched by the Govt. for the development of rural areas, but still now the villagers are facing different types of problems like lack of education, sanitation, poor health condition, poverty, poor life style and even child labour. However, a sea change has been observed during the recent visit to the field as far as development is concerned. Their efforts in every direction of development particularly in educational aspect is well marked.. The villagers are very modest and friendly to their well wishers. Being a rural one, Saiberia needs some developmental programs and appropriate planning that are likely to act as a medium for solving the existing problems. Proper and regular monitoring of literacy program should be done and new educational institutions must be immediately set up. Government should take the initiative by which the poor segment of the society of the village can get loan from banks and other financial organizations. More job oriented programs should be created for alternative incomes. Landholdings owned by Govt. and the culturable waste land should be redistributed among the landless people. The facilities of sanitation, drinking water, electricity, communication and health care should be developed at the earliest. Of course, in every aspect there must be people's participation with increased awareness.

#### References

1. Mouza Map, B.L. & L.R.O. Sasati, Howrah.
2. Household Survey, 2014.

Table – 1: Population and Caste Community of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

No. of Household	Total Population	Male Population	Female Population	General	SC	OBC
248	1111	575	536	50	187	11
%	-	51.76	48.24	20.16	75.40	4.44

Table – 2: Age Structure of Dwellers of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Age Group	0 - 6	6 - 10	10 - 14	14 - 18	18 - 22	22 - 26	26 - 30	30 - 34	34 - 38	38 - 42	42 - 46	46 - 50	50 - 54	54 - 58	58 - 62	> 62
Male	48	43	46	40	47	47	43	38	43	44	33	22	13	14	16	38
Female	46	41	43	37	45	45	39	35	40	41	30	21	11	12	14	36
Total	94	84	89	77	92	92	82	73	83	85	63	43	24	26	30	74

Source: Field Survey by Author

Table - 3: Family Size of Saiberia Village, Howrah 2014

No. of Household	Below 2	2 – 5	6 – 9	Above 10
248	5	188	50	5
%	2.02	75.80	20.16	2.02

Table – 4: Occupational Structure of Dwellers of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014.

No. of Household	Govt. Service	Labourer	Farmer	Daily Labourer	Work-man	Politi-cian	Private Tutor	Fishier-men	Busine ss
248	12	33	16	10	20	1	1	142	13
%	4.84	13.31	6.45	4.03	8.07	0.40	0.40	57.26	5.24

Table – 5: Earning Member of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Earning Member	%	Male	Female	% Male	% Female	% Dependent
342	30.78	317	25	55.13	4.66	69.22

Table – 6: Income Structure of Dwellers of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Monthly Income (Rs.)	Below - 1000	1000-3000	3000-5000	5000-7000	7000-9000	9000-12000	Above- 12000
No.of family	57	104	59	14	2	6	6
%	22.98	41.94	23.79	5.65	0.80	2.42	2.42

Table – 7: Educational Institution of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Child Education Centre	Primary School	Secondary School	H.S.	College	Technical Institute
2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Table – 8: Literacy rate of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Total Population	Total Literate	% of Literate	Literate Male	Literate Female	% of Literate Male	% of Literate Female	% of Illiterate Population
1111	672	60.48	376	296	33.84	26.64	39.52

Table – 9: Nature of Household of Saiberia Village, Howrah,2014.

Total Rooms	Mud	Bambo o	Bricks	Concre te	Tali	Mud	Tin	Asbest os	Straw	Chai	Plastic
439	22	2	224	75	118	37	8	5	3	1	1
-	8.87	0.81	90.32	30.24	47.58	14.92	3.23	2.02	1.21	0.40	0.40

Source: Field Survey by Author

Table – 10: Transport and Fuel of Dwellers of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Total Household	Wood	Straw	Gas	Leaves	Yes	No	Cycle	Motor – cycle	Walk
248	178	26	43	1	235	13	104	7	137
%	71.77	10.48	17.34	0.40	94.76	5.24	41.94	2.82	55.24

Table – 11: Landuse Pattern of Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Total Area (sq.ft.)	Irrigated Area (sq.ft.)	Un-irrigated Area (sq.ft.)	Dwelling Area (sq.ft.)	Forests (sq.ft.)	Irrigated Area (%)	Un irrigated Area (%)	Dwelling Area (%)	Forest (%)
1012500	315000	78000	617500	2000	31.11	7.70	60.99	0.20

Table – 12: Ownership of Land in Saiberia Village, Howrah, 2014

Total Household	Households having Land	Landless family	Households having Land (%)	Landless Family (%)	Agricultural Land	Land per Household
248	40	208	16.13	83.87	1364 katha	5.5 katha

Source: Field Survey by Author, 2014

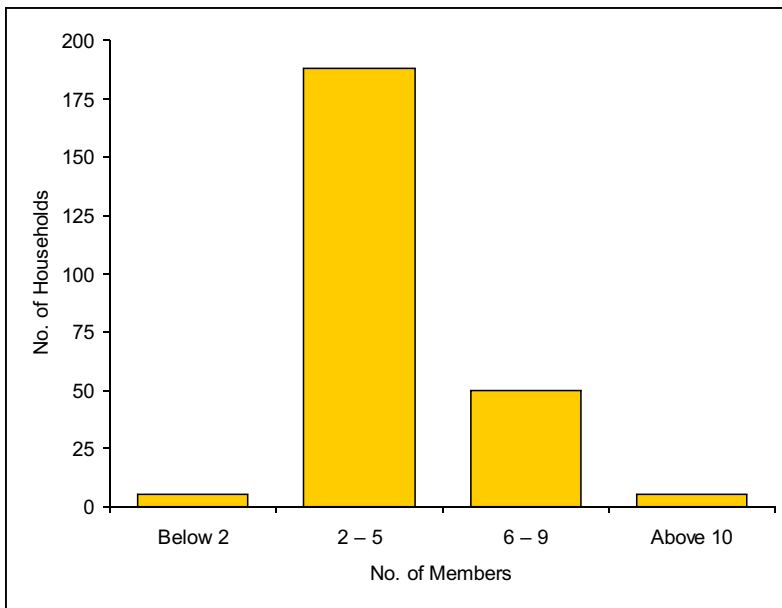


Fig. 1: Distribution of Family Size

Fig. 2: Occupational Pattern

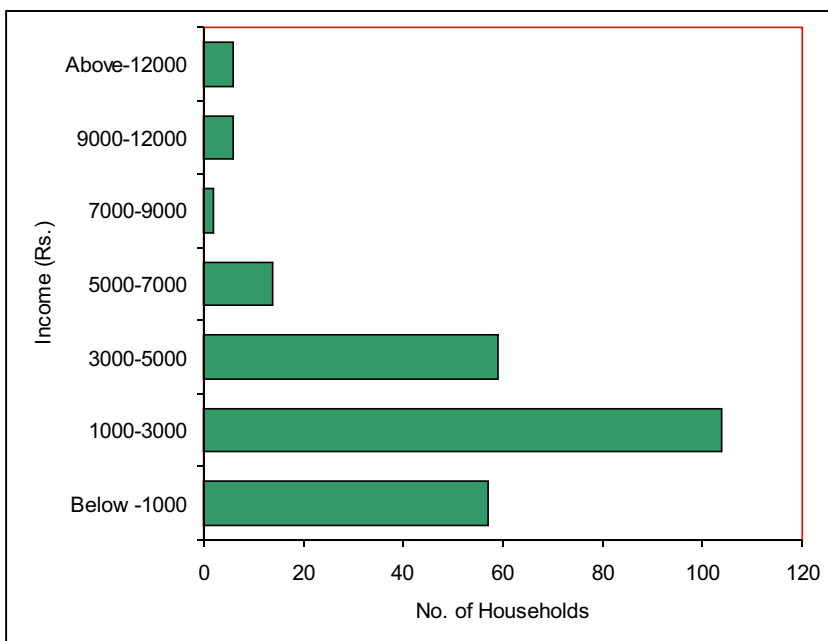
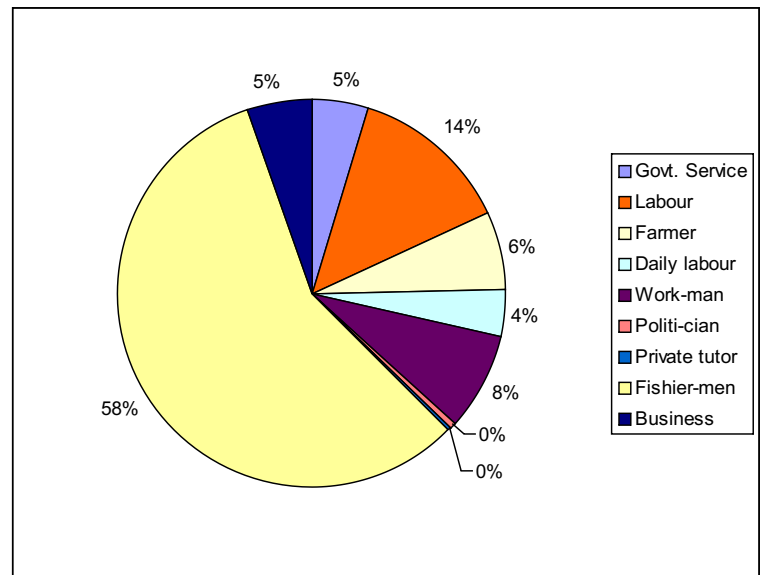


Fig. 3: Distribution of Monthly Income

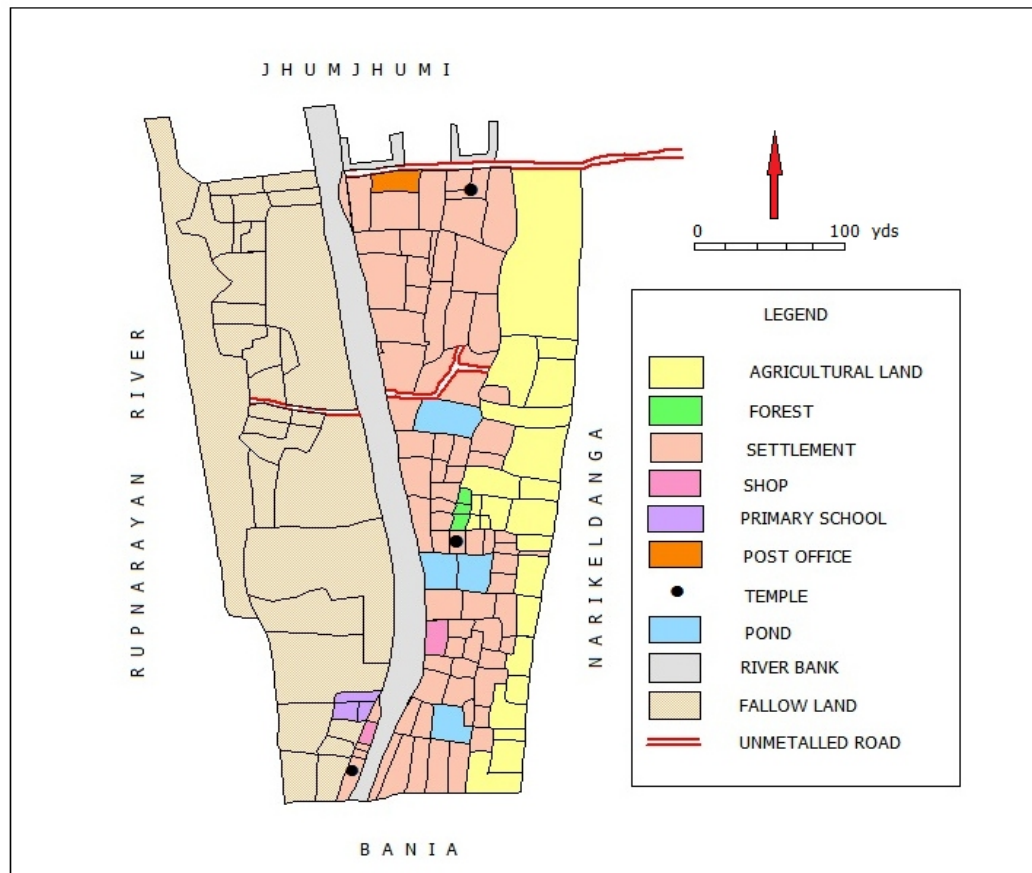


Fig. 4: Landuse of Saiberia Village, 2014



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