



Socio Economics Condition Of Coastal Region: A Case Study Of Dakshin Purushottampur Village, Ramnagar Block Of Purba Medinipur District

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Abstract

Coastal regions around the world display diverse livelihood patterns formed by their unique environmental, economic, and social contexts. Coastal livelihoods are typically characterized by a bring together of marine and terrestrial activities. Fishing remains a keystone, with artisanal and commercial fisheries providing essential food sources and income. Aquaculture is increasingly prominent, offering a sustainable alternative to overexploited marine stocks. Agriculture, particularly in fertile coastal plains, complements marine activities with the cultivation of crops like rice, vegetables, and fruits.

Tourism also plays a significant role, with many coastal regions leveraging their natural beauty and cultural heritage to attract visitors. This sector supports local economies through hospitality, recreational activities, and related services. .

The livelihoods of coastal communities are increasingly challenged by environmental issues such as climate change, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise. Adaptation strategies, including the development of resilient infrastructure and sustainable resource management practices, are crucial for maintaining these livelihoods. This abstract provides an overview of the primary livelihood strategies employed by communities in these areas, highlighting the interplay between natural resources and human activities.

Key note: Agriculture, coastal environment, livelihood pattern, Socio-economic condition tourism.

Introduction:

Mandarmani sometimes known as Mandarbani, is a West Bengal seashore settlement. The hamlet is located in the district of Purba Medinipur, near the northern extremity of Bay of Bengal. The community has a coastal resort, making it one of the West Bengal's largest and fastest –rising sea-side communities. Mandarmani, a coastal region in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal, India, is notable for its socio-economic diversity shaped by its geographical and cultural context. Situated along the Bay of Bengal, Mandarmani has evolved from a primarily fishing village into a burgeoning coastal destination, balancing traditional livelihoods with modern economic opportunities.

The present study is mainly based on the rural life style and socio-economic condition of the people living in coastal region.

Objective of the Study:

The main objectives of the study are:-

- I. To identify the Man –Environment relationship of the study area.
- II. To assess the Socio-Economic condition and Demographic condition of the village Dakshin Purushottampur.
- III. To analyze the livelihood pattern of the village.
- IV. Find out the Environmental Potential of the study village.

Study area:

Dakshin Purushottampur village Kalindi panchayat Ramnagar-II is situated in Purba Medinipur District of West Bengal state. People of the village are living in very peaceful manner. This village has very proud history. Agriculture is one most importance economic activity of the village. Still the village is waiting for industrial development. Education, Drinking water, Road and Electricity are the main concern of the village.

The village Dakshin Purushottampur is located between $21^{\circ}40' 25''$ N to $21^{\circ}42'05''$ N and $87^{\circ}41'51''$ E to $87^{\circ}44' 50''$ E. The total geographical area of the village is 993.1 hectares. Contai is the nearest town to Dakshin Purushottampur village for all major economic activities, which is approximately 19 km away.

Data Source and Methodology:

The whole study is totally based on primary data collected form door to door survey. Apart from the socio economic as well as demographic data of the village are collected from District Statistical Handbook, District Census Handbook and from Census of India, 2011.

Geology:

Purba Medinipur district is a part of the lower Indo-Gangetic plain and Eastern Coastal Plains. Topographically, the district can be divided into two parts – (a) almost entirely flat plains on the west, east and north, (b) the coastal plains on the south. The vast expanse of the land is formed of alluvial and composed of younger and coastal alluvial. The elevation of the district is with 10metres above mean sea level.

Drainage:

The study area is well drained with many canal and khal which are present here and depending on the canal and khal the socio economic activities are developed. Jaldha creek is very much helpful to develop fish farming activities in the Junput village while Ramnagar khal, Pichabani khal, Panipia khal and Orissa coast canal also play an important role in the developing agriculture along Digha –Mandarmani coastal plain. Many small river and canal presents in this area, which helps to develop cultivation pattern in the study area.

Climate:

The study area is located in the tropical hot and humid climate. The summer is very hot. It extends from March to June. Rainy season extends from June to November and finally winter extends from December to February. South west Monsoon blows in summer and rainy season while north –east Monsoon blows in winter season.

However, the wind velocity and direction of the coastal regions are also affected by the influence of the land breeze and sea breeze. Climate extremes are followed by the attack of Tropical Cyclones in the Monsoon season and Nor'easter in the pre-monsoon season. These Cyclones storms when occur together with high tides may cause overtopping of protective embankments, thereby causing damage to the standing crops rendering soil saline.

Soil:

The soil type of this area is influenced by Saline water of the sea. The soil is salty in nature so the water holding capacity is very low. Three major types of soil is found in the study area which mainly are

- Sandy soil
- Clay soil
- Loamy soil

Natural Vegetation:

Different type of plant presents in the study area depends on different soil type like loamy soil, sandy soil and clay soil. The Mandarmani sea front has numerous casuarian trees lined up, coconut tree also available here. The predominant commercial tree species is shorea robusta, characteristics produce of clay soil, commonly

known as Sal. Among other vegetation Mango tree, different types of dune scrub, bamboo etc can be found all over the study area. Mainly settlements with home stead orchard are seen over the study area.

Agriculture:

The study clearly reflects that agriculture is a predominant activity in this study area. In this village the reclaimed lands are now supporting single crop agriculture with high productivity. In the study area irrigation is a major problem due to high saline creek waters. Some winter irrigation is carried out by storing rainwater in shallow channels. Tomato, Brinjal, Masterd, Green chilies are major crops in the study area.

Fishing:

Fishing has been the backbone of the study area's economy. The local population relies heavily on artisanal fishing, which provides both food and income. In the study area about 6-8 km area is used for this purpose. However, the industry faces challenges such as overfishing and environmental degradation, which impact the sustainability of fish stocks.

Tourism: Over the past decade, the village Dakshin Purushottampur, has developed into a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors with its scenic beaches and serene environment. This sector has become increasingly significant, providing new economic opportunities through hospitality, transportation, and related services. The growth of tourism has led to the development of infrastructure and an increase in employment opportunities, though it also brings challenges related to environmental management and seasonal income fluctuations.

Population: Dakshin Purushottampur is a large village located in Ramnagar-II Block of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal with total 476 familes residing. The Dakshin Purushottampur village has population of 2394 of which 1255 are males while 1139 are females as per population census, 2011.¹

According to household survey 87 families, it has been found that total population 454 among which 242 are male and 212 female populations.

Age –group:

In Dakshin Purushottampur village population of children with age 0-6 is 320 which makes up13.37 % of total population of village.

According household survey of 87 families, it has been found that 15-60 years age group male population is 61.1% whereas female population 75.6 %.

¹ Census of India,2011

Sex ratio:

Average sex ratio of Dakshin Purushottam village is 908 which is lower than West Bengal state average sex ratio of 947. Child sex ratio for Dakshin Purushottampur village as per census is 788, lower than West Bengal average of 956. From the household survey the part of Dakshin Purushottampur village it has been observed that the average sex ratio is 876 females per thousand males². This sex ratio is lower than sex ratio of West Bengal. This sex ratio indicates the negative sex ratio of this village.

In the other hand child sex ratio is very very low which 500 females children per thousand male children are.

Religion:

Hindu is the main religion of the village. Out of 87 surveyed household 69 families believe in Hinduism and rest 18 families believe in Islamic.

Table no-1

Religion	No of Households	%
Hindu	69	79.3
Islamic	18	20.7

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Hindu	79.3
Islamic	20.7

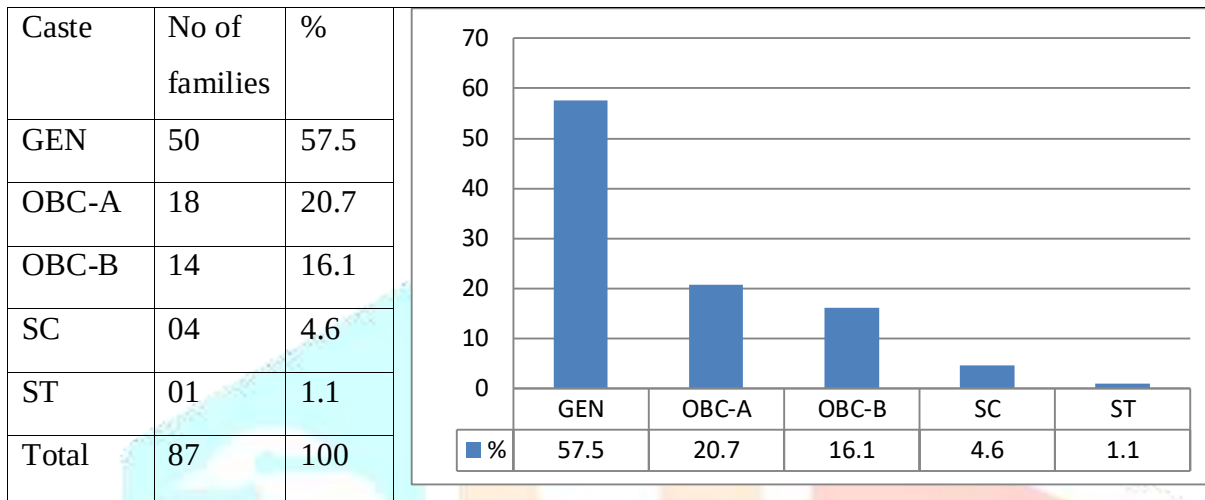
Source:-Household survey,2023, Dakshin Purushottampur village, Purba Medinipur

² Household survey,2023, Dakshin Purushottampur village, Purba Medinipur

Caste:

Caste is very important demographic attributes of population. Here the Dakshin Purushottampur village of 87 household surveyed 50 belongs to General categories whereas 18, 14, 04 and 01 belongs to OBC-A, OBC-B, SC and ST respectively.

Table-2



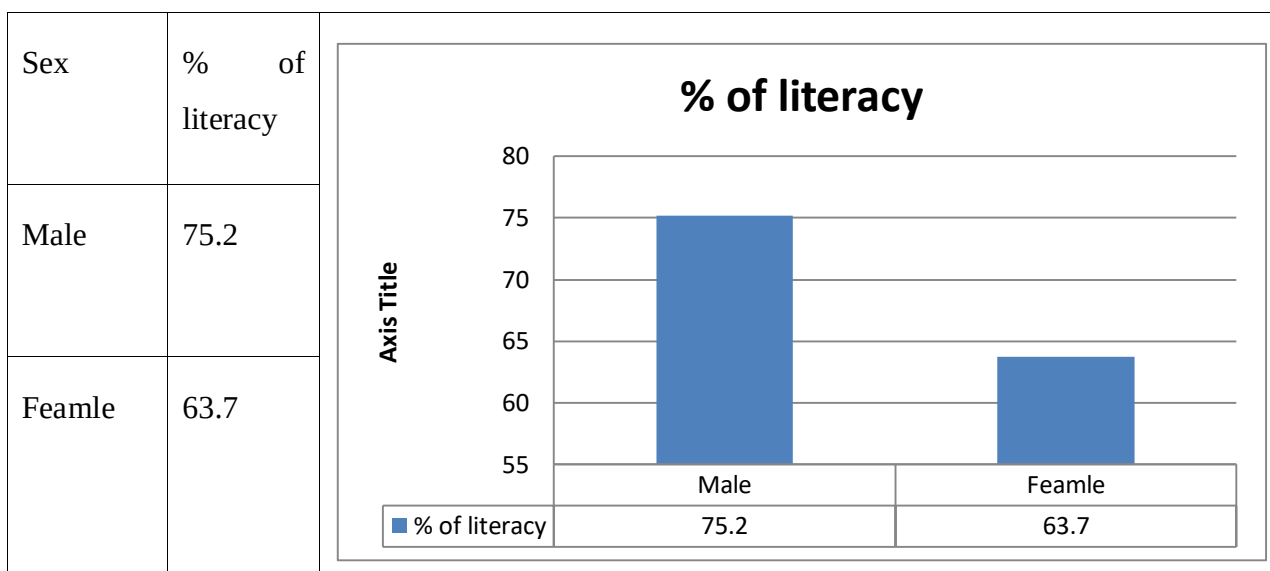
Source:-Household survey, 2023, Dakshin Purushottampur village, Purba Medinipur

Literacy:

Dakshin Purushottampur village has higher literacy rate compared to West Bengal. In 2011, literacy rate of Dakshin Purushottampur village was 78.16 % compared to 77.08 % of West Bengal. In Dakshin Purushottampur village, male literacy stands at 83.55 % while the female literacy rate was 72.34%.

According to household survey of Dakshin purushottampur village, it has been found that out of 244 male persons 182 persons are literate (75.2 %) and 212 female 182 persons are literate (63.7).

Table: 3

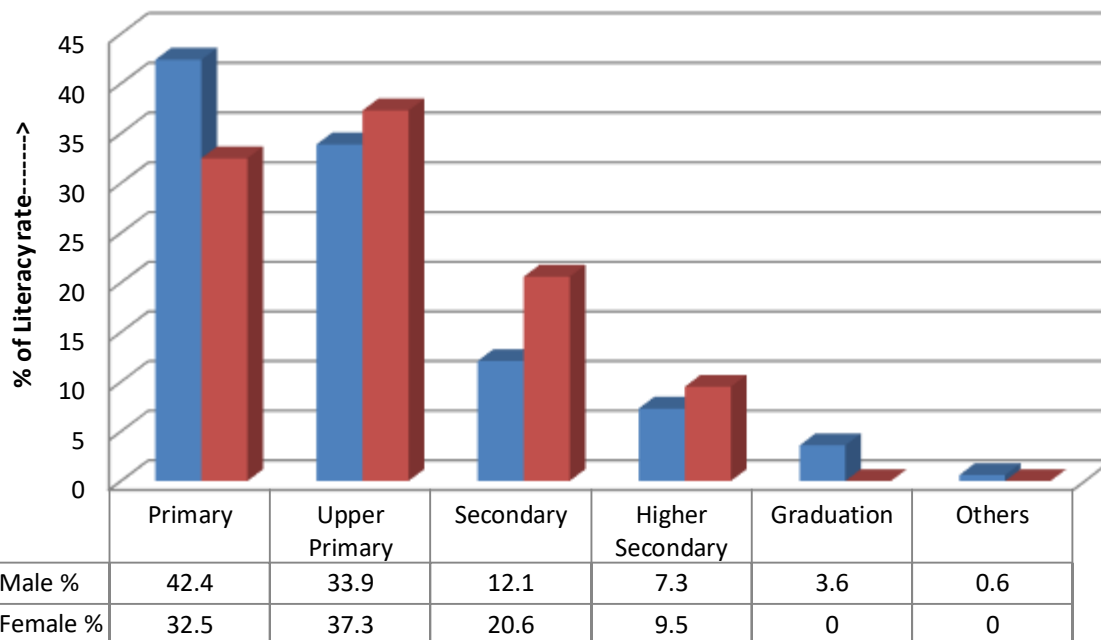


Level of Education:

There are three Govt. Pre-Primary and Primary school in the village Dakshin Purushottampur. There are no middle, Secondary and Higher Secondary school in this village.

Table- 4

Education Level	Male		Female	
	No	%	No	%
Primary	70	42.4	41	32.5
Upper Primary	56	33.9	47	37.3
Secondary	20	12.1	26	20.6
Higher Secondary	12	7.3	12	9.5
Graduation	6	3.6	0	0
Others	1	0.6	0	0



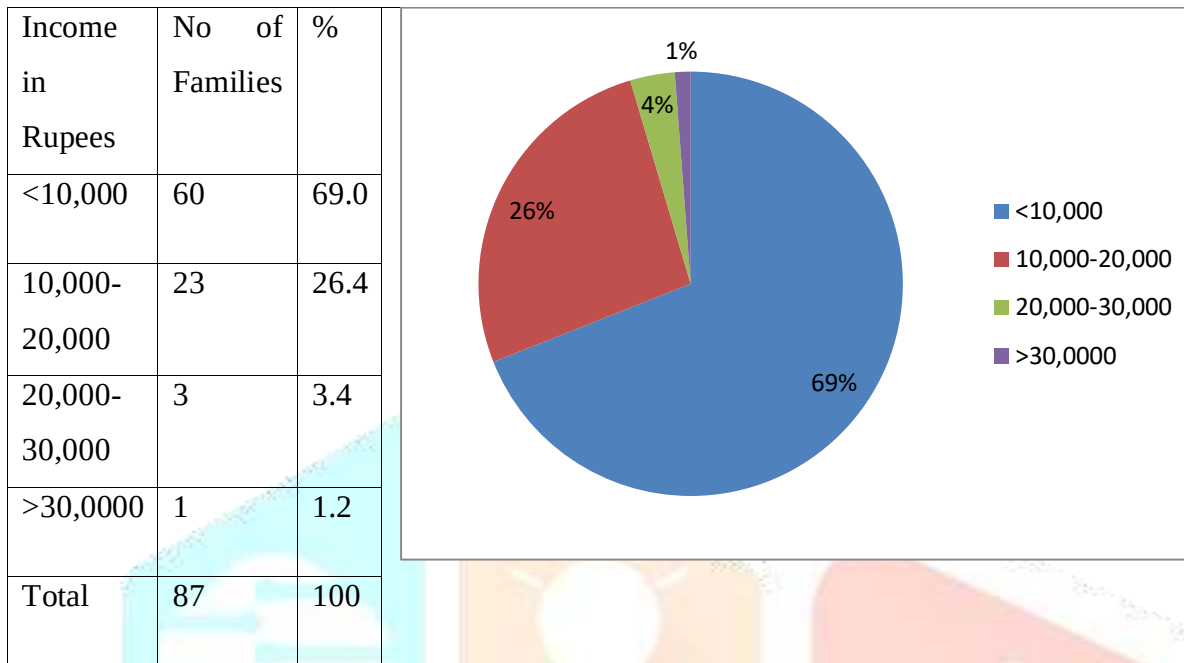
Source:-Household survey, 2023, Dakshin Purushottampur village, Purba Medinipur

Income:

Income is the consumption and saving opportunity gained by an entity within a specified timeframe, which is generally expressed in monetary terms. For households and individuals in the United States, income is defined by tax law as a sum that indicates any wage, salary, profit, interest, payment, rent or other form of earnings received in a calendar year.

According to household survey 87 families of the village 69% families have earned below 10,000 per months, 26.4 families earned 10,000-20,000 per months, 3.4% and 1.2% families earned 20,000-30,000 and more than 30,000 per months respectively.

Table- 5



Source:-Household survey, 2023, Dakshin Purushottampur village, Purba Medinipur

Conclusion:

The socio-economic condition of the village Dakshin Purushottampur is marked by a mix together of traditional practices and modern developments. The region's economic activities are closely related to its coastal environment, with fishing, agriculture, and tourism playing central roles. Addressing environmental challenges and ensuring sustainable development are key to enhancing the socio-economic stability and prosperity of the study area.

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