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A Study to Find Out the Present Status of Rural Development in Cooch Behar II Block

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Abstract:

Rural development has received global attention, especially in developing countries. Rural development is very important for countries, like India where the majority of the population (about 65%) live in rural areas. In India the present strategy of rural development is eliminate poverty, improve livelihoods and provide basic services and infrastructure facilities through various innovative programmes and self-employment. The term "Rural Development" is the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people, and it is a process leading to sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people especially the poor (Ramesh, 2012). This article overviews the study to find out the present status of rural development in Cooch Behar II Block. According to 2011 census 85- 90% population of the district depends on agriculture. So it may be helpful for understanding the rural economic development and increases rural production, employment and income levels of this block.

Keywords: 1. Agriculture 2. Banking services 3. Irrigation 4. Rural development 5. Rural sanitation

Introduction: Rural development is the process that it improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas. According to the census 2011 68.84% of population live in villages. As an idea, it cannot overall development of rural areas with a view to enhance the standard of life rural people. As a discipline, it's multidisciplinary in nature representing an interesting of agriculture, social, behavioural and management of sciences. In short, rural development may be a process that aims at improving the quality of living of the people within the rural areas. India is predominantly an agricultural country and farming is the main occupation of the country. According to 2011 census (based on agricultural census) It is estimated that 61.5% population dependent on agriculture. Now in broader terms inclusive rural development is more specific concept than the concept of rural development in earlier. It can be found that in inclusive rural development covers three distinct but interrelated dimensions, economic dimension, social dimension and political dimension. Economic dimension encompasses Imparting each capability and possibilities for the poor and to low income households in particular, advantage from the economic growth. Social dimension helps social improvement of poor and low income households, gender equality and women's empowerment and afford social safety nets for vulnerable groups and the last political dimension

improves the possibilities for the poor and low earnings people in rural areas efficaciously and equally take part the political procedures at the village level.

Study Area: Our study area Cooch Behar II Blocks situated in the district of Cooch Behar in the state of West Bengal. Total area of the block is 362.36 square kilometre this include 356.67 square kilometre rural area and 5.69 Square kilometre urban area. Out of this total area agricultural land are 13,789 hector. According to 2011 census of India, the Cooch Behar II Block had a complete populace of 3,43,901 of which 289,917 have been rural and 53,984 have been urban. There have been 179,591 (52%) about males and 164,310 (48%) females. It is bordered by Jalpaiguri district on the North and encircled by other three blocks of the district-Tufanganj I on the Eastern, Cooch Behar I on the Southern and Mathabhanga II on the Western side. As per 2011 district census handbook almost 85-90% of the total population depends on agriculture.

Data Source and Methodology: In this research paper data have been collected from both primary and secondary data. Primary data have been obtained from field survey and the secondary data were collected from various Government source, Census of India, District Statistical Handbook, different gazetteer, various books, journals, newspapers, internet etc.

In this article systematic random sampling techniques applied for field survey and the percentage method is used to analyse the data and draw multiple charts side by side to display a graphical representation of the data using various statistical method.

Objectives: The objectives of the present article are as follows:

1. To know about the present status of rural development in Cooch Behar Block II.
2. To examine the rural economic development and increase rural production, employment and income levels of this block.
3. To promote rural populations access to basic services, including education, medical care etc.
4. To promote banking facilities and increase investment in the study area.
5. To provide the basic needs of rural population of the study area.

Present Status of Rural Development: Rural development seeks to convert all of the sectors of rural economy like the primary sector, the secondary sector and the tertiary sector. It is involved with the development of the standard of living, through the provision of health and medical facilities, employment opportunities including vocational training, educational facilities etc. It brings approximately large development within side the socio-economic situation of the Scheduled Cast, Scheduled Tribes, the landless agricultural labourers and the marginal and small farmers.

Agricultural Status: Agricultural improvement of Cooch Behar II Block constitutes the essential component of rural improvement. Agricultural improvement is feasible via using higher seeds, good enough fertilizers, manures and pesticides, good supply of water and powerful implementation of land reform measures. Topographically the Cooch Behar district is a level plain with gentle slope to the South-East. A huge network of river and rivulets traverse the district from North-West to the South-Easterly direction. During wet season the rivers are with super flowers water and strong current. The turbulent water carries maximum amounts of sand, silt and pebbles, which have an adverse effect on the crop production and also on the hydrology of the area. The soil of the district is formed due to alluvial deposition of various river system. The soil is particularly sandy loam to loam and heavy soil is located in a few small pockets. In this block almost 60% land is acidic, 37% is natural and the rest of the soil is organic carbon. Out of the entire cultivable land in Cooch Behar block II, 4259.258 hectare is highland, 15068.958 is medium land and 4735.954 hectare is lowland. In our study area most of the lands are medium lands. So early iciness vegetables are raised hardly ever in our study area because of shortage of excessive land. In this block cropping has not gained popularity due to highly inadequate irrigation facility. Farmers of two villages Kaljani and Borokhata in the study area can avail the scope of irrigation facility affordably for multiple cropping due to availability of RLI (River Lift irrigation) system based on Mora Torsa river and Ghargharia river. In all different instans irrigation is accomplished through deep tube-wells at personal initiative for multiple cropping. Irrigation from deep tube-wells is very high priced and it's miles past the capability of small and marginal farmers. In this area irrigation is required for Ravi crops and Boro Paddy. So irrigation plays a dominant role in increasing the agricultural productivity in any region. Though irrigation facilities

an essential pre-requisite for agricultural development, are very much limited in this block. In this area cultivators mainly depends on rainwater. The present sources of irrigation in this block are canals, River Lift Irrigation(RLI), tank, deep tube wells, shallow tube wells etc.

Cooch Behar is an agriculture-based district and maximum of the people depends on agriculture for their livelihood. The nature of agriculture of this district indicates the signal of low productiveness. Among many factors, the reluctances well as the inability of the poor farmers to use more chemical fertilizers is main responsible for low agricultural productivity in the study area. Most of the farmers in this area nevertheless are totally depending on animal dung as manure. For the advent of HYV programme in a extensive scale, use of Chemical fertilizersacts anessential in gradient in any agriculture based rural economy. But the intake of chemical fertilizers maybe vary inadequate and irregular in the study area. So it performs a totally negligible position in elevating the general agricultural productiveness in this Block. The farmers are habituated to apply greater fertilizers during potato cultivation. The most importantthing is that the farmers cannot use fertilizers in right proportions among natural and inorganic because of lack of proper knowledge and training, which in many cases ultimately destroy the productive capacityof soil.

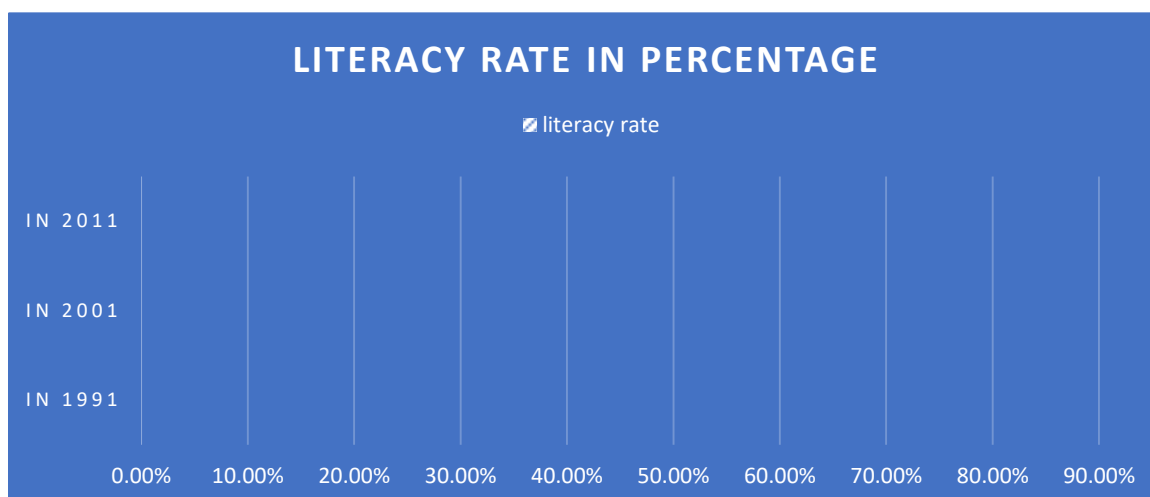
Year	Population
1991	256851
2001	297984
2011	343901

Year	Literacy rate in %
1991	56.45
2001	73.89
2011	81.39

Transport and Communication: Railways and roads serve an economic system just like the arteries in the human body. In the period of pre-independence, the districts of North Bengal except CoochBehar Bihar, were badly neglected in respect of transport and communication. The scenario changed most effective after 1962. Due to inadequate transport facilities the district is still backward in all respects. The N.H-31 has exceeded via the district connecting Assam and Bengal. Road facilities in the study area are poor, so if NH-31 traffic passes through the area connecting the area with Assam and other parts of the country, the population will be severely affected. There are two P.W.D metalled roads, one passing through the eastern side of the area that connects Cooch Behar town with Alipurduar town and another from Banesarwar to Pundibari. The total length of roads maintained by P.W.D, ZilaParishad, Gram Panchayet and PanchayetSamiti and Prime Minister'sGraminSarakYojana.

Education Scenario of the Study Area: Education is essential to a human emancipation and social development. It promotes better health, higher productivity, higher income, human freedom, skills and life expectancy and greater participation in public life. Education is the best investment for development and a powerful investment for economic prosperity and social development.

Table 1: Trends of population in Cooch Behar II Block(1991-2011)



Source: Census of India 1991,2001,2011

Table 1 shows the total population of Cooch Behar Block II from 1991 to 2011 census. According to 2011 census, the total population of the study area is 2,97,984 and in 2011 it was 3,43,901. The growth rate of the population in 1991 to 2001 is 16.01% and 2001 to 2011 is 15.40% of this area.

Table 2: Literacy rate in Cooch Behar II Block

Sl. No	Type of source	No of sanctioned	Operational at present	Defunct
1.	Piped water supply scheme	87	87	Covers 349 villages
2.	Ordinary hand tube well	39,959	35,805	4,154
3.	DWP	1,567	1,333	234
4.	RBTW	148	19	129
5.	SwajalDhara	15	6	9(under process)

Source: Census of India 1991,2001 and 2011

Literacy is an indicator of human development and quality of life. Low literacy rates hinder economic development, and for women, even self determination and professional development hinder their progress of family planning programmes. The following table and figure 2 show the literacy rate of the study area (1991,2001 and 2011). In 1991, the proportions of the educated population were 56.45%, in 2001 the proportions of the educated population is 73.89% and in 2011 census it was 81.39%. Thus it reveals that there have been sharp rise in educated population in this Block.

Rural Sanitation: The Cooch Behar district was selected for the implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) from 2002-2003. The main goal of the TSC project is to ensure that every household has sanitary facilities. For this purpose, every and each residence kept within side the district is being persuaded or advocated to apply and preserve a IHL. The BPL households are supplied with 75% subsidy to assemble such IHL. Second, crucial issue off the TSC project is the School Sanitation Programme together with that for the AWCs and other such institutions. Here the goal is to inculcate hygiene and sanitary habits among school children. This additionally allows within side the retention of the girl child in our schools. Similarly, the project also provides the installation of public toilets in key public places such as village hats, markets and highways etc. The primary goal is to stop open

defecation in 100% of the entire area, develop sanitary and hygienic habits and cleanliness of the people, and make the Nirmal District completely sanitary for a long time. So a long way one Panchayat Samiti specifically Mathabhanga II and 29 Gram Panchayat of the district has been offered with Nirmal Gram Purashkar through Government of India for the effective implementation of the entire sanitation programme. In the year 2009-10 sixty numbers of Gram Panchayat and two numbers of Panchayat Samities have been proposed for shifting the GOI for Nirmal Gram Purashkar.

Drinking Water Facility: Providing people with clean water has always been a priority area of activity in the region. Although tap water is the most popular source of drinking water in the region, only 45% to 47% population in the region can use tap water. The main source of drinking water in this area is currently hand drilled wells under projects such as RWS and ARWSP. The PHE department currently maintains and operates 87 water supply systems. There are as many as 349 villages in the area. In addition, as many as 8 nos. of these tap water supply systems operated by the PHE have now been handed over to local Panchayats for operation. The Zilla Parishad has sanctioned 15 nos. of network water supply schemes below Swajal Dhara Prokolpa.

Table: 3 Source of drinking water

Source: District Census Handbook 2019

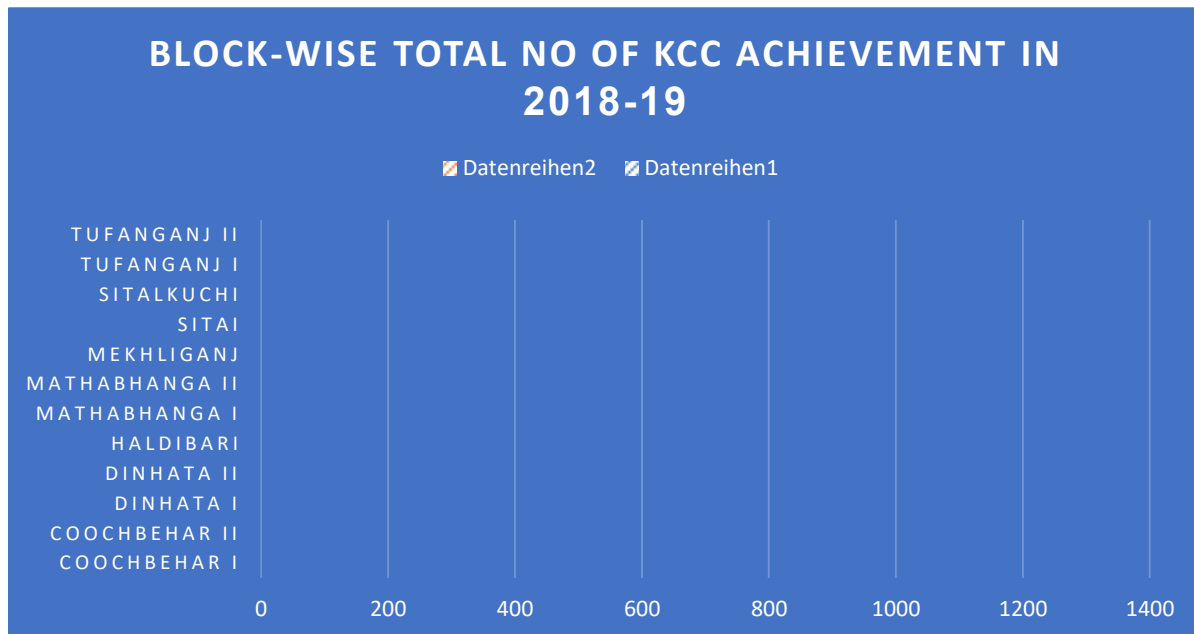
Banking Services: Banking services are essential to the rapid development of the economy, this allows people to keep their savings save and borrow many at a lower interest rate when needed. Banking in the rural economic development in the study area helps farmers borrow money at lower interest during the planting season. The Cooch Behar II Block has 7 commercial banks and 6 Gramin Banks. The farmers in the study area dependent mostly on the Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank (U.B.K.G.B) to provide loans to keep their agricultural and commercial activities going on.

Table 4: Block wise total number of Kishan Credit Card (KCC) in Cooch Behar during 2018-19

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Overall percentage	Target for 2018-19	Achivement in 2018-19
1.	Cooch Behar I	98.29	2000	1150
2.	Cooch Behar II	98.75	2100	1225
3.	Dinhata I	98.40	1400	720
4.	Dinhata II	97.97	1350	850
5.	Haldibari	97.79	1250	930
6.	Mathabhanga I	97.43	1650	860
7.	Mathabhanga II	98.19	1500	870
8.	Mekhliganj	96.87	1350	940
9.	Sitai	97.76	696	475
10.	Sitalkuchi	98.39	1300	610
11.	Tufanganj I	98.58	1350	1025
12.	Tufanganj II	95.11	1300	775
	Total	98.86	17246	10430

Source: Office of the Deputy of Agriculture (Admin), Cooch Behar

From the table it is seen that the bank has given a huge amount of Kishan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers for agriculture to continue their agricultural activities timely. Farmers mostly dependent on the bank loans to grow potatoes. The most important point is that almost 63% of agricultural loans can be paid off in time so that loans can be obtained next year. The government should develop this banking service to make it easier for farmers to obtain fast full bank loans.



Conclusion: In the Cooch Behar II Block maximum number of population live in rural areas. Although the Indian Government has worked together to reduce poverty in the rural areas through various plans and measures, there is still much work to be done to ensure the prosperity of the rural population. In rural areas the technology dissemination is uneven and slow. The efforts of organisation to develop technology, equipment and products for the rural areas have not achieved success. In the study area agricultural infrastructure is far from reaching the level required for the full development of the agricultural sector. Our research makes it very clear that even after the second green revolution farmers in the area cannot implement multiple farming methods due to insufficient irrigation infrastructure. Another point of interest from our research is that the simple and cheap availability of manufacturing resources does not guarantee that they will function as essential manufacturing resources. Therefore an ideal way to involve the government, panchayats, rural workers, researchers, industry, NGOs and private companies will not only help reduce this imbalance, but also have a multiple effect on the entire economy.

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