

Level of Human Development of Raiganj C.D Block, Uttar Dinajpur District, West Bengal: A Geographical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Human development can be defined as the process of enlarging peoples freedom and opportunities and improving their well-being. In very simple form the word Human Development refers to the biological and psychological development of the human being throughout his lifespan. From these two concepts it is clear that human development is the most prime component for the overall development of a region. In this study a composite index is calculated for evaluating the variation in the level of human development of Raiganj Community Development block of Uttar Dinajpur district. The following variables has been considered for study including, Adult Literacy Rate, Enrolment Ratio, Safe Drinking Water, Safe Delivery, Immunization, Work Participation Rate etc. Based on these variables three indices have been calculated, Education Index, Health Index and Economic Livelihood Index which are the exclusive indicators of Human Development Index. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data from various Government and Non-government sources. From the result it can be seen that most of the villages which are found in the peripheral region of the Raiganj block are not getting adequate facilities and they are still now living below poverty line. Therefore in this research paper an attempt has been made to point out the level of Human Development of Raiganj C.D Block followed by some post-deterministic strategies through which backwardness problem along the peripheral region should be overcome in near future.

Keywords: Education, Health, Income, poverty, Human Development

1.1 Introduction:

Human development is a concept of development, that associated with the creation and improving of living conditions, for people can develop their power potential, can have a long and healthy life, can access to proper education system. United Nations Development Programme has been defining Human Development as, "The progression of enlarging people's choice", "lead a long and healthy life, to be educated, to enjoy a decent standard of living", as well as political freedom, other guaranteed human rights and various ingredients of self-respect (Human Development Reports 1997 (UNDP)). One of the determining human developments is the Human Development Index (HDI), originated by the United Nations Development Programme (Human Development Reports 2009 (UNDP)). The index includes statistics such as Life Expectancy at Birth, an Education Index and Gross National Income per capita.

1.2 Review of the Previous Literature

The study on human development has become a great concern to the geographers and other social scientist all over India. Numerous research works have been done both macro and micro level for analysis the level of Human development and its associated impacts. Some of these works are cited below:

- **UNDP (1990)** in the First Global Human Development report concluded that people are the real wealth of a nation. Human Development is all about "process of enlarging people's choices". It mainly focused on building of human capabilities, enhancement of freedom and process of achieving outcomes. The report also addressed how the economic growth translates into human development.
- **Pal and Pant (1993)** in their paper "An Alternative Human Development Index" made an attempt to modify UNDP methodology and make new alternative measures of human development index with regard to Ranking of Indian States. The conventional methods obviously focused on three variables such as education, health and material well-being, but the alternative measure focused on one more variable that is poverty.
- **Srinivasan and Verma (1993)** examined the conceptual matrix comprising three levels of development measured in terms of aggregation of the human development and four dimensions of development in terms of economic, socio-psychological, political and spiritual aspects.

- **MahbulHaq (1997)** in his work “Reflection on Human Development” examines that human development is more than GNP growth, more than income and wealth and more than producing commodities and accumulating capital. According to him the basic capabilities for human development consist of health, education, access to resources and community participation. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.
- **The Philippine Human Development Report5 (1997)** examines changes in the Human Development Index (HDI) across various provinces in Philippines for 1990 to 1994 ranging from decrease of nearly 4 percent. It states that Human Development across its provinces is influenced by the past biases.
- **AmartyaSen (2000)** suggested that society’s standard of living should be judged not by the average level of income, but by people’s capabilities to lead the lives they value, capabilities as health, knowledge, self-respect and the ability to participate actively in community life. Therefore, expansion of human capabilities implies greater freedom of choice.
- **Planning Commission has prepared National Human Development Report(2001)** showing the state wise as well as All India HumanDevelopment Indices for the years 1981, 1991and 2001. This report uses thesame development indicators of the UNDP Human Development Report. Butweightages are given with slight changes in the indicators span of life,education and economic attainment are the basic factors in both computations.
- **BiswajithGuha (2003)** in his article “Human Development in India – A Study of Interstate Disparities” has deviated from the established Human Development Indices and has taken access to safe drinking water, electricity connections two meals a day throughout the year, permanent houses and availability of beds in public hospitals in 15 major states of India. In his opinion a Nation cannot develop without adequate provision for public health, education, food, clothing, shelter and decent standard of living. This article is thought provoking both in the concept and content.
- **Nayak (2007)** in his article Human Development – Conceptual and Measurement Issues made an attempt to describe evolution and concept of human development. It provides for various changes in the methods of measurement brought out by UNDP, the planning commission Government of India and the individual researchers at different points of time since 1990.

1.3 Objectives:

Objective of the study includes:

- To examine the stats of Education of the Raiganj C.D Block
- To know the Health condition of the study area
- To highlight the economic condition of the Raiganj C.D block
- To identify the level and pattern of Human development of the study area
- To analysis the problems associated with human development and recommend some suggestions.

1.4 Prelude Concept about the Study area:

RaiganjCommunity Development block is an administrative division of Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal. Headquarters of this block is at Raiganj. The latitudinal and longitudinal extension of the Raiganj C.D block is 25°37’North to 25°62’ North and 88°07’East to 88°12’ East.The height above the mean sea level is 15 meter. Raiganjcommunity development block covers an area of 466.26 square kilometer.

It is located in the south western part of the Uttar Dinajpur district. It is a narrow strip of land between Bihar and Bangladesh. Raiganj C.D block is bounded by Bangladesh in the north, Hemtabad C.D block in the east, Bihar in the west and Ithar C.D block in the south.

The economic improvement and progress in living standards is mostly dependent on level of human development. In rural areas particularly in the Raiganj Block, agriculture and to some extent allied activities related to agriculture is the only source of rural economy. Raiganj is one of the important headquarters of the Uttar Dinajpur district but in spite of that the Female Literacy rate isnot very satisfactory. There are very few opportunities of medical services.Even till now few percentage of people in this area are collect water from river, pond and other sources which are not safe for drinking. That is why they are frequently suffered by the waterborne diseases like- Cholera, diarrhea, typhoid fever etc. People in the remote rural areas of this block are living under poverty. In this condition this research paper has tried to find out the spatial distribution and level of Human Development ofRaiganj block.

1.5 Data Base:

The research work is based on two source of data base. This are-

1.5.1 Primary Data Source: in the section of primary data source perception study has been made based on questionnaire related to level of Human development of Raiganj block, Uttar

LOCATION MAP OF THE STUDY AREA

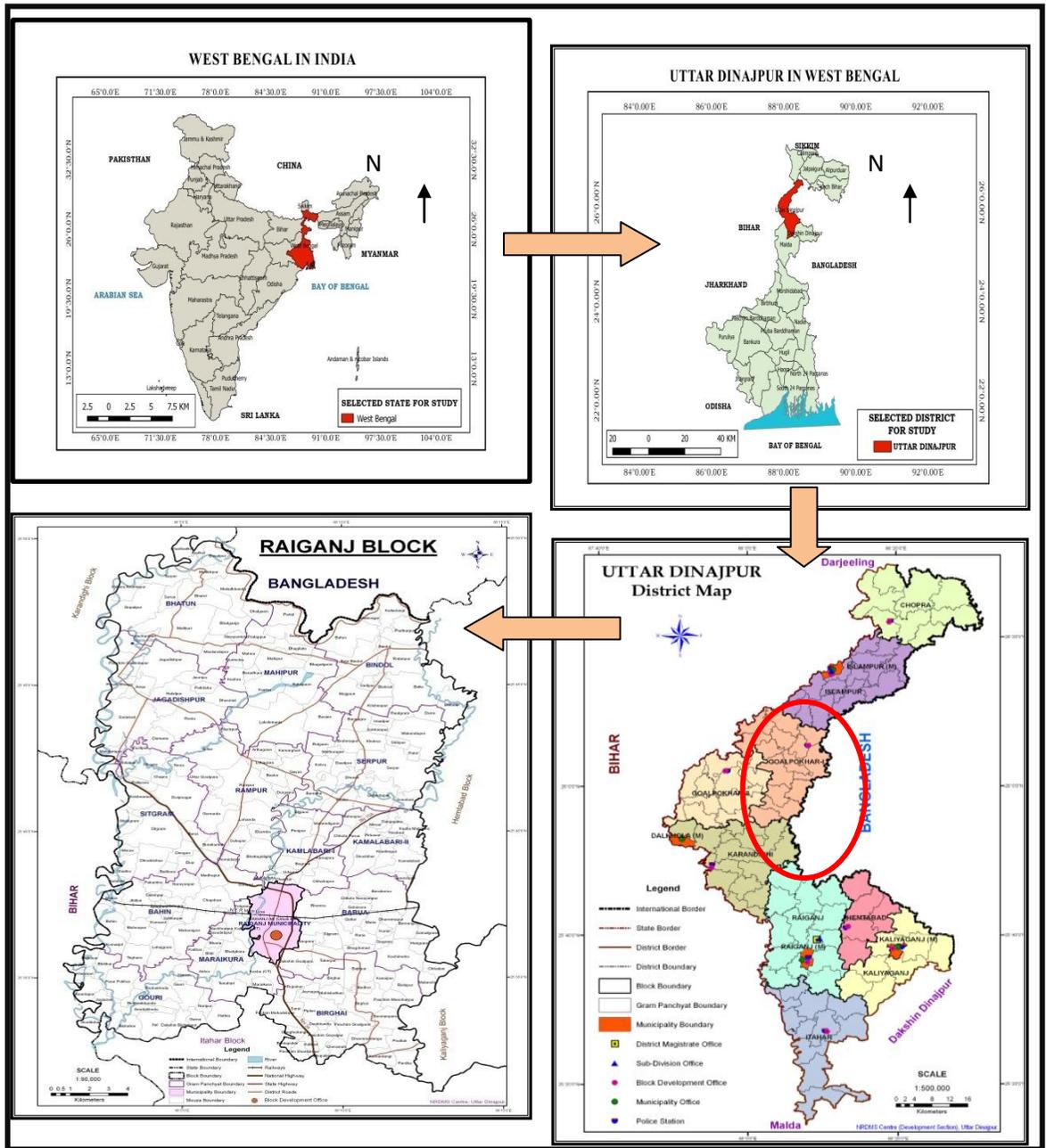


Fig. 1Source: Prepared By the Author Based on National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization And District Census Handbook.

Dinajpur District. However data available through interview from various offices are also being incorporated in primary data source.

1.5.2 Secondary Data Source: in the secondary data source, several interact and official sources could be taken into consideration. Here District development report, district census handbook of Uttar Dinajpur district, Human Development Report, various articles and journals related to human development are taken into consideration as secondary sources.

1.6 Methodology:

Any research work is based on some methodological observation and this research paper is not an exception one.

Research Paper

1.6.1 Preliminary Stage: In this stage topic has been selected and several official data has been selected from various official sources. Location map has been prepared based on base map from NATMO. A pre-designed structure questionnaire has prepared.

1.6.2 Intermediate Stage: In this stage perception has done based on structural questionnaire and the survey was done with the local respondents of Raiganj block, Block Development Office, member of various Panchayets, teachers of many educational institutions, Doctors of district hospitals and other healthcare centres based on systematic random sampling. 25 percent primary schools, 25 percent High secondary schools and 100 students 25 percent Primary Healthcare Centers and Main district Hospital was surveyed in a time span of six months from November, 2017 to May, 2018.

1.6.3 Final Stage: In this stage data have been processed based on master table. Several maps have been prepared with the help of Q-GIS software based on the available date from the district development report of Raiganj block of Uttar Dinajpur District. Economic Livelihood Index, Health Index, Education Index and Human Development Index have been done and incorporated by following UNDP Methodology, Equal weighted method and average index method.

1.7 Result and Discussion:

Raiganj C.D Block occupies a vast area with a variety of challenges and issues. According to the Census data, 2011 around 43 percent population belongs to backward classes with more than 94

percent of population living in the rural areas. Economic continues to be dependents on agriculture and allied activities in some extents. The primary survey is revealed that many areas of this block still now backward and not well connected with other block. The overall position of literacy is relatively better but there is huge gender gap in literacy the percentage of drop out is quite high. Unwillingness and unconsciousness of the parents regarding importance of education, poverty etc. are the main causes behind it. The literacy among the Scheduled Tribes is especially, low with it being very low in females. Human Development Index is one of the key indicator for pointing out the difference between development and underdevelopment zones in the concern area. A composite index is formed in this study for evaluating the variation in the Human development across the block.

1.7.1 Education Index (EI):

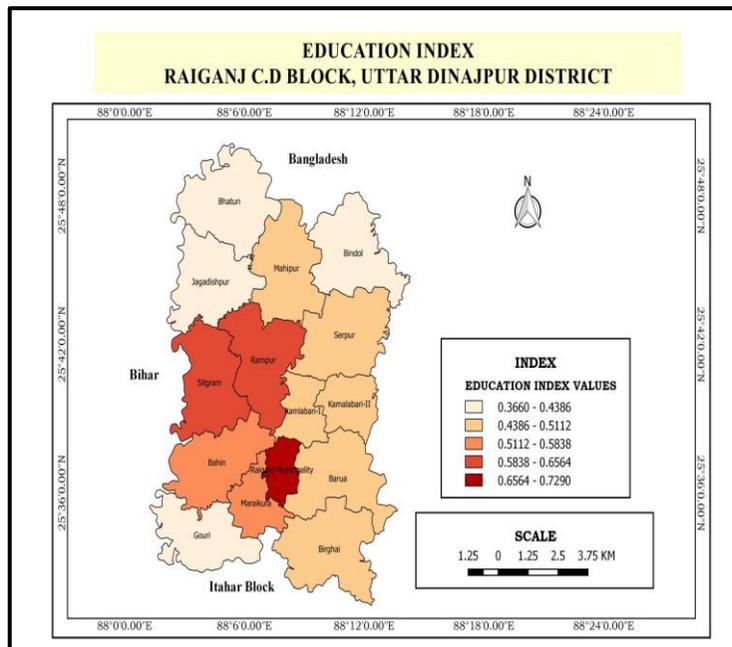
Table: 01 Calculation of Education Index derived from the Equal weightage method in Different Panchayets of Raiganj C.D Block of Uttar Dinajpur District

PRI/ULB Judisctions	ADULT LITERACY RATE	CLASS-WISE ENROLMENT RATIO	EDUCATION INDEX
Raiganj (U)	0.739	0.719	0.729
Sitgram	0.66	0.629	0.649
Rampur	0.652	0.59	0.621
Maraikura	0.567	0.529	0.548
Bahin	0.539	0.519	0.529
Mahipur	0.529	0.489	0.509
Kamalabari I	0.523	0.483	0.503
Barua	0.497	0.475	0.486
Sherpur	0.495	0.471	0.483
Kamalabari II	0.482	0.474	0.478
Birghai	0.482	0.44	0.462
Bindol	0.435	0.439	0.437
Bhatun	0.42	0.441	0.431
Jagdishpur	0.382	0.376	0.379
Gouri	0.388	0.344	0.366

Source: Calculated By the Authors Based on UNDP Method

The calculation of the Education Index has been done on the basis of Adult literacy index and enrolment index based on UNDP methodology. The main problem in accommodating all this indicators in the index is attaching proper weightage to them. Indices based on goalposts for the above two indicators and the combined education indices are presented in Map No. 2. It shows that the Education Index is highest in the

central and western part of the map, which includes Raiganj Municipality (0.729), Followed by Sitgram Panchayet (0.649) and Rampur Panchayet (0.621). Very low Education index is found in the north eastern, western and south western part of the Raiganj block, which includes Gouri Panchayet (0.366), Bhatol (0.431), Bindol (0.437) and Jagadishpur (0.379) Panchayets. The main reasons behind this are, firstly huge number of population this area are mainly belong from backward classes. Due to the educational awareness programme, Mid-day-meal facility they send their child in school. But within very short period of time they felt that education is not very necessary for them and they engaged their child as an agricultural labour. Thus the rate of drop-out in this area is quite high. Even till now parents are more desire to have a male child. Along with that the average age of marriage (Mainly female) is less than 18 years this is one of the major causes of gender inequality in literacy of the study area.



Map No. 2 Source: Block Development Office, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur

1.7.2 Health Index (HI):

According to the primary survey Raiganj community development block health services are mostly concentrated in urban areas, the villagers depended to a very large extent upon the traditional medicine practitioners e.g. Ayurvedic. They have little access to modern medical facilities. Ignorance, malnutrition and inadequate availability of health care facilities resulted in poor health status among a large section of population.

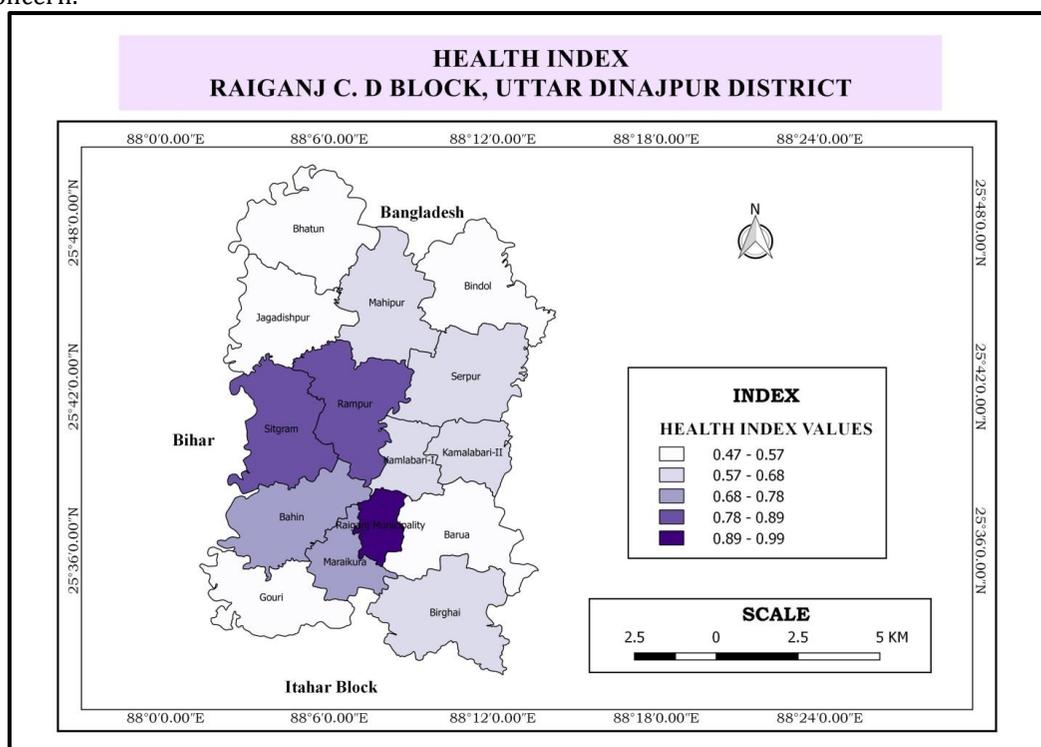
Table: 02 Calculation of Combined Health Care Services Index derived from Equal weightage method in Different Panchayets of Raiganj C.D Block of Uttar Dinajpur District

PRI/ULB Judisdictions	SANITATION SUB-INDEX	SAFE DRINKING WATER SUB-INDEX	SAFE DELIVERY SUB-INDEX	IMMUNI SATION SUB-INDEX	COMBINED HEALTH SERVICES INDEX
Raiganj (U)	0.81	1.36	0.9	0.87	0.995
Birghai	0.74	1	0.83	0.81	0.84
Sitgram	0.74	1	0.82	0.72	0.81
Maraikura	0.62	0.98	0.76	0.62	0.74
Bahin	0.61	0.95	0.76	0.63	0.738
Rampur	0.62	0.71	0.72	0.6	0.66
Kamalabari I	0.51	0.56	0.53	0.57	0.543
Sherpur	0.54	0.52	0.49	0.54	0.525
Bindol	0.51	0.5	0.48	0.54	0.51

Kamalabari II	0.51	0.49	0.49	0.54	0.51
Barua	0.51	0.48	0.48	0.52	0.49
Gouri	0.48	0.47	0.46	0.5	0.47
Bhatun	0.47	0.48	0.42	0.47	0.465
Mahipur	0.47	0.48	0.42	0.47	0.465
Jagdishpur	0.41	0.43	0.4	0.4	0.415

Source: Calculated By the Authors Based on Equal Weightage Method

Infant mortality rate is one of the major indicators of development in today's world. According to 2011 census in rural areas of our state the average rate is 53% and in urban areas it is 28%. Lack of awareness, unconsciousness and unscientific delivery procedure are cause high rate of Infant Mortality and as well as Maternal Mortality rate. The accessibility of various health centers are almost negligible and the number of hospitals are also very few in numbers. Still now, people are helplessly depending on any aged female person for anti-natal delivery due to the lack of proper communication and money which a matter of great concern.



Map No. 3 *Source: Block Development Office, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur*

Proper diet and nutrition are the major primary requirement for the physical and mental growth of the children. According to the primary survey about 49% of the children belongs to the age groups of 0-3 are suffering from malnutrition. The condition is the worst among the female children. Maximum parents of the region are illiterate and they are not aware about the health status of their children. As the pregnant women during the prenatal stage are not getting proper care and suffering from various health hazards, their babies remain undernourished as well as unhealthy. The low standard of public health services is very important concern to the policy makers. Along with the State Government, Central Government is also responsible for the guidance, support and co-ordination for health care services.

Basic data for construction of health index are presented in table: 2. four basic indicators have been used these are, Sanitation sub-index, Safe drinking water sub-index, safe delivery sub-index and immunization sub-index. The above map (Map No. 3) shows Combined Healthcare Services Index of Raiganj community development block. In this map the maximum health index is found in Raiganj municipal region (0.995) due to the more availability of medical institution and medical infrastructure. This index value is the minimum in Jagdishpur panchayat (0.415) mainly because of poor health consciousness and poverty.

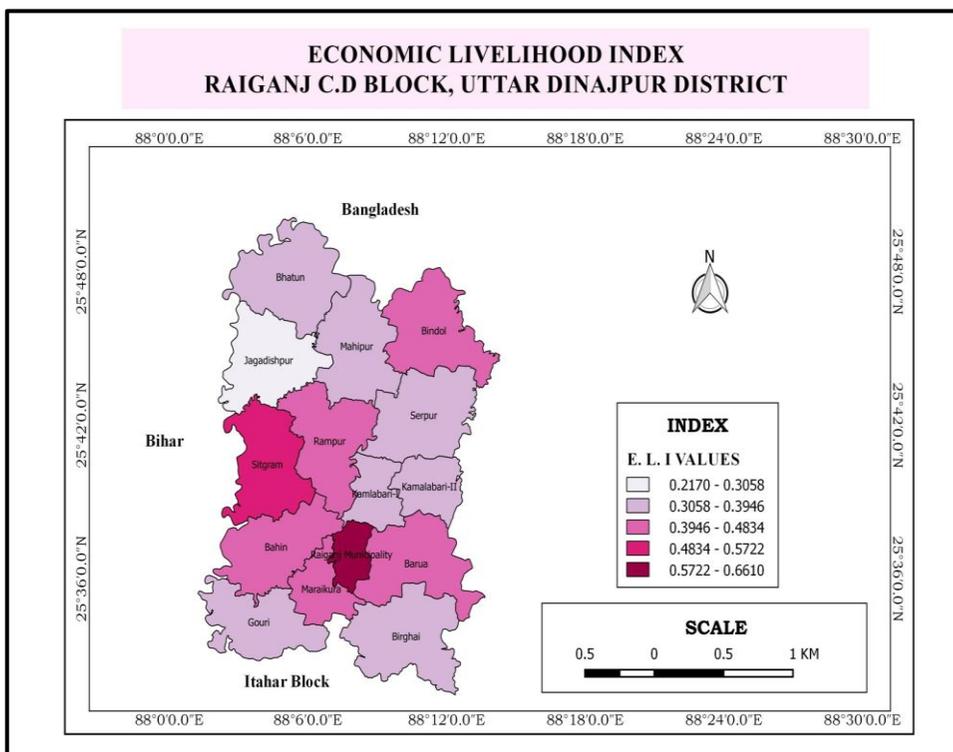
1.7.3 Economic Livelihood Index (ELI):

Table: 03 Calculation of Economic Livelihood Index derived from Equal weightage method in Different Panchayets of Raiganj C.D Block of Uttar Dinajpur District

PRI/ULB Judiscions	% OF WPR	% OF MAIN WORKERS TO TOTAL WORKERS	% OF OTHER WORKERS TO MAIN WORKERS	ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD INDEX
Raiganj (U)	0.62	0.781	0.567	0.656
Sitgram	0.489	0.701	0.475	0.555
Maraikura	0.452	0.502	0.466	0.473
Bahin	0.43	0.521	0.442	0.464
Rampur	0.42	0.489	0.457	0.455
Bindol	0.39	0.412	0.464	0.422
Barua	0.388	0.408	0.428	0.408
Bhatun	0.389	0.421	0.433	0.414
Gouri	0.354	0.412	0.382	0.383
Mahipur	0.347	0.451	0.324	0.374
Kamalabari I	0.321	0.425	0.345	0.364
Kamalabari II	0.257	0.483	0.358	0.366
Sherpur	0.254	0.454	0.267	0.325
Birghai	0.248	0.365	0.356	0.323
Jagdishpur	0.245	0.187	0.201	0.211

Source: Calculated By the Authors Based on Equal Weightage Method

Economic livelihood is one of the major aspects which vividly indicate the progress of development of the study area. This Economic Livelihood Index (ELI) is calculated based on three different sub-indices. These are, Percent of work participation rate, percent of main worker to total worker and percent of other worker to main worker. The above map (Map No. 4) shows the Economic Livelihood Index of different panchayets of Raiganj community development block. From this map the maximum economic livelihood index is found in Raiganj municipal area (0.661) followed by Sitgrampanchayat (0.517). The ELI value is the minimum in Jagdishpur gram panchayer (0.217). There is an immediate necessary action should have to be taken by both the government and non-government organization for the improvement of this present condition.



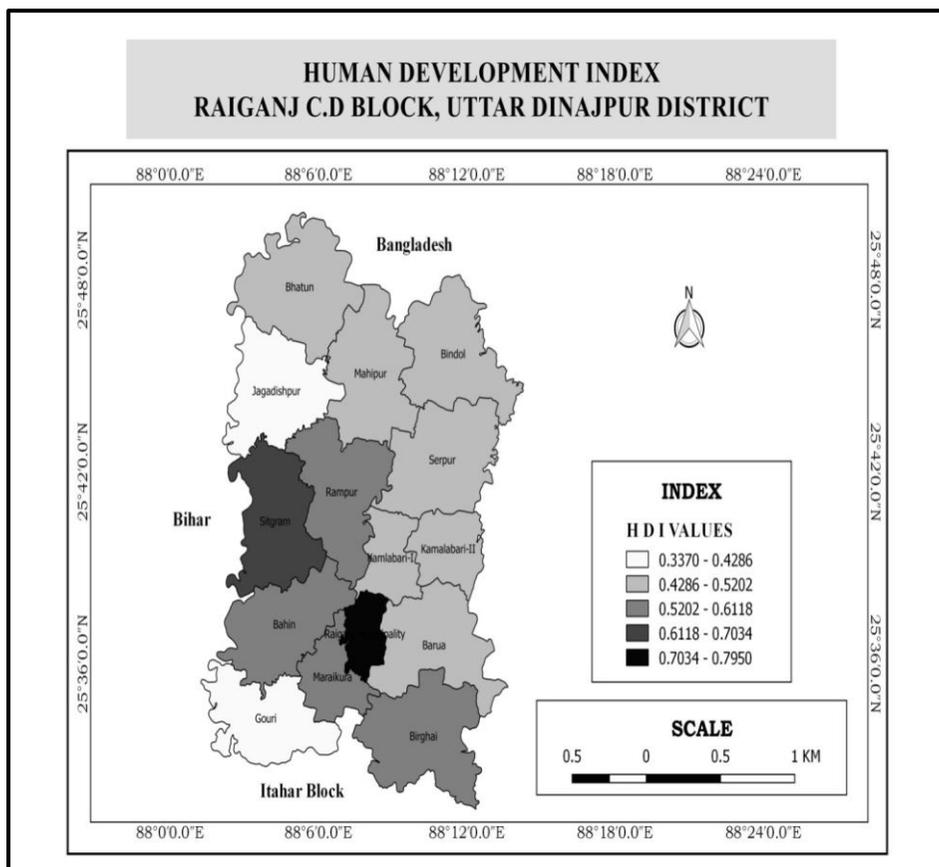
Map No. 4 Source: Block Development Office, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur

1.7.4 Human Development and Ranking of the Block:

Table: 04 Human Development Indices derived from Equal weightage method for assessing the physical structure of the Human Development in different Panchayets of Raiganj C.D Block, Uttar Dinajpur district

PRI/ULB Judisctions	COMBINED HEALTH SERVICES INDEX	ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	HDI INDEX
Raiganj (U)	0.995	0.661	0.729	0.795
Sitgram	0.81	0.517	0.649	0.659
Maraikura	0.74	0.481	0.548	0.59
Rampur	0.66	0.454	0.621	0.578
Bahin	0.738	0.465	0.529	0.577
Birghai	0.84	0.325	0.462	0.542
Kamalabari I	0.543	0.365	0.503	0.47
Barua	0.49	0.409	0.486	0.462
Bindol	0.51	0.42	0.437	0.456
Kamalabari II	0.51	0.364	0.478	0.451
Mahipur	0.465	0.377	0.509	0.45
Sherpur	0.525	0.33	0.483	0.446
Bhatun	0.465	0.391	0.431	0.429
Gouri	0.47	0.384	0.366	0.407
Jagdishpur	0.415	0.217	0.379	0.337

Source: Calculate by the authors based on Equal Weightage Method



Map No. 5 Source: Block Development Office, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur

These three indices have been combined together to formulate the Human Development Index (HDI) of Raiganj block. The Human development index has been prepared by giving equal weightage of Education Index, Combined Health Index and Economic Livelihood Index. The above map (Map No. 5) represents the Human Development Index in different Panchayets of Raiganj community development block of Uttar Dinajpur district. Here the HDI value is highest in Raiganj Municipality area (0.795) as it's all three Indices shows very high values. On the other hand, Sitgram Panchayet shows high human development index values (0.659). The minimum HDI values are found in Jagadishpur (0.337) and Gouri (0.407) Panchayets. However the progress is limited within the Raiganj Municipality; it fails to spread out towards the remote rural area. A wide range of disparity of development is observed between the rural and urban centers of Raiganj Block.

1.8 SWOT Analysis:

1.8.1 Strength:

- Strong Agriculture Support for the development of the rural economy.
- Cottage Industries in the Raiganj C.D block plays active role for improving quality of life.
- Availability of educational institution such as Primary, secondary, Higher secondary school, Colleges, Raiganj University.
- Transport connectivity is quite better in this region. NH-34, SH-60 and Kolkata-Radhikapur rail way are passing through this region.

1.8.2 Weakness:

- Low agricultural Production.
- Teacher student ratio in school is very low
- Poor latrine facility
- High level of Drop out in Primary Section is a matter of great concern.
- High Gender Disparity in literacy is observed.
- The Primary Healthcare Centre is not performing their proper duties.
- Even till now people are not interested to taking the banking services.
- Poor quality of living standard is observed.

1.8.3 Opportunities:

- The special efforts should be made in horticulture and other cash crops such as, oil seeds, pulses etc.
- Many fisheries can be develop which will further help for the economic improvement of the study area.
- Several cattle and poultry farm are started to develop here.
- Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary is the Asia's second largest Bird Sanctuary is located here, so there is a wide scope for the development of the tourism industry.

1.8.4 Threats:

- 72 percent of the household have not any kind of latrine facility.
- Even after the seventy three years of the independence, the remote rural areas of Raiganj block are lighting by kerosene, the contribution of electricity is negligible.
- The sluice gates at katanagar, abdulghat and shaktinagar on river kulik are not functioning well. A 15 kilometers long embankment which was constructed for the protection of the Raiganj town has also been weakened. Thus during the rainy season there is huge chances of occurrence of flood which will creates damages of agricultural products as well as human life.

1.9 Conclusion

Raiganj block provided an endless canvass of opportunities. A verity of Planning and programmes has been undertaken by the government and as well as some non-governmental organizations for the development of the rural areas of this block. Such as, 15 panchayets of Raiganj is connected with road network by the implementation of PMGSY. With the aim of Total upliftment and development of women and children of the Raiganj block Shripur Mahila-o-Khadi Unnayan Samity (SMOKUS) organizes awareness campaign of Health, hygiene and sanitation, problem related to early marriage, teenage pregnancy, pri-natal and anti-natal care of child, family welfare, women empowerment etc. They provide sports equipment to the children and encouraging them to continue sport activity. They also care about the child education. Moreover they take track record of ICDS centers as they try to maintain the quality of mid-day meal. In Raiganj block different kind of loans such as, medium term loans, education loan for SC student etc. are provided for the development of this community. On the other hand with the help of Adibasi Mahila Washaktikaran Yojana

(AMSY) different types of facilities have given to the ST women. Moreover, as Raiganj is one of the most important Headquator of Uttar Dinajpur District. It is expected that in far future the inequality will be reduce and the level of Human Development will be spread towards the remote area of the block and a balance development will be occur.

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