Summary of Project Reports of Barasat Municipality's Social and Economic Situation in Wards 25 and 26

In the academic session 2022-2023, a group of 46 Geography Honours Semester V students from the Department of Geography prepared 46 Field Project Report. The students conducted field study and prepared project reports on Ward Number 25 and 26 of Barasat Municipality. They studied the socio-economic profile of the study area. For that, they conducted primary and secondary surveys and integrated physical and cultural knowledge. The students prepared reports using maps, diagrams, and photographs. This helped to improve their critical thinking abilities and also gain practical experience in geographical research.

The project reports entitled as "A social and economic appraisal of Barasat Municipality with special reference to ward Number 25 and 26" aims to understand the social and economic conditions in Barasat Municipality, focusing on Ward Numbers 25 and 26.

Objectives:

The objectives of these projects are:

1. To Study Barasat's physical environment as a suburban town.
2. To Assess the current economic and social status.
3. To Explore the link between natural surroundings and socio-economic factors.
4. To Identify key problems in the area.

Methodology:

Students initially gathered maps and information from the study area and prepared questionnaires. For relevant map collection students visited Survey of India, National Atlas and Thematic Mapping organization (NATMO), Geological Survey of India (GSI) other Government organizations. Based on the literature available students have prepared necessary questionnaire and schedule for collecting primary data.

Then they visited the study area and surveyed 99 households and 38 shops in Ward No. 25 and 26. Additionally they collected soil samples, conducted GPS surveys, and took photographs for data collection which are considered as primary source of information.

After that they processed and then analyzed data using statistical methods. For visual representations they used graphs and diagrams. cartograms and descriptive analysis have been done for representation of data. Different types of climatic and socio-economic data have been represented with the help of Line graph, Climograph, Normal rainfall temperature graph, Bar diagram, Pyramidal diagram, Pie diagram, Flow diagram etc.

Findings and Discussion:

Students studied the physical aspects of the study area, including geomorphology, climatic elements like temperature and rainfall, wind patterns, types of climate, and soil characteristics such as pH profiles. This comprehensive analysis aimed to understand and address various socio-economic challenges and opportunities within the area, influencing economic activities, livelihoods, infrastructure development, urban planning, and overall economic growth.

The students studied various aspects of socio-economic profile of the area including demographics, economic status, transport and infrastructure and quality of life. Population composition, religion composition, caste structure, language diversity, educational condition have been studied under demographic composition. The study revealed that Ward Numbers 25 and 26 have a high population density, primarily comprising Hindus who are Bengali-speaking. The sex ration of the two Wards is 977 which is in line with the state average. Average literacy rate is relatively high.

Male workers are outnumbered than female workers. The majority of respondents are self-employed, with a significant number earning between Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 monthly. The area is well connected with good road and rail networks. The area possesses a good education infrastructure with many school and colleges and healthcare infrastructure with hospitals and health care centres. The quality of life for the study area have been identified by means of satisfaction level of the residents regarding various parameters like medical facility, educational facility, water supply, electric supply, garbage dispersal facility, transport infrastructure, maintenance of law and order, banking facility etc. This investigation reveals that residents of Ward 25 and 26 are satisfied with most of the above mentioned parameters except availability of open space and garbage disposal facility. These two issues are found to be the major difficulties facing the study area, which is comparable to any urban area in the modern world.

Recommendations:

The students made several recommendations for improving well-being of the people in the study area. They highlighted the urgent need to improve road infrastructure and traffic management, expand sewage and waste management systems, ensure adequate street lightning, enhance sufficient water supply for everyone.

Conclusion:

This project enhanced students' understanding of socio-economic dynamics and they were able to highlight areas for improvement in Barasat Municipality's infrastructure and services. It provided valuable learning experience beyond the classroom. The skills include hands-on learning experiences, exposure to real world geographical phenomena and interaction with local communities which will help students in their future studies or research.

Assistant Professor (W.B.E.S.)
Department of Geography
Barasat Govt. College

Assistant Professor (W.B.E.S.)
Department of Geography
Barasat Govt. College

Head &
Associate Professor, (W.B.E.S.)
Department of Geography
Barasat Govt. College
Govt. of West Bengal

Some Selected Photographs of the Fieldwork

Kolkata, West Bengal, India
Kolkata, PF6G+F4X, Kailas Nagar, Hridaypur, Kolkata,
West Bengal 700127, India
Lat 22.711261°
Long 88.475382°
10/09/22 12:31 PM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera

Kolkata, West Bengal, India
PF7H+RVM, KNC Rd, Dakbungalow More, Gupta
Colony, Barasat, Kolkata, West Bengal 700127, India
Lat 22.714918°
Long 88.479894°
09/09/22 11:59 AM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera