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SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND LIVELIHOOD OF REFUGEES IN A SELF-RELIANCE SITUATION OF GHATAL MUNICIPAL AREA, WEST BENGAL

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Abstract: Ghatal Municipality known as flood prone area in West Bengal. River Shilabati flow at the middle of the Ghatal town. Many social and cultural aspect are formed on the based on this river many peoples come here from the other site of the West Bengal or out of West Bengal. They are lives in the demesne land of the river bank. most of the houses are made by semi pucca and kucca houses, because people have no permanent land for their building. Sometime they are received threats from PWD to leave homestead. Keeping this thing in mind they continue to live here day after day and appeals to the government to resettle them in any permanent place. However, the subject of the assessment is how they are adapting and living here as the water level of the river rise in the rainy season.

Keyword: Refugees, Migration, Social Condition, Health Status, Adjustment.

Introduction

Ghatal subdivision is famous for flat prone area in West Bengal almost every year this place paste flooding condition because of its low altitudinal condition. in Ghatal municipality many people come from the other part of the West Bengal and stay here for a long time the lives here linearly in the river bank site of the Shilabati river. In the time of the flooding condition of the rainy season, when the water level is rise there house are flooded and then they leave their home and live for a while on higher ground. this kind of situation is a daily occurrence year after year. So, economic condition of the refugees is changing and how the refugees of this area are surviving during the extreme condition of flood, from the enthuse we selected that location.

Objective

Field study is very essential for every social science such as Geography. Through field study we try to know about physical as well as social economic problems of study area region. From this field study we collect social economic data by door-to-door collection regarding the problems of selective region. We collect data more than 72 families from ward no. -16 under Ghatal municipality of Ghatal block. We also collected the climatic data and other secondary data from Ghatal sub division, Agricultural and irrigation department and Ghatal municipality. After collection of primary and secondary process there. Two several data and try to dig out the problems as well as the relationship between socio – economic status and livelihood of refugees in a self-reliance situation of Ghatal municipality area. The main objectives are-

1. Identify the social effect of the high intensity of flood on the refugee’s life of the municipality area of Ghatal.
2. identify the more effect of the flood on settlement.
3. identify the actual place for Refugee are come from.
4. to analysis why the Refugee are lives here and survive with the extreme environmental condition.

Data base & Methodology

The topic was essentially related with the daily life of human being. We were determined to collect primary data from field observation, as well as through the door- to- door household level data collection. Specially that region which is suffering from some physical, social and economic problems.

But our collected primary data can’t provide enough information to prepare such a project report. So, we were agreed to collect Secondary data like Climatic data, Census data etc. from different offices, journals, and districts statistic handbooks.

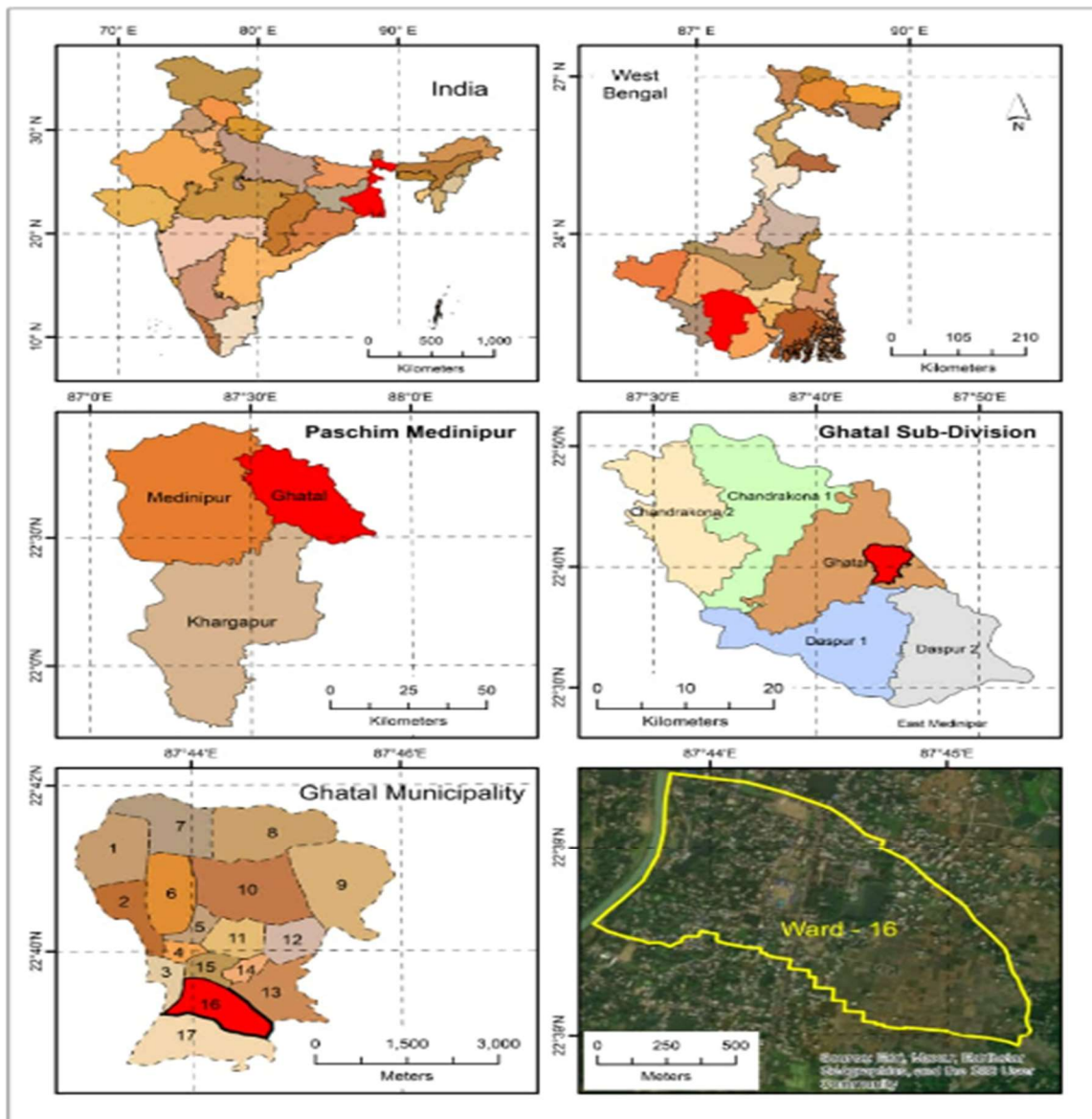
To understand the perspective of socio-economic condition of refugees we are categorically divided the total report into chapters. But emphasis was given on introduction, physical set up, Environmental condition. age sex ratio, educational structure, Occupational structure, income level, Water supply, Sanitation condition, medical facility, Transport systems, facilities obtain from river etc. To perceive the flood condition and its impact on the special economic and cultural life of refugees at Ghatal municipality ward no -16. We have elaborated the filed report with some maps, tables and diagrams.

To dig out and perceive the socioeconomic status and livelihood pattern Refugees at Ghatal we depended on self-collected primary data and information as well as secondary data from different offices.

Location

Block Ghatal is located between 22°39'N to 22°42'N parallel and 87°43'E to 87°46'E meridians. Location of Ghatal Kuspata-Konnagar is under Ghatal municipality, ward no - 16 of Ghatal block. The latitudinal and Longitudinal location of 16 no ward in between 22°39'36"N to 22°38'25"N Latitude and 87°44'12" to 87°43'44"E longitude at the southern part of Ghatal block and on the eastern bank of Shilabati river.

LOCATION MAP OF WARD NO 16 AT GHATAL MUNICIPALITY



A brief idea about Ghatal Municipality

Ghatal Municipality located as sub-divisional headquarter of Ghatal Paschim Medinipur district which have an area of 10.40 sq. Km and population is 54591 as per 2011 census covered by seventeen wards out of which 12 wards on the western bank of river



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Shilabati submerged and remain under flood for 3-4 months every year causes boundless sorrow and suffering at the rate of prayers. The town is 65 km. away from Medinipur sadar and 110 km. Away from the state capital Kolkata. There no rail link with in the entire sub-division. Particularly due to under developed of road transportation system for conducting trade and commerce its suffered setback after the East India Company was established in Bengal, when British took position of the district, the residents of the locality entire into contract with British merchants to supply raw silk, Cotton and silk piece goods. As a result, some NILKHUTIS were set up with in the municipality especially at Kuthibazar, the eastate of NILKAR SAHEB and a floating bridge was established which now a heritage is declared by the Govt. of India.

Ghatal Municipality established on the 1st day of April 1869 as an institute of Hooghly district under the fostering care of them British administrator the district Magistrate of Hooghly district Ghatal circuit embankment encircles twelve wards on the western bank of river Shilabati which was the only protection / barrier / wall to encounter the flood water in the British era was breached long before being declared abandoned by the Govt.

Singhapur Village is a flood prone area, located on the western bank of Silabati river with mostly concentrated habitation. The block Ghatal situated at the eastern part of West Medinipur of West Bengal, lies almost entirely in the catchment of river Rupnarayan and its tributary Shilabati.

Physiography

The height of vast area of Ghatal and Daspur block is 5-15 mt. and it is a flood prone plane physiographic region as Shilabati and dwarakeswar. Geologically the crust is made by alluvium soil with little phosphate and potash composition, some area of this block is covered by clayed soil which is poor permeable to water, causing water stagnant. Most of the area of this block is covered by sediment of Shilabati river and its tributaries. The study area comes under the tropical warm and humid climate with the monsoonal heavy rainfall. Shilabati, kongsabati and dwarakeswar are the important river in the area including Chandeswar khal, Ketela khal ,Donoi khal, Buri Ganga, Panal khal etc.

Drainage



The main rivers are Shilabati, Rupnarayan, Kangsabati and Dwarakeswar and its tributary Jhumi. This area situated at the eastern bank of silabati river. The study area is totally flood prone region. At the north - eastern limit of Ghatal municipality the river Dwarakeswar and its tributary Jhumi meet with river Shilabati and river Rupnarayan has originated from this point.

Climate

The climate of Ghatal block is under tropical monsoon climate. The summer is wet and hot April is the hottest month of the year. Temperature reach about 38°C, which is extreme for all types of life the winter is also dry and cold. In January temperature goes down to 12°C which is cold for normal tropical climate. The annual temperature range various from 38°C to 12°C. The temperature expansion (26°C yearly) indicators said that the region located in an extreme climate zone. The annual average rainfall is 170cm. The maximum rainfall can be found in the month of July and minimum rainfall can be found in winter season. More than 80% rainfall are occurred in rainy season (June to September) by south west monsoon.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apirl	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maximum temp. in°C	26.7	29.3	34.4	37.4	35.7	34.6	32.2	31.9	33.2	31.5	29	26.5
Minimum temp. in°C	11.2	15.7	20.8	24.6	26.1	26.4	26	25.9	25.7	23.4	17.6	13.4
Rainfall in mm	11	17	22	46	107	209	268	236	296	92	17	02

Source: IMD (GHATAL) weather map and climatic data



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Occurrence of Flood events at Ghatal

year	Month	Water level of Silabati at Bandar Gauge station	Remark	Nature of Floods at Bandar Gauge station
2005	June	3.38	No Flood occurs	PDL=6.24MT DL=6.85MT EDL=7.46MT HFL9.47MT PDL- Post Danger Level DL- Danger Level EDL- Early Danger Level HFL-High Flood Level
	July	4.38	No Flood occurs	
	August	5.06	No Flood occurs	
	September	5.12	No Flood occurs	
	October	6.79	Low Intensity Flood	
2006	June	3.26	No Flood occurs	
	July	5.06	No Flood occurs	
	August	6.49	Low Intensity Flood	
	September	7.28	Moderate Intensity Flood	
	October	5.71	No Flood occurs	
2007	June	2.92	No Flood occurs	
	July	8.43	High Intensity Flood	
	August	8.55	High Intensity Flood	
	September	8.40	High Intensity Flood	
	October	6.70	Low Intensity Flood	
2008	June	6.49	Low Intensity Flood	
	July	6.91	Moderate Intensity Flood	
	August	5.85	No Flood occurs	
	September	5.41	No Flood occurs	
	October	4.26	No Flood occurs	
2009	June	3.53	No Flood occurs	
	July	3.62	No Flood occurs	
	August	5.21	No Flood occurs	
	September	7.73	rate Intensity Flood	
	October	3.99	ood occurs	
2010	June	3.83	No Flood occurs	
	July	4.51	No Flood occurs	
	August	4.35	No Flood occurs	
	September	4.57	No Flood occurs	
	October	4.87	No Flood occurs	
2011	June	6.95	Moderate Intensity Flood	
	July	5.33	No Flood occurs	
	August	7.46	Moderate Intensity Flood	
	September	6.33	Low Intensity Flood	
	October	4.11	No Flood occurs	
2012	June	3.05	No Flood occurs	
	July	3.62	No Flood occurs	
	August	4.75	No Flood occurs	
	September	5.34	No Flood occurs	
	October	3.08	No Flood occurs	
2013	June	3.65	No Flood occurs	
	July	6.09	Low Intensity Flood	
	August	6.70	Low Intensity Flood	
	September	5.57	No Flood occurs	
	October	7.16	Moderate Intensity Flood	
2014	June	2.50	No Flood occurs	



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	July	3.92	No Flood occurs
	August	4.48	No Flood occurs
	September	3.71	No Flood occurs
	October	3.26	No Flood occurs

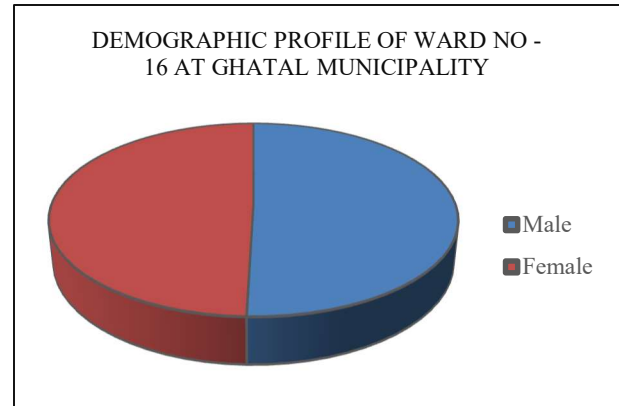
Source: Irrigation and Water Ways Dept. Ghatal Sub Division

From the above table we found almost every year flood has been occurred. In the year 2007 from July to September 3 months face high intensity of flood. In that time many people lost their houses, agriculture as well as job also.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

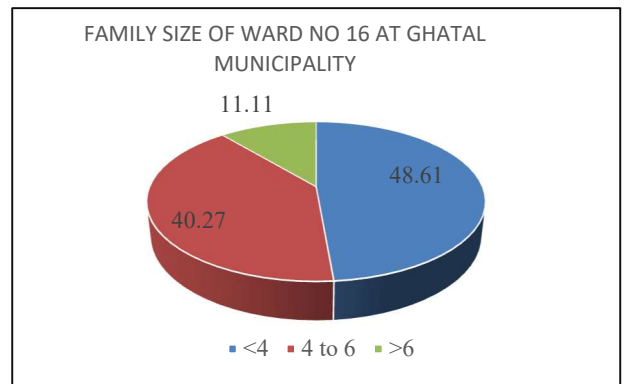
Ghatal block of West Bengal very known for its flooded condition in every year. The ward no -16 of Ghatal Municipality is very important for its high intensity of flooded condition in every year at monsoon season. This ward has 1168 human settlements with 5478 population, 2773 are male and 2695 are female population (census 2001) total area of ward no -16 about 04sq. Km. With extraction north to south 01 sq.km. and east to west 01 sq.km.

Here we found so many refugees live in the bank side of river Silabati and many other parts of village for their own purpose. How the people of the flood affected area survive during the extreme time of flooding. For our investigation purpose we prepared survey schedule to collect different socio-economic data from 72 household on 331 population. After collection of socio-economic data, we analyzed through different models and diagrams and at least we make a conclusion about the relation between self -reliance situation and livelihood pattern in flooded condition.



Family size

According to our survey schedule and tabulation sheet we collected socio-economic data from 72 families in their different groups according to their members. The small size of family which are containing fewer than 4 persons, medium families which are 4-6 persons and large families are containing over 6 persons. According to our tabulation sheet 48.61% families are small size, 40.27% families are medium size and 11.11% families are big size. In the present time urbanization touch everywhere, so that maximum population live in nuclear family. The result is that small size of family found in this urban area.

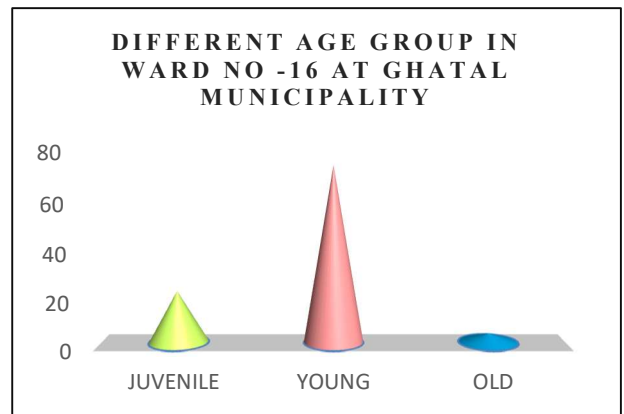


Sex ratio

We collected data from 72 households, among 331 populations, out of 331 population 167 are male population and 164 are female populations the sex ratio of this village is 982 which are more than the national level (940) the sex ratio of this village indication that the social as well as demographic condition is good condition, which is the good indicator of society.

Age group

According to our collected data from 72 refugee family, over 331 population we divided total population in three different age groups according to their age. Age groups are 0-14 years. 14 to 55 years and above 55 years. The 0-14 years age groups indicates that, this group is child or dependent group. The age group 14-55 years indicates that, this age group is working group and age group of above 55 years indicates that





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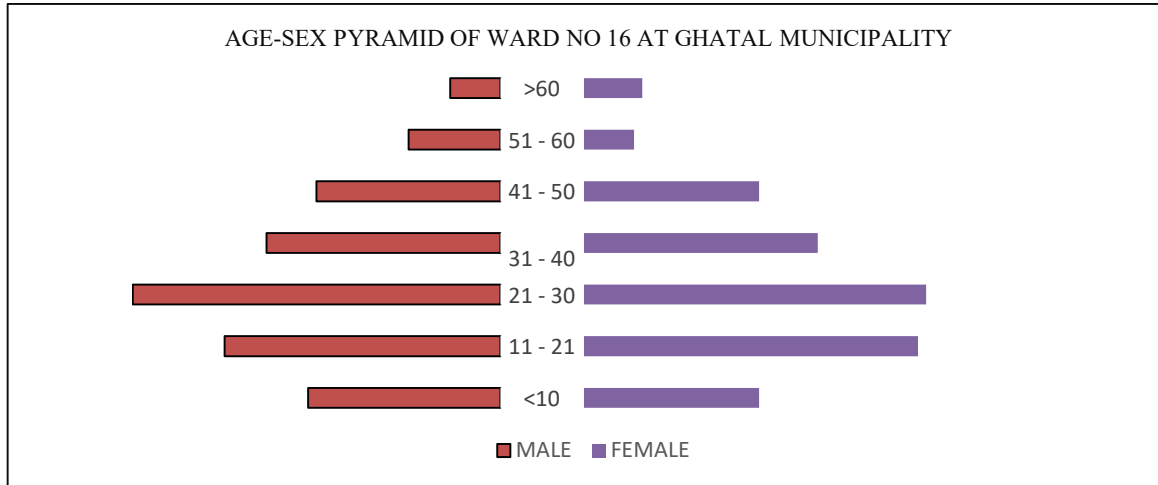


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this age group is old group. The child group containing only 22.05% out of total population the working group containing 74.01% of total population which are very good for society and old age group containing only 3.92% of total population.

Age sex ratio



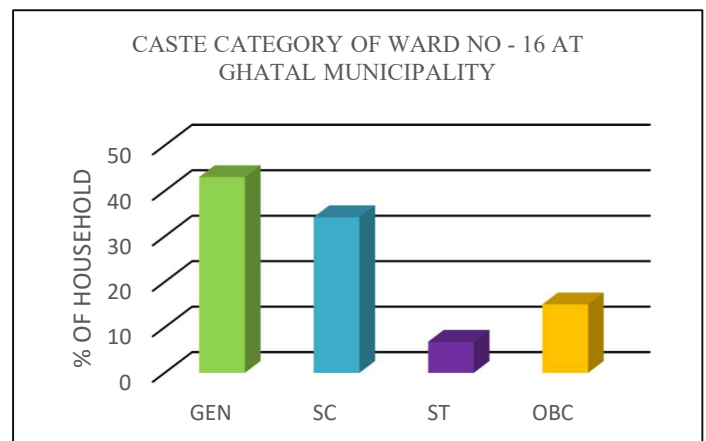
Demographically ward no -16 is significantly different from the other ward of Ghatal Municipality. The age sex ratio of this ward of refugee community is 982. According to our tabulation we divided total population into 07(seven) age sex group (i) 0-10yrs, (ii) 11-20yrs, (iii) 21-30yrs, (iv) 31-40, (v) 41-50yrs, (vi) 51-60yrs, (vii) above 60 yrs. Only 14.04% of male and 12.57% of female population are under 10yrs which indicates low population growth. 20.12% male and 23.95% female populations are in age group of 11-20 yrs. 26.34% male and 25% female populations are in age group of 21-30 yrs. 17.07% male and 16.76% female populations are in age group of 31-40 yrs. 13.41% male and 12.57% female populations are in age group of 41-50 yrs. 6.07% male and 3.59% female population are in age group of 51-60 yrs. and 3.65% male and 4.19% female in the last as well as old age group over 60 yrs.

Marital status

According to our collecting data on refugee from ward no – 16 out of 331 population 191 persons are marriage population. Total marriage population 191 or 57.70%. Out of total married population 92 persons or 48.16% male are married and 99 persons or 51.83% female are married.

Caste structure

Caste structure of refugee in ward no -16 at Ghatal municipality is very significant. About 43.05% (31 household) are belonging from same caste group which is general caste, 34.72% household are schedule caste groups,15.28% of households are belonging into OBC caste category and only 6.94% household are ST caste group. In this ward all caste categorial refugees are found.





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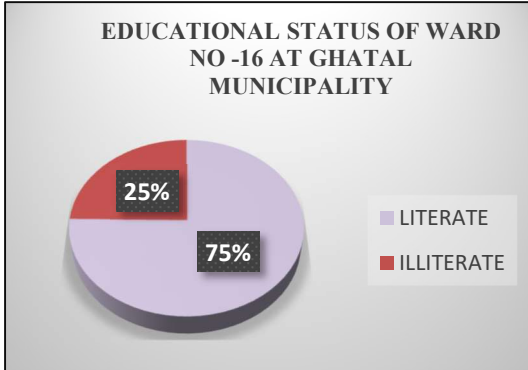


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Nature of education

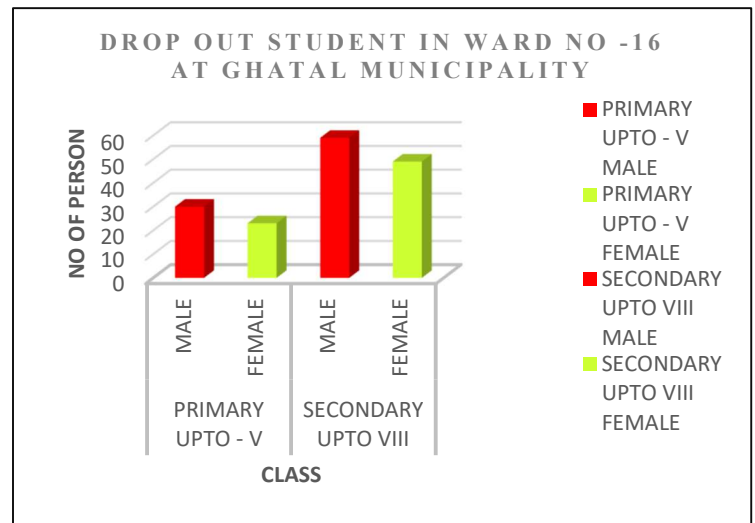
Out of 331 surveyed populations of refugees 8 populations are infant who actually not started study in school level. Most of populations about 75.15% of are literate and 24.86% populations are illiterate at ward no 16 of Ghatal Municipality. Out of total surveyed populations 92.74% people are continuing their education. Out of 248 population 28.79% are in primary level, 43.95% are in secondary level and 7.25% are continuing their higher education indifferent institutions in other places.



Drop out of student

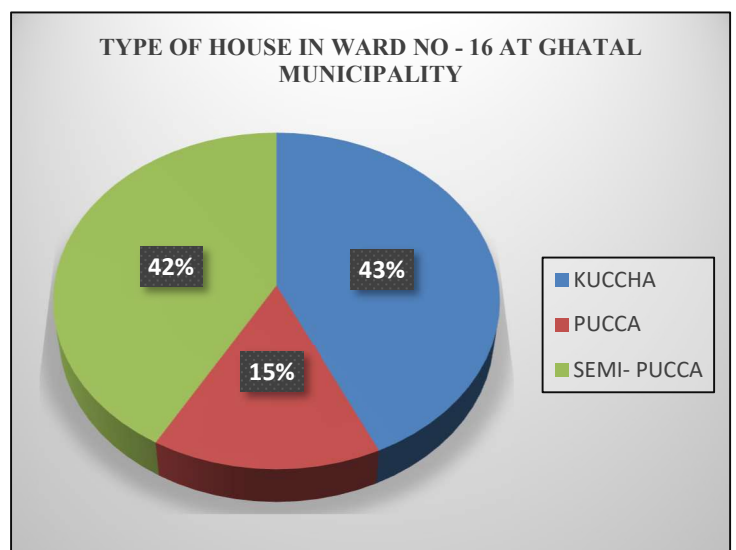
On refugee community we found several students who are drop out in different classes. We classify them into two categories. One primary (Upto V) and another is secondary (upto class VIII). Here we found 18.63% of Male and 14.28% of female are drop out their school from primary level of education and 36.69% of Male and 30.43% female drop out of secondary school of education.

The main cause for drop out is their family problem most of them are leave their school for make money their family.



House type

This ward has 1168 human settlements we collected socioeconomic data on refugee from 72 households. This ward naturally located at the bank of river Shilabati. The MSL of this ward is 5-15 meters. Type of house of this ward are normal as like as other Gangatic plain of Bengal. but refugee's houses are different from other. Most of the house of refugee's are not permanent. At the time of flood, the houses are emerged on river water. Most of houses about 43.05% settlements are made only mudded. Only 41.66% house not only made mudded as well as made by are semi concerted or bricks walls and roof tiles or asbestos, mud, bamboo, roof, tiles, iron rods etc. Only 15.27% house of refugee have pucca house.





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Source of water supply

The area ward no -16 situated of the bank of Shilabati river. Normally every household has required two types of water supply (a) for drinking purpose and (b) for other domestic purpose. For drinking purpose out of 69 households (95.83%) depend on municipality pipe supply water, people of this municipality ward no -16 dependent not only drinking purpose but other domestic purpose of household. Only 3 households have their own tube well for use their daily life and domestic purpose which are situated of the bank of Shilabati River, people are used this river water for bath sanitation, as well so many their domestic purpose.

Health facility

Health is one of the most important demographics as well as social factors. Our surveyed area ward no 16 situated at the bank of river Shilabati. Health facilities are good in here. Ghatal Super Facility hospital situated in this ward. So, every people of this ward facilitated by this hospital.

Type of handicapped

According to our survey on refugee of Ghatal municipality we found several people as a handicapped member, we found 2 persons have polio 2 are blind and 1 person is dumb.

Sanitation condition

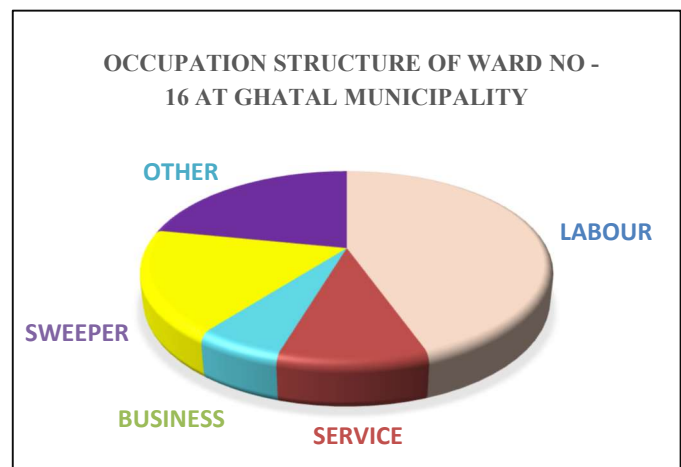
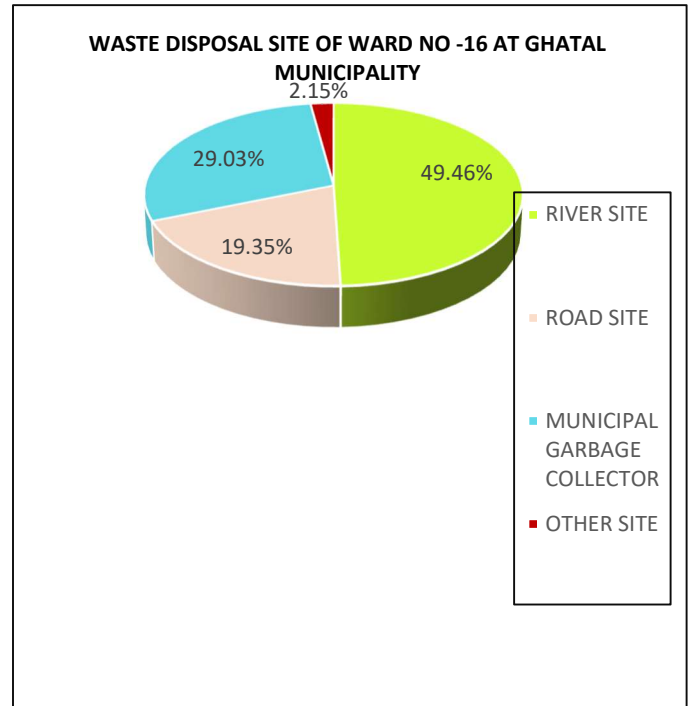
From our surveyed 72 households, we divided total served settlements into two categories, for assessment of sanitation condition of this ward the categories are sanitation facility is available or not. If sanitation facility is available then it is closed. Out of the total surveyed households 80.55% households has the closed sanitation facility. Only 19.44% households have the open sanitation they use open field for their sanitation purpose. It is not very good for the healthy environment.

Waste disposal site

From our survey schedule we are divided 4 categories for assessment of waste disposal site of this Ward. The categories are waste disposal at river site, road site municipality garbage van and other. here we see 49.46% families are through their garbage in river site, 19.35% family through their garbage in road site and 29.03%family are through their garbage at municipality garbage collector van this category of families are very conscious about pollution and only 2.15% family are through their garbage at anywhere.

Occupation structure

Occupation is the most important socioeconomic character of only region. We divided our surveyed working persons in different occupation groups - (a) sweeper (b)service (c) business (d) labour and (e) others economic activity. In ward no 16 we surveyed over population; 53 persons (44.53%) have been involved as labour worker. 12 persons (10.08%) involve in different Govt. and Non-Govt service sectors. 7 Persons (5.88%) involved in their own business, 21 persons (17.64%) working as a sweeper, and 26persons (21.64%) are involves in different type other economic activity like Fisherman etc.



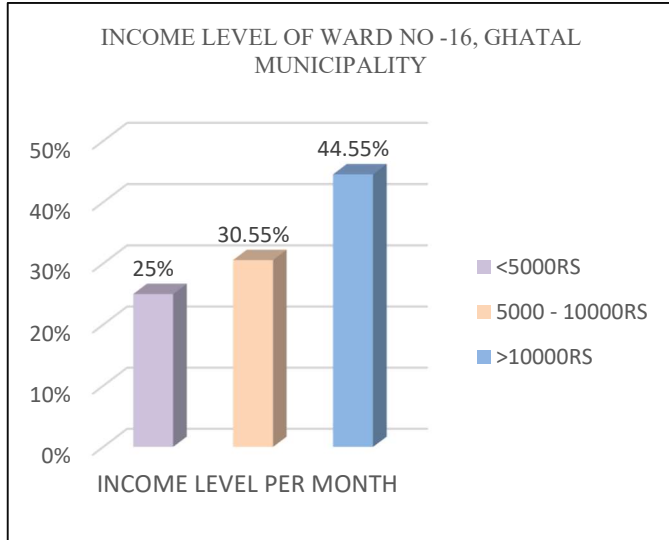


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Income level

Income level is the most important indicator of development of any region. If income level is high then it considers that the region is developed or under development. We divided our surveyed 72 household into three different income level groups on depend upon the monthly of any household in Indian currency. a) bellow 5000 rupees per month b) 5000-10000 rupees per month c) 10000 and above per month. At this municipal ward, 25% households occupying below 5000 rupees per month, 30.55% household are occupying in between 5000 -10000 rupees per month, 44.55% household are occupying above 10000 rupees per month. So, most of the house hold are in good income level group, which is the very good for social condition as well as economically devolved area.



Saving

Saving is also one of the very important for future as well as income development. We divided surveyed 72 household into our different savings groups. a) no savings households b) savings bellow 5000 rupees per year c) savings 5000-10000 rupees per year d) savings above 10000 rupees per year. At this ward no 16 of Ghatal municipality 18 households (25%) save their money bellow 5000 rupees per year, 30 households (41.67%) save their money between 5000-10000 rupees per year, 14 households (19.44%) save their money above 10000 rupees per year and 10 households (13.89%) said that they have no savings through the year. Peoples save their money in banks or post office.

Transport system

The ward no 16 of Ghatal municipality, situated at the eastern bank of river Shilabati. The people of this ward reach different types of transport system like toto service and other transport facilities. 39.02% households use personal bicycle and motor cycle and 60.98% household use other type of transport facilities. In monsoon the 16 no ward almost flooded and transport system had been collapsed in every year. Inside people travel through walking.

Electrification

Electrification is also one of the very important indications of development; electrification indicate stander of living of the household at different time phase. So, 100% households have the electric facility.

Actual place of refugees

Refugees are not permanent people in this municipal ward. They are come from another place of West Bengal and outside of West Bengal. Some people of refugees are come from Bihar, Orissa, some are from Mursidabad, Kharagpur (KGP), Chandrokona, Arambag, Kespur, Debra of low land, and some are from local place of low land and where flood have been occurred in every year. The refugees are live in the bank of the river site. All this refugee is unstable when water level of river high in rainy season, they are moved from to high land.

Problems

The refugee of this ward has so many problems but we identify five major problems.

1. Flood during monsoon in every year.
2. Most of houses of the refugee are made by earth house which is collapsed during the flood.
3. Lack of job opportunity.
4. They have no permanent place; all they are live in temporary.



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- Insufficient health facility during the monsoon large part of the municipal ward are flood by upstream water, so their houses are broken or destroyed at the time of flood, they are sift to high land. Most of the refugee have no job opportunity, for this regard so many youngsters well as old and child also are going far away for job opportunity.

Solutions

First the solution of refugee's problem many actions must be taken -

Firstly, to give them permanent settlement by officially.

secondly to build their house many by various Govt. project.

thirdly to engaged the various Govt or non Govt job.

fourthly, try to improved health facility.

Conclusion

The municipal ward no 16 is located a high fertile river bank area. And refugees are just live inside the river bank they have no agricultural and no permanent residence. Dispute all the adversities they live in the river bank, can be said as the cause they have no own land, so they are occupied P.W.D place. It can be further said they are more privileged here than other parts although there are other disadvantages here, they have adapted. They only demand for their administration is that they need a permanent residence, not only that permanent residence work also be needed, it also requires a public health check-up during flood. They will live as permanent residence only when all these needs are most of the refugee have no job opportunity for this regard so many young as well as old and child also are going far away for job opportunity. At this village the health facility is not sufficient only one primary health centre is present but no doctor.

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