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## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF NAGRAKATA BLOCK OF JALPAIGURI AND DINHATA-II BLOCK OF COOCHBEHAR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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### Abstract:

*Nagrakata is a northern foothill block of Jalpaiguri district adjacent to Bhutan Himalaya. Dinhata-II is a southern plain block of Coochbehar district of West Bengal adjacent to Bangladesh. Both Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar are two neck to neck districts of West Bengal. There is a vast difference of physical factors between two blocks. There are also some differences in political condition with two different countries. I want to find out their effects on socio-economic condition of two blocks.*

### KEY WORDS-

Physical differences, socio-economic effects.

### INTRODUCTION

Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar are two northern most districts of West Bengal. The Nagrakata block is situated at northern part of Jalpaiguri District adjacent to Bhutan. Northern parts of Jalpaiguri district are called Duars major parts of Duars are covered with tea gardens and forest. Nagrakata is also covered with lots of tea garden. Nagrakata is mainly a foothill area with gentle slope. Two main rivers of the area are river Jaldakha at western part and river Daina in the eastern part. NH 34 and a railway line pass through the area. Some doors of Bhutan are also situated in this area. Dinhata-II block is a southern most block of Coochbehar district adjacent to Bangladesh. Physically the area is a plain area with lots of agricultural lands. Some state way and a railway line pass through this area. Both Nagrakata and Dinhata-II blocks are frontier areas of two separate adjacent countries of India. But there is a difference in physical characteristics of two blocks. Nagrakata is a foothill block of Bhutan Himalaya and Dinhata-II is a plain area. Both, Nagrakata and Dinhata-II are situated in the same climatic condition. Political and physical factors affect on their socio-economic condition.

### METHODOLOGY:

Whole research work mainly based on Secondary and primary data. Secondary data collected from statistical hand books of both districts. Some sample survey has been done differently in different places of both blocks. Sample survey of Nagrakata block has been done in November 2011 and at Dinhata-II in June 2012. Primary data collected through random sampling method. Sample survey is done on 497 populations of 94 families of Nagrakata block and 675 populations of 163 families of Dinhata-II block. To determine locations of house hold survey area GPS locator software has been used.

**OBJECTIVES:**

There are some objectives associated with this study-

1. To find out the basic differences of socio-economic condition of two study area.
2. To analysis the factors responsible for differences.
3. To know how physical condition effects on socio-economic condition of study area.
4. To know is there any effects of political situation on socio-economic condition.

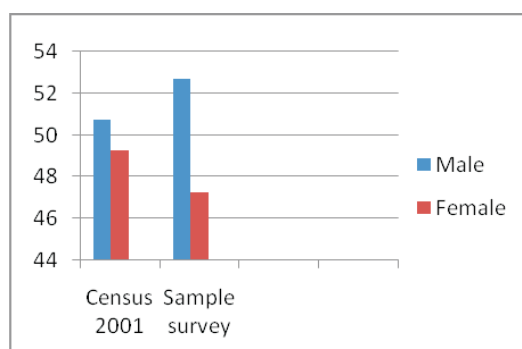
**STUDY AREA:**

Nagrakata is a northern foothill block of Jalpaiguri district adjacent to Bhutan Himalaya. Nagrakata block is located between 26048' to 27000'N parallels of latitude and between 88o48' to 89o00'E longitude. But house hold survey area of Nagrakata block is situated between 26053'03" to 26053'12"N latitude and between 88054'34" to 88054'49"E longitude. Main two village of Nagrakata block is Subash pally and Sulkapara. Dinhata-II is a southern block of Coochbehar district of West Bengal adjacent to Bangladesh. Dinhata-II block is located between 25057' to 26014'N parallels of latitude and between 89o28' to 89o40'E longitude. House hold survey area of Dinhata-II block is situated between 26007'03" to 26007'14"N latitude and between 89034'32" to 89035'57"E longitude. Main two village of Dinhata-II block is Kharubhanj and Sahebganj.

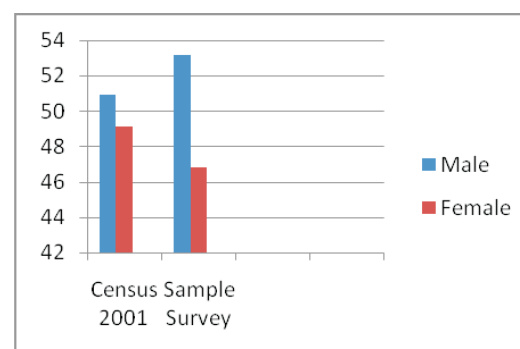
**DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITION:**

Total population of Nagrakata block was 115907 in 2001 with 292 population density. Male population was 58790 and female population was 57117. Nagrakata covered 3.41 % population of Jalpaiguri district. Sex ratio of Nagrakata is 971 female/ 1000 male with male-female ratio of 50.72% and 49.28%. Sample survey population was 497 with 262 male and 235 female. Sex ratio was 896 female/ 1000 male. Male- female ratio is 52.71% and 47. 27%. Other hand total population of Dinhata-II was 205546 in 2001 with 832 population density. This block shears 8.29% population of Coochbehar district. Sex ratio of Dinhata-II is 964 female/1000 male. Male population was 104627 and female population was 100919 with 50.9% and 49.1% respectively. Total sample population was 675. Male population was 359 and female population was 316 with 53.19% and 46.81% respectively. Sex ratio of this block is 880 female /1000 male.

Sex-Ratio in Nagrakata



Sex-Ratio in Dinhata-II

**CASTE DISTRIBUTION:**

According to district statistical hand book there are 13777 scheduled castes population found in 2001 census in Nagrakata which is 11.87%. Among them 7021 male population and 6756 female population which is 50.96% and 49.04% respectively. Through sample survey 98 scheduled caste population found in 497 which is 19.71%. There is 92470 scheduled caste population found in Dinhata-II block in 2001 census which is 44.99% of blocks among them 47116 male and 45354 female populations with 50.95% and 49.05% respectively. According to sample survey, there is 146 scheduled caste population

found in 675 sample population which is

21.63%. Out of 205546 total populations 57325(49.47%) scheduled tribe population belongs in Nagrakata block. There is 28914 male population and 28411 female population found in ST population with 50.44% and 49.56% respectively. Other hand 126 scheduled tribe population found in 497 sample population which is 25.35% of sampled population. According to 2001 census 896 scheduled tribe population found in Dinhata-II block which is only 0.44%. There are 473(52.79%) male and 423(47.21%) female population. According to sample survey, only 4 scheduled tribe population found in 675 which is 0.59%. In district statistical hand book only SC and ST population shown. If we add SC and ST population then may calculate the General and OBC population. Through this, there are 44805 general & OBG population belongs in Nagrakata block in 2001 which is 38.66% of block's population. According to sample survey there is 45(48.89%) General population and 30(6.04%) OBC population in 497 sampled population. In Dinhata-II block 112180 General and OBC population found in 2001 census which is 54.58% of block's population. Through sample survey, there are 173(25.63%) General population and 352(52.15%) OBC population found in 675 sampled population.

#### RELIGIOUS STATUS:

According to census report there is 83.30% Hindus, 10.85% Muslim and 4.34% Christian belongs in Jalpaiguri district. Through the sample survey we have found 427 Hindus, 11 Muslims and 59 Christians in 497 sample population which is 85.92% Hindus, 2.2% Muslim and 11.87% Christian in Nagrakata block. Other hand, in Coochbehar district 75.5% Hindus, 24.24% Muslims and 0.9% Christians belongs. According to sample survey there is 573 Hindus and 102 Muslim populations found in Dinhata-II block which is 84.89% and 15.11% respectively.

#### EDUCATIONAL STATUS:

To observe about education status, some secondary data from district statistical hand books and some primary data collected by house hold survey are used. Following tables shoes the educational status of both blocks.

**Table: 1. Educational status of Nagrakata Block**

Status	Institution	Student	Teacher
Primary School	53	12887	148
Upper Primary School	1	498	5
High School	6	5570	78
Higher Secondary School	1	1798	22

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, Jalpaiguri 2004.

There are 53 primary schools in Nagrakata block with 12887 students guided by 148 Teachers and 6 high schools, 1 higher secondary school with 5570 student and 1798 student respectively guided by 78 and 22 teachers. According to sample survey, there are 199 illiterate people and 298 literate people belong in Nagrakata block. Among them, 129 is studying or passed primary, 75 M.P. passed, 51 H.S. passed, 37 Graduate passed and 6 post-graduate passed.

**Table: 2. Educational status of Dinhata-II block**

Status	Institution	Student	Teacher
Primary School	168	28600	528
Upper Primary School	9	8456	48
High School	9	10906	105
Higher Secondary School	5	11172	94

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, Coochbehar 2004.

There are 168 primary schools in Dinhata-II block with 28600 students guided by 528 Teacher and 9 high school, 5 higher secondary school with 10906 student and 11172 student respectively guided by 105 and 94 teacher. According to sample survey, there are 114 illiterate people and 561 literate people belong in Dinhata-II block. Among them, 161 is studying or passed primary, 123 eight passed, 153 M.P. passed, 76 H.S. passed, 36 Graduate passed and 12 post-graduate passed.

#### FAMILY SIZE:

There is no available data about family size in district statistical hand books. To find out family sizes of two blocks, researcher has done a house hold survey. The data is given below -

**Table: 3. Family Size in Nagrakata Block**

Family Size in Person				No of Unit		Mean
< 3	4-5	6-7	>8			
17	38	33	6	94	Family	5.29
18.09	40.43	35.11	6.37	100	%	

Source: House hold survey, November 2011.

**Table: 4. Family Size in Dinhat-II Block**

Family Size in Person				No of Unit		Mean
< 3	4-5	6-7	>8			
45	95	15	8	163	Family	4.14
27.61	58.28	9.20	4.91	100	%	

Source: House hold survey, June 2012.

According to sample survey, there is 17 family found in Nagrakata block below 3 member, 38 family between 4 to 5 member, 33 family between 6 to 7 member and 6 family found above 8 ,ember. Mean family size in Nagrakata block is 5.29 members. Through sample survey, there is 45 family found in Nagrakata block below 3 member, 95 family between 4 to 5 member, 15 family between 6 to 7 member and 8 family found above 8 ,ember. Mean family size in Dinhata-II block is 4.14 members.

#### WORK DISTRIBUTION:

Work distribution pattern of both Nagrakata and Dinhata-II block is shown through secondary and primary data. Both secondary and primary data given below-

Table: 5. Work distribution of Nagrakata Block

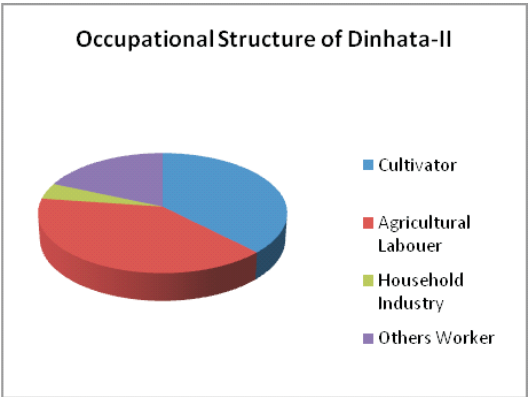
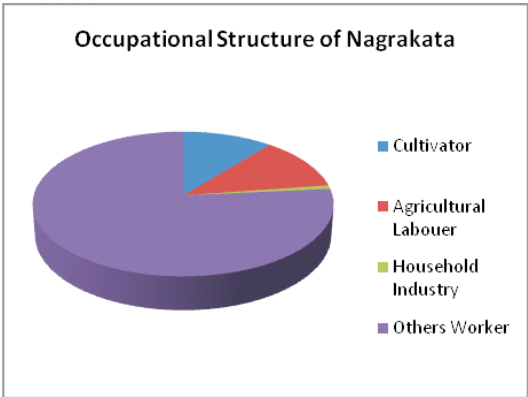
Main division	No. of Worker			% of worker				Total
Non-Worker	69680			60.1				115907
Worker	46227			39.9				
Categories	Main Worker	Marginal Worker	Total	Cultivators	Agricultural Labour	Household Industry	Others Worker	
No. of Worker	34170	12057	46227	5042	5470	382	35333	46227
% of worker	29.5	10.4	39.9	10.9	11.8	0.8	76.5	100

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, Jalpaiguri 2004.

Table: 6. Work distribution of Dinhata-II Block

Main division	No. of Worker			% of worker				Total
Non-Worker	105922			51.5				205546
Worker	99624			48.5				
Categories	Main Worker	Marginal Worker	Total	Cultivators	Agricultural Labour	Household Industry	Others Worker	
No. of Worker	65321	34303	99624	37442	39432	4244	18506	99624
% of worker	31.8	16.7	48.5	37.6	39.6	4.3	18.5	100

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, Coochbehar 2004.



According to district statistical hand book total population of Nagrakata block is 115907. Dependent population of this block is 69680 which are 60.1% of total population. Total worker of Nagrakata block is 46227 which are 39.9 % of total population of block. Among total workers 29.5 % main and 10.4 % marginal worker is found in Nagrakata. In total workers 10.9% cultivators, 11.8% agricultural labour, 0.8% household industry and 76.5% others worker is found. Although there is no division in others workers, but their major part of this is engaged in tea worker in Nagrakata block. Other hand, total population of Dinhata-II block is 205546. Dependent population of this block is 105922 which are 51.5% of total population. Total worker of Dinhata-II block is 99624 which are 48.5 % of total population of block. Among total workers 31.8 % main and 16.7 % marginal worker is found in Dinhata-II. In total workers 37.6% cultivators, 39.6% agricultural labour, 4.3% household industry and 18.5% others worker is found. In Dinhata-II block main occupation is agriculture sharply found through this table. Physically Dinhata-II block is a fertile plain area.



Table: 7. Work distribution of Nagrakata Block

Main division	No. of Worker		% of worker			Total
Dependent	257		51.71			497
Worker	240		48.29			
Categories	Agriculture	Service	Business	Tea Labour	Others	
No. of Worker	9	46	78	54	53	240
% of worker	3.75	19.17	32.5	22.5	22.08	100

Source: Household survey, November 2011.

Table: 8. Work distribution of Dinhata-II Block

Main division	No. of Worker		% of worker		Total
Dependent	419		62.07		675
Worker	256		37.93		
Categories	Agriculture	Service	Business	Others	
No. of Worker	70	59	63	64	256
% of worker	27.34	23.05	24.61	25	100

Source: House hold survey, June 2012.

**PER CAPITA INCOME:**

Lack of secondary data, income status of both blocks is shown through primary data. Founded sample survey data is shown by table below-

Table: 9. Monthly income of Families in Nagrakata

Monthly income in Rs	<2000	2000-5000	5000-10000	>10000	Total
No. of families	28	40	17	9	94
% to total families	29.79	42.55	18.09	9.57	100

Source: Household survey, November 2011.

Table: 10. Monthly income of Families in Dinhata-II

Monthly income in Rs	<2000	2000-5000	5000-10000	>10000	Total
No. of families	14	58	56	35	163
% to total families	8.59	35.58	34.36	21.47	100

Source: House hold survey, June 2012.

According to sample survey, there are 28 families belongs with monthly income of below 2000 which is 29.79% of total families. 40 families are found whose monthly income is between 2000 - 5000 which 42.55% of total families are. 17 families belong with monthly income of 5000 to 10000. 9 families are found above 10000 monthly incomes which is 9.57% of total families. Through the sample survey, there are 14 families belongs with monthly income of below 2000 which is 8.59% of total families. 58 families are found whose monthly income is 2000 to 5000 which 35.58% of total families are. 56 families belong with monthly income of 5000 to 10000. 35 families are found above 10000 monthly incomes which is 21.47% of total families.



**CONCLUSION:**

Through this study, there are lots of some socio-economic differences found. At first, sharp differences found in population density of both places. It is mainly for their physical situation. Nagrakata is a foothill block where agricultural land is not available except tea cultivation. Physically plain area of Dinhata-II affects on general cultivation and high population density also. Caste distribution is also affected by physical factors. In Nagrakata block mainly ST population dominated but in Dinhata-II block SC and OBC population dominated. Distribution of religion in Nagrakata is vast differ from Dinhata-II block. Mainly Hindus are majority in both blocks. Some parts of Nagrakata dominated by Christian population. Because a part of ST population is attractive to Christian religion. Other hand some parts of Dinhata-II block is Muslim population dominated. Literacy rate of Dinhata-II is higher than Nagrakata block. Institution and student- teacher ratio is also better in Dinhata-II block. Differences found in work distribution patterns also. Mainly Dinhata-II is cultivator and agricultural labour dominated block where Nagrakata block is Tea labour dominated area. Through sample survey, it is not clearly found. Because the places of house hold survey was near a market area. After all discussion we may said that mainly physical factors of Nagrakata and Dinhata-II affects on their socio-economic differences.

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