



# HINDRANCES TO SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN MANDIRBAZAR BLOCK OF SOUTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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**ABSTRACT:** The block Mandirbazar is located in district South 24 Parganas which is a deltaic alluvial plain of river Ganga. Natural resource endowment in terms of biotic and abiotic components is extensive in this area. Obviously local people utilise these resources to fulfil their basic needs. Vast stretch of alluvial plain, brackish and fresh waterbodies, provide livelihood. But utilisation of these resources is restricted due to physical and socio-economic challenges. Level of development has a sharp difference in comparison with urban area of the district. These difference in level of development from earlier days, the block suffers from perpetual inequality in different spheres of life such as in gender development, rural-urban differentiation. Such inequalities are gradually widening despite scientific and technological advancement. Not only that, every dimension of development such as economic, human and social development facing some constraints imposed by natural or socio-economic environment. In spite of several government initiatives, sustainable development goals which reflects wellbeing on society, ecology and human being are still far reaching.

In the context of such a vulnerable situation a comprehensive study has been conducted in this block to find out the challenges of development. Primary and secondary data have been collected to find out level of development, inequality and challenges. Success and failure of Government initiatives also discussed.

**KEY WORDS:** *level of development, sustainable development goals, challenges to development,*

## I INTRODUCTION

Access to resources is the key to sustainable resource management. People can access resources, when they have economic and social opportunities, political freedom, and transparency, trust in community and security. Here resource means land, water, forest, climate, soil, mineral ore, mineral oil, coal, natural gas, solar radiation, animals and human population. These resources

are used by human being with the help of technical knowledge, perception, skill, efficiency, ability to work, and utilizing resources people generate income and improve their quality of life.

## II OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To estimate sustainable resources of the block
2. To discuss different sustainable development goals
3. Evaluation of the success and failure to attain sustainable development goals
4. To find out different challenges of development

## III AREA UNDER STUDY

Mandirbazar Block is one of the 29 community development block in South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal. In the west of the block it has Diamond Harbour-II Block, in the east has Jaynagar municipality and Jaynagar-II block, in the north has Mograhat-II block and in the south has Mathurapur and Kulpi block. It is nearly 65 km away from megacity Kolkata. Economic and human development is very low in this block. The block ranks 22 in case of Human Development Index out of 29 C.D. Block in the District.

## IV MATERIALS AND METHOD

For the present study both primary and secondary data have been collected. Secondary data have been collected from Mandirbazar Block office, District Statistical Handbook (2017), Census of India (2011), Socio-economic and Caste Census-2011, India Meteorological Department, State Water Investigation Department, and Central Ground Water Board.

Primary data for present study have been generated from rural households on the basis of pre-designed questionnaire following the purposive method of sampling. Collected data have been tabulated, followed by necessary calculations and graphical representation.

## V RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Government policies help to access natural resources through employment generation and build up human capability to use all resources. In this block there is a large amount of common pool resources and have Govt. policies to get accession of resources to people. But people here live below poverty line and do not have food at least two times. So it is necessary to discuss the role of government who influence peoples' livelihood and life by building up human capability with the help of basic infrastructure. It is true that basic infrastructure such as roads, schools, health care centers, markets, electricity, water supply structure, means of transport and communication plays a crucial role through the process of development with the help of technology and eradicate chronic poverty.

**Natural resources of the block** are land, soil, water and forest are the basic natural resources. Food, fodder and fuelwood are collected from the natural resource pool. Land resources utilise for livelihood are agricultural land, permanent pastures, current fallows, permanent fallows, land with trees and groves, cultivable wasteland, barren and uncultivable land, embankment etc.

Water resource include ponds, rivers and canals. Area under social forestry is forested area.

Fig-1

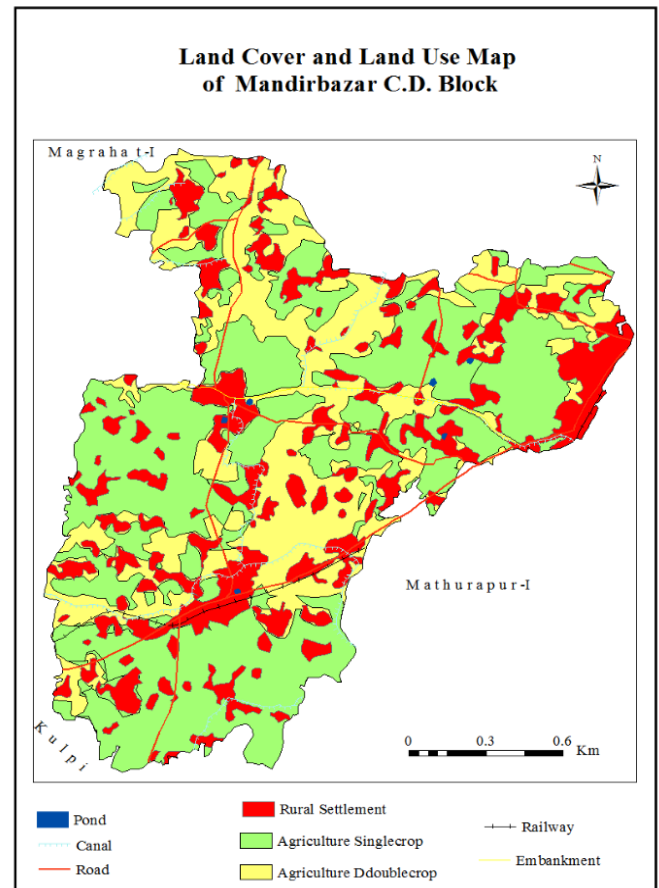
**Area under natural resources are:**

- Total area-29174.70 acre
- Agricultural land -24675 acre
- Total area of water bodies -293 acre
- Area covered under social forestry - 82 acre
- Potential area not covered under social forestry -116 acre

Analyzing the fig-1 it is very clear that most of the agricultural land is single crop and area under waterbodies is negligible. So irrigation in dry season is not possible here. Ground water available for irrigation is saline in nature, so agricultural land lying vacant after rainy season.

**Socio-economic resources** include population, educational institutions, drinking water facilities, health care centres, metalled and earthen roads, railways, electricity, telecommunications, market etc.

**Sustainable Development in the Block:** It is a continuous process by which human being can enjoy freedom to choose shelter, settlement, education, employment, recreation, political attachment and cultural activities. Perception on Development varies over time, individual, space and organisation. Attainment of sustainable development through different government projects are shown below:



Sustainable Development Goals	Government Projects
Goal-1: Ending Poverty in all its Forms and Everywhere	MGNREGS and Distribution of <i>Patta</i> for arable land
Goal-2: Ending Hunger and Achieving Food Security and Improved Nutrition to Promote Sustainable Agriculture	<i>Khadya Sathi, Rajya Khadya Suraksha Yojana, Antodaya Anna Yojana. ICDS, Kisan Credit Card</i>
Goal-3: Promoting Healthy Lives and Ensuring Wellbeing for all at All Ages	<i>Swasthya Sathi, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Disability Pension, Aam Admi Bima Yojana</i>
Goal-4: Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and promoting Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All	<i>Sarba Siksha Mission, Sishu Aloy, Sabuj Sathi, Sikshashree</i>
Goal-5: Achievement of Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls	<i>Kanyashree, Swabalamban, SHG</i>
Goal-6: Ensuring Availability and Sustainable	<i>Piped Water Supply Scheme, Prandhara, Nirmal Bangla</i>

Management of Water and Sanitation for All	
Goal-7: Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All	<i>Sabar Ghare Alo</i>
Goal-8: Promoting Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All	MGNREGS, National Livelihood Missions and Handicraft projects
Goal-9: Building Resilient Infrastructure, Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation and Fostering Innovation	<i>Shilpa Sathi and Backward Region Grant Fund</i>
Goal-13: Taking Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts	Action by Disaster Management with Block and <i>Panchayet</i> offices

#### **Hindrances to get resources:**

People are not always able to use resources. There are multidimensional restrictions in their way. These may be called hindrances to access resources. Hindrances may be physical, political, social, cultural or economic in nature.

**Physical hindrances** can be categorised as: a) Edaphic, c) Hydrologic and d) Climatic

Edaphic hindrances: It is related with soil. Soil Erosion, Soil Salinity and Alkalinity, Low Soil Fertility are major types.

Hydrologic hindrances: Impeded Drainage Condition, Salinity of Water, Arsenic Contamination are listed in this type.

Climatic hindrances Thermal Change, Erratic Rainfall, Frequent Floods, Devastating Tropical Cyclone, and Drought are listed in this group.

**Socio-economic hindrances** are categorised into six. Such as:

Land related: Landlessness, high dependence on agriculture, mono-cropped land included in this group.

Water related: Paucity of fresh water, contamination of water, waterborne diseases are main impediments which affect local people most.

Institutional related: Institutional delay in policy implementation decrease efficacy of different government projects.

Human induced hindrances: Different types of human induced constraints people face are demographic constraints, low human, economic and social development, low female work participation, low technical efficiency etc.

Social hindrances: Lack of social security, child trafficking, child labour, crime against women are social constraints which people face day to day in their locality.

Economic hindrances: Poverty and hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, high time distance are economic constraints which people can't avoid.

## VI MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Underutilization of resources is the salient feature of the economy.
2. Socio-economic hindrances is equally serious physical hindrances.
3. Food security and Kanyashree Project is successful but MGNREGS were not successful due to lack of man-days and number of SHGs is not sufficient to provide alternative livelihood.
4. Landless agricultural labour dominate the working population; so seasonal migration is a regular phenomenon.
5. 83.78 percent households have monthly income less than Rs.5, 000 which is below the national average (74.52 percent). 60 percent households in the rural C.D. blocks suffer from indebtedness.
6. Mean age of marriage of girls is 19 years, 30 percent children still do not get full immunization, Dropout rate in primary level is 6.70 percent, and girls' enrolment in primary level is 49.40 percent. Crime against women, lack of work culture, illegal and anti-social activities are also disturbing factors.
7. Institutional delivery is 67.7 percent, 0.41 percent rural households have computer with internet facility.
8. All kinds of disparities are gradually increasing because of the difference in pace of Development.

## VII CONCLUSION

Increased economic growth by improving livelihood opportunities is the demand of the situation.

Ground water irrigation is not possible here because of the shallow depth of brackish water layer. So rainwater harvesting needs to be prioritized. The alternative way is the innovation of advanced technologies by various research institutes like Central Soil Salinity Research Institute at Canning Town. The new technology of Land Shaping for improving drainage facility, rain water harvesting, salinity reduction and cultivation of crops as well as fishing for livelihood and environmental security is partially successful in the Block. Basic amenities in terms of potable water, electricity, garbage disposal and drainage should be improved.

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