

PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT IN SALANPUR BLOCK, PASCHIM BARDHAMAN, WEST BENGAL

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Abstract

Protection of environment of a locality depends on the active participation of local human groups interacting regularly with the components of environment via their diverse material culture concerning various types of occupation practiced to maintain their livelihood. Rural people engaged in production from land are obviously close to Nature but the female-folk participating in same activities are closer to Nature than their male counterparts. The pro-Nature role of women is manifested in their views, perceptions, and activities in family, community, and societal life.

Salanpur Rural area of Bardhaman District of West Bengal is an area where people are engaged in mining, agriculture and collection from residual forests in which the female-folks have almost equal share. They safeguard their environment through some unique efforts both in family and community level, collectively which are extended to the protection of environment in broader perspectives. This paper is an endeavor to explicate and explore the actions and methods followed by the women in protecting the environment of the selected area.

INTRODUCTION

From the dawn of civilization to the present time women around the world, women have played vital role in the protection of environment, both biophysical and socio-cultural, through various duties and responsibilities performed by them. In some aspects women are more close to nature and this affinity help them to protect, restore and recreate the natural environment. (Pratt 2000:124). Their household and occupational activities and interaction involve the relationship of human environment with the biophysical environment recognizable with their activities like nourishing children, orchard plantation, gardening and relating of domestic animals. Though both men and women are simultaneously consumers, exploiters, managers, and inventors of natural and cultural resources (Buckingham-Hatfield, S.2000:65), but the mental world of the women are much cautious and sympathetic in consumption and exploited activities.

The Salanpur C.D. Block, located at an almost the western end of Bardhaman district is an area where majority of the people are engaged in mining, agriculture and collection from residual forests. Among whole

the female folk are almost equal in number to their male counterparts, exerting physical and mental labour. Field investigation in the selected area reveals that the female folks ,though not equally literate as the males, but bear most valuable knowledge of protecting plants ,keeping the family campus free of dirt, beers, exclusively with their own efforts, domestic animals with definite effect both on the ecology and economy; employ certain time for earnings and equally divert more times for their families, though the traditional society recognizes this devotion as economically unproductive, have encourage enough to think about activities women-all these activities are sometimes ultimately resulted into the protection and development the sociocultural as well as bi physical environment of the area under consideration ,These experiences have encouraged enough to think about the role of women in the protection and management of the environment of the area.

OBIECTIVES

The main objectives of the present work may be stated as below:-

To explain and analyze the types of activities of the women of the area,

To analyze the methods and processes through which the interact with the components of biophysical environment,

To probe into the practices of maintaining the social equilibrium, to examine how their knowledge

Moreover, activities contribute to the protection and management of the resources available from local environment and to analyze the perception regarding imitate an overall environment.

DATABASE

The data and information for this present work has been collected from various new Government and local self Government organizations and officers ,recodes and reports from Gram panchayets and C.B.Block Office District information cell ,various planning maps and development plans of Asansol –Durgapur Development Authority, topographical Sheets Cadastral maps, census handbooks and district Gazetteers.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology followed in this work pertains to the collection of information regarding data on mining, industrial and other activities, population and gender characteristics, rates of female participation in production activities in various times.

Intensive field works have been conducted to generate data on various aspects of physical and social environment, present rate of participation of women workers in economic activities, rate of decrease in income and expenditure; data on economic constraints faced by women and children have been collected through empiric observations, oral interviews and surveys with structured questionnaire schedules.

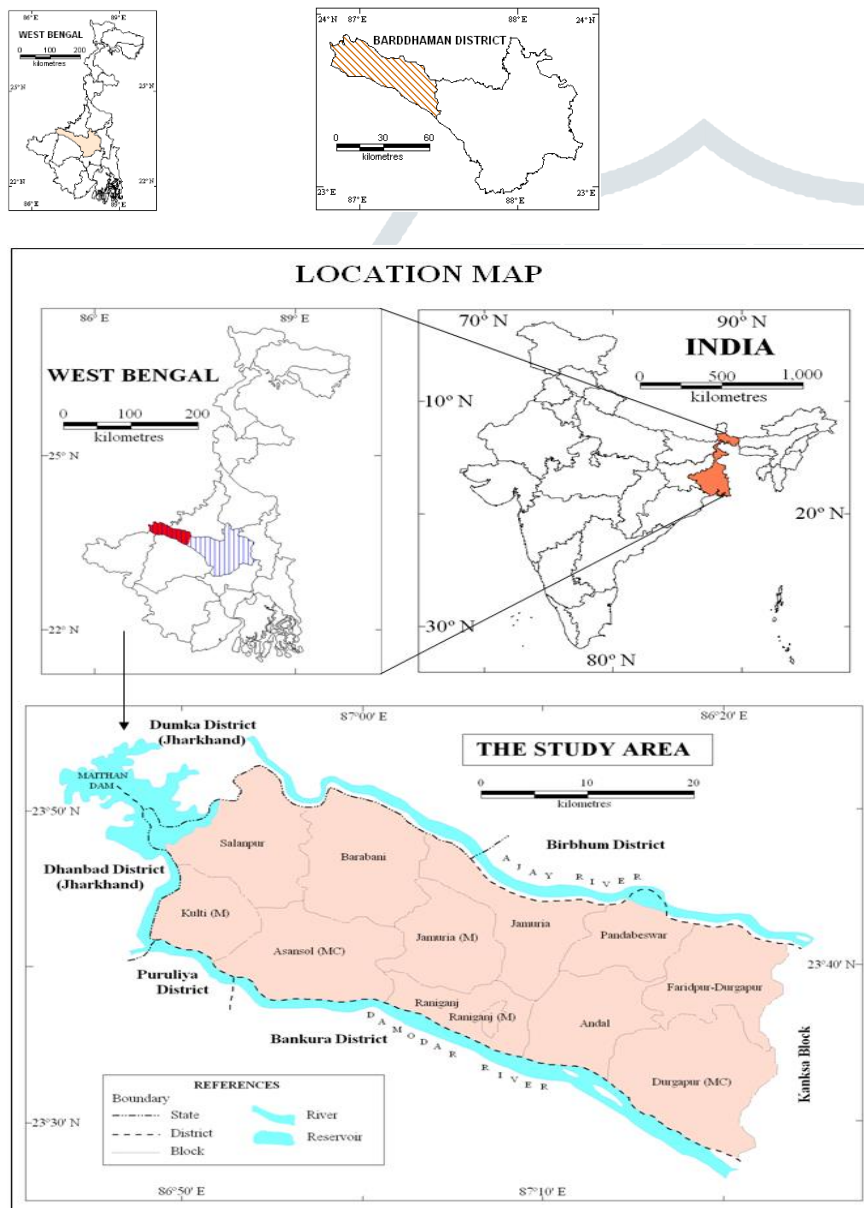
Primary and secondary data collected from different sources in different times have been adequately analyzed with help of necessary quantitative and cartographic techniques. Tables and charts have been

prepared, in some cases, with the help of computers and conclusions have been drawn with authentic information to fulfill the objectives.

THE STUDY AREA

Salanpur C.D Block of Asansol Subdivision Paschim Bardhaman District of West Bengal has been taken the area of study.

Map



DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

The villages selected for the present study are located in the forested part of the CD Block of Salanpur, located in the southwestern part of Salanpur CD Block. Some of the broad characteristics of the selected villages may summarize table.

Some land use characteristics of sample villages

Source: office of and	Name of the village	Characteristics	Agricultural land (hactares)	Forest land (hactares)	Mining area (hactares)	Settlement (hactares)	Total; Area (hectares)	Forest Salanpur
	Achhra	Sourended by Sal forest scattered houses	16	11	12	21	85	
	Alladi	On the forest boundary small linear patterned compact village	12	10	1	19	69	
	Dendua	Checker board pattern compact village	13	9	5	18	78	
	Jitpur	Sourended by sal forest scattered houses	11	6	2	21	64	
	Lohat	On the forest boundary small linear patterned compact village	19	10	3	26	71	

Asansol, 2018

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

It has an average elevation of 111 metres (364 feet). The Asansol-Durgapur region is composed of undulating literate region. This area lies between two mighty rivers – the Damodar and the Ajay. They flow almost parallel to each other in the region – the average distance between the two rivers is around 30 km. For ages, the area was heavily forested and infested with plunderers and marauders. The discovery of coal led to industrialization of the area and most of the forests have been cleared.

DEMOGRAPHY

As of 2011 India census, Salanpur had a population of 129,456. Males constitute 53% of the population and females 47%. Salanpur has an average literacy rate of 58%, lower than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 67%, and female literacy is 47%. In Salanpur, 14% of the population is under 6 years of age.

WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

From time immemorial, there has been a subtle relationship between rural women and the environment. In fact, she is looked upon as a part of nature. However, in this grab of developmentally, Industrialization modernization both women and environment are being neglected. The natural resources, which are being degraded, are interfering with women's responsibilities towards domestic sphere, which has a negative

impact on women psychology, and physically (Raj Rani, 1997:69) the interdependent of women with nature can be evolved from the following observations:

i Rural women are having base and skills for natural resource management

ii.They is better managers for natural resources.

iii.They has sensitiveness towards environmental management

iv.They have high ecological consciousness.(Simmons,1 1997:44)

PROCESS AND METHODS OF WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

The Indian women were always ahead in the matter of prevention of pollution and protection, preservation, conservation, promotion and enhancement of the environment. They have made greater sacrifices; have exhibited greater love than man in the area of environment protection. The strong desire, devotion, and dedication towards better environment made Indian women a crusader against environment pollution (Parul R, 1997:21). Salanpur is such a block where forestry and industry remain. Here the atmosphere becomes black owing to black shadow of sponge iron industry, where the women of every house plants a tree and protect the atmosphere. This sense of consciousness prevalent into the hearts of all women so that the atmosphere of their house and surroundings might be neat and clean and this sort of attitude is rarely noticed (field survey, 2018).

Let us discuss here, how women contribute to how they participate in, and how they play their role in protection of the environment management in Salanpur block.

GARDENING

It is noticed that these days houses are very small in the study areas. Women come forward but developing hobby of gardening. They keep the environment of their houses healthy. Plants add to the beauty of the houses, provide freshness to the eyes, and are helpful in keeping the nearby environment clean. Tulsi plant is being worshipped since long; it is a good source of oxygen as well as this plant has medicinal value. Besides kipping the surrounding atmosphere healthy, money is also saved. Saplings of plants can also be shared with neighbours. Again, women use of their management ability by using empty cans, bottles, tins etc. as pots for growing the plants in the study area. A survey conducted on women members of 65 households having experience of environmental management shows that 73.12% of total families are maintaining gardening, out of 65.

LOVE OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

All through the day and night they work both at home and abroad and then returning home, they lull up their own domestic kids of Duck and Hen just like as their own children. In this way, they have linked up a hand in glove relation with the environment and ecosystem. After a survey over 65 houses, it has been observed that in 22 houses has hen, cows are in 12 houses and both swan and hen remain in 16 houses. A survey conducted on women members of 65 households having experience of environmental management shows that 73.12% of total families are maintaining gardening, out of 65

USE OF GARBAGE BOX

A survey conducted on women members of 65 households having experience of environmental management shows that 18.46% of total families are maintaining gardening, out of 65.

MINIMUM USE OF LIGHT

A survey conducted on women members of 65 households having experience of environmental management shows that 21.53% of total families are maintaining gardening, out of 65

ADOPTION OF SMALL FAMILY NORM

A survey conducted on women members of 65 households having experience of environmental management shows that 24.61% of total families are maintaining gardening, out of 65.

USE OF TRY TO NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY

A survey conducted on women members of 65 households having experience of environmental management shows that 4.65% of total families are maintaining gardening, out of 65

IMPACT

Degradation of forests, watersheds, foreshores and agricultural land have a severe effect on women as they have degree of dependency on the natural environment to perform their daily household maintained tasks.

1. All these various works or procedure adopted by the female section is no doubt a blessing in disguise for future generation of these areas.
2. Healthy relation may crop up between environment and ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

To conclude remarks may be made that the people especially the female folk of rural area under suffer social and economic problems, which are most cases, cropped out of the gender gaps active in employment sectors. Even in household community and societal level. But this study area they plantation Tulsi tree which has Medicinal value of basil (Tulsi) Holy Basil is very important herbs and has many medicinal applications. Tulsi is used in the treatment of various diseases. Basil plant and its various parts are used in case of insect bite, fever, cardiac diseases, gynecological disorders, respiratory problems, skin disorders, etc. Women of this study area rural people are so much conscious about the environment.

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