



DISTRIBUTIONAL PATTERN OF AMENITIES AND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS OF PURBA & PASCHIM MEDINIPUR DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL: A BLOCK LEVEL STUDY.

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Abstract: The present study focusses on the availability of amenities in rural areas of south western region comprising of Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur districts of West Bengal. The access to basic amenities and facilities like education, drinking water, health facilities, banks and credit systems, power supply etc is essential for a better quality of Life. The availability of such facilities in a village has several impact on health, education and economic life of a person. A block level attempt has been made to identify the distributional pattern of amenities in rural areas. A suitable index has been constructed to combine several indicators and observe different zones of variation of available amenities.

Keywords - Rural amenities, education, drinking water, health facilities, banks and credit systems, power supply, distributional pattern, Purba & Paschim Medinipur

I. INTRODUCTION

The district of Midnapore, had an area of 14081 sq.km and was the largest district of India until 1 January 2002 when the district got divided into Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur. They are located in the southern part of the state of West Bengal. The southern part of the Purba Medinipur district borders Bay of Bengal, small portion of south-western part borders with Odisha, eastern part bounded by Hugli River whereas the western part meets Paschim Medinipur district. The western part of Paschim Medinipur is hilly, undulating in nature and occupied by laterite soil which has low fertility. The tribal population also inhabits the western forested region of this area. The Paschim Medinipur district is known to be less developed, backward. As today the significance of amenities and services in day to day life is very essential for a better quality of life, therefore we have attempted to study the availability of amenities and services in rural areas of Purba and Paschim Medinipur district.

II. OBJECTIVE

1. To identify distributional pattern of amenities and services in rural areas.

III. STUDY AREA

The study area comprises of Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal.

IV. DATABASE

The block level, Census of India 2011 data has been used for the present study. The District Census Handbook, Appendix-I, village level data has been used to conduct a block level study from the districts of Paschim Medinipur and Purba Medinipur of West Bengal. The total number of 54 blocks have been used for this study (see map no.1).

V. METHODOLOGY

In this study 23 indicators of amenities and facilities (see table no.1) have been used to construct respective indexes and a composite amenities index to assess the distributional pattern of amenities and services at the block level. The details are as follows:

The following analysis has been conducted:

1. Composite index (weighted method): $\{(i1 \times w1) + (i2 \times w2) + (i3 \times w3)\} / (w1 + w2 + w3)$

where $i1$ = value of indicator 1, $i2$ = value of indicator 2, $i3$ = value of indicator 3

$w1$ = value of weight 1, $w2$ = value of weight 2, $w3$ = value of weight 3

a) Multiplying variable with weight

b) Sum of multiplied variable

c) Dividing by total weight to form index

d) Adding all the index and dividing by total number of index to form composite index.

Table no.1 List of Indicators

Sl no.	Category	Indicators* (23)
1	Education	1. Primary school 2. Middle school 3. Senior Secondary school
2	Health	4. Primary health centre 5. Primary health sub centre 6. Maternity Child Welfare Centre 7. Medical Practitioner with MBBS 8. Medical Practitioner (with other degree) 9. Medical Shop
3	Communication	10. Post office 11. Sub post office, Landlines, 12. Mobile phone coverage 13. Internet cafes/ Common service centre
4	Transport	14. Village roads-pucca road 15. Bus service (public/private) 16. Taxi & vans 17. Tractors.
5	Banking	18. Commercial & co-operative banks 19. Agricultural credit societies
6	Miscellaneous	20. Power 21. Newspaper
7	Drinking water	22. Hand pump 23. Tube well

* Indicate percentage of villages with different amenities and facilities

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data shows the deviation of the index values from the mean of 39.4 to be high.

Table no. 2 Descriptive statistics

Type	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Coefficient of Variation
Amenities and services index	54	24.6	51.5	39.4	6.2	15.74

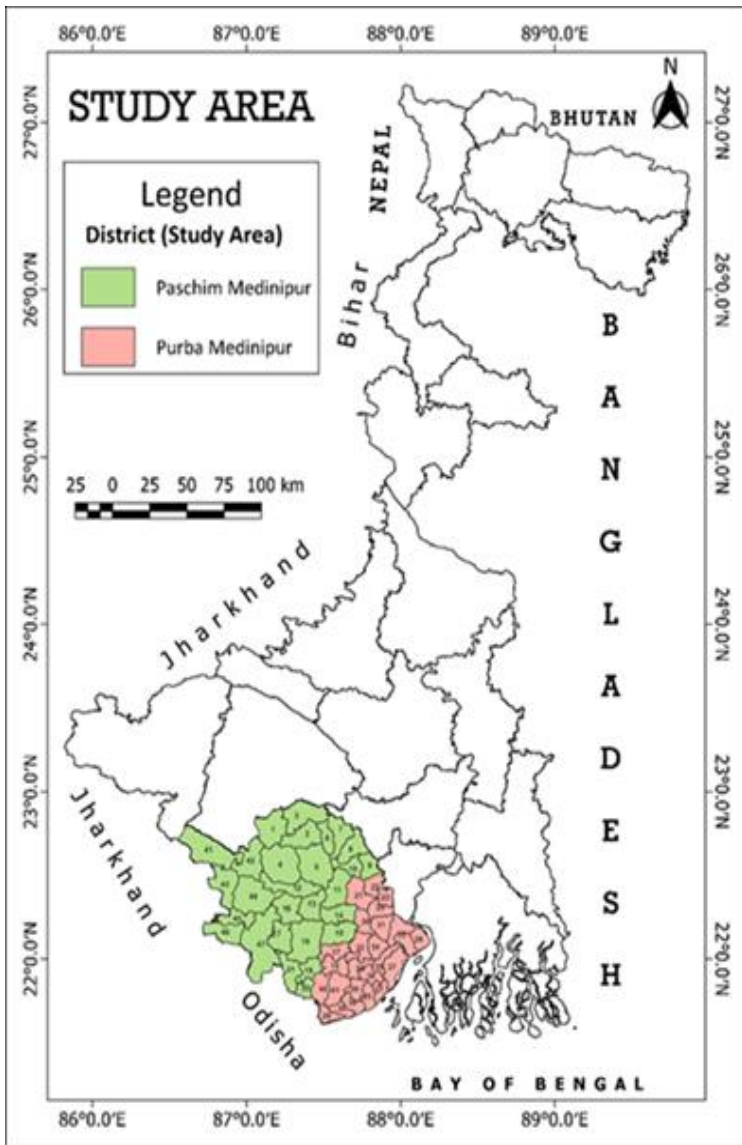
Table no.3 Amenities and Services Index

Class Amenities index	Type	No. of blocks	Percent
45.6 - 51.8	High	10	18.5
39.4 - 45.6	Medium	19	35.2
Mean 39.4			
39.4 - 33.2	Low	17	31.5
Below 33.2	V low	8	14.8
	Total	54	100.0

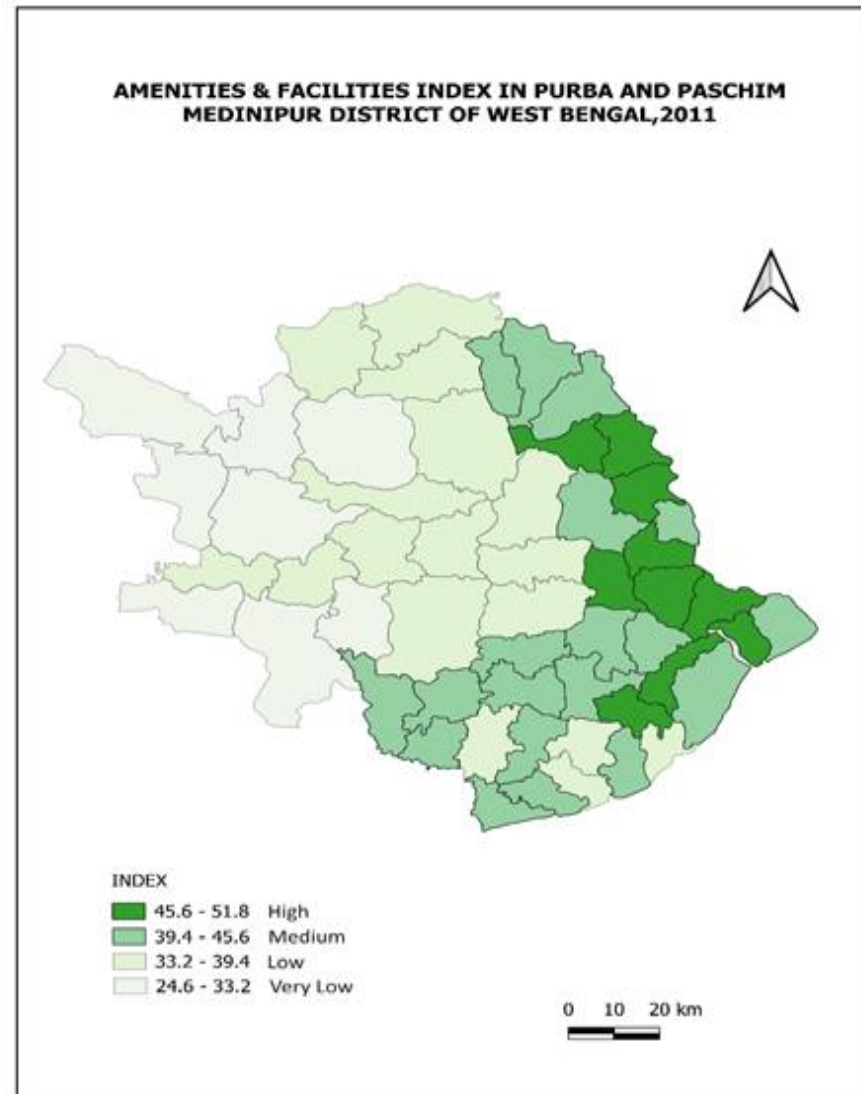
The block level pattern of Amenities & Services Index (ASI) (Table no. 3) clearly shows uneven distribution of amenities and facilities in the south western region of West Bengal. It shows more than 45 percent of the blocks are below the mean value of 39.4. This indicates rest blocks to be in a favorable position of above the mean value. The better performing region comprises of mostly the blocks of Purba Medinipur district. It shows the areas adjoining to Haora and Hugli district to be the high zone of availability of amenities and facilities.

The extensive areas of very low availability of amenities and services can be observed in the western part of Paschim Medinipur district followed by wide belt of low availability zones. Such pattern can be attributed to the presence of dense and moderate forest cover and presence of tribal in them. This less development and backwardness can be due to factors of natural endowment as well as resistance for development. It is a matter of time for the embracing of modernism by the region.

Map no. 1



Map no. 2



AMENITIES AND FACILITIES INDEX IN PURBA AND PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, 2011

SL NO.	BLOCK	DISTRICT	AMENITIES & SERVICES INDEX	RANK	EDU INDEX	HLTH INDEX	D_WATER INDEX	COMUNI INDEX	TRANSPORT INDEX	BANKING INDEX	MISCELL INDEX
1	0330-Haldia	Pu Medinipur	51.5	1	65.4	27.1	50.0	53.8	32.9	31.3	100.0
2	0323-Moyna	Pu Medinipur	49.9	2	55.8	34.2	67.6	45.2	23.8	23.5	99.4
3	0333-Khejuri - I	Pu Medinipur	49.6	3	52.9	20.5	60.7	51.2	31.0	33.3	97.6
4	0318-Kolaghat	Pu Medinipur	49.0	4	44.6	28.7	68.4	52.5	34.4	16.0	98.1
5	0322-Mahisadal	Pu Medinipur	48.9	5	51.4	25.1	65.8	44.9	39.3	21.2	94.5
6	0296-Daspur - I	Pa Medinipur	48.7	6	40.4	15.5	90.8	51.5	37.4	8.6	96.8
7	0321-Nanda Kumar	Pu Medinipur	47.9	7	52.2	20.3	61.5	45.8	42.3	17.5	95.5
8	0332-Nandigram - II	Pu Medinipur	47.7	8	51.3	23.3	61.3	48.0	29.0	23.8	97.5
9	0297-Daspur - II	Pa Medinipur	46.7	9	46.6	28.5	62.1	46.9	21.2	22.4	99.4
10	0319-Tamluk	Pu Medinipur	46.2	10	44.3	20.4	61.1	49.1	31.5	20.2	97.0
11	0339-Egra - II	Pu Medinipur	44.6	11	39.5	15.7	77.8	45.3	31.5	15.7	86.5
12	0317-Panskura	Pu Medinipur	42.7	12	39.9	16.7	64.7	50.5	24.5	4.7	97.8
13	0320-Sahid Matangini	Pu Medinipur	42.5	13	45.2	21.6	56.8	35.8	32.8	13.0	92.6
14	0329-Sutahata	Pu Medinipur	42.2	14	39.9	18.1	62.2	49.6	24.4	10.9	90.4
15	0324-Potashpur - I	Pu Medinipur	42.2	15	37.2	12.7	76.8	39.5	25.8	16.5	86.8
16	0295-Ghatal	Pa Medinipur	41.6	16	38.1	10.9	66.9	40.9	29.6	11.2	93.9
17	0293-Chandrakona - I	Pa Medinipur	41.5	17	35.7	11.4	72.2	43.4	21.2	10.7	95.6
18	0341-Ramnagar - II	Pu Medinipur	41.3	18	37.5	10.7	70.9	37.5	25.6	12.7	94.0
19	0328-Chandipur	Pu Medinipur	41.1	19	40.5	21.2	51.8	39.0	23.6	12.6	99.1
20	0326-Bhagawanpur - II	Pu Medinipur	41.0	20	37.7	12.8	70.1	36.8	21.8	15.0	93.1
21	0336-Deshopran	Pu Medinipur	41.0	21	34.3	11.6	66.6	43.3	33.6	6.3	91.3
22	0315-Dantan - II	Pa Medinipur	41.0	22	35.1	14.3	66.1	37.6	30.0	10.6	93.2
23	0331-Nandigram - I	Pu Medinipur	40.9	23	45.2	14.7	56.1	42.4	21.0	14.3	92.3
24	0294-Chandrakona - II	Pa Medinipur	40.7	24	36.2	14.8	66.4	36.9	35.6	11.9	83.2
25	0314-Dantan - I	Pa Medinipur	40.4	25	28.9	7.5	77.1	37.0	32.7	5.5	93.9
26	0316-Mohanpur	Pa Medinipur	40.1	26	36.3	8.8	66.0	40.1	36.0	12.5	81.0
27	0327-Bhagawanpur - I	Pu Medinipur	40.1	27	36.5	11.6	64.0	42.1	18.5	13.4	94.2

SL NO.	BLOCK	DISTRICT	AMENITIES & SERVICES INDEX	RANK	EDU INDEX	HLTH INDEX	D_WATER INDEX	COMUNI INDEX	TRANSPORT INDEX	BANKING INDEX	MISCELL INDEX
28	0340-Ramnagar - I	Pu Medinipur	39.6	28	32.8	10.5	63.9	40.9	34.6	13.9	81.0
29	0325-Potashpur - II	Pu Medinipur	39.5	29	35.3	6.9	64.6	38.5	25.7	6.6	99.0
30	0309-Debra	Pa Medinipur	39.2	30	25.8	8.7	80.7	42.3	21.6	5.8	90.0
31	0300-Midnapore	Pa Medinipur	39.1	31	25.8	7.9	76.3	41.3	28.3	5.6	88.4
32	0291-Garbeta - I	Pa Medinipur	39.0	32	27.2	7.8	70.4	38.2	35.2	7.8	86.4
33	0292-Garbeta - III	Pa Medinipur	38.7	33	28.8	5.9	72.9	36.9	33.1	7.4	85.6
34	0311-Sabang	Pa Medinipur	38.2	34	36.9	11.6	74.6	14.0	22.2	12.6	95.8
35	0338-Egra - I	Pu Medinipur	38.2	35	39.3	13.3	62.6	38.9	22.4	10.2	80.5
36	0306-Sankrail	Pa Medinipur	37.6	36	29.8	3.6	78.5	28.9	28.0	5.1	89.5
37	0310-Pingla	Pa Medinipur	37.4	37	34.8	13.2	62.9	14.4	31.3	6.6	98.3
38	0335-Contai - I	Pu Medinipur	36.7	38	32.3	5.7	58.4	41.3	21.1	9.3	89.1
39	0337-Contai - III	Pu Medinipur	36.1	39	35.7	9.6	43.4	41.1	20.8	14.5	88.0
40	0312-Narayangarh	Pa Medinipur	35.8	40	27.9	7.6	68.6	33.6	17.4	6.1	89.6
41	0290-Garbeta - II	Pa Medinipur	35.7	41	28.4	5.3	61.2	36.1	34.4	13.8	70.5
42	0334-Khejuri - II	Pu Medinipur	35.6	42	38.4	8.5	43.8	34.5	24.8	14.4	85.1
43	0307-Kharagpur - I	Pa Medinipur	35.3	43	23.9	5.7	70.4	35.7	18.3	3.1	89.9
44	0298-Keshpur	Pa Medinipur	35.2	44	22.4	5.9	72.7	29.9	26.2	5.3	83.9
45	0308-Kharagpur - II	Pa Medinipur	34.0	45	19.9	4.7	68.0	34.6	12.5	2.9	95.2
46	0303-Gopiballavpur - II	Pa Medinipur	33.9	46	28.3	6.6	60.0	30.7	25.8	6.9	78.9
47	0313-Keshiary	Pa Medinipur	32.8	47	25.4	5.1	61.1	32.1	21.0	6.2	78.5
48	0299-Salbani	Pa Medinipur	30.5	48	20.6	3.7	52.3	28.8	19.1	6.3	83.0
49	0304-Gopiballavpur - I	Pa Medinipur	30.1	49	28.5	7.1	51.3	27.0	18.3	5.3	72.9
50	0301-Jhargram	Pa Medinipur	29.2	50	18.8	3.4	61.9	27.9	17.4	2.0	73.2
51	0305-Nayagram	Pa Medinipur	28.6	51	25.9	2.7	54.1	30.9	18.2	4.6	64.1
52	0289-Binpur - I	Pa Medinipur	27.7	52	19.8	4.6	53.6	27.4	17.5	2.5	68.5
53	0302-Jamboni	Pa Medinipur	27.5	53	23.0	4.5	39.0	30.6	18.6	2.7	74.0
54	0288-Binpur - II	Pa Medinipur	24.6	54	24.0	4.1	47.6	19.9	9.0	1.6	65.8

Source: Computed from Census of India, 2011

VI. CONCLUSION

It is also notable that the western part of Medinipur region comprising of 23 percent of total forest cover (2161.54 sq km area). Due to the presence of tribal, rich bio-diversity, natural resources including of forest, mineral resources the development of amenities and services in the rural region is mostly low to very low. The Purba Medinipur district on the contrary is endowed with alluvial soil where agriculture is the main economic activity and inhabited mostly by non-tribal. The area has mostly medium and high availability of amenities and services. Therefore planners and policy makers must focus on the strategic developmental activities in Paschim Medinipur region to encourage more people to encourage development at their own pace.

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