



DISTRIBUTIONAL PATTERN OF AMENITIES AND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS OF NADIA DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL: A BLOCK LEVEL STUDY.

Dr. Agomoni Tikadar

Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
Deshbandhu College for Girls, Kolkata, India.

Abstract: The present study focusses on the availability of amenities in rural areas of Nadia district 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, Nadia.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to Census 2011 Nadia District comprises of 17 C.D. Blocks and 10 Statutory Towns. The district shares its international boundary with Bangladesh in the east and ranks 6th among all the other districts in terms of population density. The geographical boundary of Nadia district also includes Bardhaman and Hooghly district to the West, Murshidabad district to the North West and North 24 Parganas is to the South and South East. The population growth over the decade 2001-2011 is 12.24 %.The district has problem of international immigration and rising population growth rate. The human resource when living a qualitatively resourceful life with availability of basic amenities and facilities can become an asset for the nation. It is in this context we are studying the importance of amenities and facilities shaping a healthy life of our vast population

II. OBJECTIVE

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

III. STUDY AREA

The study area comprises of all the blocks of Nadia 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 for the district of Nadia of West Bengal. The total number of 17 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 center
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	17	45.5	58.0	50.4	3.3	6.70

Table no.3 **Amenities and Services Index**

Class Amenities index	Type	No. of blocks	Percent
Above 53.8	High	3	18
50.4 – 53.8	Medium	4	24
Mean 50.4			
47.0 – 50.4	Low	7	41
Below 47.0	V low	3	18
	Total	17	100

The block level pattern of Amenities & Services Index (ASI) (Table no. 3) clearly shows uneven distribution of amenities and facilities in Nadia district of West Bengal. It shows more than 59 percent of the blocks are below the mean value of 50.4. This indicates rest blocks to be in a favorable position of above the mean value. . The blocks Tehatta I & II and Krishanganj to be the high zone of availability of amenities and facilities. The medium performing region comprises of mostly the blocks of the South and South West part of Krishanganj areas. The extensive areas of very low availability of amenities and services can be observed in the western and southern part of the district.

Map no.1

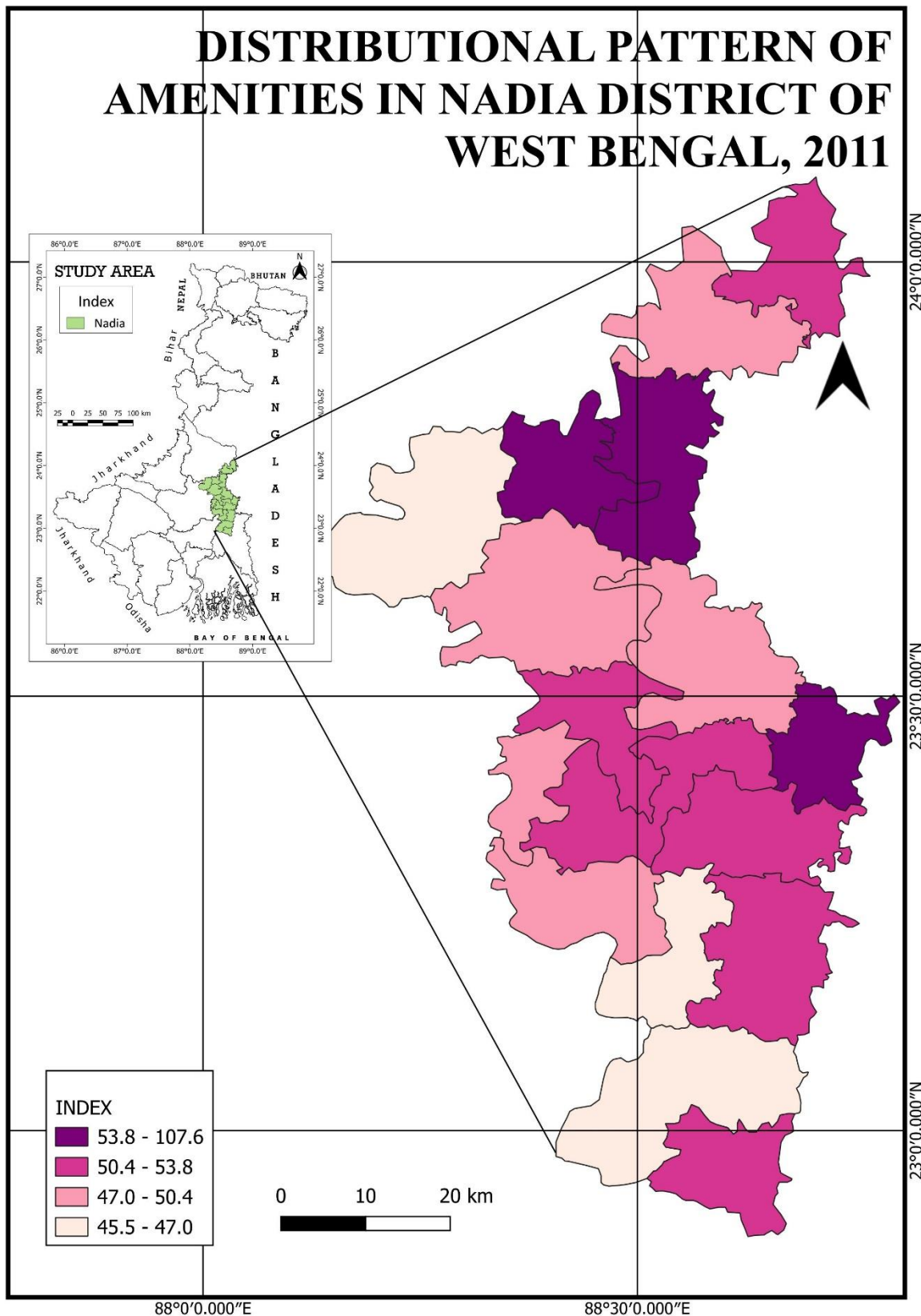


Table no. 1 **AMENITIES AND FACILITIES INDEX IN NADIA, 2011**

SL NO.	BLOCK	DISTRICT	AMENITIES & SERVICES INDEX	RANK	EDUCA INDEX (1)	HLTH INDEX (2)	D_WATER_INDEX (3)	COMMU_INDEX (4)	TRANSPORT_INDEX (5)	BANKING_INDEX (6)	MISCELL INDEX (7)
1	Karimpur - I	Nadia	50.7	9	46.3	13.5	73.1	46.0	62.9	16.9	96.2
2	Karimpur - II	Nadia	48.1	13	48.9	16.2	62.3	46.9	54.5	15.4	92.3
3	Tehatta - I	Nadia	54.8	2	56.7	25.1	57.3	51.5	72.9	21.8	98.2
4	Tehatta - II	Nadia	58.0	1	57.5	27.2	71.9	52.8	66.7	34.4	95.3
5	Kaliganj	Nadia	46.1	15	44.4	15.1	77.1	37.0	48.9	8.1	92.4
6	Nakashipara	Nadia	47.9	14	51.3	13.4	77.7	42.9	53.2	11.4	85.6
7	Chapra	Nadia	48.1	12	55.2	18.2	72.1	42.6	47.6	17.5	83.8
8	Krishnagar - II	Nadia	51.1	7	48.6	17.7	67.0	48.2	62.7	23.9	89.8
9	Nabadwip	Nadia	49.1	11	40.0	16.7	92.9	50.0	39.8	7.1	97.6
10	Krishnagar - I	Nadia	51.5	6	48.0	13.6	80.5	49.8	58.3	19.0	91.4
11	Krishnaganj	Nadia	54.4	3	52.1	21.2	72.1	50.4	71.4	22.1	91.3
12	Hanskhali	Nadia	52.0	5	54.6	15.8	75.7	51.4	57.2	17.1	92.1
13	Santipur	Nadia	49.6	10	43.0	15.9	88.0	42.4	40.0	18.5	99.1
14	Ranaghat - I	Nadia	45.5	17	40.9	9.6	70.9	42.4	47.4	12.7	94.5
15	Ranaghat - II	Nadia	50.9	8	47.2	17.0	81.0	50.7	51.8	13.4	95.4
16	Chakdah	Nadia	46.1	16	45.1	10.9	73.0	40.2	45.1	12.8	95.6
17	Haringhata	Nadia	52.9	4	38.8	12.8	93.3	50.0	68.7	8.5	98.2

Source: Computed from Census of India, 2011

VI. CONCLUSION

The present study shows the region has two pockets of high amenities zone – Tehatta and Krishnaganj. The region is significant in terms of agriculture, fishing and ancillary industry. However pattern around Tehatta is found to be with low to very low availability of amenities which needs attention of policy makers. The distribution of health facilities need serious attention followed by education. The other facilities like availability of drinking water is in a better position though literature reveals the problem of arsenic contamination. The facilities like transport & communication, banking, miscellaneous facilities are important too which needs gradual attention in order to improve availability of overall amenities status in Nadia district.

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