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Editor: Piyal Basu Roy



From the Desk of the Secretary

Geographical Society of North Bengal is an NGO located in the district of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India. Initially it was formed for educational development in the under developed Dooars area but its area of operation is not restricted in a single point and rather it is open for all, irrespective of geographical space. Geographical Society of North Bengal has stepped in to eight year of its working. The society is bound by promise to continue its unending efforts in the processes of social development and the first edition of ‘Geo-Analyst’ is one of such endeavours related to that. I thank all the members of the society for their kind co-operation to publish this Journal. I appeal to every Academician, Research Scholars and Social scientist from India and abroad to enrich the idea of social science related themes.

Alipurduar
July, 2011

Hiranmoy Biswas
Secretary



Editorial

In our contemporary life, the study of social sciences arouses great significance as the social landscape has been rapidly changing. In view of multi-faceted and dynamic nature of social sciences each and every micro level study of it highlights distinct importance in multi-disciplinary studies. Recently, there is a sign of growing interest as well as anxiety about the social changes taking place almost every part worldwide and the interest in social studies is growing for this reason. The introducing issue of Geo-Analyst, a bi-annual journal of social sciences of the Geographical Society of North Bengal is out on the stand, which has addressed to complex, changing and challenging issues along with few innovative ideas of development in the courtyard of social sciences.

Alipurduar
July, 2011

Piyal Basu Roy
Editor

Socio-Cultural Status of Enclave Dwellers: A Case Study of Poaturkuthi Enclave of India

Dulon Sarkar*

Abstract

In Political Geography, the term “Enclave” has been defined as a territory whose geographical boundaries lie entirely within the jurisdiction of another territory. An exclave on the other hand is a territory legally attached to another territory with which it is not physically contiguous. In Indo-Bangladesh border, there are about 92 exclaves of Bangladesh and 106 exclaves of India within Bangladeshi soil. These exclaves were the part of the high stake card or chess games, centuries ago between two regional kings, the king of Cooch Behar and the Nawbab of Rangpur. The little territories were the result of a confused outcome of a treaty between the kingdom of Cooch Behar and the Mughal Empire. 'Poaturkuthi Chhitmahal' i.e. 'Poaturkuthi enclave' is one of the exclaves of Bangladesh located in Cooch Behar district in the state of West Bengal. Present paper highlights the dismal socio-economic condition of the residents of 'Poaturkuthi enclave' due to the absence of proper recognition from social, political and administrative point of view. The present paper also tries to find out the causes of such type of isolation and suggest few remedial measures to overcome the problem.

Keywords: *Enclave, home-State, Chhitmahal, Government*

Introduction

The concept of enclaves as implicit phenomena exists in the history of human civilization from the long past. The treaty of Madrid of 1526 is probably the first document containing the word 'enclave' (Vinokurove,2007). The term 'enclave' was inherited from latin word 'inclavatus' meaning 'shut in locked up', which was entered in the language of diplomacy rather late in English in 1868 from the french 'Lingua franca'. In Bengali the term enclave is known as “Chhitmahal”. The lexicographical meaning of “Chhitmahal” is one or more holdings lying detached from mother state.

At present the term enclave indicates a piece or pieces of land, which are situated in one country but claimed by another. In political geography, enclave is a territory whose geographical boundaries lie entirely within the boundaries of another territory (Adhikari,1997). At present, enclave means the land mass of one country separated

*Dulon Sarkar, Post Graduate in Geography, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, India, dulonskr@gmail.com

from the mainland and completely or partially surrounded by another sovereign country. There are two or more countries where an enclave is on the centre. Enclave is sometimes mingled with a terminology named exclave. It was created after the three decades of the creation of enclave. Both enclaves and exclaves are discontinuous parts of one country lying within other countries (Rana, Ali, Bhuiyan, 2009). These seem to be same but there are some minute differences between these two. An enclave is a territory which is located in another country. On the other hand, an exclave is a territory legally attached to a larger territory with which it is not physically contiguous (Catudal 1974).

Objectives

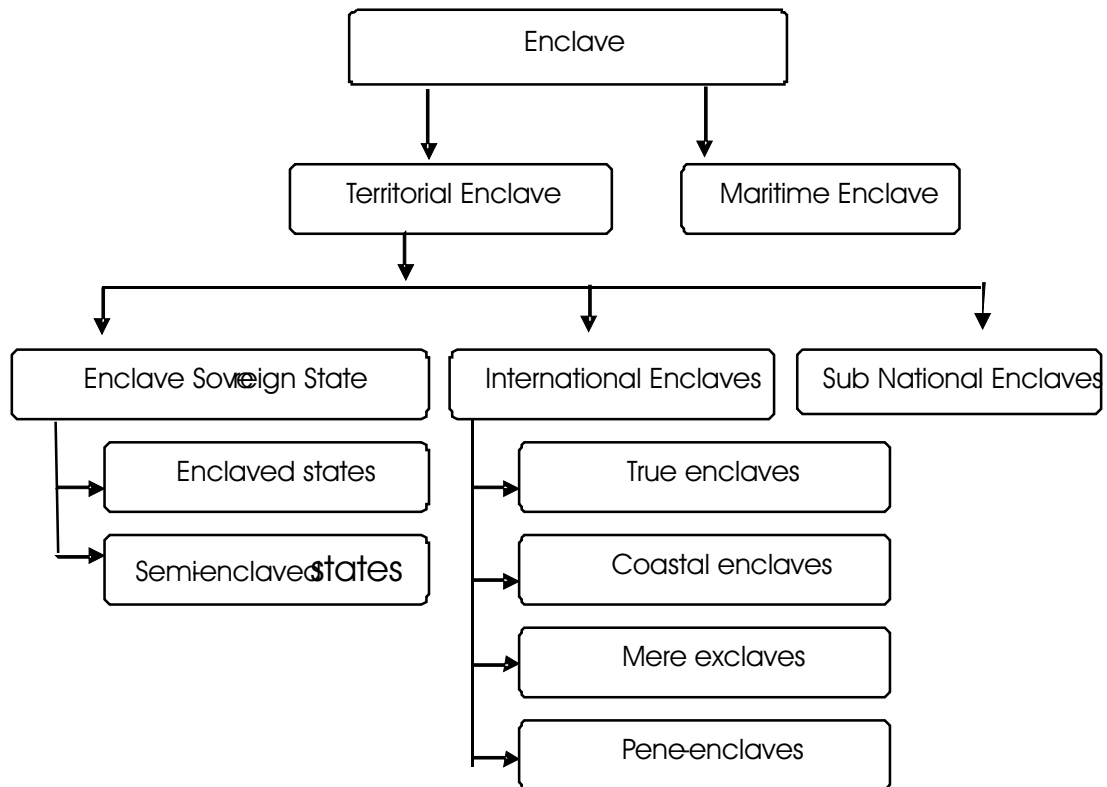
The main objectives of the present study are-

1. To find out the socio-cultural status of the enclave residents
2. To highlight the economic status of the residents of study area.
3. To find the problems faced by the residents.
4. To suggest relevant recommendations.

Methodology

The present topic has been completed mainly by the analysis of field data. The whole methodologies may be categorized in different stages. In pre-field stage, the researcher has gone through different literature about enclave vividly and a simple questionnaire has been prepared. During the Field, stage the data and information have been collected through proportional sampling method with the help of selected questionnaire and observation by door to door house hold survey. The collected data have been processed through different statistical methods and cartographically these processed data have been represented. The primary data have been collected through door to door household survey. The data like population, landholding, income, education, migration etc. have been collected through proportional sampling methods and Secondary data are very few which have been collected for the present study from different sources like, Census hand book 1951, “Chhitmohal Binimoy Somonnoy Committee”, newspapers and internet website. The plot wise ‘Mouza Map’ has been collected from Mansor Ali Mia (a resident of the study area).

Classification of Enclave



As per Schendal's observation (2002), enclaves are of following types-

Classification on the basis of population size:

- Large enclave (100,000 inhabitant)
- Medium enclave (10,000 99,999 inhabitant)
- Small enclave (1,000 9,999 inhabitant)
- Micro enclave (Less than 1000 inhabitant)

On the basis of physical structure:

- "Normal" enclaves
- Counter enclaves are within enclaves
- Counter-counter enclaves are within enclaves within enclaves.

About 250 enclaves have been identified so far in the world and these are found mainly in the following areas:

- Western Europe
- The Fringes of the Former Soviet empire
- South Asia.

80 percent of the world's total enclaves can be found in a small section of India Bangladesh Border land since 1950's (Whyte 2002). By the year, 1994, India and Bangladesh have identified as many as 225 numbers of enclave. Of them, there are 130 belonged to India, while the rest of the 95 belonged to Bangladesh. Out of 130, 119 of Indian exchangeable enclaves are located in Bangladesh, covering 17,157.72 acres of land, while rest of the 11 are non-exchangeable, which has covered 3,799.35 acres of land. India has no control over or access to these said 11 non-exchangeable enclaves. Out of 95 of Bangladeshi enclave located in India, 72 are exchangeable, which has covered 7,160.85 acres of land, while rest of the 23 are non-exchangeable, which have covered 5,128.52 acres of land and Bangladesh has no control on those.

Geopolitical Importance of India-Bangladesh Enclave

Enclaves are rare and mostly small but their special status is of value in illustrating the relations of state in difficult geographical circumstances and in illuminating the importance of uninterrupted territory to present day state (Robinson 1959).

The Indo-Bangladesh enclaves are situated along the zigzag disputed boundary between Bangladesh and India. Before 197, Bangladesh was a part of Pakisthan. The Indo-Pak relationship was tempted several times and reached at the extremity due to the enclave dispute. Even after the independence of Bangladesh, it could not keep expected relationship with India and simultaneously insisted seperatism and terrorism which expedited enclave issue spatially.

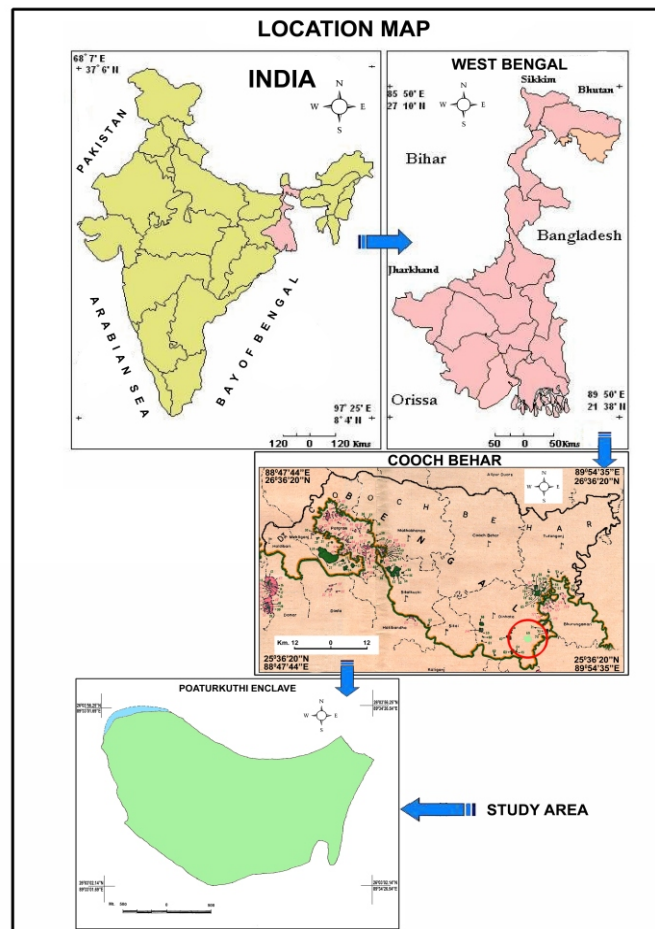
The study area PoaturKuthi enclave is a territory of Bangladesh out of 95 enclaves which are mostly and effectively surrounded by India. Theoretically, the residents of the enclave living here do not get services like health, transport, communication, education, employment opportunity, voting right, citizenship, identity, security, social justice etc. Even their Movement is logically restricted within 3 sq. km. In this situation no one can lead their life simply. But interestingly the residents of PoaturKuthi have been leading their life through out the year. In spite of being an International Geo-political unit, enclave is not considered significantly because of its smallness.

It is a part of due attention that how can these people have been living without socio-economic and political identity being isolated from the main stream of human civilization in this century and thus it resembles one of the wonders of the contemporary world.

Location

Poaturkuthi enclave is an exclave of Bangladesh in Rongpur (presently Kurigram) District and under the jurisdiction of Vurunga-mari P.S. The enclave is surrounded by the District of Cooch Behar of West Bengal, India. The study area is located between $26^{\circ}03'56''$ N and $26^{\circ}03'02''$ N latitude and $89^{\circ}03'02''$ E longitude. Poaturkuthi enclave is only 4 km away from the Bamanhat Railway station of India and connected by cart-track. The study area comprises 2.68 sq.km geographical lands. The enclave is situated in slip-off side of the river cut-off. Distance between Northern most point to Southern most point is about 1.2 km while the distance from West to East is 2.34 km. (fig. 1)

Fig.1



Socio-Cultural Aspects of Poaturkuthi Enclave

Number of people is probably the most basic information about earth and its region (Trewartha, 1969). In Poaturkuthi enclave, the number of total population near about 3250 belong to 435 families. Population density of the study area is near about 1200/sq km, which is very high if compared with other parts of both the countries. In the study area no census had been held from 1951. All the data are approximate regarding of its population and can be categorized in two main characteristics-

Biological Characteristics

Race

In the study area, 80 percent residents, who belong to Mughal and Pathan are of Muslim in religion and rest 20 percent people belong to Rajbanshi tribe who are Hindu in particular

Sex-Ratio

Sex ratio indicates the number of males per 100 females in a population is the most universal measures of sex composition (Trewartha, 1969). But the most widely used definition is number of females per 1000 males in a population. In study area there are 1091 females per thousand male is found in an average. In the age group of 0-5 year and 5-14 year, the sex ratio is 1393 female / 1000 males and 1666 females/ 1000 Male respectively. In study area Poatur Kuthi enclave, there are 1091 females per thousand male in an average. In the age group of 0-5 year and 5-14 year, the sex ratio as stated earlier indicates a unique condition and mind set up of the enclave residents i.e. if a male child is born , he should bear the uncertain dark life which are caused due to typical character of the area. On the other hand, a female child may get a mainstream life after her marriage. In the age group of 15-29 the sex ratio 1092 female/ thousand male indicates above factor and includes another factor related to their livelihood that is excessive migration of male to host country. In the age group of 60+ , sex ratio is very low due to the high mortality of women in said enclave.

Masculinity Proportion

It is the simplest measure of sex composition of a population and defined as percentage of male in a population. The formula used here is-

$$\begin{aligned} & (Pm/Pt) \times 100 \\ & = (49/1037) \times 100 \\ & = 47.83 \end{aligned}$$

Where P_m = Male population

P_t = total population

Result indicates (47.83 percent) i.e. the lower Masculinity proportion.

Age-Structure

The proportion of a people contained within various age groups, is one of the most basic characteristics of a population (Trewartha 1969). In study area, in age groups of 0-5, there are only 6 percent people. The highest, 47.83 percent of people is in the age group of 15-29 and the lowest 5.6 percent of people is found in the age group of 60+.

Dependency Ratio

The presence of a large number of dependants increases the dependency load of the working population. The dependency ratio of the study area is 33.29 (Calculated with the help of the formula $(P_{0-14} + P_{65+}) / P_{15-59} \times 100$) which indicates low level of dependency ratio and index of aging (27.68) indicates that population of the study area is comparatively young.

Cultural Population Characteristics

Marital Status

Marital status refers to the proportions of population that are single, married, widowed or divorced. In the study area, 54.86 percent people are married and 43.49 percent people are unmarried while 1.63 percent people are widow. In the study area, the general age of marriage is 15-16 for female and 17 - 19 for male.

Education and Literacy

Among the various quality of population, education as well as literacy ranks first. Only an educated man can lead his life in proper way. Lower degree of education or literacy, and lack of proper training are great obstacles to economic improvement for an area.

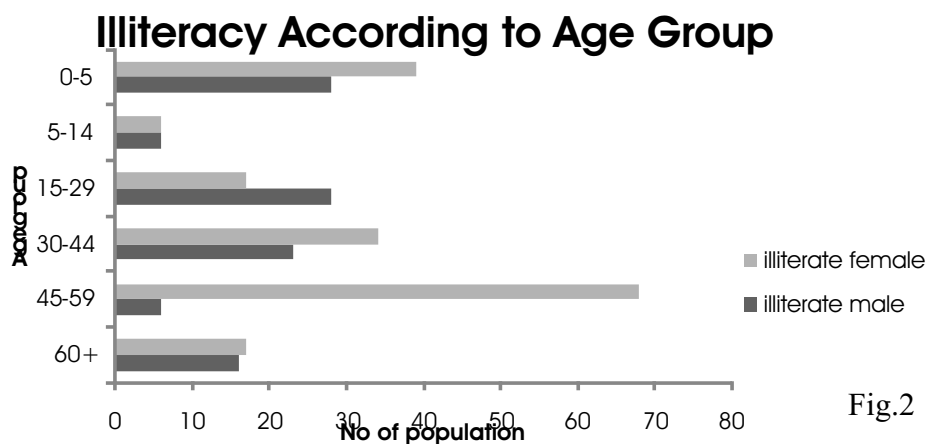


Fig.2

The most basic minimum measurement of educational status is degree of literacy (Trewartha, 1969). Literacy indicates the ability to read or write one's name by mother tongue. In study area, 72.2 percent are literate, among them 52 percent is male and 47 percent is female. On the other hand, out of total illiterate(27.8 percent), 37 percent is male and 62.84 percent is female. In case of age sex wise literacy, it is revealed that major portion of illiterate is child having the age 0 to 5. In case of literate people 15-29 age group dominates the whole. In this age group 61 percent female and 59 percent male is literate (Fig.2).

Levels of Education

In the study area, 41 percent people have education up to class VIII, and only 4.53 percent people have cross the limit of college. 26.96 percent residents belong to below class V, while 18.15 percent residents have secondary level of education. 9 percent residents have Higher secondary level of education. Percentage of female beyond class VIII is higher than that of Male while in primary and up to upper primary level the percentage of Male is higher (fig.3).

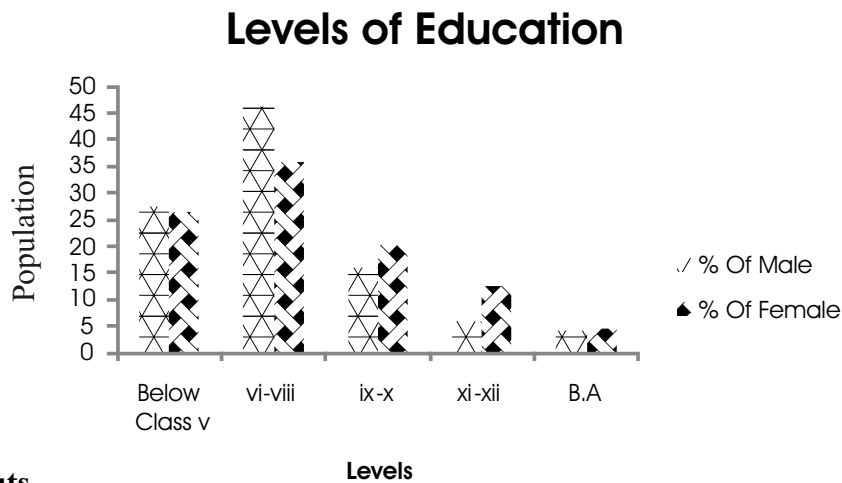


Fig.3

Drop-Outs

Drop-out is a serious problem for the educational status. In the study area, due to lack of educational Institutions, lack of citizenship of the residents, no opportunity of job they enjoy. They are not interested to continue their educational also. Besides they have to face severe problems to get admitted in different level of educational Institution of surrounding areas.

Migration

According to Concise Oxford Dictionary, “Migrate means to move from one place, country or town to another. Thus migration is the movements from one place to another

within the country or outside it.”In the study area, migration is a remarkable population feature. Here 70.21 percent families are permanent (fig.4). 29.78 percent families were migrated during the decade of 1970. Among them, 64 percent is Hindu and 35.71 percent families belong to Muslim. Among the families migrated to the enclave, 23.87 percent came from Indian enclave located in Bangladeshi soil and 73.8 percent came from Bangladeshi main land. Out of total migrated persons, 43.38 percent are in migrants and among them 74.74 percent is female. The causes lying behind the in migration may be categorized in to three aspects-

- In migration due to marriage.
- In migration by force
- In migration for better opportunity.

Mainly women from poor families of India migrate to the study area after marriage. On the other hand from the mainland mostly Hindu people entered into the enclave being forced by some Muslim people of Bangladesh and for better opportunity (fig.5). From the study area, 56.62 percent of total migrated person moved to different states of India. (Fig.6). This is due to following causes mainly-

1. Due to Marriage and
2. For earnings

Fig.4 Family Based Migration

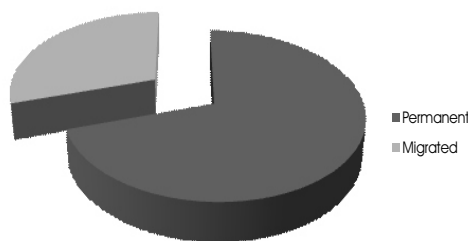


Fig.5

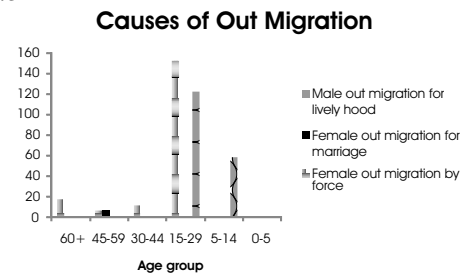


Fig.6 Places of Out Migration

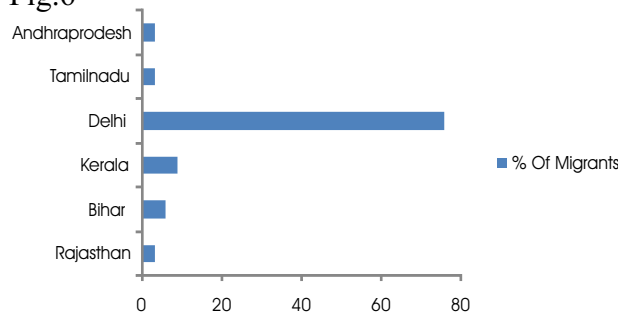
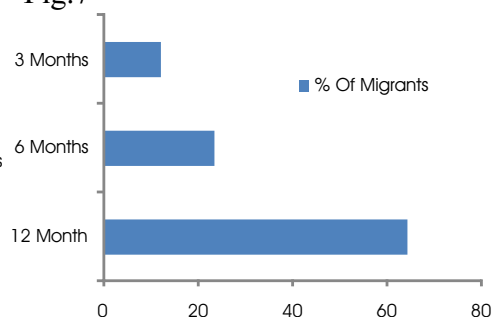


Fig.7 Duration of Migration



In the age group 14 to 29, out migration for livelihood is very high i.e. 79.16 percent, where, out of total migrants percentage of out migrants for livelihood is 29.22 percent.

27.39 percent residents are out migrated due to marriage who are women. In the age group 14-29 and 30-44, the female migration from the enclave is very much high that is 61.06 percent 51 percent respectively (fig.7).

Social Customs and Functional Analysis

Custom is a very strong component of human culture which refers a frequent repetition of the same act to the extent that it becomes characteristics of the group of people performing the act. Habit is a similar word which adopted by an individual, while custom is the act which has been adopted by most of the people of the ethnic group or society.

Folk Food

➤'Saka' / 'Chhaka' A Folk food which is popular and also greatly enjoyed by the residents of the study area. "Chhaka" is cooked vegetables or vegetable leaves with Soda which helps to digest the food easily.

➤'Shidol'- a special item of food which is made by dusting the dry fish and preserved it for future. It helps to keep up the demand of protein in dry season when fish is not available.

➤'Panta Vat' (Wet rice) - This food generally is used in morning in the summer season. It preserves the human body cool and protects the farmer from sunstroke.

Folk Medicine

It is very common among enclave residents to treat diseases and disorders with drugs and medicine are derived from the root, bark, blossom or fruit of plants. Their beliefs on "Kabiraji" and "Ojha" - a type of local doctor, are very high.

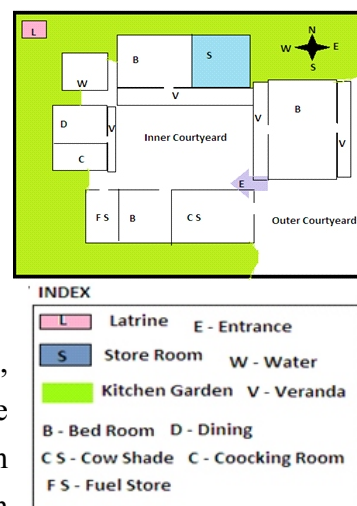
Folk dress

Generally, the Enclave residents wear 'Pant', 'Shirt', 'Sharee', 'Blouse', 'Lungi', 'Dhuti'. But they take a 'gamcha' (a piece of cotton cloth).

Housing

They generally build house in comparatively higher elevated area. A house consists of two or three huts. Each and every hut has its separate purpose like, cooking, bedroom, store-room, room for cattle etc. They don't leave vacant the north side of the house to prevent the cold north wind. The windows or doors are set towards the southern side to make the house well ventilated (fig.8).

Fig.8



In the western side, they plant Bamboo which protects their house from western disturbances as well as tropical disturbances coming from west. Each and every house leaves some portion of land which supplies daily needs of different purpose. They plant trees surrounding their house which is the source of their fuel and protect them from storm also.

Festivals

The Hindu community celebrates 'Kalipuja', 'Manasa Puja', 'Mashan Puja', 'Saraswati Puja', 'Durga Puja', 'Nabanna', 'Charak', 'Hoodumdeo', etc. in a religious manner. On the other hand, the Muslim community celebrates 'Maharam', 'Id', 'Roja', etc. Due to huge interaction to each other, there is strong harmony. From 2008, they have been also celebrating the 'Independence Day of India', 'Indian Republic Day' even though they are Bangladeshi by citizen. Interestingly Indian national Flag is hoisted by them with great respect in the sovereign territory of Bangladesh.

Problems of the Study Area

Poaturkuthi enclave is a small geopolitical entity which is separated from its main land. The distance between main land of Bangladesh and the study area is about 3 km. Generally a rural area of third world country faces several problems. But in case of the study area, its land locked condition adds various problems to it. Let us examine those. The main problem which makes the life of the dwellers of enclave unique is lack of citizenship and identity. The residents of the study area have no connection with their mainland. As the area is a part of sovereign Bangladeshi territory but surrounded by another sovereign territory i.e. India. As per rule they are Bangladeshi citizen. Their movement is limited within 3 sq km. Beyond this area, they are foreigner and frequently they are harassed and arrested by Indian Police. They don't have passport any types of identity card or any thing to proof their citizenship. In the study area, there is no administration system and no ruler. There is no law and order and nobody follows any rules and regulations. The enclave residents are not enlisted in voter list in any country so they have no right to cast vote. As a result they are less important to political parties of both two countries. The residents of the study area have to lead an insecure life as there is neither police nor even a 'chowkider'. The fate of the residents is hanging on the international relationship between two countries.

As Bangladeshi Authority is not able to control it and India is not interested about life of the residents so the area is becoming the paradise of criminals, antisocial activist etc. The innocent residents are the victim of those. They are forced to join with them. There is no policy for controlling the rapid growth of population no family planning, no school. They are not able to get admitted in Indian schools freely with their own identity. Illiteracy is very serious due to lack of job opportunity, lack of educational institution and lack of citizenship. There is no health infrastructure. All the residents are dependent upon 'quack", 'kabiraj", 'ojha", Indian Govt. provide them only Polio-Vaccine. In serious cases they have to go to Indian doctor or Nursing home. Where they cannot admit themselves. There is no electricity also. Most of the roads of the study area is earthen. Roads are not repaired. In rain season, all the roads become unusable. They can't use post office, their mobile phone connection is taken by producing false documents. They do not have any provision for purchasing and disposing the land. The residents who intend to live in enclave have only the right to register their plots in their name from the country to which it actually belong. But due to lack of connection with its mother land they can't able to register the land properly. Nobody of outsiders wants to marry the enclave boys and girls. There is no market within the enclave. So they have to depend upon Indian Rural Market to sale their own production and they have to cross the Indian territory which is illegal. They don't have any job opportunity in Indian territory so after VIII or IX they give up the education and become engaged in earnings. Migration is a serious problems here, due to lack of Job, males migrate in different states of India. So the number of female is higher than male. Insufficient information about the enclaves is another most viable problem.

Diagrammatic Representation Enclave Development Model

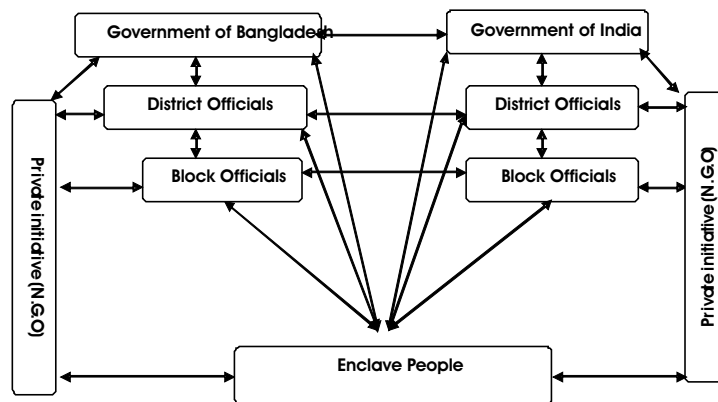


Fig.9

The diagram shown before indicates that both Govt. and the NGO, including the common people should come forward for the development of this area. Strong inter-linkage in terms of data exchange co-operation among both nations is very essential. Proper training and infrastructural unification should be made to get access. The local authority of both countries may play significant role by providing the immediate guidance to the enclave people. The NGO, may take a responsibility to increase the awareness of enclave people about their situation and from which they can raise their voice in this regard.

- General infrastructures should be built to provide the residents minimum quality of life options.
- The enclave has a great tourism potential because of its complexity. So India-Bangladesh both can take this option.
- The common people of the study area, should be unified irrespective of caste, religion, and socio-economic-political barrier to snatch away their 'RIGHT AND FREEDOM'.
- The common people should maintain proper life as soon as possible.

Conclusion

The study area has no connection with their main land. In spite of several problems, they have spread their relationship with neighboring country i.e. India, which provides them shelter, if necessary. They are less interested about the interconnection with inter enclave condition. Each and every resident of enclave tries to make relation with Indian citizen for their interest. Although theoretically and logically, they are beyond of all services but the present study reveals that they have managed, as it may have; the facilities provided by Indian govt. to their own residents. Some of them have voter card, residential address of India; their sons or daughters are studying in Indian schools and colleges. However they are, no doubt isolated from their own land and they live in an area that is matter of deep concern to every body and need immediate intervention.

Acknowledgement

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