

**INTRA AND INTER-REGIONAL DISPARITY OF DEVELOPMENT, AN  
ANALYSIS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT-- PATHARPRATIMA BLOCK, SOUTH 24-  
PARAGANAS DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

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**ABSTRACT**

Intra and inter-regional aspects of development are now a table topic of discussion as holistic approach of regional development. In the perspective of development, especially, micro-level development and planning for local area upliftment is now highly appreciated. The term 'rural development' is a subset of the universal term 'development' and without the proper 'micro-level planning' 'total area development' is not possible. However, the development can be explained as 'universally cherished goal' of individuals, families, communities, regions and nations all over the world .To achieve overall development of any region, what we need is 'equality of development' on the space which is also called 'equal spatial development'. But this is not observed everywhere on the space due to unequal distribution of resources and subsequent lack of infrastructure, so, observed the marked intra and Inter-regional disparity to its way. This is actually as a result of the departure from observed to estimated facilities of development. Moreover, clustering of facilities to some pocket areas and lack of the same in rest of the region are the root causes for such unequal state of development. This therefore leads to imbalanced growth and development of the region. This painstaking attempt is totally carried on through multifaceted approach especially by primary observation followed by some secondary information and for this purpose interactive and analytical approaches are applied for taking inferences. The present paper is highlighting imbalances in growth and development of inter and intra Gram Panchayets level of Patharpratima block of South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. This paper stated the actual and estimated levels of achievement of Gram Panchayets in development and subsequent development status and related steps on which the priority should be given to that particular region. This ultimately will bring out the situation of the block as a whole in development scenario. 15 Gram Panchayets of Patharpratima block has been ranked according to the selected status level of development which includes social, economic, infrastructural and demographic parameters.

**KEY WORDS :** Rural development, Gram Panchayet, infrastructure, levels of achievement, Disparity of distribution

**INTRODUCTION**

'Development' is a subjective and value loaded concept and hence there cannot be a consensus to its meaning. The term is used differently in diverse contexts. It basically means 'unfolding', 'revealing' or 'opening up' something which is latent. This concept of development when applied to specific context of rural areas, it acquires a new connotation of 'rural development'. Rural development as a whole means not only the aggregate

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development of the rural areas but also the development of the people living there (Kothari *et al*, 1991). The area has been selected for present study because of its remoteness, inaccessibility and its very unstable economic base; and also a considerable percentage of population is below the poverty line in this area.

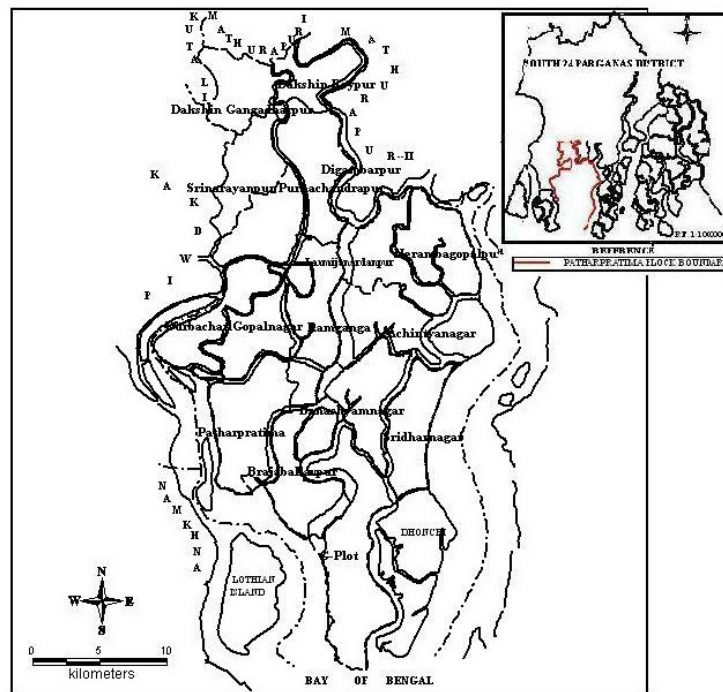
According to 2001 Census, more than 72 percent of India's total population still lives in the villages (Saha and Bakshi, 2008). Thus, it can be said in short, to bring an overall development of India as a whole; development of rural areas is a necessity (Kayastha and Prasad, 1978). Objective of rural development is multidimensional. It includes improvement in employment situation, improvement in certain basic facilities like health, education, transport, drinking water, electricity, banking facilities and credit societies and many other related ones. The development of this socio-economic infrastructure means improvement in the quality of life of people of a particular region (Haji, 2008). Only availability of these facilities does not mean development of the region. Accessibility to these facilities along with their availability in adequate numbers finally ensures a balanced development of the region (Ali and Varshney, 2010). But physiographic characteristics and socio-cultural practices resulted into an unequal distribution of the infrastructures in the region leading to regional disparity. May be a good development strategy has been taken for the development of the entire region, but the region still lags behind as the results of development do not have equal impact in the entire region. There are certain pockets in a large area which enjoy more facilities compared to that of the other parts that virtually bring inter-regional and intra-regional disparity in the whole region and not suitable for holistic development (Ziari, 2007). In order to show the intra and inter-regional disparity, the Patharpratima block of South 24 Parganas district has been selected and the Gram Panchayets (GP) has been taken as the smallest unit for analysis (Mandal *et al* 2005). In order to show the regional disparity, specific indicators have been selected accordingly, which include socio-economic, demographic and infrastructural indicators (Chandel and Pal, 1993). A micro level analysis has been done for which village level data is required (Sharma and Sharma, 1993). The calculations are based on Primary Census Abstract of 2001. The total analysis and interpretation have been compiled with the detail village level data.

#### **STUDY AREA**

For the present state of investigation, fifteen Gram Panchayets of the Patharpratima block of South 24 Parganas District have been taken into consideration. The Patharpratima C.D. block of Kakdwip subdivision is geographically located at the southernmost tip of West Bengal, covering an area of 484.47 square kilometer, surrounded by Namkhana, Kulpi, Mathurapur and Kakdwip blocks. The block is divided by the tributaries and distributaries of the river Ganga consisting of 15 GPs, 1 Panchayet Samity and 92 registered villages and located at the lower deltaic plain with 4m height above the msl. The GPs of the block, with its headquarter located at Ramganga, are *Dakshin Roypur*, *Dakshin Gangadharpur*, *Digambarpur*, *Srinarayanpur - Purnachandrapur*, *Laxmijanardanpur*, *Herambagopalpur*, *Ramganga*, *Durbachati*, *Gopalnagar*, *Achintyanagar*, *Banashyamnagar*, *Patharpratima*, *Brajaballavpur*, *Sridharnagar*, and *G-plot*. The northern part of the block is attached to the main land but the southern part gradually gets dissected by the distributaries of the Ganga which makes the portion much difficult to reach and this typical elongated shape of the block gives it a unique identity. Extreme dissection by the rivers has also lead to isolation of certain villages which is also not favourable for smooth development of the

area. Southeastern part has forest cover which makes certain villages uninhabited like *Jameson Island of Durbachati GP, Plot 6<sup>th</sup> portion of Patharpratima GP, Plot G 6<sup>th</sup> portion, Burge Island and Plot L Southern portion of G-plot GP*. These are entirely forested, composing the part of Sundarban bio-sphere reserve area, and hence uninhabited and protected also. Some of the GPs are so much dissected and isolated by the anatomizing and a branching system, those look like island. This and other typical characteristics give the block uniqueness and have an impact on its development.

**FIG.1: LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA**



Source: compiled from census 1961 and DPMS, NATMO

### OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES

The major objective of the present study is to observe the pattern, analyze and interpret the nature of rural development of the study area. Moreover, intra and inter regional disparity and anomalies of development pattern are to be considered. However, the objectives of the research are-

- To depict the existing pattern and nature of rural development in fifteen Gram Panchayets.
- To measure the existing inequality in development in the study area.
- To measure the disparity of intra and inter GP disparity level.
- To find the status of the GPs according to their availability of amenities.
- To suggest some strategies for balanced development.

However, the study is concentrated on some basic points of study – a) Rural area development and concerned environment are correlated, mutually co-acted with each other; so area development programme and related infrastructural development are environment dependent; b) social, economic, cultural and infrastructural parameters are major indicators for the perspectives of development and rate of development should be adjudged with the upgradation of all those indicators.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Based on the settled objectives of the study, scheduled methods of investigation, analysis, interpretation and presentation have been considered here. Some selected parameters of rural development are used to measure and highlight the status of rural development. Some pre-defined questions are used for ground truth observation and status of some parameters of rural development is collected from secondary sources justified by primary observation. For analysis and interpretation, data has been taken from Primary Census Abstract, South 24 Parganas district, 2001. In the Primary Census abstract, data of each village has been given in such a form that we come to know about the facilities actually available within the village as well as the facilities enjoyed by the villages even if it is not within the village boundary, whose distances have been mentioned. Since the aim of this paper is to find out the individual position of the GPs, only the facilities available within the villages have been considered. The indicators selected for this paper are socio-economic, demographic and infrastructural in nature. The datasheet consists of a large variety but out of them, only a few vital ones have been considered in this study. The indicators thus taken are as follows for the optimum analysis and inferences:

- i) **Educational facilities** (this parameter includes total number of primary school, middle school, secondary school, senior secondary school, college, adult literacy class/centre and other educational institutions.)
- ii) **Medical facilities** (this parameter includes total number of allopathic hospital, allopathic dispensary, ayurvedic dispensary and homeopathic dispensary.)
- iii) **Drinking water facilities** (this parameter includes total number of only tube well water as the source of drinking water, the source of water for summer season is also tube well water)
- iv) **Post, telegraph and telephone facilities** (this parameter includes total number of post offices and telephone connections.)
- v) **Commercial and co-operative bank facilities** (this parameter includes total number of commercial and co-operative banks present.)
- vi) **Credit societies** (this parameter includes total number of agricultural credit societies, non-agricultural credit societies and other credit societies)
- vii) **Recreation and cultural facilities** (this parameter includes total number of cinema /video halls, sports clubs and stadiums.)
- viii) **Power supply** (this parameter includes total number of electricity connections both for domestic purposes and for other purposes.)
- ix) **Irrigated lands area** (in hectare)
- x) **Length of black topped roads** (in kilometer)

- xi) **Length of concrete roads** (in kilometer)
- xii) **Communication** (this parameter includes total number of bus service, railway stations and waterway)
- xiii) **Population Density** (this parameter has been derived by dividing total population of each GP with their respective area.
- xiv) **Total workers** (as percentage to total population)
- xv) **Literacy** (as percentage to total population)

**TABLE1, STATUS DETAIL OF SELECTED INDICATORS OF DEVELOPMENT**

NAME OF THE GPs	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)	(xi)	(xii)	(xiii)	(xiv)	(xv)
Dakshin Gangadharpur	29	15	14	11	0	0	0	0	206.2	5	0	9.5	29.7	48.5	29
Achintyanagar	20	25	12	8	0	0	11	0	154	0	0	6.3	45.3	61.7	20
Banashyamnagar	17	35	8	6	1	1	18	0	279.3	0	9	6.2	46.3	61.1	17
Brajaballavpur	34	53	8	6	0	1	26	0	295	0	0.5	6.5	47.6	63.3	34
Dakshin Roypur	12	30	6	3	3	2	15	0	168	9	0	8.3	34.9	57.7	12
Digambarpur	21	75	16	5	1	2	15	0	485	8	1	7.4	45.7	62.2	21
Durbachati	26	39	12	2	0	6	11	0	266	2	0	7.0	50.6	63.9	26
G-Plot	20	15	16	4	0	2	9	0	443	0	0	2.6	47.7	61.8	20
Gopalnagar	15	33	10	3	0	3	26	0	185	4	0	6.3	35.2	61.1	15
Herambagopalpur	16	17	8	3	0	0	15	0	231	0	1	7.0	41.0	59.9	16
Laxmijanardanpur	47	43	12	4	0	0	21	0	201	0	0	6.6	37.7	64.7	47
Patharpratima	23	54	14	34	2	3	13	3	388	3	4	6.6	42.7	63.9	23
Ramganga	42	44	22	10	1	2	11	0	150.5	7	0.5	6.9	40.2	66.9	42
Sridharnagar	13	41	6	4	0	2	21	0	146	0	0	5.9	54.4	62.9	13
Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur	25	44	8	7	0	0	27	0	226	1	0	6.3	36.6	57.1	25

Source: South 24 Pgs Primary Census Abstract, 2001

The above table thus gives an idea about the actual number of facilities enjoyed by the GPs, and their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. After observing the data, the GPs have been ranked in respect of each parameter (Nagaraj and Murthy, 2007). GPs having same values have been assigned the same rank (table 2).

The individual ranks of the GPs thus derived per indicator do not depict the exact ranks. In order to derive that, the ranks of each individual GP (per facility) has been summed up to find the cumulative ranks. Then, the GPs have again been ranked according to this cumulative rank. The GP with the least sum has been assigned the highest rank and so on (Table no. 3). Just by assigning ranks to the GPs we cannot get a good classification.

**TABLE 2, RANKS OF DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR OF EACH GP**

NAME OF THE GPs	RANKS OF THE GPs															
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)	(xi)	(xii)	(xiii)	(xiv)	(xv)	(i)
Dakshin Gangadharpur	4	13	3	2	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	1	15	15	4	13
Achintyanagar	9	11	4	4	-	-	7	-	13	-	-	12	7	9	9	11
Banashyamnagar	10	8	6	6	3	4	4	-	5	-	1	13	5	10	10	8
Brajaballavpur	3	3	6	6	-	4	2	-	4	-	4	9	4	5	3	3
Dakshin Roypur	14	10	7	10	1	3	5	-	12	1	-	2	14	13	14	10
Digambarpur	8	1	2	8	3	3	5	-	1	2	3	3	6	7	8	1
Durbachati	5	7	4	11	-	1	7	-	6	7	-	5	2	3	5	7
G-Plot	9	13	2	9	-	3	8	-	2	-	-	15	3	8	9	13
Gopalnagar	12	9	5	10	-	2	2	-	11	5	-	11	13	11	12	9
Herambagopalpur	11	12	6	10	-	-	5	-	7	-	3	4	9	12	11	12
Laxmijanardapur	1	5	4	9	-	-	3	-	10	-	-	8	11	2	1	5
Patharpratima	7	2	3	1	2	2	6	1	3	6	2	7	8	4	7	2
Ramganga	2	4	1	3	3	3	7	-	14	3	4	6	10	1	2	4
Sridharnagar	13	6	7	9	-	3	3	-	15	-	-	14	1	6	13	6
Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur	6	4	6	5	-	-	1	-	8	8	-	10	12	14	6	4

Source: Computed by Authors.

**TABLE3, CUMULATIVE RANK OF EACH GP WITH THEIR FINAL RANK**

NAME OF THE GPs	CUMULATIVE RANK (i)+(ii)+(iii).....(xv)	FINAL RANK
Dakshin Gangadharpur	67	5
Achintyanagar	82	10
Banashyamnagar	78	7
Brajaballavpur	49	1
Dakshin Roypur	94	12
Digambarpur	59	3
Durbachati	60	4
G-Plot	86	11
Gopalnagar	96	13
Herambagopalpur	81	9
Laxmijanardapur	59	3
Patharpratima	56	2
Ramganga	70	6
Sridharnagar	80	8
Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur	78	7

Source: Computed by Authors.

Thus in order to have a clearer classification, the method of *Nested Mean* has been applied here. For this application, the values of the cumulative rank have been considered. In order to find the values of Nested Mean the observed values are to be arranged either in ascending or descending order. Here, the cumulated rank values have been arranged from high rank to low rank. That means the least summation is at first and the highest summation at the end (table 4).

**TABLE 4, MEAN VALUE AND NESTED MEAN VALUES OF CUMULATIVE RANKS OF GPs**

Name Of The GPs	Cumulative Rank (X)	Mean Value ( $\bar{x}$ )	Nested Mean Values
Brajaballavpur	49	$\Sigma x = 1095$ $\Sigma x/N^* = 73$ i.e. $\bar{x} = 73$  * N = total number of Frequencies. Here, 15	$\bar{x}_1 = 62.25$
Patharpratima	56		
Digambarpur	59		$\bar{x}_2 = 84.38$
Laxmijanardanpur	59		
Durbachati	60		
Dakshin Gangadharpur	67		
Ramganga	70		
Srinarayanpur Purnachandrapur	78		
Banashyamnagar	78		
Sridharnagar	80		
Herambagopalpur	81		
Achintyanagar	82		
G-plot	86		
Dakshin Roypur	94		
Gopalnagar	96		
Total	1095		

Source: Computed by Authors.

The mean value has been obtained by following the procedure of calculating simple *Arithmetic mean*. That is by dividing the summation of the frequencies by the total number of frequencies. Since mean is the average value of the data, it lies just at the middle of the data series. Thus, considering it, we can divide the series of data into two sub-parts, upper and lower. Now, this Nested Mean has been calculated by again following the method of arithmetic mean, but now it is the mean of first eight frequencies and the last eight frequencies, separately. Here as total number of frequencies is 15, the frequency at the centre has been considered twice. After calculation of the mean values, classes have been constructed and distributed accordingly GP wise.

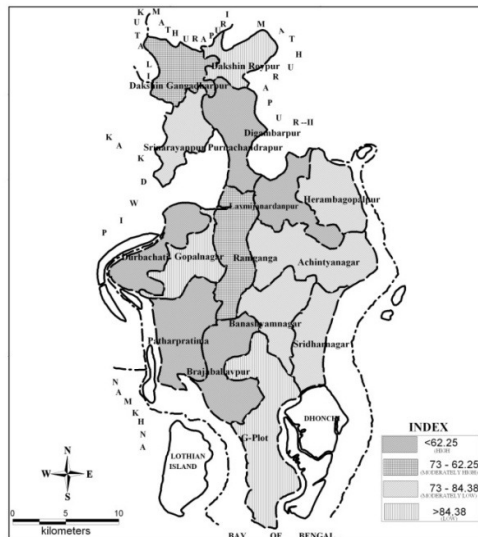
TABLE 5, STATUS CLASSES BASED ON MEAN AND NESTED MEAN VALUES

CLASSES	VALUES	GPs	DEVELOPMENT STATUS
$< \bar{x}_1$	$< 62.25$	Brajaballavpur, Digambarpur, Durbachati, Laxmijanardanpur, Patharpratima	HIGH
$\bar{x} - \bar{x}_1$	$73 - 62.25$	Dakshin Gangadharpur, Ramganga	MODERATELY HIGH
$\bar{x} - \bar{x}_2$	$73 - 84.38$	Srinarayanpur Purnachandrapur, Achintyanagar, Banashyamnagar, Herambagopalpur, Sridharnagar	MODERATELY LOW
$> \bar{x}_2$	$> 84.38$	G-Plot, Dakshin Roypur, Gopalnagar	LOW

Source: Computed by authors

The calculations thus help in clustering the GPs according to their status in development. The status classes thus derived are **High, Moderately High, Moderately Low and Low**. The GPs thus clustered according to development status have been represented with the help of a map (fig. 2).

FIG. 2 MAP SHOWING DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF THE GPs





**INFLUENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURES IN DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES**

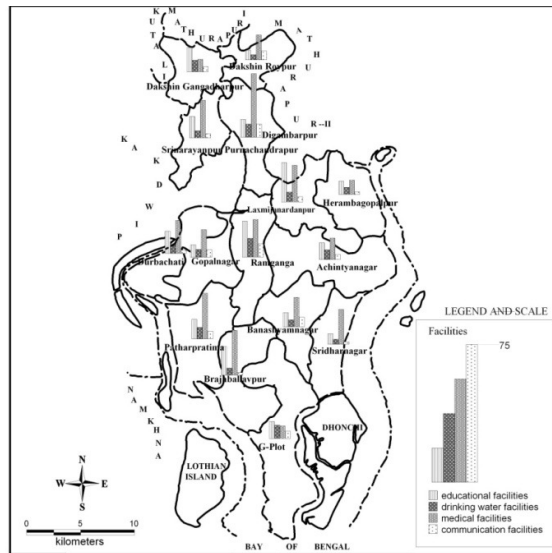
In this paper, a special emphasis has been given upon influence of infrastructural facilities in overall development separately. As we know that, in the achievement of development of any region, infrastructure or more simply to say, facilities play a very important role. Moreover the availability of the facilities expedites the development of the region and vice versa. The basic facilities have been considered here which are, educational facilities, medical facilities, drinking water facilities and communication facilities. All these taken together determine the well-being of a person’s life and well-being of the entire region in the long run (Banerjee, 1992). In the previous calculations, these facilities have already been calculated. Here, again these facilities are being recalculated separately just highlighting the influence of the facilities on development of the GPs. All the four facilities, i.e. education, medical, drinking water and communication have been considered separately. The total number of each facility has already been shown in Table no. 1. Communication facility has been calculated by considering all the three parameters of, length of black topped road, length of concrete road and communication services (Table no. 6). Based on the availability of the facilities a map has been prepared with bar diagram (Fig. 3).

**TABLE 6, TOTAL NUMBER OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES IN THE GPs.**

NAME OF THE GPs	EDUCATIONAL FACILITY	MEDICAL FACILITY	DRINKING WATER FACILITY	COMMUNICATION FACILITY
Dakshin Gangadharpur	29	15	14	6
Achintyanagar	20	25	12	6
Banashyamnagar	17	35	8	12
Brajaballavpur	34	53	8	3.5
Dakshin Roypur	12	30	6	11
Digambarpur	21	75	16	16
Durbachati	26	39	12	4
G-Plot	20	15	16	8
Gopalnagar	15	33	10	9
Herambagopalpur	16	17	8	3
Laxmijanardanpur	47	43	12	6
Patharpratima	23	54	14	9
Ramganga	42	44	22	16.5
Sridharnagar	13	41	6	3
Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur	25	44	8	5

Source: Computed by authors

FIG 3, MAP SHOWING TOTAL NUMBER OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES GP WISE



As already mentioned in the objectives of the study, an attempt has been taken in order to find out the status of the GPs according to their available facilities. The GPs have been categorized into four classes as **High (H)**, **Moderately High (MH)**, **Moderately Low (ML)** and **Low (L)**. A tally mark has been put against each GP for each facility (Table no. 7).

TABLE 7, POSITIONS OF THE GPs ACCORDING TO THE AVAILABLE FACILITIES

Name of GPs	Education				Medical				Drinking water				Communication			
	H	MH	ML	L	H	MH	ML	L	H	MH	ML	L	H	MH	ML	L
Dakshin Gangadharpur																
Achintyanagar																
Banashyamnagar																
Brajballavpur																
Dakshin Roypur																
Digambarpur																
Durbachati																
G-Plot																
Gopalnagar																
Herambagopalpur																
Laxmijanardanpur																
Patharpratima																
Ramganga																
Sridharnagar																
Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur																

Now, in order to find the actual status of the GPs; one composite index has to be calculated. This will help us in deciding in which category the GP belongs to. The index has been calculated by simply summing up the tally marks per facility available class wise. Henceforth, the status has been assigned to each GP accordingly (Table no. 8).

TABLE, 8 COMPOSITE INDEX TO FIND OUT THE STATUS OF GPs

Name Of GPs	Total	High	Moderately High	Moderately Low	Low	Status
Dakshin Gangadharpur	4					Moderate
Achintyanagar	4					Moderately Low
Banashyamnagar	4					Moderately High
Brajaballavpur	4					Moderate
Dakshin Roypur	4					Low
Digambarpur	4					High
Durbachati	4					Moderate
G-Plot	4					Moderately High
Gopalnagar	4					Moderately Low
Herambagopalpur	4					Low
Laxmijanardanpur	4					Moderately Low
Patharpratima	4					High
Ramganga	4					High
Sridharnagar	4					Low
Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur	4					Moderate

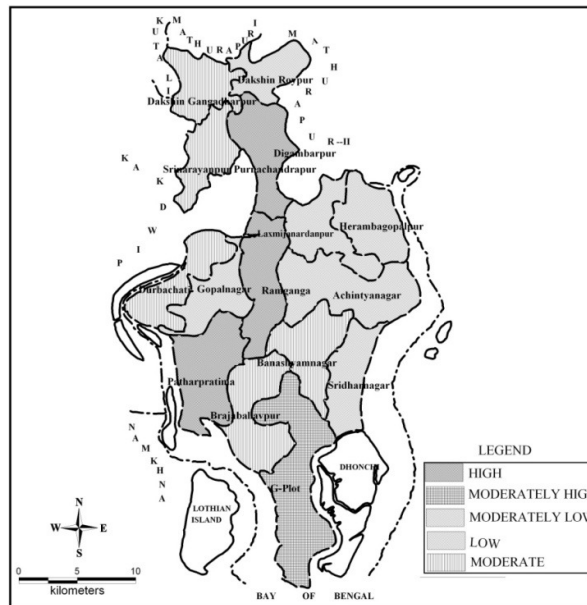
Source: Computed by authors

For example, Dakshin Roypur GP has highest tally mark in the low class, so it has been granted low status. However, there are certain GPs who have either tally marks in all the classes, or have same number of tally marks in both low and high class. Thus, it can be said that their development is more or less uniform. Hence, they have been assigned moderate status. After the classification, there stand 5 classes finally. **High, Moderately High, Low, Moderately Low, and Moderate** (Table no. 9). A better visualization is obtained with the help of Fig no. 4.

TABLE 9, STATUS OF GPs ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE FACILITIES

STATUS CLASSES	NAME OF THE GPs	TOTAL NUMBER OF FREQUENCIES
HIGH	Digambarpur Ramganga Patharpratima	3
MODERATELY HIGH	G-Plot Banashyamnagar	2
MODERATELY LOW	Laxmijanardanpur Gopalnagar Achintyanagar	3
LOW	Sridharnagar Herambagopalpur Dakshin Roypur	3
MODERATE	Srinarayanpur- Purnachandrapur Brajaballavpur Durbachati Dakshin Gangadharpur	4

FIG 4. MAP SHOWING STATUS OF THE GPs ACCORDING TO THE AVAILABLE FACILITIES



RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the aforesaid calculations and mapping, the results of the study has been described under two heads:

**STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE GPs BASED ON THEIR RANKS WITHIN THE BLOCK.**

The GPs have been ranked according to the available facilities (Table no. 2) which show their positions within the block. But in order to find out the ranks more accurately, the ranks have been cumulated (Table no. 3). Final rank thus assigned based on the cumulative ranks shows that Brajaballavpur GP has the highest rank and G-plot the lowest. There has been repetition of the same rank which creates a problem in categorizing the GP in respect of their status in development. Henceforth, an attempt has been taken to reclassify the data based on the procedure of Nested Mean classification. The final clustering of the data shows the status of the GPs (Table no. 5, Fig no. 2). *Brajaballavpur, Digambarpur, Durbachati, Laxmijanardanpur and Patharpratima GP* has high status and *G-Plot, Dakshin Roypur, and Gopalnagar GPs* have low status. The rest of the GPs have a moderate performance. One thing must be noticed here that Ramganga GP instead of being the block head-quarter does not fall within the high status group. It falls within the moderately high rank group. We also come to know how development has been concentrated within some pockets. This shows what regional disparity is. It was expected that GPs more towards the land will have a higher rank compared to the ones closer to the sea due to lessening infrastructural facilities, but this is not observed here. Dakshin Roypur falls in the fourth group, Dakshin Gangadharpur in the second and Srinarayanpur Purnachandrapur in the third group, whereas, Patharpratima, Brajaballavpur and Durbachati GP have high ranks instead of their being located further away from the main land.

**STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE GPs BASED ON THE AVAILABLE INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES**

As it has already been mentioned at the beginning of the study, a special emphasis has been given upon availability of certain basic infrastructural facilities of the GPs. The basic infrastructural facilities of medical, drinking water, education and communication have thus been considered in this analysis (Table no. 6, Fig no. 3). Now in order to find out the status of the GPs, they have been clustered into classes, High, Moderately High, Moderately Low, Low\_ and Moderate (Table no. 7, 8 9 and Fig no. 4). Number of GPs in the moderate category is large in number. Thus it can be said that development, on the basis of available infrastructural facilities is moderate in this block.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

The findings of the study are based on the results thus derived from the calculations. They can be summed up as follows:

(i) Regional disparity exists within the block. All the infrastructural facilities present in the block are not distributed evenly. They are concentrated in certain pockets (Table no. 6, Fig no. 3).

(ii) This regional disparity exists mainly due to prevalence of physical obstructions like excessive dissection of the region by the distributaries of Ganga, which makes the region more remote and difficult to access. Due to excessive dissection by the rivers, transport and communication system is not well developed. People have to depend on waterways mainly for their transport which has a seasonal vulnerability. Transport and communication system being the main backbone of development of the region, all the other related facilities (education, medical) are also less developed here.

To conclude, it must be said that micro level planning is the stress for present day scenario, especially for development of rural India. Particular strategies and plans have already been taken on behalf of the Government for initiating development at the grass root level. But fruits of these schemes and strategies will be acquired only when there will be execution of the appropriate strategy for a particular problem. Development at micro level will lead to development of the entire region consequently.

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