

**VILLAGE LEVEL DISCREPANCY IN AVAILABLE FACILITIES,
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED PROBLEMS: A CASE STUDY OF
RAMKISHORE GRAM PANCHAYET, KULPI C.D. BLOCK,
SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, INDIA**

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Abstract

Development of developing country like India depends on its village level available facilities. Village level development process requires numerous facilities like proper education system, availability of safe drinking water, suitable electrification, availability of health care facilities etc. This paper emphasizes on village level disparity in available facilities and development of 21 villages of Ramkishore Gram Panchayet, Kulpi C.D. Block, South 24 Parganas. Total number of facilities and Composite Development Index is taken into consideration for analysis of development scenario at village level. There are the significant disparities in the distribution of the village level facilities and regional imbalance in development among the villages in the study area. The villager's occupation mainly based on agriculture, their per capita income is considerably low. So, they spend low to moderate quality of life style. Recently few positive initiatives have been taken from the Government of West Bengal and Government of India to enhance education, literacy, health, transport etc. among the villages.

Keywords:

Available Facilities,
Gram Panchayet,
Spatial Disparity,
Development Index,
Quality of Life

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1. Introduction

The socio-economic indicators play a significant role in the development of a region. The present study aimed at identifying the inter-village regional disparity and imbalances in the levels of development in 21 villages of Ramkishore Gram Panchayet, Kulpi C.D. Block, South 24 Parganas. The regional disparity in the levels of development, differential patterns of development in education, health and public-utility services are taken into consideration to understand the spatial disparity and to identify the controlling geographical and other important factors which are account for such imbalances.

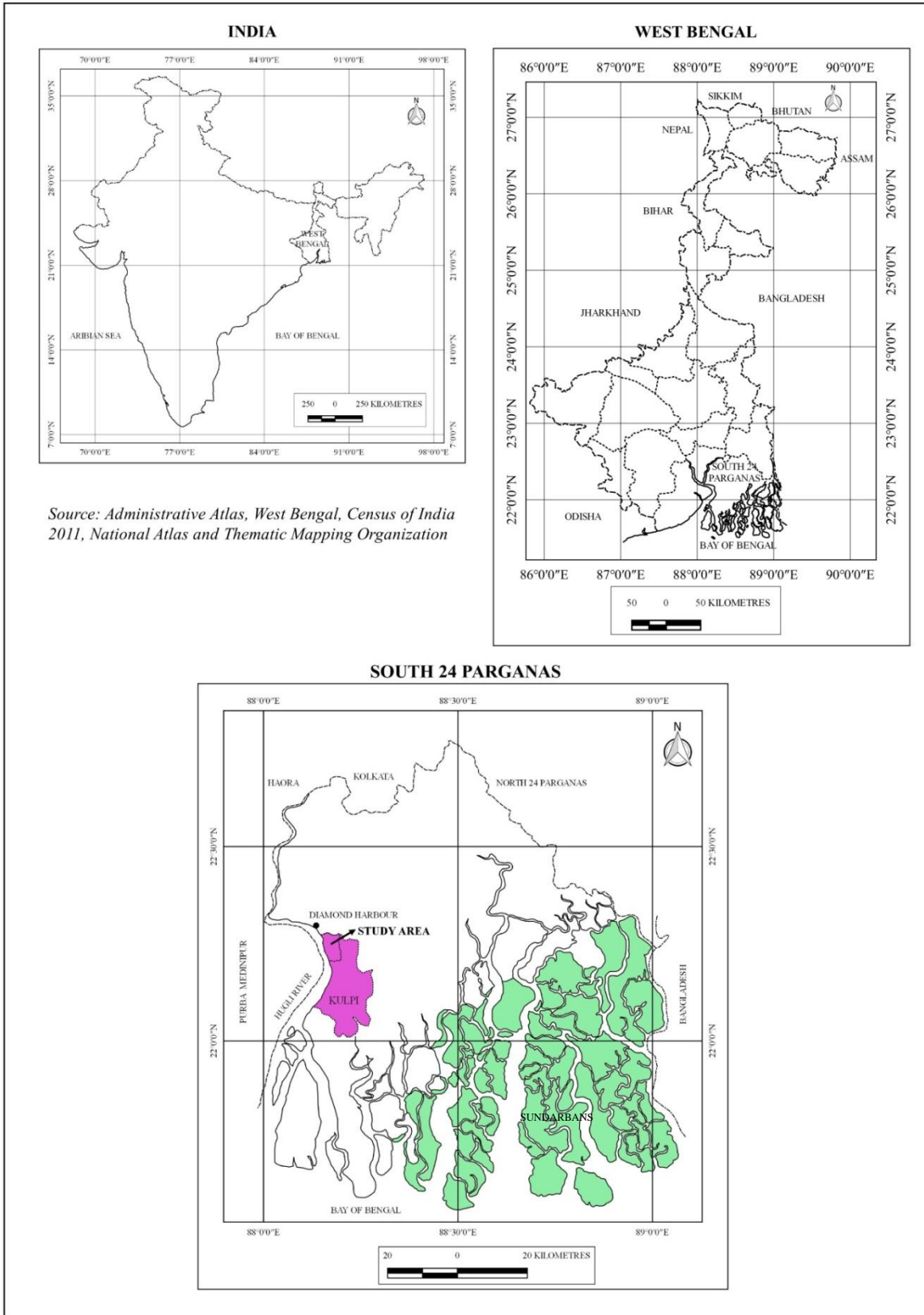
2. Study Area

South 24 Parganas is the southernmost district of the West Bengal, India. It is occupying southern part of the Bengal Delta facing the Bay of Bengal (Bagchi, E. and Chatterjee, K. 2015). Ramkishore Gram Panchayet located in the north-eastern part of Kulpi C.D. Blocks, South 24 Parganas. The Gram Panchayet is located in younger levee and deltaic plain of left side of Hugli River. The study area bounded by 22°10'24" North and 22°05'25" North parallels of latitude and 88°12'09" East and 88°14'38" East meridians of longitude having an area of 22.694 square kilometres (Figure 1).

3. Objectives

The objectives of the study include the followings:

- To bring out the spatial variation of available facilities among different village
- To identify the village wise micro-level development status
- To analyze the problems related to the disparity



Source: Administrative Atlas, West Bengal, Census of India 2011, National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization

Figure 1. Location map of the study area

4. Research Methodology

For the present study both primary and secondary data have been collected. The entire study is based on the census data (2011) of village's amenities, South 24 Parganas District Census Hand Book (2011), and other Government publications. On the basis of pre-designed questionnaire following the purposive method of sampling village wise primary data have been collected. All the collected relevant data were analyzed using statistical techniques and relevant cartographic representations. Based on village wise available amenities the Total Facilities has been calculated. Development Index has been calculated from following data (i) Index of literacy=(literate population/ total population)x100 (ii) Index of female literacy=(female literate population/ total female population)x100 (iii) Index of worker=(total worker/ total population)x100 (iv) Index of school=(number of school/ total population)x100 (v) Index of health=(number of health centres/ total population)x100 (vi) Index of electrification=(house having electricity facility/ total house)x100. Development Index is calculated by taking simple averages of all indicators in a group of study (Samanta, R. 2015).

5. Results and Analysis

All the collected primary and secondary data on village level available facilities is presented in the Table 1. Maximum number of education centres found in Jabbaria (11) followed by Uttar Ramkishorpur (10). Based on education facilities, health facilities, drainage facilities, communication facilities, transport facilities and others facilities the total facilities have been calculated. According to Table 1 it is evident that, above 25 numbers of total facilities found in Deria, Jabbaria and Uttar Ramkishorpur. On the other hand very low (12) total facilities found in Ramrampur and Uttar Mukundapur (Figure 2).

Table 1. Village wise number of available facilities and Total Facilities

SI No.	Village	Education facilities	Health facilities	Drainage facilities	Communication facilities	Transport facilities	Others facilities	Total facilities
1	Balarampur	2	0	2	1	1	8	14
2	Barbaria	7	1	3	1	2	6	20

3	Bishnurampur	3	4	2	0	1	5	15
4	Chak Ruplaskar	2	0	2	1	2	8	15
5	Dari Ratneshwarpur	2	0	2	0	1	10	15
6	Deria	9	1	2	4	2	8	26
7	Dhanumondal	2	0	4	1	2	7	16
8	Hanra	2	0	4	2	1	11	20
9	Hari Narayanpur	2	1	1	2	2	7	15
10	Inchchinbaria	2	0	5	0	2	6	15
11	Jabbaria	11	0	3	3	1	9	27
12	Kalitala	4	1	3	1	3	7	19
13	Manika	3	0	4	0	2	8	17
14	Monoharpur	2	1	2	3	1	12	21
15	Paschim Gopalnagar	6	2	4	5	2	4	23
16	Radhanagar	4	0	2	0	2	6	14
17	Ramrampur	1	0	1	1	0	10	12
18	Raytala	2	0	4	1	2	5	14
19	Uttar Mukundapur	2	0	1	2	2	5	12
20	Uttar Ramkishorpur	10	0	1	4	2	13	30
21	Uttar Ramkrishnapur	2	0	1	3	1	11	18

Source: Computed by the author from the Reports of the village's amenities Census of India (2011) and field survey (2017)

Development index of the villages calculated with the help of Index of Literacy, Index of Female Literacy, Index of Workers, Index of School, Index of Health and Index of Electrification (Table 2). Average literacy rate and female literacy rate of the villages is relatively low 68.31% and 61.20% respectively. There is also lack of number of schools and health centres in many villages

of the study area. Maximum villages have below 40% of work participation rate. Development Index is not satisfactory in few villages. It is also evident that, 20 villages attain Development Index value below 50 among the surveyed 21 surveyed villages of the Ramkishore Gram Panchayet. It is clear that, there are several miserable conditions of facilities all around the study area.

Table 2. Village wise Development Index

Sl No.	Village	Index of Literacy	Index of Female Literacy	Index of Worker	Index of School	Index of Health	Index of Electrification	Development index
1	Balarampur	62.10	58.41	25.59	0.28	0	81.63	38.00
2	Barbaria	65.75	59.09	34.25	0.24	0.03	93.93	42.22
3	Bishnurampur	76.05	69.34	40.30	1.14	1.52	85.94	45.72
4	Chak Ruplaskar	79.93	76.43	32.53	0.69	0	90.91	46.75
5	Dari Ratneshwarpur	73.08	60.94	36.15	1.54	0	68.97	40.11
6	Deria	65.27	59.92	35.40	0.24	0.03	94.45	42.55
7	Dhanumondal	61.15	52.52	32.68	0.14	0	74.07	36.76
8	Hanra	65.46	57.57	33.53	0.10	0	73.07	38.29
9	Hari Narayanpur	82.38	72.17	29.92	0.82	0.41	94.55	46.71
10	Inchchinbaria	61.51	50.92	41.81	0.17	0	69.34	37.29
11	Jabbaria	76.67	71.78	73.56	0.64	0	91.12	52.30
12	Kalitala	65.84	56.79	29.25	0.28	0.07	66.55	36.46
13	Manika	78.13	71.93	35.10	0.27	0	88.80	45.71
14	Monoharpur	58.14	50.12	33.21	0.04	0.02	73.48	35.84
15	Paschim Gopalnagar	66.17	56.52	35.21	0.32	0.11	79.80	39.69
16	Radhanagar	65.84	62.34	31.84	0.31	0	87.34	41.28
17	Ramrampur	73.92	67.22	43.54	0.12	0	75.00	43.30
18	Raytala	40.94	34.02	49.26	0.07	0	63.90	31.37

19	Uttar Mukundapur	77.76	70.24	35.98	0.39	0	84.92	44.88
20	Uttar Ramkishorpur	69.86	63.27	32.10	0.60	0	75.39	40.20
21	Uttar Ramkrishnapur	68.66	63.70	35.25	0.23	0	75.34	40.53

Source: Computed by the author from the Reports of the village's amenities Census of India (2011) and field survey (2017)

Table 3. Categories of development index of villages

Sl. No.	Attribute	Index value	Name of the village	Total no. of villages
1	Very highly developed	48.1-52.3	Jabbaria	1
2	Highly developed	43.9-48.1	Chak Ruplaskar, Hari Narayanpur, Bishnurampur, Manika, Uttar Mukundapur	5
3	Moderately developed	39.7-43.9	Ramrampur, Deria, Barbaria, Radhanagar, Uttar Ramkrishnapur, Uttar Ramkishorpur, Dari Ratneshwarpur	7
4	Low developed	35.6-39.7	Paschim Gopalnagar, Hanra, Balarampur, Inchchinbaria, Dhanumondal, Kalitala, Monoharpur	7
5	Very low developed	31.4-35.6	Raytala	1

Source: Computed by the author from the Reports of the village's amenities Census of India (2011) and field survey (2017)

Table 2 shows the Development Index of twenty one villages of Ramkishore Gram Panchayet, Kulpi C.D. Block, South 24 Parganas. Development Index is highest in Jabbaria (52.30),

followed by Chak Ruplaskar (46.75) and lowest in Raytala (31.37). All the villages of the Gram Panchayet may be arranged into five categories in descending order according to the development index (Table 3, Figure 2).

A. Very Highly development: This category comprises only one village namely Jabbaria (Development Index 52.30). This village has higher percentage persons literacy rate, female literacy rate, worker population and electricity facility. But this village facing with the problems related to school and health facility. It shows remarkably 76.67 percentage of literacy rate and 71.78 percentage of female literacy rate. Jabbaria has good transport facility with Diamond Harbour.

B. Highly development: Chak Ruplaskar, Hari Narayanpur, Bishnurampur, Manika, Uttar Mukundapur belongs to this category. Education level is also very high. Maximum literacy rate found in Hari Narayanpur (82.38 percentage) followed by Chak Ruplaskar (79.93 percentage). Due to lack of schools and health centres these village faces some problems.

C. Moderately development: Ramrampur, Deria, Barbaria, Radhanagar, Uttar Ramkrishnapur, Uttar Ramkishorpur and Dari Ratneshwarpur villages are fall in this category. Ramrampur, Radhanagar, Uttar Ramkrishnapur, Uttar Ramkishorpur and Dari Ratneshwarpur villages have no medical facility. They have to travel long distance for school and health service. Among these villages Dari Ratneshwarpur have remarkably high index of school (1.54 percentage) and maximum electricity facility (94.45 percentage) found in Deria.

D. Low development: Seven villages like Paschim Gopalnagar, Hanra, Balarampur, Inchchinbaria, Dhanumondal, Kalitala and Monoharpur are belonging to this category. They have low percentage of literacy rate, female literacy rate, worker population. Hanra, Balarampur, Inchchinbaria and Dhanumondal villages have no medical facility. They compelled to go nearest village for school and health facility.

E. Very low development: Raytala belongs to this category (Development Index 31.37). It is important to notice that, this village have no medical facility, low percentage of literacy rate,

female literacy rate and as usual worker population. But the poor performance in remaining sector is due to location of far distance from the nearest town i.e. Diamond Harbour, causes lower development.

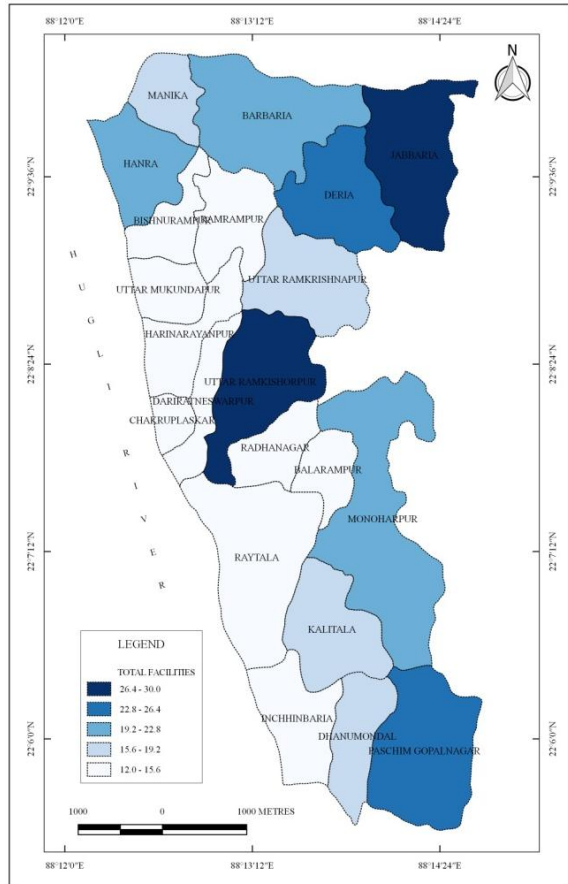


Figure 2. Village wise Total Facilities

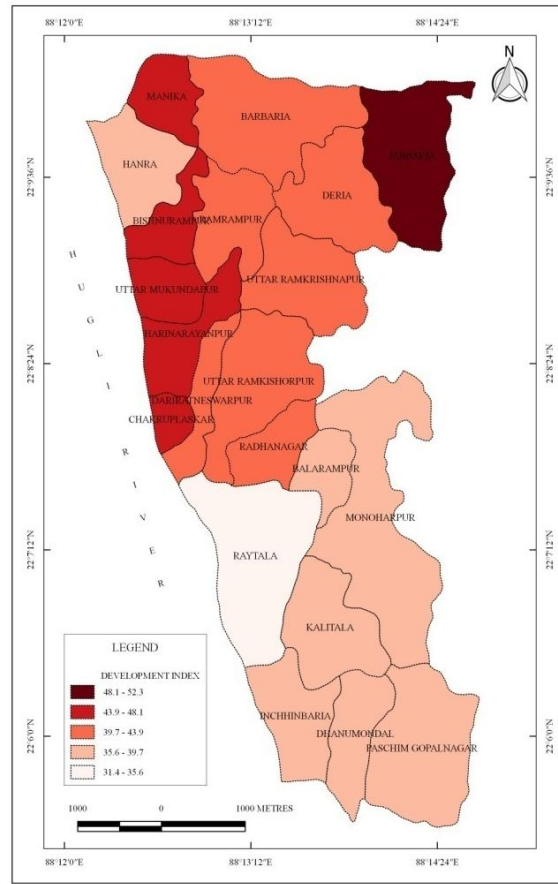


Figure 3. Village wise Development Index

Index

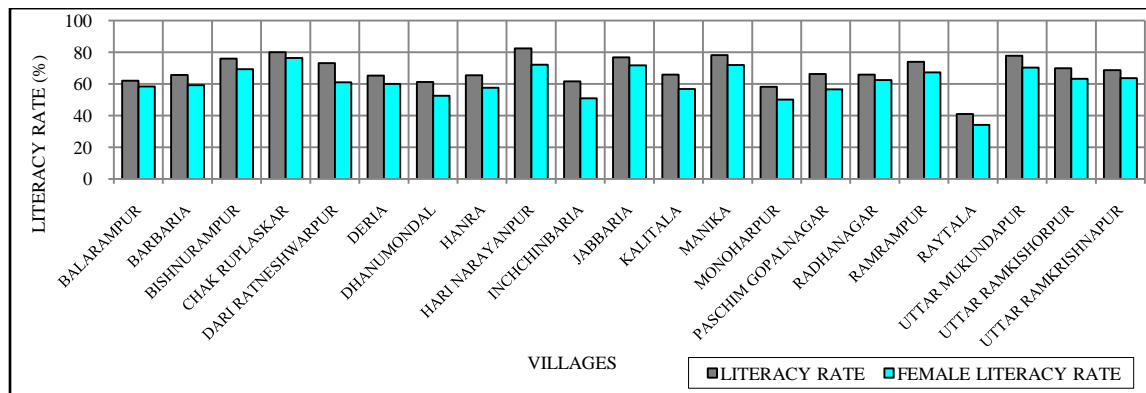


Figure 4. Village wise literacy rate and female literacy rate, 2011

In Figure 4 it is clear that, there is a prominent difference in terms of persons and female literacy rate in the study area. To show the relationship between the number of total facilities and development index the Least Square Method has been used (Sarkar, A. 2015). There is a positive relation between the number of total facilities and development index, the coefficient of correlation, $r = 0.11840$ (Figure 5). Besides this, a negative relation found between the distance of the villages from nearest urban centre i.e. Diamond Harbour and development index, the coefficient of correlation, $r = -0.52025$ (Figure 6).

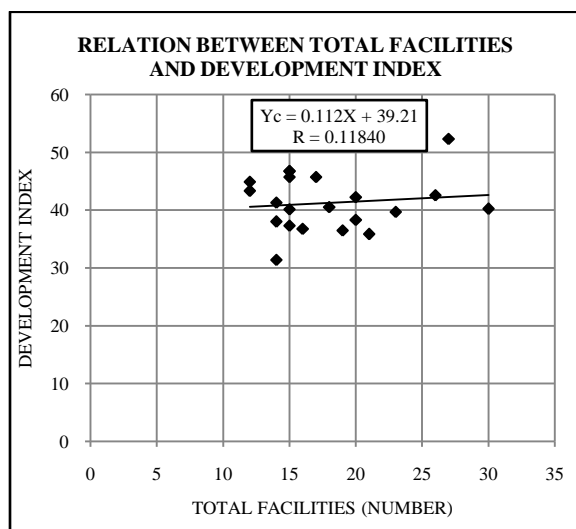


Figure 5

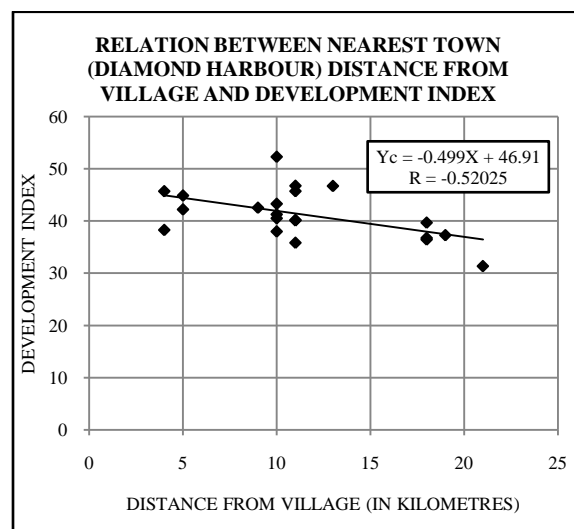


Figure 6

Development of any region depends on available facilities of the region. According to the Figure 6, the developed villages have maximum number of facilities. Diamond Harbour is the nearest urban centre of the study area. Diamond Harbour plays an important role in the development of the surrounding area. Due to farthest location (21 kilometres) Raytala suffer from lots of problems. On the other hand, Jabbaria which is located about 10 kilometres away from Diamond Harbour and highly accessible and connected through bus, auto etc. For this reason Jabbaria is relatively high developed (Figure 6).

In South 24 Parganas, the drinking water is collected from 160 to 360 metres deep fresh water

bearing aquifer. It has been observed that main source of drinking water is hand pump which have been installed by the government authorities (Bandyopadhyay, M. and Basu, R. 2017). It is noted that, shortage in number of deep tube wells are prominent in many villages of the study area.

Literacy, as an important outcome of education, has a cumulative and successive effect on income, job opportunities, job categories, health, standard of living, life style etc. which collectively influence the achievement in human development. Literacy can contribute to increase income, production of goods and services and all together increased state and district domestic product (Mandal, A. 2017). Due to lack of available facilities like number of schools, lots of villages facing education problems. There are lots of seasonal labourer and disguise labourer. For job, several times they compelled to go other cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi or even South India and North-East India. Villagers mainly depend of agriculture. They cultivate paddy, dal, sunflower, tomato and vegetables. Few female are engaged in embroidery and small scale industries which helps economic support of the family. In several critical health related problems they compelled to travel one hour and more by paddle van, motor van, toto, auto, few cases ambulance, 'Nischay Yan' to the Diamond Harbour District Hospital. Most of the people have to go to the quack doctors for treatment in the remote villages.

For the improvement of access to referral health care services, Government of India has a scheme named *Rashtrya Swastha Bima Yojana* (RSBY was launched on 1st April 2008) for the poor people. The state government started the 'Nischay Yan' scheme under the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK was launched on 1st June 2011) in the rural areas so that the expecting women can be shifted (admission and release) to the nearby hospitals free of cost. The 'Swasthaya Sathi' scheme was officially launched by Chief Minister on 30th December, 2016 (Mandal, A. 2017).

4. Conclusion

Development process requires numerous facilities like proper education system, availability of safe drinking water, suitable electrification, availability of health care facilities, available employment facilities or job opportunities, accessibility and connectivity. The study reveals that,

the disparity in the distribution of the village level facilities in the study area. This type of disparities create regional imbalance in development of the village. In some villages, lack of transportation facilities, proper educational infrastructures and medical care facilities are in vulnerable condition. Proper planning required for the equitable distribution of several services. Special care also should be taken for deficit villages and to meet the demand for the services arising out of the population increase. Requisite facilities and at the same time education are necessary for improvement of the villages concerned especially in the rural areas. Improvement of women education and development of consciousness are also necessary in this respect. Last not the least; overall proper initiative from local to higher authorities with a constructive approach and increasing awareness can minimize the village level disparity as well as development of the district.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Village level amenities

A. Education facilities	D. Health facilities
1. Government Pre - Primary School (Nursery/LKG/UKG)	1. Community Health Centre
2. Private Pre - Primary School (Nursery/LKG/UKG)	2. Primary Health Centre
3. Government Primary School	3. Primary Health Sub Centre
4. Private Primary School	4. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre
5. Government Middle School	5. TB Clinic
6. Private Middle School	6. Hospital Allopathic
7. Government Secondary School	7. Hospital Alternative Medicine
8. Private Secondary School	8. Dispensary
9. Government Senior Secondary School	9. Veterinary Hospital
10. Private Senior Secondary School	10. Mobile Health Clinic
11. Government Arts and Science Degree College	11. Family Welfare Centre
12. Private Arts and Science Degree College	12. Non Government Medical facilities Out Patient
13. Government Engineering College	13. Non Government Medical facilities Medicine Shop
14. Private Engineering College	
15. Government Medicine College	E. Transport facilities
16. Private Medicine College	1. Major District Road
17. Government Management Institute	2. Other District Road
18. Private Management Institute	3. Black Topped (pucca) Road
19. Government Polytechnic	4. Gravel (kuchha) Roads
20. Private Polytechnic	5. All Weather Road

21. Government Vocational Training School/ITI	6. Navigable Waterways (River/Canal)
22. Private Vocational Training School/ITI	
23. Government Non Formal Training Centre	F. Others facilities
24. Private Non Formal Training Centre	1. ATM
25. Government School For Disabled	2. Commercial Bank
26. Private School For Disabled	3. Cooperative Bank
	4. Agricultural Credit Societies
B. Communication facilities	5. Self - Help Group (SHG)
1. Post Office	6. Public Distribution System (PDS) Shop
2. Sub Post Office	7. Mandis/Regular Market
3. Telephone (landlines)	8. Weekly Haat
4. Mobile Phone Coverage	9. Agricultural Marketing Society
5. Private Courier Facility	10. Nutritional Centres-ICDS
6. Public Bus Service	11. ASHA
7. Private Bus Service	12. Sports Field
	13. Public Library
C. Drainage facilities	14. Public Reading Room
1. River/Canal	15. Daily Newspaper Supply
2. Tank/Pond/Lake	16. Birth and Death Registration Office
3. Closed Drainage	17. Power Supply For Domestic Use
4. Open Drainage	
5. No Drainage	
6. Open Pucca Drainage Covered with Tiles Slabs	
7. Open Pucca Drainage Uncovered	

Source: Census of village's amenities (2011)