

REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION TO HARDWAR BY THIRD YEAR HONOURS STUDENTS

STUDY AREA: HARDWAR, UTTARAKHAND

DURATION: 17/02/2018 to 23/02/2018.

OBJECTIVES

To gain firsthand experience of how fieldwork for a micro level geographical study is conducted in an urban area and to prepare a report on the basis of primary and secondary data collected. Students are taught how to design a questionnaire and conduct a socio-economic survey for collection of primary data, to process and analyze the raw data.

This field study was done to assess the impact of the remarkable physical environment on the location and growth of *Hardwar*; present a socio-economic and demographic profile; highlight the quality of life enjoyed by the residents through analysis of the various facilities available to them and finally their perceptions regarding general living conditions as well as the arrival of tourists and pilgrims.

LOCATION

Hardwar (29° 58' N, 78° 11' E) is an important pilgrimage centre and municipality in the Hardwar district of Uttarakhand in Northern India. The River Ganga, after flowing for 253 km from its source at Gaumukh at the edge of the Gangotri Glacier, enters the Indo-Gangetic Plains at Hardwar, which gave the city its ancient name, Gangadwára. Hardwar, the headquarters and the largest city of the district and known as the *Gateway to the Gods* is regarded as one of the seven holiest places to the Hindus.

FIELD WORK

Field work done by the students included the following:

- i. Observations of landform and physical characteristics of the region.
- ii. Collection of the ward map from Hardwar Nagar Palika and preparation of a land use map of the ward selected for detailed study by land use survey.
- iii. A detailed land use survey of a portion of the selected ward near Vishnughat.
- iv. Data collection from the Hardwar Nagar Palika regarding various demographic aspects
- v. Data collection from the Hardwar Tourist Office regarding arrival of tourists.
- vi. Collection of primary data on various demographic and socio-economic aspects through questionnaire survey of households of the selected localities.
- vii. A perception study of the surveyed households regarding living conditions as well as the impact of tourism.

viii. A Dumpy Level survey along the Banks of Nildhara near Chandighat to prepare a cross profile from the river bank up to the beginning of the water channel.

ix. Taking photographs of the various aspects of the town

According to the census figures for 2011 Hardwar Nagar Palika which includes the Nagar Palika Parishad area as well as outgrowths, is divided into 33 wards. The questionnaire survey was carried out in two localities namely Vishnughat and Lakri Basti. The Vishnughat area was selected because it is located beside the Upper Ganga canal and is also close to Har ki Pauri, the religious heart of the city. Preliminary observations of the Vishnughat area also show that the area is typical of the religious- residential-commercial functional mix which characterizes the city. In contrast, Lakri Basti is a squatter settlement consisting of a cluster of semi permanent houses on the bank of the Nildhara near Chandighat and represents a very different dimension of life in the city. The sample size for the household survey was 241 out of which 181 and 60 households were surveyed in Vishnughat and Lakri Basti respectively.

POST FIELD WORK

This involved compilation of the final report on the basis of various data and information collected from the field as well as further reference work to supplement the field notes.

OUTCOME OF THE STUDY

A report is prepared on the basis of the field visit to Hardwar and the findings are summarized below:

The unique location of Hardwar as a *gate town* along the southern margin of the Himalayas at the point of emergence of the river Ganga from the mountains has contributed to the importance and growth of the city as a centre of tourism and pilgrimage. The presence of the Upper Ganga canal to which the main flow of the Ganga has been diverted acts as a life line for the city.

In 2011 the city recorded a population of 231,338 and the population has increased by 31.9% during the decade 2001-11. Scheduled castes comprise slightly more than 13% of the population. It may be noted that the resident population is overwhelmingly Hindu. An unbalanced sex ratio is characteristic of the city since the number of females per thousand males is much lower than that for Uttarakhand as well as India.

The age-sex composition of the population in the localities selected as case study is characterized by a higher proportion of males in all age groups. A remarkable feature is the absence of the broad base characteristic of developing economies. The highest proportion of population is seen in 20-29 age groups.

Percentage of literate population is relatively high with nearly 84% of the population declared literate in the 2011 census. However female literacy lags far behind that of males. The proportion

of both male and female population with higher education is fairly high in the Vishnughat area. This is not surprising since the city has been known as a centre of learning for various arts, science and culture and is home to the Gurukul (traditional) system of learning. In contrast educational attainment of the residents of Lakri Basti is noticeably lower.

The pattern of work participation shows a remarkable contrast between that for males and females and the number of female workers is low in both localities. However, our survey revealed that more than one-third of the female work force is employed in white collar jobs such as teachers and other salaried service in Vishnughat while in Lakri Basti women are engaged in manual work. The importance of the religious function is reflected in the significant proportion of the working population being engaged as priests in Vishnughat. Thus it is possible to conclude that the two localities selected for primary survey reflect the differences in the structure and composition of their population and that this difference is a consequence of their different economic conditions.

The land use pattern of the surveyed area shows a mix of residential, commercial and religious functions and represents the congested living conditions near Har ki Pauri, the religious focus of the city.

Income levels show considerable variation among the different localities of the surveyed areas. Mean monthly household incomes show that majority of the residents of Vishnughat enjoy a comfortable standard of living. The proportion of affluent families with a high standard of living is fairly high in the Vishnughat area. The opposite is true of Lakri Basti where majority of the households lack most of the amenities enjoyed by city dwellers.

Perception of residents regarding living conditions at Hardwar reflects their satisfaction with their life in the city. However majority of the residents expressed their dissatisfaction regarding drainage and waste disposal.

Presence of ashrams, dharamshalas, temples as well as the numerous sacred ghats along the Ganga bear evidence to the importance of Hardwar as a centre of pilgrimage. The number of pilgrims and tourists arriving annually has been rapidly increasing in recent years.

In the light of the above findings it is possible to conclude that Hardwar is a centre of pilgrimage where man has learnt to live in harmony with nature since ancient times and where the life of the residents is still influenced to a remarkable extent by religious traditions and serenity of the natural environment which is dominated by the eternal flow of the Ganga.

List of Students and accompanying staff members who participated in the Field Study

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name of the Students	Age	Sex
1	1401	Mouli Sen	18	F
2	1402	Annyesha Purkait	19	F
3	1403	Ankita Bagal	19	F
4	1404	Rupsa Ghosh	19	F
5	1405	Sharmistha Mondal	18	F
6	1406	Keyarani Halder	18	F
7	1407	Soumili Mondal	19	F
8	1408	Subhra Sardar	18	F
9	1410	Zeba Parveen	18	F
10	1411	Saba Naaz	19	F
11	1412	Shreya Biswas	19	F
12	1413	Rikta Bose	18	F
13	1414	Manisha Ghosh	19	F
14	1415	Sonai Hazra	19	F
15	1417	Bithika Mondal	18	F
16	1418	Puja Naskar	19	F
17	1419	Sreelekha Das	19	F
18	1420	Nilasree Ghosh	18	F
19	1421	Sanjita Sardar	19	F
20	1422	Shreya Das	19	F
21	1424	Sumana Mondal	18	F
22	1425	Bidisha Mondal	19	F
23	1426	Rachana Banerjee	19	F
24	1427	Nilakshi Ghatak	19	F
25	1429	Moumita Nath	19	F
26	1430	Shreya Ghosh	18	F
27	1431	Nisha Dasgupta	18	F
28	1432	Sanjeeta Singh	19	F
29	1433	Anindita Chowdhury	19	F
	Sl. No.	Name of the Staff	Age	Sex
	1	Dr. Sriparna Bose	58	F
	2	Sri. Amal Mahato	31	M
	3	Sri. Chandan Das	33	M



Chandi Pahar, Hardwar



Hardwar excursion student group in front of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology