

# **REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION TO LAKSHMIPUR ABAD, BAKKHALI, WEST BENGAL BY THIRD YEAR (SEMESTER V) HONOURS STUDENTS**

**STUDY AREA:** LAKSHMIPUR ABAD, BAKKHALI, WEST BENGAL

**DURATION:** 19/09/2022 TO 22/09/2022

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of this field study were to assess the impact of a combination of different factors like the coastal location with its unique natural setting in the mangrove forests and its vulnerability to natural hazards like cyclones and marine erosion on the growth of the tourist destination under study. The field study aimed to present a profile of the physical and cultural landscape of the village, to assess the relationship between the different physical and cultural elements, to highlight the quality of life enjoyed by the residents based on the facilities enjoyed by them and finally their perceptions regarding general living conditions in the village, tourism activities and their perception about environmental hazards. The study would also throw light on how the villagers of this region are adapting and modifying their physical environment to meet their requirements

## **LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA**

The study area, mouza Lakshmipur Abad (21°34' N and 88°14' E), is a small village located on the seafront at the southern tip of West Bengal on the shore of the Bay of Bengal. It is in Namkhana Police station of district South Twenty-four Parganas. In fact, the village is located on the southern tip of Edward Island, one of the islands of the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world. The village is popular as a seaside tourist destination and is also known as Bakkhali. Lakshmipur Abad covers a total area of 274.07 hectares and has a total population of 1056 as per 2011 census.

## **METHODOLOGY**

**Pre-field work** includes a preliminary study of the area involving study of existing literature, planning and preparation of the questionnaires for the door to door household survey, study of topographical sheets and other maps of the area (physical, forest, soil, transport and tourism plates published by NATMO) and collection of census data.

**Field Work** involved the following:

- i. Observations of landform and physical characteristics of the region.
- ii. Preparation of a land use map by plot to plot land use survey.
- iii. Collection of primary data on various demographic and socio-economic aspects through questionnaire survey of households of the selected mouza.
- iv. A perception study of the surveyed households regarding living conditions as well as environmental hazards
- v. Taking photographs of the various aspects of the village

**Post field Work** 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**

Lakshmipur Abad is located in the southern tip of largest delta of the world that is Ganga-Brahmaputra delta. It is the active part of the Ganga Brahmaputra delta where the land forming processes are still operating. The delta is thus affected by the marine erosional and depositional activities. At the seafont of the Lakshmipur village marine erosion appears to be very active. The cadastral map and the land use mapping done shows that a portion of the land has been engulfed by the sea. Human intervention like the clearing of the casuarina forests to build a market area catering to the tourists may have been responsible for such activity.

A study of the trends in population growth during the last few decades shows that population has almost doubled between 1981 and 2011 with a sex ratio of 934 females per thousand males in 2011. The caste composition shows a dominance of the Scheduled Castes who accounts for 62% of the surveyed population. Literacy rate is high at 93.53% for the male population and 88.53% for the female population. Census data reveals a steady increase in literacy rate.

The crops grown include two crops of rice, Aman or the monsoon rice sown in June and harvested in November. Boro rice is grown in summer, sown in January and harvested in April/ May. The other major crops grown include potato and wheat. Soil samples collected from the field shows acidic character with sufficient nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

The percentage distribution of workers shows a remarkable departure from the pattern expected in a rural area of a developing country. Only 10.49% of the workers are engaged in agricultural activities. Fishing is also important with about 14.43% of the working population occupied in fishing and related activities. The rest are in the transport and service sector. About 9.18% are engaged in the transport sector while 20.66% of the workers are included within the service category. A large section of the villagers constituting 13.77 % of workers work as daily labourers. It may be noted that since Lakshmipur Abad is a coastal village fishing has always been one of the major occupations. In addition, lack of agricultural land due to marine erosion along the coast, intrusion of saline water and the popularity of the village as a tourist spot leading to development of alternative occupational opportunities in the hotel industry, transport related activities are the primary reasons behind this non-typical occupational pattern. Hotels and homestays have become an integral part of the village landscape and their number has been increasing in recent years.

Environmental awareness is evident from the wind mills that were built to supply electricity. The wind mills were however, badly damaged by the cyclones particularly Amphan in recent times. Being a tourist town, majority of the respondents are in favour of developing and promoting tourism here. Perception study of the respondents show 55.17% feel tourism is beneficial and leads to increased income, improved infrastructural facilities and more employment opportunities.

### List of students and accompanying Staff Members

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name of the Students	Age (years)	Sex
1	201401	Ahana Banerjee	18	F
2	201402	Ananya Mondal	18	F
3	201403	Anjali Chatterjee	18	F
4	201404	Anupurba Ghosh	19	F
5	201405	Arpita Mondal	19	F
6	201406	Atrayee Roy	18	F
7	201408	Debangana De	18	F
8	201409	Eashani Dutta	18	F
9	201410	Humaira Shahanawaz	18	F
10	201411	Jasmina Parveen	19	F
11	201412	Javeria Akram	19	F
12	201413	Manazla Shahanawaz	19	F
13	201414	Priya Mondal	18	F
14	201415	Sakshi Kumari	19	F
15	201416	Sana mujahid	18	F
16	201417	Sobha Das	18	F
17	201418	Soumili Panda	18	F
18	201419	Sudipa Samanta	19	F
19	201420	Sudipta Mondal	18	F
20	201421	Sulagna Saha	19	F
21	201422	Sumedha Saha	19	F
22	201423	Tanuska Banerjee	18	F
23	201424	Tanushree Karmakar	18	F

Sl. No.	Name of the Staff	Age (years)	Sex
1	Dr. Bhaswati Ray	49	F
2	Dr. Hasibur Rahaman Molla	35	M
3	Sri Ganesh Jay Singh	45	M



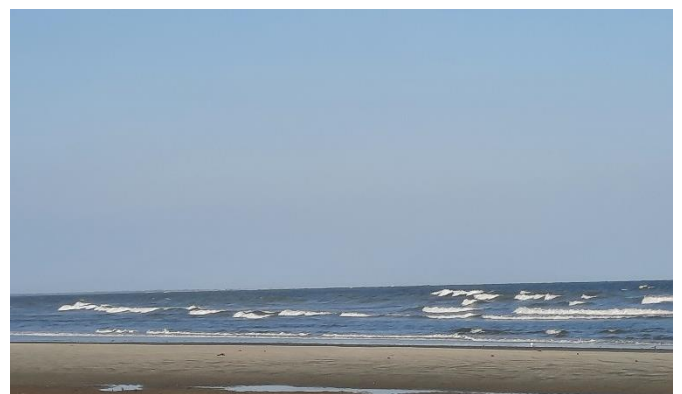
**Dumpy Level Survey at Bakkhali**



**Group Photo in front of Balutot Tourism Property, Bakkhali**



**Bakkhali affected by Coastal Erosion**



**Beach at Bakkhali**