



THE VIEW OF GOOD GOVERNANCE : A CASE STUDY ON RAIGANJ TOWN

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ABSTRACT

With increase urbanization more and more people are pulled and pushed towards the urban center. Which result into heavy concentration in with in limited special extend of the urban areas leading to greater demand of services which unfortunately urban areas most of the time fails to full fill . This result into degradation of urban environment and increasing chaos of urban life in order to prevent such chaos and degradation to happened what we need is an administrative structure in the urban areas which will mitigate such crises. Urban governance provides for such and administrative structure which can manage the increasing population and provide for the ever increasing need infrastructural needs of urban centers. Governance is the enabling environment that requires adequate legal framework, efficient political, managerial and administrative processes to enable the local government response to the needs of citizens. It can be defined as many ways that institutions and individual organize the day to day. Management of a city, and the processes used for effectively realizing the short term and long term agenda of a city's development. Urban governance is the software that enables the urban hardware to function. Effective urban governance is characterized as democratic and inclusive; long term and integrated; multi scale and multilevel; territorial; proficient and conscious of the digital age.



KEYWORDS: urbanization , multi scale and multilevel , democratic.

INTRODUCTION

Urban governance refers to how government (local, regional and national) and stakeholders decide how to plan, finance and manage urban areas. It involves a continuous process of negotiation and contestation over the allocation of social and material resources and political power. It is, therefore, profoundly political, influenced by the creation and operation of political institutions, government capacity to make and implement decisions and the extent to which these decisions recognize and respond to the interests of the poor. It encompasses a host of economic and social forces, institutions and relationships. These include labour markets, goods and services; household, kin and social relationships; and basic infrastructure, land, services and public safety. Large gaps often exist between poor and better-off urban residents in terms of access to social, economic and political opportunities (particularly decision-making) and the ability to participate in, and leverage, the benefits associated with urban living.

- plays a critical role in shaping the physical and social character of urban regions;
- influences the quantity and quality of local services and efficiency of delivery;
- determines the sharing of costs and distribution of resources among different groups; and
- Affects residents' ability to access local government and engage in decision-making, influencing local government accountability and responsiveness to citizen demands.

Urban governance involves a range of actors and institutions; the relationships among them determine what happens in the city. In managing urban transformations, governments (at all levels) need to play a strategic role in forging partnerships with and among key stakeholders. While city government is the largest and most visible urban governance actor, much of what affects the life chances of the urban poor lies outside the control of city administrations. Instead, it is the market and private businesses, agencies of the central state or the collective voluntary action of civil society that determine the daily experiences of urban dwellers.

OBJECTIVES:

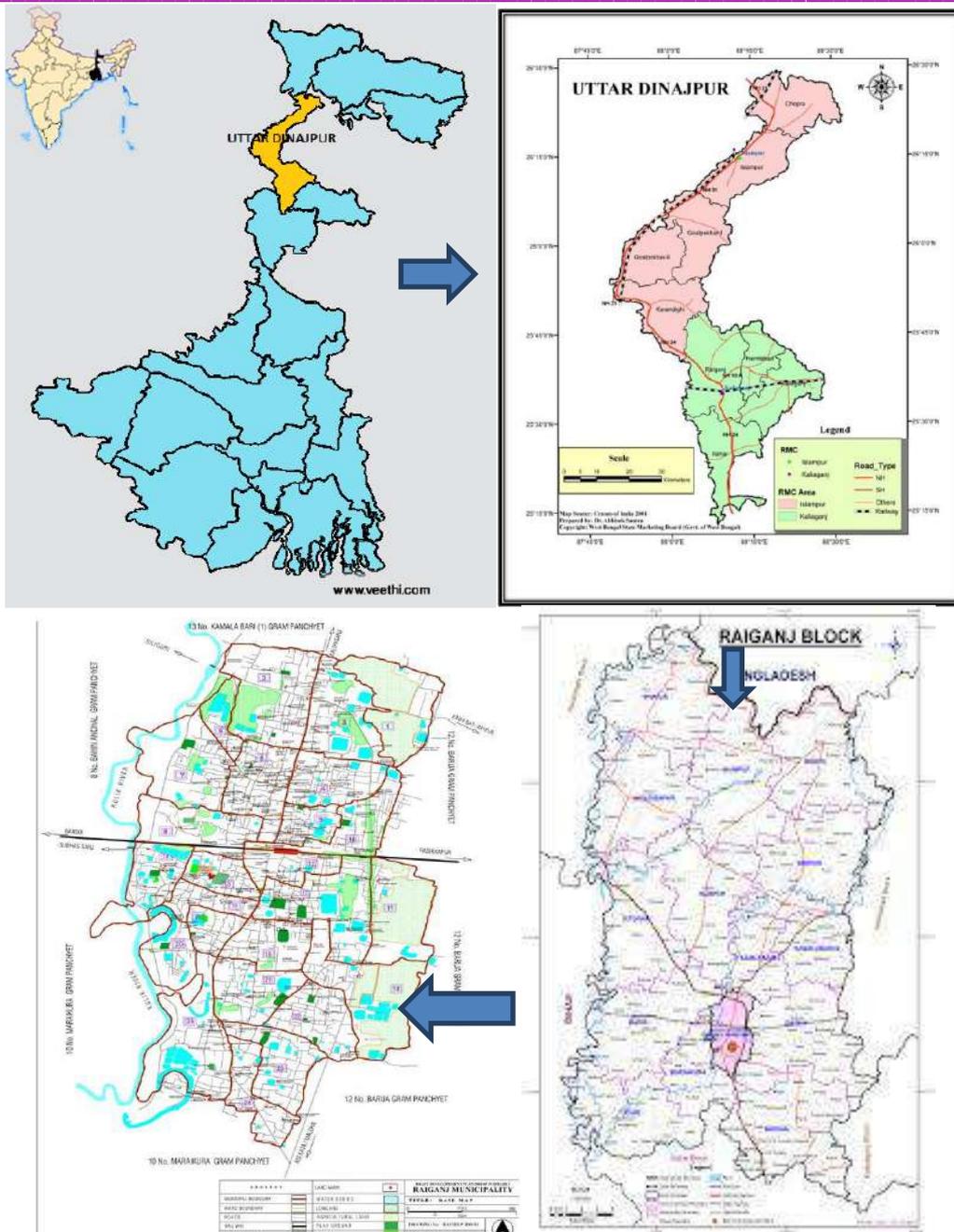
- a) To assess the growth and development of Raiganj.
- b) To identify and analyze the process of urban governance of Raiganj and
- c) To analyze the impact of governance on Raiganj and its surrounding area.

RESEARCH QUESTION:

1. What is the impact of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 on the Process of governance of Raiganj?
2. Does the process of governance of Raiganj qualify as being good from the people's point of view?
3. What is the impact of governance on Raiganj and its surrounding region?

STUDY AREA:

Raiganj Municipal corporation is located in the state of west Bengal. It is situated in the southern part of the district of Uttardinajpur between 88°07''E to 88.12' E longitude and 25°37'' N to 25°62'' N latitude. Total area of Raiganj municipality is 10.76 sqkm which is divided into 27 wards and the total population of the Raiganj Municipality area is 183682 where the male population is 96577 and female population is 87105. Population density of Raiganj Municipality area is 656 per sqkm. The literacy rate of Raiganj municipality area is 133260 where male literacy rate is 72505 & female literacy rate is 60755 & total no of house hold Raiganj municipality area is 33036



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present work is divided into three phases. First is *pre-field*; which includes selection of study area, identification of the spots for the case studies, collection of the necessary maps & literatures & preparing suitable questionnaires. Second phase is the *field-work*; for the generation of secondary data from the field and secondary data for different published booklets to represent the work collection of the necessary photographs & as the third phase *post-field*; representation of information gathered for field from primary data with the help of maps and diagrams as well as elaboration of results through interpretation.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Literature review is the critical analysis of the available literature related to the topic on which the research is to be conducted. It is essential as it gives us an insight into the field of study and also the

direction of our progress Urban governance has become an important issue of the day due to the problems associated with rapid urbanisation. According to UNDP (1997) "Governance is viewed as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises, mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences." Urban governance comprises the various forces, institutions and movements that guide economic and social development, the distribution of resources, social interactions and other aspects of daily life in urban areas. Governance is linked to the development of an urban centre. The enactment of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 has emphasized this aspect. Generally the development and growth of an urban centre leads to the development of its surrounding region. Thus good governance indirectly reflects on the development of the surrounding region of an urban centre. The three main themes that emerge are Urbanisation, Urban Governance and Regional Development which have been conceptualized and reviewed.

GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILE OF STUDY AREA:

1 RELIEF AND PHYSIOGRAPHY:

The regional topography is generally flat with a gentle southerly slope towards which the main rivers like Kulik, Nagar, and Mahananda etc. are flowing. The district experiences average Slope 1.32° as followed by maximum slope 2.6° and minimum slope 0.03° , the district of Uttar Dinajpur is located entirely within the catchment of the Mahananda River which occupies a low entrenched valley between the major alluvial fans of the Kosi and the Tista over much of its course. Uttar Dinajpur district can be broadly demarcated into three principal physiographies zones, comprising the occupies more than four-fifths of the district extending Itahar, and the mature floodplain that covers the lower extremities of Itahar block. Chopra block mainly comprises elevated dangas or piedmont terraces interspersed by lowlands, along with a segment of the Mahananda alluvial fan stretching over an area of 45 sq km along its northwestern part. As the topographic data ranges show elevation in the Uttar Dinajpur touch a maximum of 92m in the piedmont zone and decline through the elongated length of the district to 27m in the mature floodplain leading to the elevation range 67m. The decline is somewhat uneven and in depressions found along isolated beels and waterbodies in the district, elevations touches 25m. With a quick drop in elevations past the piedmont zone, most of Uttar Dinajpur district presents a relatively flat topographic profile, except along the river valleys, with the dominant slope consequently been much lower than the average slope in the district.

1.7.2 CLIMATE:

Raiganj has a humid tropical climate (Köppen Cwa). The average high temperature in July, the warmest month, is 39°C (112°F), and in January, the coldest month, 26°C (79°F). The average annual temperature is 24.9°C (76.8°F). On average, 1,430 millimetres (56 in) of rain falls per year, with most of it falling in the wet season month of June through September. The wettest month in July, with 3489 millimetres (13.7 in) of precipitation on average; the driest month is December, with only 5 millimetres (0.20 in). [8].

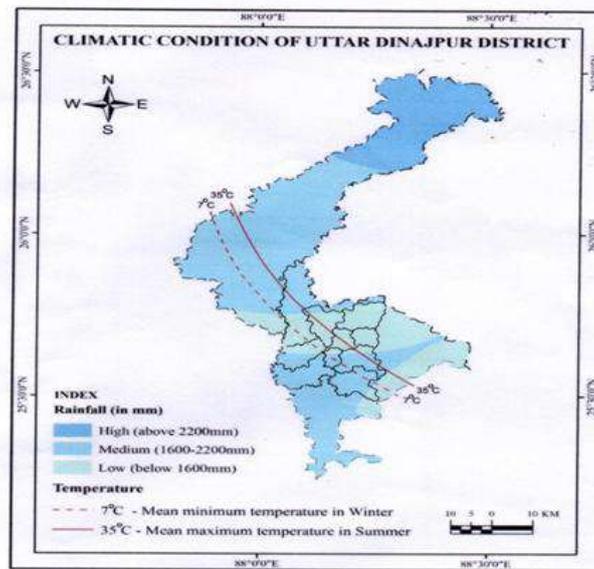


Figure No. 3

1.7.3 SOIL:

Raiganj is bestowed with a very fertile soil. The soil is very rich in nature due to the alluvial deposition. The dispositional patterns of soil in Raiganj closely echo these past present fluvial regimes. Most soil in this block are of recent alluvial origin and are classified under the USDA soil classification system as ustic soil which are essentially dry in nature but retain enough soil moisture seasonally under managed conditions to support plant growth. In Raiganj block which is of more recent alluvial origin, range from coarse loamy to fine loamy in texture and belong to the order of antisol.

1.7.4 FOREST:

Kulik forest in Raiganj Block was established 1985, the Kulik forest is apart from Kolkata is 425 kms. Kulik forest apart from Siliguri 181 kilometers. According to many, Kulik (Raiganj) birds sanctuary is one of the largest bird sanctuaries in Asia. The sanctuary is themed for conserving birds, after all the sanctuary hosts almost 70000 to 80000 migratory birds every year! The figure is very pleasing for the bird lovers as there is hardly any other sanctuary that offers such vast range of birds. The sanctuary is distributed in small packets and surrounded by a lovely river called Kulik. The dense deciduous forest at the Raiganj sanctuary is really a treat to visit and spend times.

If you love birds at one to see their different basis altogether, then Kulik (Raiganj) bird sanctuary is no less than heaven. You will find here birds species like – Duck & cuckoo, owl, woodpeckers, kingfisher, sparrow, bulbul, dove and many more. In the indigenous species, you get to see drongoes, woodpeckers, kingfishers, owl, kites, flycatchers, etc also, do not miss out guest birds from other regions like- egrets, openbill storks, cormorants and night herons and so on!

The best time to view the birds is during October and November that is late summers and early winters. At the sanctuary, apart from birds you get to see several wild life creatures and flora! You can find here the rare species of heronries and many more. In addition, in the forests you find several trees like- sissoo, simul, siris, akashmani, khair, lali, khadam, minigiri, jarul, sal and many more! People come here to spend their off times, leisure and also for exploring, adventures and for count less reasons, after all, this place offers the best pay back to the tourist and visitors.

1.8 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA:

The Raiganj municipality was established since 1951 decade. The town of Raiganj situated in the narrow strip which joins the northern and southern portion of the state of West Bengal, has come up, in prominence as a result of partition of India. This town in pre-partition was a small village dependent upon the larger urban centers. The portion of Bengal has suddenly left this town on its own. Other such villages have either shifted their dependence to other towns in the state of West Bengal or have started growing themselves. The town of Raiganj belongs to another category. It was merely a mouza under Dinajpur maharaja administration and was bandor meaning a river based hold post of merchantile commodities from far and near village. In pre-independence days this was rather a neglected area. In 1951 immediately after independence the town barely had a population of 17000 persons. Since then this town has grown up faster.

1.9 CULTURAL PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA:

Raiganj Block of Uttar Dinajpur district has total population of 430,221 as per the Census 2011. Out of which 221,738 are males while 208,483 are females. In 2011 there were total 92,046 families residing in Raiganj Block. The Average Sex Ratio of Raiganj Block is 940.

As per Census 2011 out of total population, 3.7% people live in Urban areas while 96.3% live in the Rural areas. The average literacy rate in urban areas is 81.6% while that in the rural areas is 62.8%. Also the Sex Ratio of Urban areas in Raiganj Block is 927 while that of Rural areas is 941.

The population of Children of age 0-6 years in Raiganj Block is 61515 which is 14% of the total population. There are 31714 male children and 29801 female children between the age 0-6 years. Thus as per the Census 2011 the Child Sex Ratio of Raiganj Block is 940 which is less than Average Sex Ratio (940) of Raiganj Block.

To facilitate the administration, Raiganj Block is further divided into 2 towns and 222 villages

1.9.1 Raiganj Block Data

As per the Population Census 2011 data, following are some quick facts about Raiganj Block.

	Total	Male	Female
Children (Age 0-6)	61,515	31,714	29,801
Literacy	63.52%	60.19%	48.32%
Scheduled Caste	163,662	84,595	79,067
Scheduled Tribe	27,785	13,899	13,886
Illiterate	196,029	88,277	107,752

1.9.2 Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur Caste-wise Population - Raiganj Block

Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 38% while Schedule Tribe (ST) were 6.5% of total population in Raiganj Block of .

Population	Total	Male	Female
Schedule Caste	163,662	84,595	79,067
Schedule Tribe	27,785	13,899	13,886

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

1.9.3 Religion-wise Population - Raiganj Block

Religion	Total	Male	Female
Hindu	280,214	(65.13%)	145,314
Muslim	146,871	(34.14%)	74,921

Christian	2,075	(0.48%)	941	1,134
Sikh	105	(0.02%)	61	44
Buddhist	89	(0.02%)	49	40
Jain	27	(0.01%)	15	12
Other Religion	494	(0.11%)	238	256
No Religion Specified	346	(0.08%)	199	147

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

1.9.4 Literacy Rate - Raiganj Block

Average literacy rate of Raiganj Block in 2011 were 63.52% in which, male and female literacy were 70.23% and 56.37% respectively. Total literate in Raiganj Block were 234,192 of which male and female were 133,461 and 100,731 respectively.

1.9.5 Sex Ratio - Raiganj Block

The Sex Ratio of Raiganj Block is 940 . Thus for every 1000 men there were 940 females in Raiganj Block. Also as per Census 2011, the Child Sex Ration was 940 which is less than Average Sex Ratio (940) of Raiganj Block.

1.9.6 Child Population - Raiganj Block

According to Census 2011, there were 61,515 children between age 0 to 6 years in Raiganj Block. Out of which 61,515 were male while 61,515 were female.

1.9.7 Urban/Rural Population - Raiganj Block

As per Census 2011, there are total 3,590 families under Raiganj Block living in urban areas while 3,590 families are living within Rural areas. Thus around 3.7% of total population of Raiganj Block lives in Urban areas while 96.3% lives under Rural areas. Population of children (0 - 6 years) in urban region is 1,587 while that in rural region is 59,928.

Population	Rural	Urban	Total
Population	430,221	16,078	414,143
Children (0 - 6 years)	61,515	1,587	59,928
Schedule Caste	163,662	4,366	159,296
Schedule Tribe	27,785	254	27,531
Literacy	63.52%	81.6%	62.78%
Sex Ratio	940	927	941

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

1.9.8 Working Population - Raiganj Block

In Raiganj Block out of total population, 169,472 were engaged in work activities. 72.6% of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 27.4% were involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 169,472 workers engaged in Main Work, 35,557 were cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 46,525 were Agricultural labourers.

Types of warkers	Male	Female	Total
Main Workers	123,000	101,389	21,611
Cultivators	35,557	32,556	3,001
Agriculture Labourer	46,525	34,131	12,394
Household Industries	3,290	1,884	1,406
Other Workers	37,628	32,818	4,810

Marginal Workers	46,472	19,996	26,476
Non Working	260,749	100,353	160,396

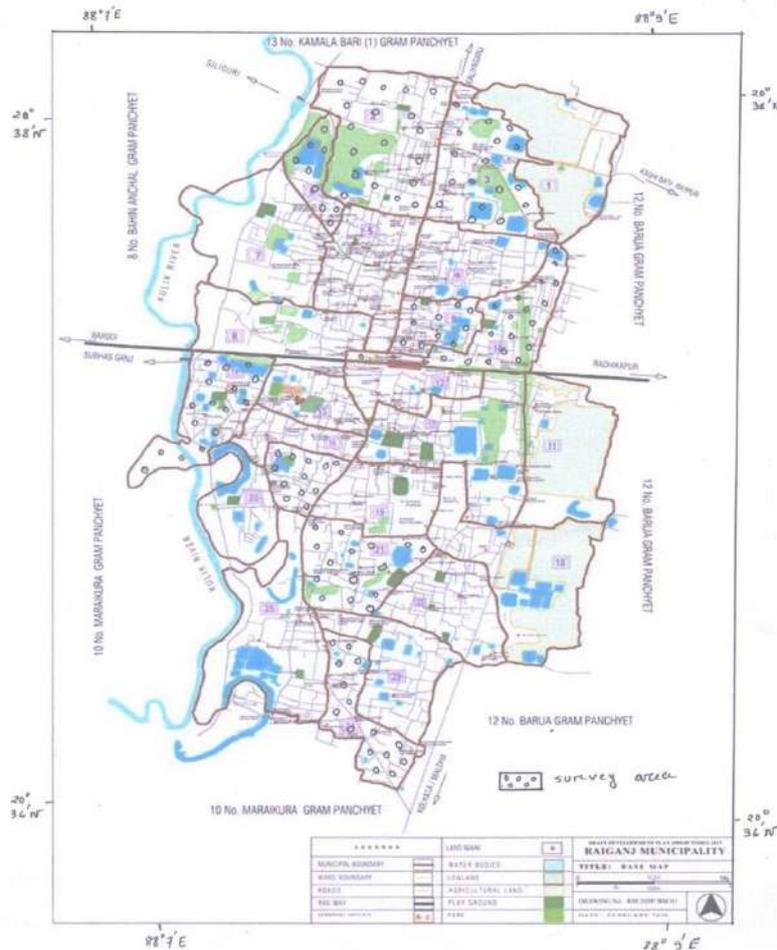
Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

2.1 WARD WISE POPULATION AND WARD WISE MALE & FEMALE POPULATION IN RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY:

WARD NO	POPULATION	MALE	FEMALE
1	5275	2734	2516
2	8652	4533	4119
3	4697	2392	2305
4	6794	3443	3351
5	8730	4385	4370
6	8032	4124	3908
7	8875	4688	4187
8	4660	2374	2286
9	4660	2374	2286
10	6142	3283	2859
11	6889	3627	3262
12	6888	3627	3261
13	9211	4756	4455
14	6528	3351	3177
15	8031	4263	3768
16	9176	4813	4363
17	4326	2253	2073
18	6131	3259	2872
19	5933	3303	2630
20	6530	3602	2928
21	6465	3683	2782
22	9186	4786	4400
23	5346	2848	2498
24	5779	3000	2779
25	9051	4902	4149
26	6278	3321	2957
27	5417	2853	2564
TOTAL	183682	96577	87105

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

WARD WISE MAP IN RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY

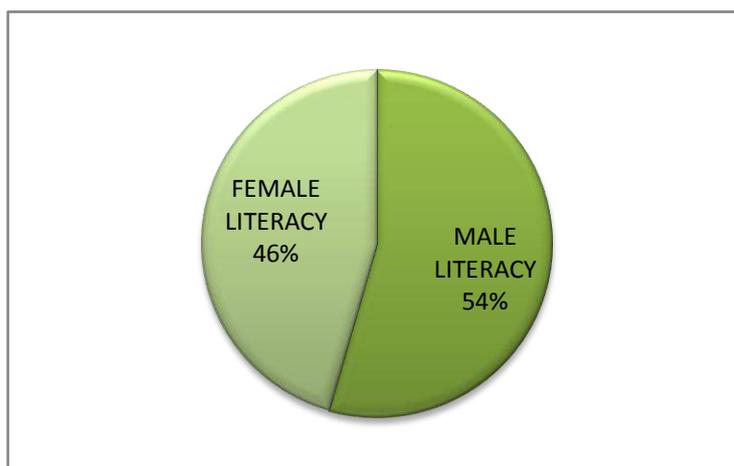


The total population in raiganj municipality is 183682 where total male population is 96577 & female population is 87105 & population density of raiganj municipality area is 632 per sq km and total children population is 21573 where total male children population is 11019 & total female children population is 10554 . In raiganj municipality area the highest population is found in the ward no -13 and lowest population is found in the ward no-08. The total percentage of male population in the Raiganj municipality area 52.58% & female population percentage-47.42%.

2.2 LITERACY RATE :

LITERACY RATE	72.55%
Literacy	
Male	72505
Female	60755
Total	133260

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

LITERACY RATE IN RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY

Literacy rate in raiganj municipality area is 72.55% where the male literacy rate is 54.40% & female literacy rate is 45.60%. Total number of literacy is 133260 where total no of male literacy is 72505 and female literacy rate is 60755.

2.3 LANDUSE PATTERN IN RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY:

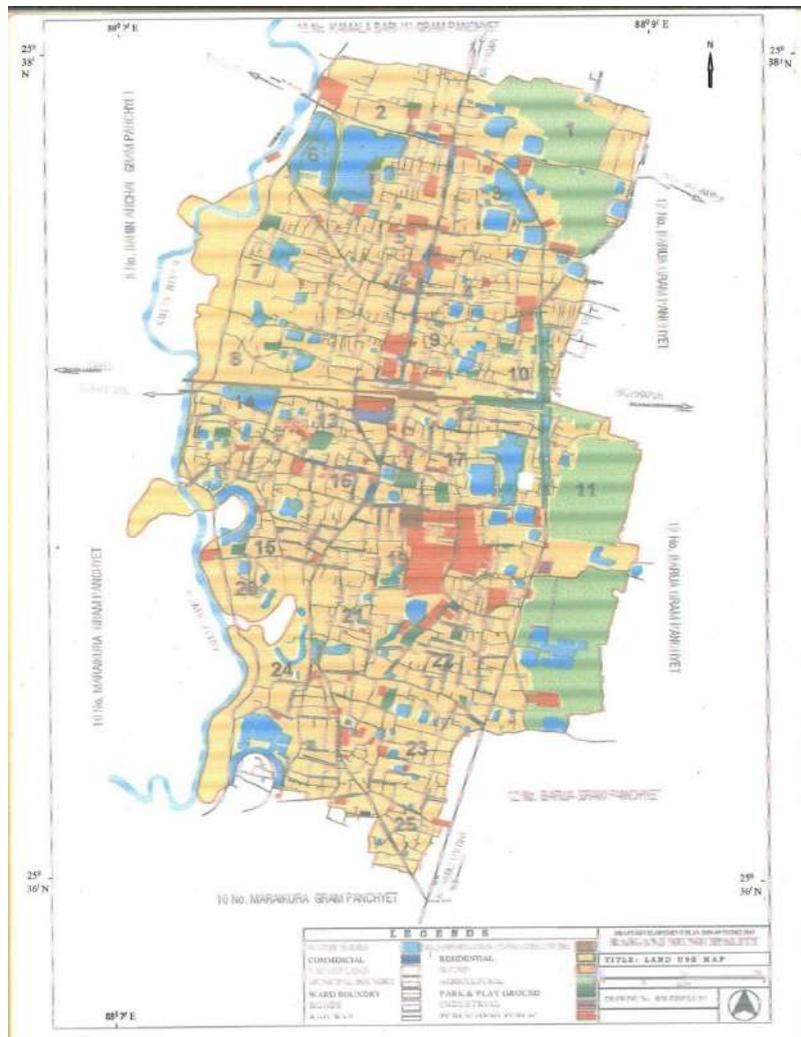
SL NO	LAND USE	AREA(in sq. km)	Percentage to total area of the municipality
1	Agriculture	3.92	36.40%
2	Residential	2.47	22.98%
3	Industrial	0.23	2.12%
4	Commercial	1.20	11.13%
5	Mixed	0.17	1.60%
6	Open,unused land/ undeveloped land	0.96	8.90%
7	Institutional	0.28	2.64%
8	Roads	0.91	8.50%
9	Railways	0.00	0.03%
10	Wetland/ lakes/tanks	0.14	1.30%
11	In-sanitary water courses	0.00	0.00%
12	Public parks,squares and garden	0.25	2.30%
13	Disaster prone are(flood etc)	0.08	0.70%
14	others	0.15	1.40%
		10.76	100.00%

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

The total area of the raiganj municipality is 10.76 sqkm, where agriculture occupies 3.92 sqkm& residential purpose occupies 2.47 sqkm, industrial and commercial purpose 0.23 sqkm& 1.20 sqkm. Mixed , open ,unused land is occupies 0.17 and 0.96 sqkm. Industrial and Roads occupies 0.28 and 0.91 sqkm. Here is no railways land like 0.00 sqkm. Here wet lands, in-sanitary water courses occupy0.14, 0.00 sq km. In

raiganj municipality are found in public parks squares and garden 0.25 sqkm and disaster prone area like flood occupies 0.08 sq km and others purpose occupies 0.15 sqkm.

LANDUSE AND LAND COVER MAP IN RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY



2.4 WARD WISE NUMBER OF HOUSE HOLDAND POPULATION DENSITY IN RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY:

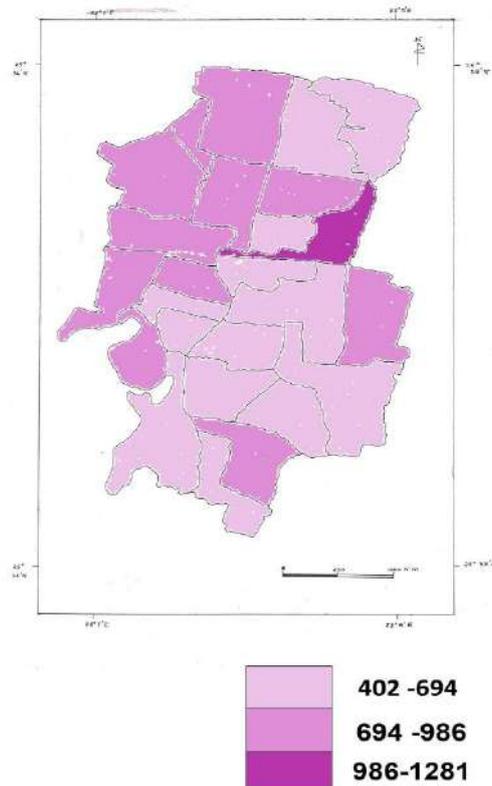
WARD NO	NUMBER OF HOUSE HOLD	WARD NO	POPULATION DENSITY
1	949	1	490
2	1556	2	804
3	845	3	437
4	1222	4	631
5	1570	5	811
6	1445	6	746
7	1596	7	825
8	838	8	433
9	838	9	433
10	1105	10	571
11	1239	11	640

12	1239	12	640
13	1657	13	856
14	1174	14	607
15	1444	15	746
16	1650	16	853
17	778	17	402
18	1103	18	570
19	1067	19	551
20	1174	20	607
21	1163	21	601
22	1652	22	854
23	962	23	497
24	1039	24	537
25	1628	25	841
26	1129	26	583
27	974	27	503

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

Total number of house hold in the Raiganj municipality is 33036 where number of house hold in the ward no1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26 are 949,1556,845,1222,1570,1445,1596,838,838,1105,1239,1239,1657,1174,1444,1650,778,1103,1067,1174,1163,1652,962,1039,1628,1129,974 respectively .

POPULATION DENSITY IN THE RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY SHOWING BY CHOROPLETH MAP

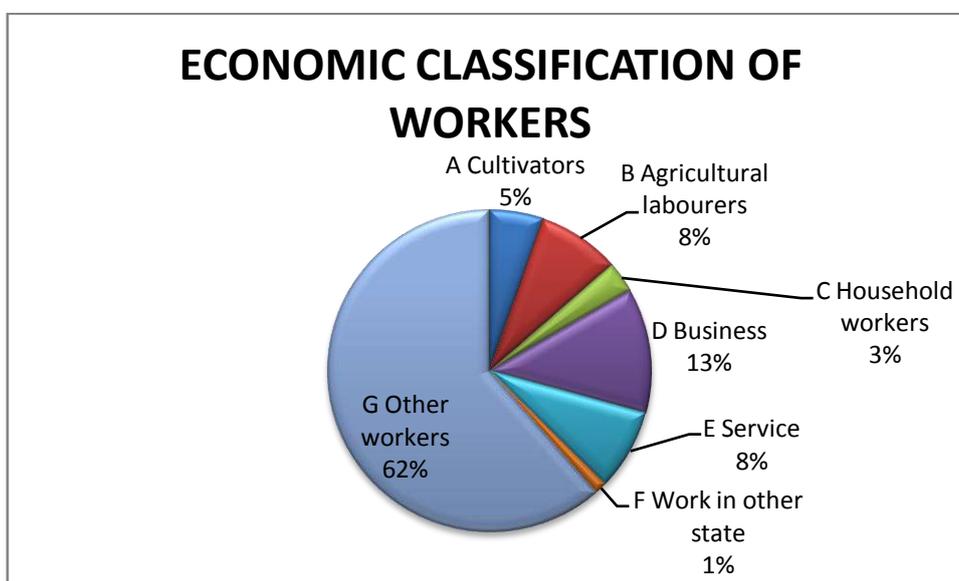


The average population density in the raiganj municipality is 632 per sqkm,where the population density in ward number -1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23 24,25,26,27 are 490,804,437,631,811,746,825,433,433,571, 640 ,640 ,856,607,746,853,402,570, 551,607,601,854, 497,537, 841,583,503 respectively. The highest population density is found the ward number 13 and the lowest population density found the ward number 8 and 9 .

ECONOMICAL CLASSIFICATION OF WORKERS:

SL NO	NAME	% OF TOTAL WORKERS
A	Cultivators	5.30%
B	Agricultural labourers	8.20%
C	Household workers	3.11%
D	Business	12.48%
E	Service	8.10%
F	Work in other state	1.24%
G	Other workers	61.16%

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur



Above the chart and diagram I shown the economical classification of the worker in the raiganj municipality where cultivators 5.30%, agricultural labourers 8.20% , household workers 3.11% and business 12.48% and service 8.10% ,work in other state 1.24% and the other workers is 61.16%.

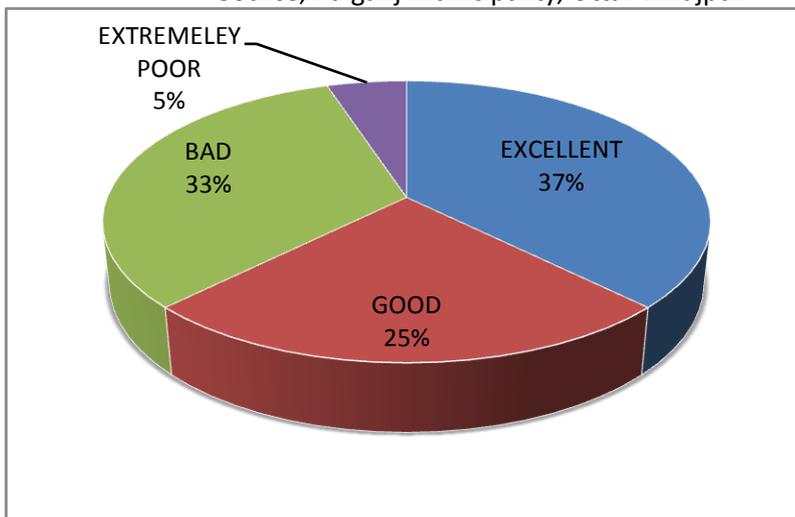
URBAN GOVERNANCE :

Urban governance refers to how government (local, regional and national) and stakeholders decide how to plan, finance and manage urban areas. It involves a continuous process of negotiation and contestation over the allocation of social and material resources and political power. It is, therefore, profoundly political, influenced by the creation and operation of political institutions, government capacity to make and implement decisions and the extent to which these decisions recognize and respond to the interests of the poor. It encompasses a host of economic and social forces, institutions and relationships. These include labour markets, goods and services; household, kin and social relationships; and basic infrastructure, land, services and public safety. Large gaps often exist between poor and better-off urban residents in terms of access to social, economic and political opportunities (particularly decision-making) and the ability to participate in, and leverage, the benefits associated with urban living.

NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN AND AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD:

EXCELLENT	GOOD	BAD	EXTREMELY POOR
15	10	13	2

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

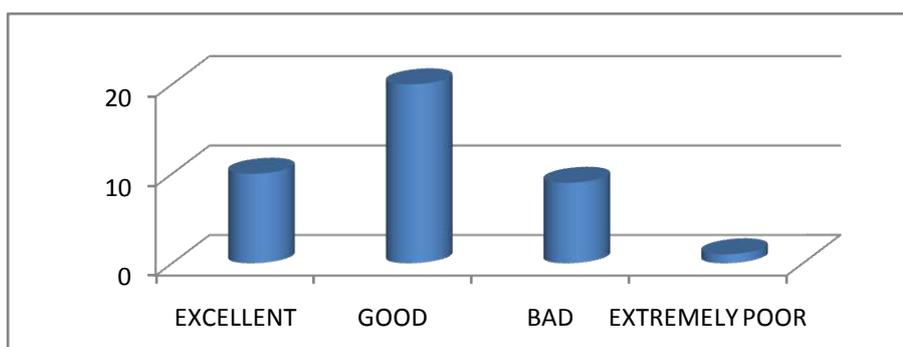


Nature of the environment in and around the neighborhood of the respondents in the Raiganj Municipality the percentage of the excellent is 37% , the percentage of the good is 25% and the percentage of the Bad is 33% and percentage of the Extremely poor is 5%. After all above data we can easily concluded that nature of the environment in and around the neighborhood area in the Raiganj Municipality is extremely good .

CONDITION OF THE APPROACH ROAD:

EXCELLENT	GOOD	BAD	EXTREMELY POOR
10	20	9	1

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

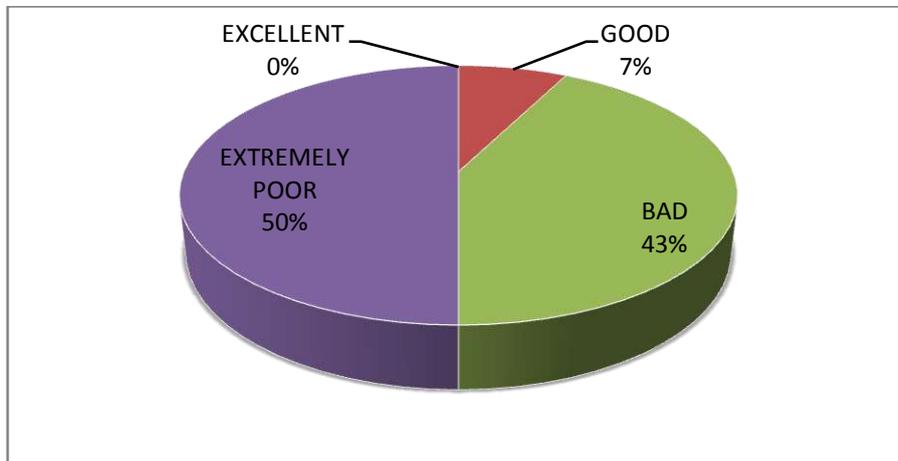


Condition of the road in the Raiganj Municipality the percentage of the respondents excellent is 25% , and percentage of the respondents good is 50% and the percentage of the Bad condition of the road is 22.5% and the percentage of the respondents extremely poor is 2.5%. After all above data we can easily concluded that condition of the road in the Raiganj Municipality is extremely good .

CONDITION OF THE SWERAGE IN THE RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY:

EXCELLENT	GOOD	BAD	EXTREMELY POOR
0	3	17	20

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

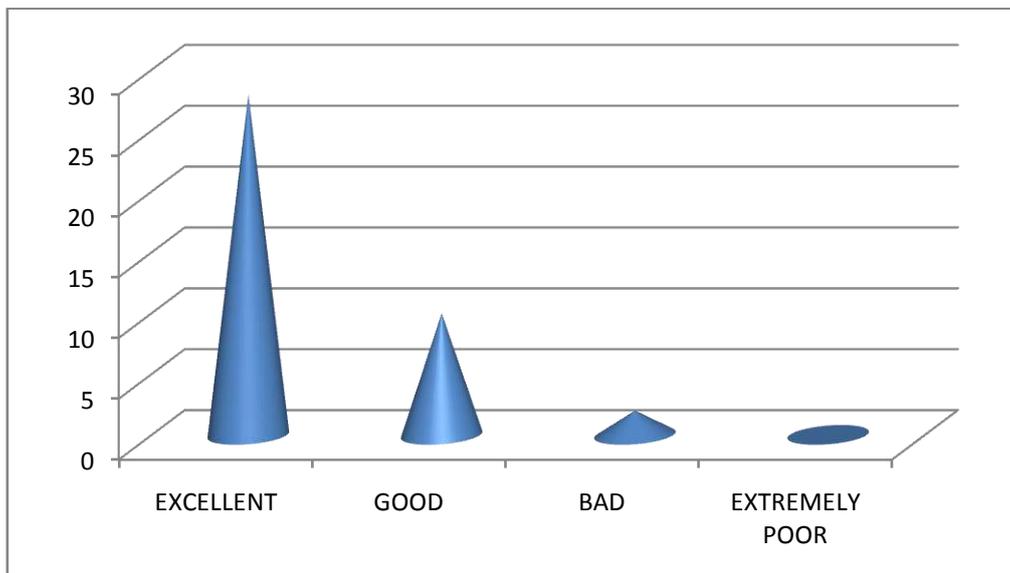


Condition of the swerage in the Raiganj Municipality the percentage of the respondents excellent is 0% , and percentage of the respondents good is 07% and the percentage of the Bad condition of the road is 43% and the percentage of the respondents extremely poor is 50%. After all above data we can easily concluded that condition of the swerage in the Raiganj Municipality is extremely poor .

CONDITION OF THE STREET LIGHT:

EXCELLENT	GOOD	BAD	EXTREMELY POOR
28	10	2	0

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur



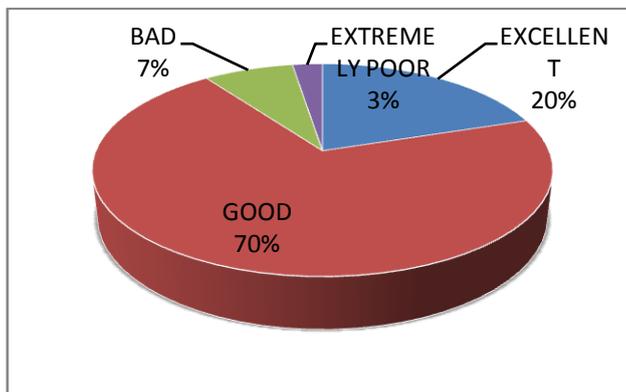
Condition of the Street light in the Raiganj Municipality the percentage of the respondents excellent is 70% , and percentage of the respondents good is 25% and the percentage of the Bad condition of the

road is 5% and the percentage of the respondents extremely poor is 0%. After all above data we can easily concluded that condition of the street light in the Raiganj Municipality is excellent .

CONDITION OF THE BEAUTIFICATION :

EXCELLENT	GOOD	BAD	EXTREMELY POOR
8	28	03	1

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur



Condition of the beautification in the Raiganj Municipality the percentage of the respondents excellent is 20% , and percentage of the respondents good is 70% and the percentage of the Bad condition of the road is 7% and the percentage of the respondents extremely poor is 3%. After all above data we can easily concluded that condition of the beautification in the Raiganj Municipality is extremely good .

SATISFIED CONDITION IN THE RAIGANJ MUNICIPALITY OF THE PEOPLE:

EXTREMELY SATISFIED	SOME WHAT SATISFIED	UNSATISFIED	EXTREMELY UNSATISFIED
15	15	9	1

Source; Raiganj Municipality, Uttar Dinajpur

Satisfied condition in the Raiganj Municipality of the peoples’ the percentage of extremely satisfied is 37% , the percentage of some what satisfied is 37%, the percentage of unsatisfied is 23% , the percentage of extremely unsatisfied is 3%. After all above data we can easily concluded that the satisfied condition of the people in the Raiganj Municipality is some what satisfied.

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