

# Socio Economic Status of Rural Population an Income Level Analysis: A Case Study of Krishnanagar in Nadia District, West Bengal

Pinki Hira

Research Scholar, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

## ARTICLE DETAILS

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### \*Corresponding Author

Email: pinki.hira11[at]gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

Socio Economic status of any area is ascertained by education, occupation, day to day life and standard of living etc. though all those parameters are determined by the income of the population of that particular area. Different types of economic classes are found in Ghurni, Krishnanagar. It is very famous for the production of Clay dolls. In this research paper an attempt has been made to find out the socio-economic status of the people of different income groups. The entire study is based on primary data which have been collected by door to door survey. All the data have been classified into five income groups viz. <500, 501-1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000, >2000 and simple percentage method is followed to analyse the actual situation. Most of the people lie in unsatisfactory socio economic condition.

## 1. Introduction

Individual's lifestyle is widely depended on their economic status and the social position of a person is dominated by his/her income. So the socio-economic level is a measurement of human development. According to Dutton and Levine (1989) socio-economic status is "a composite measure that typically incorporates economic status, measured by income; social status, measured by education; and work status, measured by occupation". According to Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway (1992) 'a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living'. Rathod & Ningshen (2012), noted that Socio-economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of family's economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation.

Ghurni in Krishnanagar is characterized by low to medium economic developed area. Clay doll in Ghurni play an important role in the export market of decorative products. This industry is spread all over the area including Palpara, Halder para, Kalipur and Sandhya para etc. At present the art has gained immense expertise in portraying Indian social scenes via pottery. Krishnanagar pottery has gained international recognition and is regularly displayed in international exhibitions. In fact, this sector provides employment to more than 3 lakhs mostly from rural areas of Krishnanagar. Besides clay doll making many people are engaged in agriculture, business and fishery etc. Per capita income of the people is low so the socio-economic development is not the satisfactory level. Agriculture and allied activities based livelihoods of small and marginal farmers are increasingly becoming unsustainable, so the production is less, their income has not been able to support the family's requirements of food, fodder and other contemporary demands for education, health and entertainment etc. As a result, rural households in the study area are forced different types of problems.

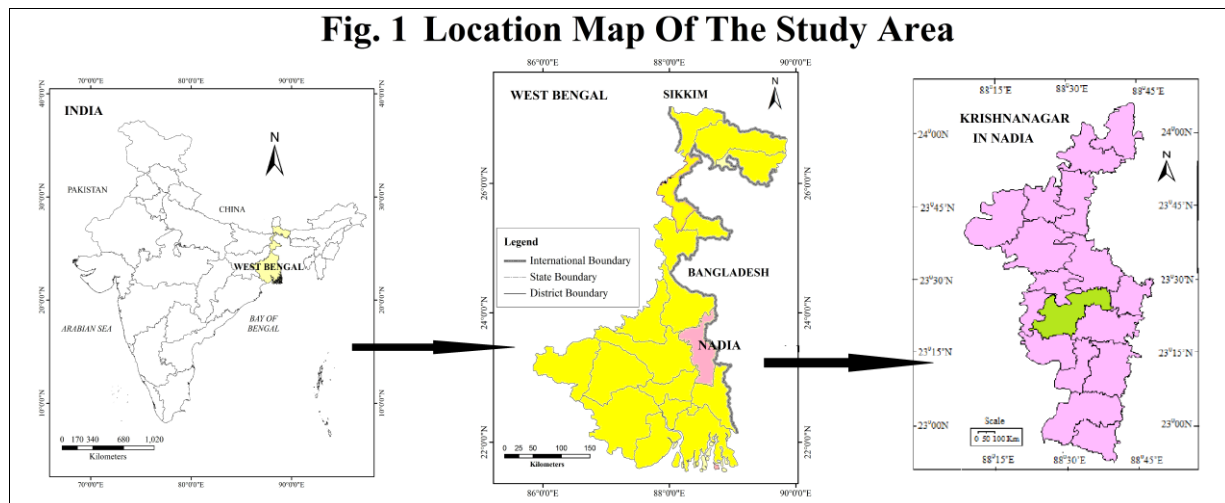
## 2. Objectives

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the demographic conditions by the level of income in the study area.
- To analyse the educational level among different income groups of sample population.
- To analyse the overall socio-economic status by level of income in the study area.

## 3. Study Area

Krishnanagar is a city and administrative or district headquarters of Nadia district, West Bengal (Fig. 1). Ghurni is a neighbourhood of Krishnanagar and it is situated on ward no-2 in Krishnanagar. It is famous for production of clay dolls and terracotta. It is located between 23°24'N - 54°92'N latitude and 88°30'E - 30°67'E longitude. It is situated on the banks of the river Jalangi. The total area of the village is 128.29 hectares and total population is 1,694. The climate of the study area is humid and subtropical monsoon. Most of the area is composed of recent alluvial soil. Because of the fertile soil it is an agricultural distribution centre. Economy of the study area is primarily based on small- to medium-scale agro-industries and trade. Rice, jute, ceramics, mangoes and vegetables are main crop of the study area. There are a few sugar mills and brick kilns are also found in the surrounding area. Among the crafts, clay doll making industry of Krishnanagar has a rich history and heritage. During the late 18th Century, the making of conventional clay dolls, clad in the provincial attire, gained momentum by the patronage of Maharaja Krishnachandra. Exhibitions of Krishnanagar dolls have been held in various countries like London, Paris and Boston. In spite of so many advantages the present scenario is becoming disheartening for so many reasons.



#### 4. Data base and methodology

The present study is based on the primary data. Primary data was collected through a household survey for the analysis of socio-economic status of different income group of Ghurni village in Krishnanagar. All the households of the study area were surveyed from 50 questionnaires through structured schedules. The data collected are on demography, social structure, literacy rate, occupational structure, housing type,

types of fuel and economy etc. Maps are collected from Krishnanagar Municipality in Nadia District. The response from households were classified, tabulated and analyzed to draw socio-economic status.

#### 5. Results and discussion

The total sampled population is 335, among them, males occupied by 65.97% and female is 34.03%.

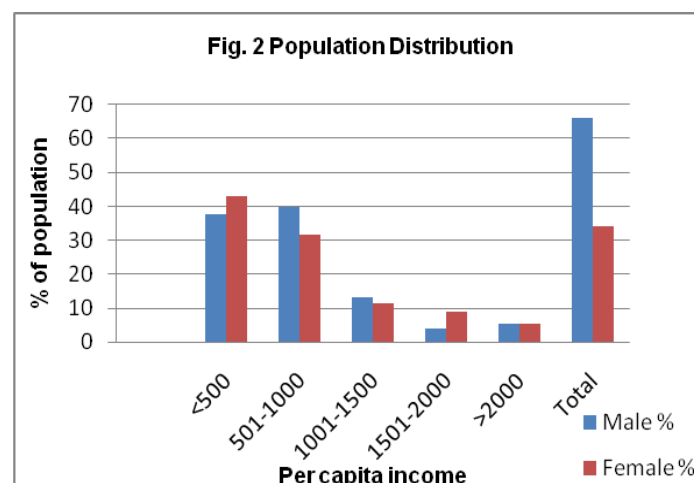
**Table - 1**  
**Population Distribution by Level of Per Capita Income**

Per Capita Income (Rs.)	Male		Female		Total Population	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<500	83	37.56	49	42.98	132	39.40
501-1000	88	39.82	36	31.58	124	37.01
1001-1500	29	13.12	13	11.40	42	12.54
1501-2000	9	4.07	10	8.77	19	5.67
>2000	12	5.43	6	5.27	18	5.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>65.97</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>34.03</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2017*

Table 1 depicts that among total 335 people, majority of them (39.40%) belongs to very low per capita income (below Rs. 500), followed by 37.01% people belongs to per capita income of Rs. 501 – 1000, 12.54% of total sample population belongs to Rs. 1001 – 1500 per capita income and only 5.67% of total sample population come under the per capita income of

Rs. 15.0 – 2000 and constitute 4.34% of total population lies under per capita income of Rs. 2000 and above. The number of population is gradually decreasing with increasing of monthly per capita income of the population. Fig. 2 reveals gender base population distribution under different per capita income.



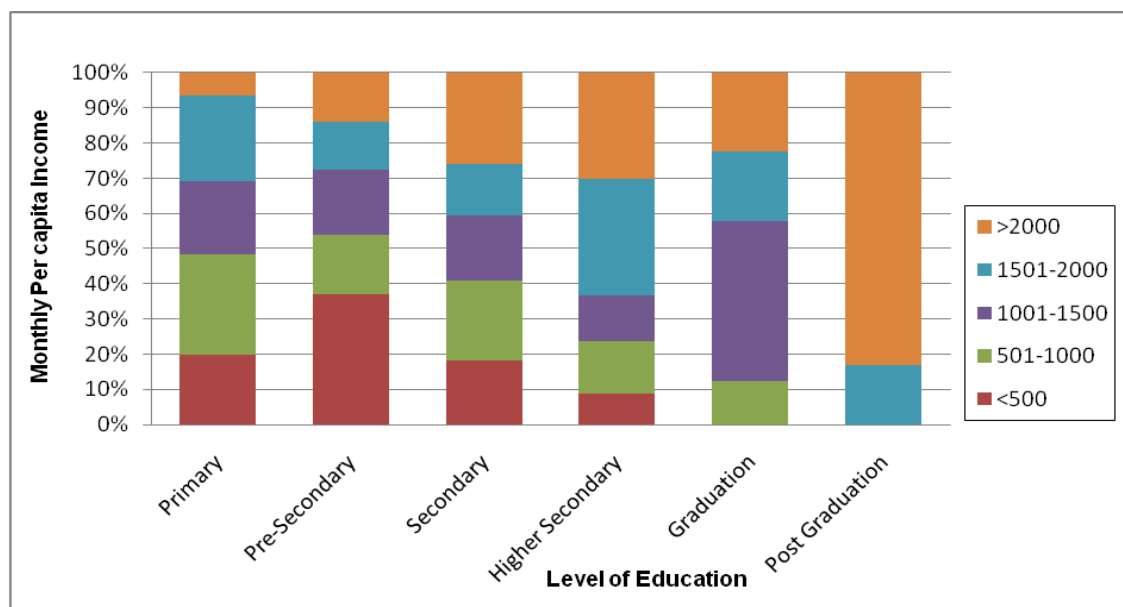
Individual's lifestyle is dependent on the level of education. Marlin et al. (2008) said that low literacy level have negative impacts on individuals, health and well being, community participation, labour force, employment, productivity and economic development. It plays an important role in skill sets for acquiring jobs, better life style. Table 2 and fig. 3 reflect that in below Rs. 500 income group, maximum persons are pre secondary educated (48.04%), followed by primary level (23.97%), secondary level (21.38%), higher secondary level (6.59%), and graduate level (0.02%) of education. In Rs. 501-1000 per capita income the share of literate persons are as

follows: 34.37% are primary educated, 22.16% are pre secondary, 27% are secondary educated, 11.25% are higher secondary educated, and 19.27% are graduates. On the other hand between Rs. 1501-2000 income group literate peoples are distributed by primary (29.28%), pre secondary (17.86%) and higher secondary (25%), followed by secondary level (17.27%) and graduate level (8.33%) of education. And Rs. 2000 and above income groups' literate persons are constitute by secondary level education is 30.57%, higher secondary is 22.81%, pre secondary is only 18.15%, post graduate is 11.15% and graduate level is 9.46%.

**Table - 2**  
**Educational level by Level of Per Capita Income**

Per capita Income (Rs.)	Educational Level In %						Total
	Primary	Pre-Secondary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduation	Post Graduation	
<500	23.97	48.04	21.38	6.59	0.02	0.00	100
501-1000	34.37	22.16	27.00	11.25	5.22	0.00	100
1001-1500	25.00	23.91	21.94	9.88	19.27	0.00	100
1501-2000	29.28	17.86	17.27	25.00	8.33	2.26	100
>2000	7.86	18.15	30.57	22.81	9.46	11.15	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017



**Fig. 3**

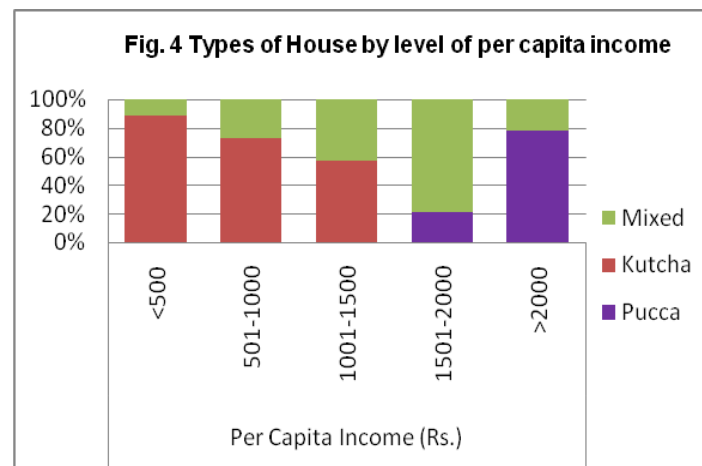
In rural areas, different types of house are found viz. pucca, kutcha and mixed type house. In table 3 and fig. 4 house type is represented on the basis of level of monthly per capita income. Among below Rs. 500 income group, kutch type (88.77%) of houses is mostly found, followed by mixed type (11.23%) of houses and no pucca house is found in that income group. Among income groups of Rs. 501-1000, kutcha type of

houses (72.50%), mixed type houses (27.42%) and pucca type of houses is only 0.08%. On the other hand among Rs. 1501-2000 income group, 21.05% people have pucca house, mixed type of house is 78.95% and no one has kutcha type of house. 77.78% pucca houses are found in the Rs. 2000 and above income group of people. These groups of people enjoy a little better lifestyle.

**Table- 3**  
**Type of houses by Level of Per Capita Income**

Type of House	Per Capita Income (Rs.)				
	<500	501-1000	1001-1500	1501-2000	>2000
Pucca	0.00	0.08	0.09	21.05	77.78
Kutcha	88.77	72.50	57.05	0.00	0.00
Mixed	11.23	27.42	42.86	78.95	22.22

Source: Field Survey, 2017



Types of occupation determine the educational level, life style, income level, economic condition of individuals. Occupational status measures social position by types of job, decision making ability and control, and psychological demands on the job. Main occupation of the study area is making clay doll. In spite of that many people engaged in cultivation, business, and service etc. Table 4 reveals that because of higher educational level, the income of service

sector people is high about 91% people's per capita income is more than 2000. On the other hand the monthly per capita income is less than that belongs clay doll making, cultivation and day labour etc. 85.07 % clay doll makers, 27.33% cultivators, 33.36% business peoples and 31.08% day labours have per capita income is less than 500. But at that same time the clay doll owners have per capita income is 1001 to 1500.

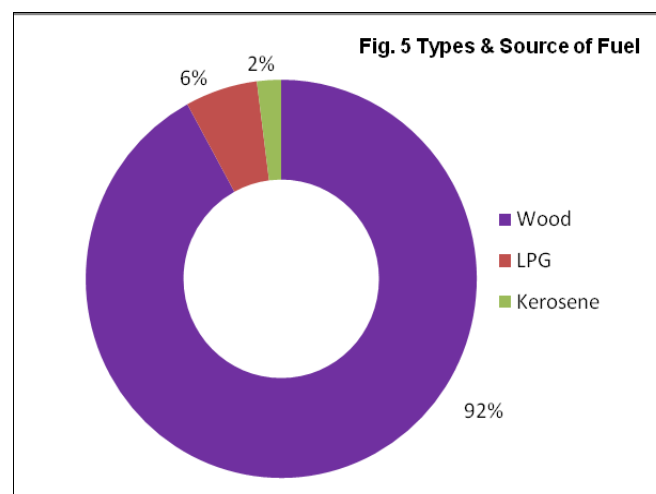
**Table – 4**  
**Occupational structure by Level of Per capita Income**

Occupation	Per capita Income Rs.				
	<500	501-1000	1001-1500	1501-2000	>2000
Clay doll maker	85.07	19.92	59.74	15.26	3.89
Cultivator	27.33	59.33	21.07	13.33	2.01
Business	33.36	9.87	46.45	33.33	81.58
Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.46	90.54
Day Labour	31.08	47.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Other</b>	<b>10.42</b>	<b>6.45</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Source: Field survey, 2017

Majority of household (92%) use wood as a source of fuel. Only 6% people use LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) as a source of fuel (Fig. 4). Remaining 2% people used kerosene as

a source of fuel. Due to low economic condition most of them use wood as a source of fuel.



## 6. Conclusion and suggestion

The above analysis indicates that overall socio-economic status of the village is not good. Due to no reasonable wages, laborious work, and regular job many clay doll makers are

migrating to other regular jobs in neighboring cities like Baharampore, Bardhaman and Kolkata. The lower income groups of people mainly engaged in agricultural fields, terracotta, clay doll making, brick kilns or other places as day wage labour. Although comparatively higher income population

enjoy a little better life but lower income population's socio-economic situation is very risky due to mainly low level of literacy and low income resulting create many social issues and pollution. So the problems of the clay doll makers have arisen in the infrastructure, transport and marketing facilities. Income of the labours is very low, maximum profit goes to the owner.

Following are the few suggestions for the improvement of socio-economic condition of population of the village:

- To improve the educational status of the people in the study area.

- To introduce various employment programmes for the youth generation to reduce the burden of unemployment.
- Various job oriented programmes should be implemented in village level.
- Vocational training of making small utility products like potteries, jewellerys and lifestyle accessories could be helpful to provide employment during throughout the year.
- To provide primary health care services and creates awareness about health among the villagers.
- To introduce various schemes for poor peoples of the village.

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