

SELECTED ESSAYS ON PERSPECTIVES OF MAN AND ENVIRONMENT

A harmonious co-existence



Edited by

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THE STUDY OF REGIONAL HUMAN ECOLOGY: GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT AND ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

'Geography is the study of Human ecology' and 'the Earth is an ecological home of Men'. Human ecology can refer to a variety of disciplinary subfields or to the interdisciplinary project to systematically study human-environment relations; it may include research that has been or may be labeled differently (e.g., as cultural ecology). So, Human Ecology is the combined study of Geography, Anthropology, History, Sociology and Psychology. Ongoing research includes study of the major episodes and transformations of human-environment relationships including the human revolution, foraging, agriculture, civilization, and modernization in terms of such factors as environment, demography, efficiency, social stratification, and violence. Studies have also focused on human ecological adaptations in particular environments, such as mountains, polar regions, arid zones, Forest region and the humid tropics. Human ecologists also are interested in norms of behavior, alternatives for development, and prospects for sustainability. Man, in Ancient times, believed in 'Nature-nurture' concept. However, during the past fifty years, relationships between man and environment changed extensively. Man is an integral part of the biosphere today. Jhargram Geographical area is not only bio-diversity area but also very important and significant Human Ecological part of West Bengal and also India with ancient past fringe people, so called 'Anarya tribal' and 'backward classes community'. That the geographical area has characterized by laterite surface with the upland tract, the younger alluvium surface of modern flood plain faces, with metamorphosed rocks of iron ore series, quartzite, mica schist and basalts which contain ferro-magnesium minerals in the region . .

Again the areas are segmented into interfluves by east and south east flowing rivers (Subarnarekha, Kangsabati, Dulung etc.) following the regional gradient and narrow valley cut areas. Even the ancient people considered forest, river, hills, Tillas and wildlife as the gift of God to man. The Geographical studies of Human Ecology can help in development of proper perception. The study is related with ecosystem of the Jhargram forest area and their inhabitant, economy and society, degradation of environment and Environmental management as well as future planning. This Paper has been fined and introduced that the relationship in between Environment-livelihood, environment-folk culture, environment-religious culture, environment-behavior and environment-psychology of ancient past people in Jhargram Geographical area. By field survey, I have observed and studied that the Jhargram geographical area may be classified on the basis of man-environmental relationship, there are three divisions, e.g. a) western hilly-dense forest-tribal area. b) laterite undulating semi-dense-agricultural-backward classes area. c) Eastern river valley –agricultural –general community area. In fact, at present, the area has been changing rapidly with Socio-economic development. From the assessment, it is clear, that the all information and evidences, ST people are motivated towards education and also modern medical science remarkable during last 10 years in Jhargram geographical area.

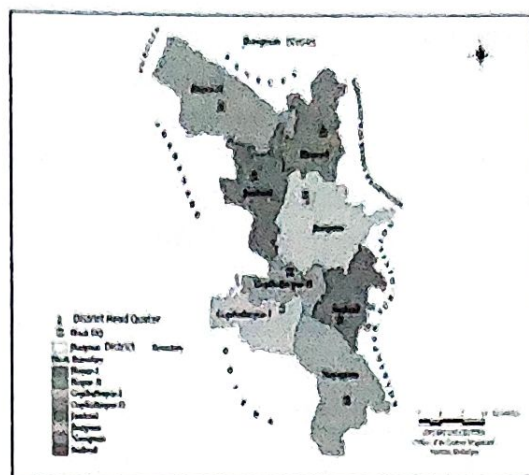
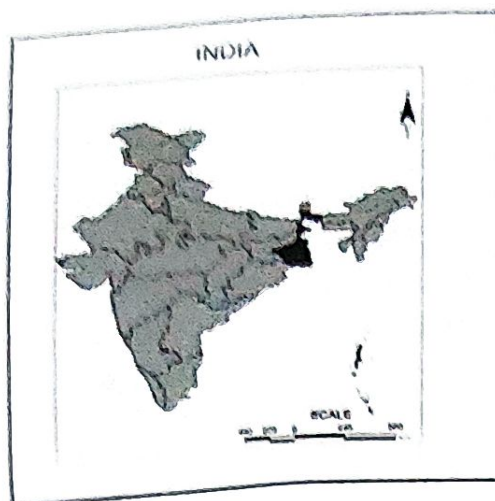
Key Words: *Human ecology, 'Nature- nurture', Anarya tribal, Environment-livelihood, environment-psychology.*

Introduction:

'Geography is the study of Human ecology' and 'the Earth is an ecological home of Men'. Human ecology can refer to a variety of disciplinary subfields or to the interdisciplinary project to systematically study human–environment relations; it may include research that has been or may be labeled differently (e.g., as cultural ecology). So, Human Ecology is the combined study of Geography, Anthropology, History, Sociology and Psychology. Ongoing research includes study of the major episodes and transformations of human–environment relationships including the human revolution, foraging, agriculture, civilization, and modernization in terms of such factors as environment, demography, efficiency, social stratification, and violence. Jhargram Geographical area is not only bio-diversity area but also very important and significant Human Ecological part of West Bengal and also India with ancient past fringe people, so called '*Anarya tribal*' and '*backward classes community*'. That the geographical area has characterized by laterite surface with the upland tract, the younger alluvium surface of modern flood plain faces, with metamorphosed rocks of iron ore series, quartzite, mica schist and basalts which contain ferro-magnesium minerals in the region. . Again the areas are segmented into interfluves by east and south east flowing rivers (Subarnarekha, Kangsabati, Dulung etc.) following the regional gradient and narrow valley cut areas. Even the ancient people considered forest, river, hills, Tillas and wildlife as the gift of God to man.

Location and Identification:

The Jhargram District lies between 20°32' and 22°48' North latitudes and 86°34' and 87°20' East longitude approximately. On the North it is bordered with the civil districts of Purulia and Bankura and on the East it is bordered by the river Kangsabati (from the western border of Paschim Midnapore District) and partly by the river Subarnarekha from the western border of Kharagpur Division.



Presently the Jhargram District consist of Civil Blocks viz. Binpur-I (the portion on the West of the Kangsabati river), Binpur-II, Jhargram, Jamboni, Gopiballavpur-I & Gopiballavpur-II , Sankrail, Naya-gram and police stations of Belpahari, Binpur, Jamboni, Lalganj, Jhargram, Gopiballavpur, Nayagram, and Beliabara and Sankrail. It is having common borders with the State of Orissa on the South and on the West with the Jharkhand State. The major river flows along the district are, Kangsavati, Subarnarekha and Silabati, Dulung. The district is characterized by lateritic plains and hillocks clothed with mixed dry deciduous forests rich in plant diversity. Total area of the District is about 3038sq. Km and also the forest area is about 62000 hec.

OBJECTIVES:

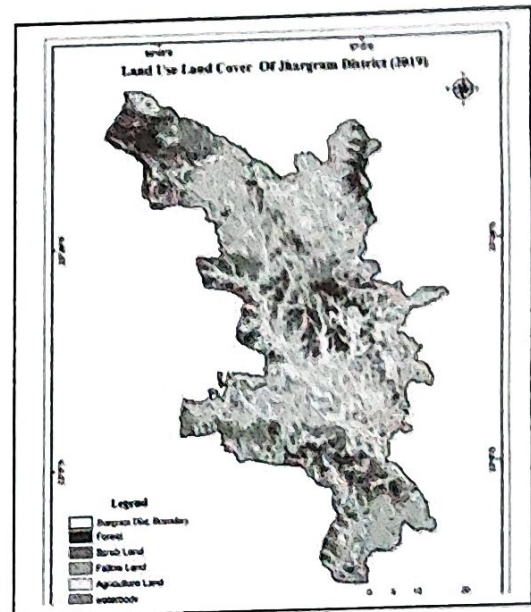
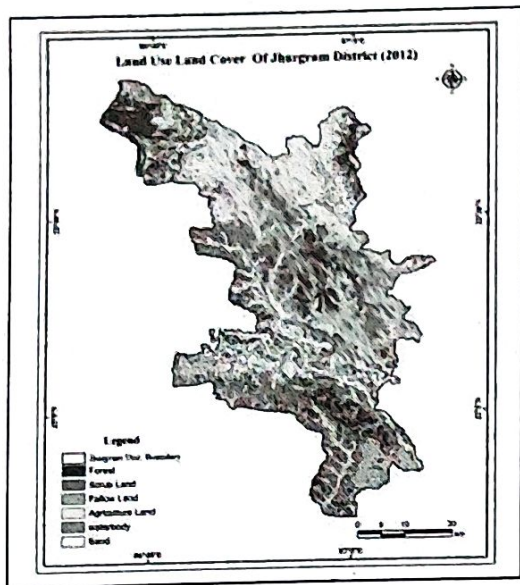
1. To discuss the Human ecology.
2. To study the Man-Environment relationship.
3. To find out the ancient fringe people in the area
4. To analysis the inter- relationship between environment and ecological inhabitant of Jhargram
5. To proposal policy on future planning for Human Resource Development among local community and management for biodiversity and Environmental conservation

DATA MATERIALS AND METHODS:-

- Collected Long term environmental data and information.
- Studied that Previous Literature on the study area
- Study with field survey and Field observation during last 10 years
- Case study in the different spatial location in forest based society and also on the tribal communi-ties.
- Finding the different types of sacred groves and Bio-diversity Hot spot in the forest area.
- Prepare table for the significance of environment and socio-Economic-religious-cultural activities of Jhargram Ancient past people.
- Data analysis and represented maps.
- Prepare a proposal of policy for future planning on HRD among ancient fringe people in the area.

Geographical Setup:

The jhargram laterite zone is composed mainly of tertiary graveliferous materials and older alluviums of western margin of paschim medinipur district , Otherhand this area is a forest fringe people from the ancient past . The lateritic mass is the dominating stratigraphic formation of this area . Frequently nodular lateritic honey-comb structures are found in this area . This lateritic formation plays the vital role for the geomorphic development of this area . The jhargram laterite area is massively impregnated with sesquioxides(iron and aluminium oxide) in the form of laterites and lateritic soils under favourable geomorphological ,hydrological and pedological conditions along with the modifying role of Neo tectonic .

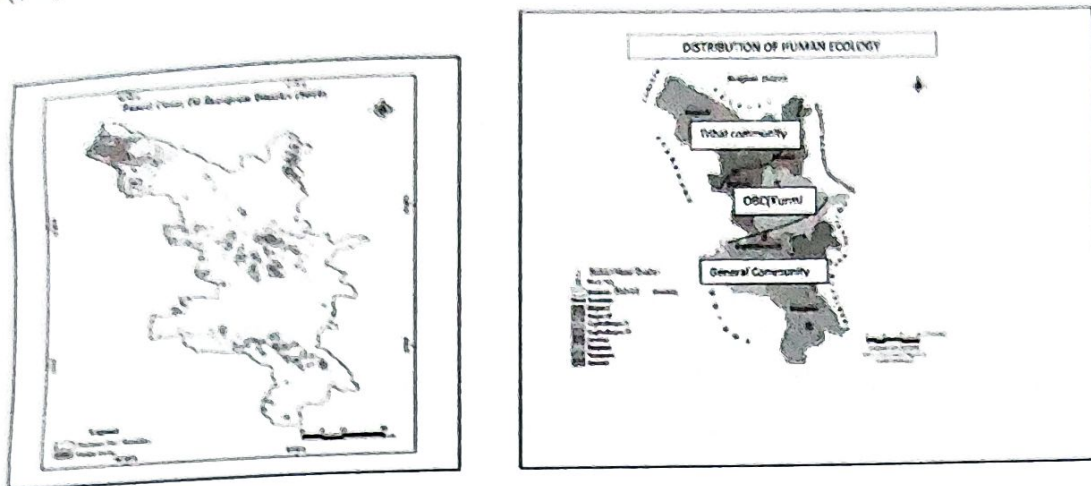


Uplift of the depositional surface , change of drainage characteristics , oscillation of ground water table , intense weathering and leaching process under high rainfall and denudational chronology all contributed to the development of laterites in the area of low relief . That the geographical area has characterized by laterite surface with the upland tract, the younger alluvium surface of modern flood plain faces, with metamorphosed rocks of iron ore series , quartzite , mica schist and basalts which contain ferro-magnesium minerals in the region . . Again the areas are segmented into interfluves by east and south east flowing rivers (Subarnarekha, Kangsabati, Dulung etc.) following the regional gradient and narrow valley cut areas . Subarnarekha , Kangasabati and Dulung rivers and stream are non perennials runoff. And also high annual rainfall about 130 cm. to 160 cm. and Avg. temperature is (27°c-35°c) throughout the year. The *Jhargram geographical* area is an abundant source of flora & fauna. Jhargram biodiversity canvas has numerous rare and endangered species in its surroundings. The forest area has covered by 62,000 Hec.

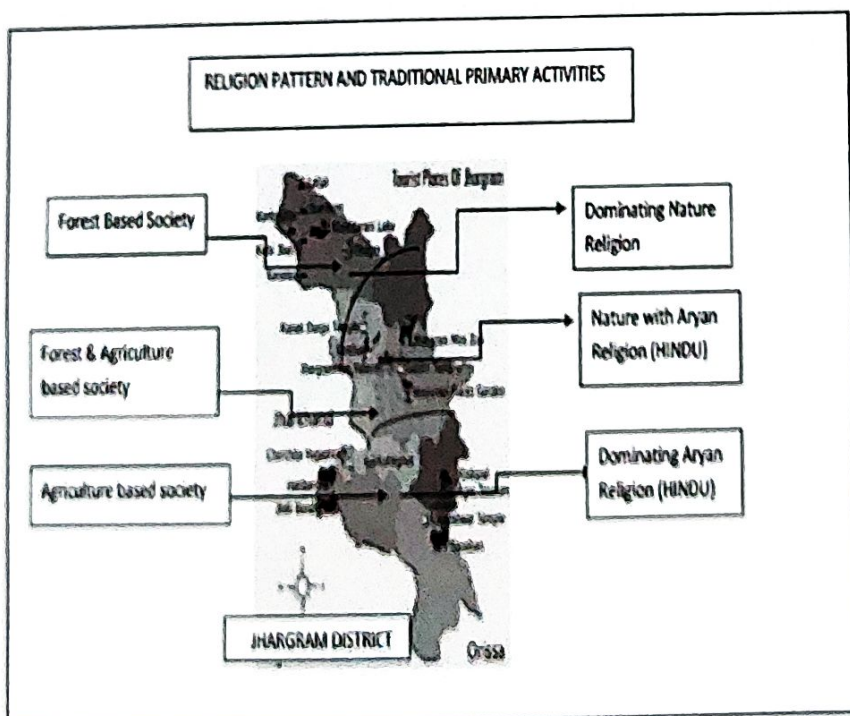
Finding and Assessment:

Tribal Society in Jhargram: An inseparable part of West Bengal state has a combination of a variety of tribes and occupational artisan castes. The tribes include linguistic groups: the mundari linguistic group including the Santhal, Lodha -Sobar and Munda; Some primitive tribes are still present in Jhargram who are totally dependent on forest and hunting. Dancing and singing is the base of tribal community of the area. Tribals say that to speak is music and to walk is dance. Jhargram has many famous tribal

writers. Tribals have good knowledge of herbal medicines. Tribal society has some specific cultural identity. There have happened many cultural movements in tribal society in the area. The longstanding demand for a separate District in West Bengal has underlined the distinctive tribal education in *alchiki* language, heritage- and culture of the region as the primary reason for alternative administrative and political arrangements. From the assessment, it is clear, that the all information and evidences, ST people are motivated towards education and also modern medical science remarkable during last 10 years in Jhargram geographical area.



The Geographical studies of Human Ecology can help in development of proper perception. The study is related with ecosystem of the Jhargram forest area and their inhabitant, economy and society, degradation of environment and Environmental management as well as future planning. This Paper has been fined and introduced that the relationship in between Environment-livelihood, environment-folk culture, environment-religious culture, environment-behavior and environment-psychology of ancient past people in Jhargram Geographical area .



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