

ABSTRACT of the Thesis Entitled

“FISHING WATER BODIES (BHERIES) AND THEIR IMPACTS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL”

Bheri is a local name of a typical culture type inland fishery in West Bengal. It is unlike any other fishery in many ways. They are generally cultured with brackish water in estuarine zone. Bheries help in earning ample foreign currency, local trading, supplying cheap animal protein, generation of considerable employment, reclamation of sewages etc.

However, in this work aim is to find out the socio-economic impacts of bheries in North 24 Parganas, WB and objectives are to identify bheries in different blocks, to know farming-procedure of bheries, to investigate spatio-seasonal variation of salinity in bheri-water, various social and economic impacts of bheries in the district etc. The thesis has been divided in seven different chapters.

Chapters I to V deal with introduction, general physical set up, spread of bheri, bheries in the district and spatio-seasonal variation of salinity in bheri-water respectively. Chapter VI is the key one which studies multifarious socio-economic impacts of bheries in North 24 Parganas. Chapter VII highlights the main observation cum suggestion and formal conclusion of the entire study. At last, reference, bibliography and appendices have been cited.

In the study it is found that bheries are cultured in twelve blocks situated in the south and eastern skirts of the district mostly in improved traditional manners. A wide variety of fishes and shrimps are produced though tiger shrimp is the costliest item. Both low and medium saline bheries exist in the district. The local livelihood and economy are influenced by bheri in a great extent. Bheries call for some adverse effect like swallowing of agricultural lands, spreading of salinization, depletion of biodiversity, creating various societal problems etc. Of course most of the local people, as per the author's survey, welcome bheri farming in the district.

Sipra Biswas