

Economic Structure and Livelihood Pattern of Basirhat Block-I, North 24 Parganas

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Abstract: *The present research article examines the economic structure and livelihood pattern of Basirhat Block-I in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. The study is based mainly on secondary data from Census 2011, district profile data, government sources, and selected academic literature on rural livelihood diversification, agricultural labour, rural non-farm employment, and allied activities. Basirhat Block-I is a predominantly rural block with a total population of 171,613 persons, of whom 150,520 live in rural areas and 21,093 in urban areas. The occupational structure shows that agriculture remains an important livelihood base, but non-farm activities are increasingly significant. Among main workers, 7,957 are cultivators, 12,552 are agricultural labourers, 4,311 are household-industry workers, and 27,934 are other workers. Thus, while farming and agricultural labour together account for a major share of work, the largest single category is "other workers," indicating diversification into services, transport, trade, repair work, garments, rice mills, brick fields, medical-item production, and other rural non-farm activities. The study finds that Basirhat Block-I represents a transitional rural economy: agriculture and pisciculture continue to provide livelihood security, but rural households increasingly depend on multiple sources of income. The paper concludes that future development should focus on farm modernization, pisciculture, rural enterprise promotion, women's employment, market infrastructure, skill training, credit access, and small-scale manufacturing*

Keywords: Basirhat Block-I, North 24 Parganas, rural economy, livelihood pattern, agriculture, pisciculture, rural non-farm employment, household industry, West Bengal