

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF POPULATION IN FLOOD PRONE AREAS OF CHANCHAL SUB-DIVISION IN MALDA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Flood situation arises in India almost every year and hence it is important to prepare for a disaster in advance. Floods displace a number of people and cause heavy loss of life and property which leads to increase large number of poverty, agricultural deficiency, unemployment, and even starvation death. The economy also gets affected due to damage of crops direct or indirect affecting the agriculture sector. The country needs a better, emergency and effective flood mitigation system to ensure the safety of its people and economy. Floods generally refer to a situation of water accumulation in places that are normally submerged. Heavy rainfall is the main cause of inland flooding. Another hand, natural hazards that cause inland flooding are melting snow, glacial outbursts, and dam break flows. Flood in rivers valley region is a disaster which can destroy the total environmental set up of the area. It causes river bank erosion, depression of land, shifting of river course, river channel widening etc. due to its high discharge, elevation, volume and longer duration. The increase in the frequency of floods has generally been caused to climatic change.

Malda district is one of the important areas that are normally vulnerable to floods. The main objectives of the study are to carry out a socio-economic status of population in flood prone areas of Chanchal sub-division in Malda district and to discuss the social and economical aspects of flood on the flood affected areas, population affected, consequences and their management. Malda is one of the most flood prone district in West Bengal which are caused by the overflow of the rivers Ganga, Mahananda and their tributaries. Due to overflow of rivers, some parts of the district received flood every year, among them Ratua-1 and Harishchandrapur -2 blocks are the most flood prone areas which is located under Chanchal Subdivision of Malda district. The present study is based on both primary as well as secondary data and tries to establish the relation among the different variables which are used for the study.

**KEYWORDS:** Floods, Impact, Socio-Economic Status, Causes, Management