

## Chapter-3

# Research Setting: The Social Ecology for Research

A Biswas, K Reang, S K Acharya and G C Mishra

---

In any social science research, it is hardly possible to conceptualise and perceive the data and interpret the data more accurately until and unless a clear understanding of the people's attitude and their behaviour characteristics in the given area of study. Research setting is immensely important in the sense because it is characterizing and influencing the interplays of different factors and components. The socio demographic background of the local people in a rural setting has been critically administered in this regard in this chapter.

### **Area of Study**

The area of investigation of this study is situated in the state of Tripura located in the north-eastern part of India. Tripura has a unique social, cultural and ecological background, which influence the living standard and behavioural patterns of the people in many ways. The Manu R.D block of Dhalai district of Tripura has been selected for this purpose. The area of the study is comprised of villages' viz. Kukilmanipara, Lambabil and Moinama.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE**

Tripura is the third smallest state of India located in the north eastern part of India with a geographical area of 10,491 km<sup>2</sup>. It is located in the south-west extreme corner of the north-eastern region, between latitudes 22°57' and 24°33' N and longitudes 91°10' and 92°20' E. The state is situated between the river valley of Myanmar and Bangladesh, and is bounded by Bangladesh on the north, west, south and southeast; in the east it has a common boundary with Assam and Mizoram. Tripura was a princely state, and Maharaja Birbikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur was the last ruler of the state. Tripura attained full statehood on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1972.

### **Climate of the State**

Tripura has a tropical climate and receives heavy rainfall during the monsoons. The state receives an average annual rainfall of 2197mm. Temperature in the state varies from 10 to 35 degree Celsius.

### **Agriculture**

Tripura is an agrarian state known worldwide for its production of rubber, tea, coffee, raw silk, jute and sandalwood .The state has a 75 per cent share of the total floriculture industry of the country. About 70per cent of the people live in the villages and 71 per cent of the population depends on agriculture. The crops like rice, ragi, jowar, maize and pulses besides oilseeds and number of cash crops .Other crops like cashew nut, coconut, areca nut, chillies, cotton, sugarcane, and tobacco are also grown in the state.

### **Economy**

The economy of the state is primarily agrarian. The primary sector i.e. agricultural contributes about 64 per cent of total employment in the state and about 48 per cent of the State Domestic Product (SDP). A variety of horticultural/plantation crops are produced in Tripura like pineapple, oranges, cashew nut, jackfruit, coconut, tea, rubber, forest plantation etc. There is ample scope for increasing the area under such productions as well as productivity.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION OF DHALAI TRIPURA**

Dhalai District is the biggest district in term of area among all the districts in Tripura. It is formed in 1995. The District is rich in natural resources. More than 70% area of this district is hilly and forest covered. It has tremendous scenic beauty. The district Headquarter is situated at Ambassa which is around 90 KM from the state capital Agartala. It is connected through NH 44 and takes around 3 hours to reach. There are Railway Stations in this district.

### **Dhalai Tripura at Glance**

<b>Total geographical area:</b>	<b>2312.29 Sq. km.</b>
<b>Total population:</b>	3, 77,988 (2011 census)
<b>Males:</b>	1, 84,342 (2011 census)
<b>Females:</b>	1, 83,644 (2011 census)
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	74.33 per cent (2011 census)
<b>Number of Sub-divisions:</b>	4
<b>Number of Blocks:</b>	6
<b>Number of Municipality:</b>	Nil
<b>Number of Nagar Panchayet:</b>	22
<b>Number of Gram Panchayet:</b>	130
<b>Number of Autonomous District Council village:</b>	96

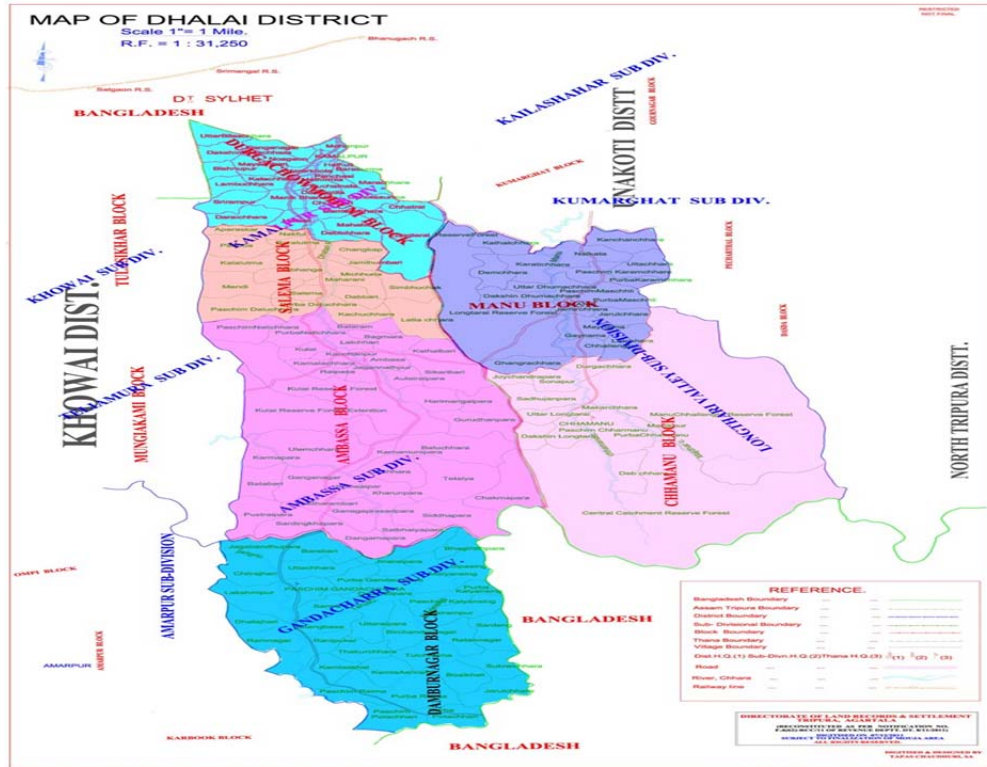


Fig. 2: Map of Dhalai District

**Block profile**

Block:	Manu
<i>Land</i>	
Geographical area:	278.27 sq. Km
Cultivable land:	13926 ha.
Forest land:	12968 ha.
Fallow land:	1832 ha.
High land:	--
Plantation area:	1333ha.
<i>Demographic features</i>	
Total population:	89046 persons
Males:	48646 persons

Females:	49729 persons
<i>Administrative set up</i>	
Autonomous District Council village:	26
<i>Financial institution</i>	
Grameen Bank:	3
Co-operative Bank:	2
Nationalised bank:	3
<i>Education</i>	
Primary school:	130
Senior basic school:	53
High school:	7
Higher secondary school:	7
<i>Health care</i>	
Primary health centre:	1
Hospital:	1