



# Challenges To Impart Primary Education At Indo-Bangla Border Area Within The Functional Jurisdiction Of Raghunathganj Police Station, Murshidabad, West Bengal.

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

Primary education means education given to the children from class I-V level. Students' future fully depends upon their quality of primary education. According to APJ Abdul Kalam, "Creativity is the key to success in the future, and primary education is where teachers can bring creativity in children at that level." In the present study researcher conducted a survey to know the condition of primary education at Indo-Bangla border area within the functional jurisdiction of Raghunathganj police station, Murshidabad, West Bengal. For this purpose researcher selected two primary schools named 86 No. Char Bajitpur Primary School, 29 No. Char Pirojpur Primary School those are located very nearby Indo-Bangla border area within the functional jurisdiction of Raghunathganj police station, West Bengal. Researcher used to go for field visit or observation. And also taken interview from guardians, teachers deployed in those schools. Few burnings challenges of primary education come out through this study; these are insufficient Govt. Primary School, transportation problem, lack of medical facilities, non-availability of pure drinking water, electricity problem, less availability of educational resources, lack of educational awareness among parents, insufficient teaching staffs, and strong surveillance of Border Security Force etc. After understanding all facts related to concerned topic it is highly recommended that Govt. should formulate special policies relating to border area to cope with the above mentioned issues.

**Key words:** Primary education, Condition, Burning challenges, Indo-Bangla, Border area, Functional jurisdiction, Murshidabad, West Bengal.

## Introduction:-

Primary education means education given to the children from class I-V level. Students' future fully depends upon their quality of primary education. According to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, "creativity is the key to success in the future, and primary education is where teachers can bring creativity in children at that level." In West Bengal primary education denotes education given to the children from class I-V. The International border named Indo-Bangla border is the fifth longest land border in the world. Bangladesh and India share a 4096 kilometer long International border. The length of land border in West Bengal is about 2217 kilometer. The district named 'Murshidabad' is very historical place of West Bengal. 'Murshidabad' district not only known by his incredible history but also known for his geographical dimension. This district is situated very nearby Indo-Bangla border area. Total population of this district was about 7,103,807 in 2011. Total primary schools in this district are about 3187. Researcher visited two villages named Char Bajitpur and Char Pirojpur those come under 'Barsimul Gram Panchayat' area are situated very nearby Indo-Bangla border area. As per 2011 census data collected from reliable source of Barsimul Gram Panchayat total habitants of this panchayat area was about 21702 and now the figure is about 25756. Whereas currently two villages named Char Bajitpur and Char Pirojpur have 3513 and 4438 number of habitants respectively. Researcher noticed only two Govt. Primary

Schools are running in these two villages. These two villages are situated far away from the civilized society; cultivation is the main occupation of the habitants of these areas. 'Mason' is another well known occupation of the habitants of these two villages.

A Survey was done to know the condition of primary education at Indo-Bangla border area.

Researcher selected 86 No. Char Bajitpur primary school & 29 No. Char Pirojpur primary school to this context.

**Objectives:-** The objective of the study-

1. To understand the burning challenges of primary education in Indo-Bangla border area within the functional jurisdiction of Raghunathganj police station, Murshidabad district.
2. To understand different processes to improve the primary education in Indo-Bangla border area within the functional jurisdiction of Raghunathganj police station, Murshidabad district.

**Methodology:-** Researcher used analytical survey method in this study.

**Tools:-** Interview and observation done by the researcher.

**Population and Sample:-** Total population of this district was about 7,103,807 in 2011. Total primary schools in this district are about 3187. Researcher visited two villages named Char Bajitpur and Char Pirojpur those come under 'Barsimul Gram Panchayat' area are situated very nearby Indo-Bangla border area. As per 2011 census data collected from reliable source of Barsimul Gram Panchayat total habitants of this panchayat area was about 21702 and now the figure is about 25756. Whereas currently two villages named Char Bajitpur and Char Pirojpur have 3513 and 4438 number of habitants respectively. Researcher noticed only two Govt. Primary Schools are running in these two villages. Researcher selected these two primary schools (86 No. Char Bajitpur primary school & 29 No. Char Pirojpur primary school) for data collection, two teachers from each school and five local habitants from each school and three students from each school selected purposively as samples. Average number of school goers of both schools is about 440 upto (IV) standard. Most of the people are cultivators. As a result child labour is a common factor against spreading education.

**Challenges of Primary education :-**

**Transportation Problem-**

The researcher has encountered transportation problem. The rural paths are muddy. These two villages are surrounded by water of the river Padma. It is very difficult to go to schools for higher education after completing basic education. The primary schools remain closed for about 1-2 months due to flood. Interruption of education is common here during the rainy season.



Monsoon session



## Muddy Road

## Health issues –

The researcher found no well equipped health centre in these two villages. Md. Najimuddin SK and Mukul Das both head teacher of primary school expressed their concern over the students when they fall ill in the school. Local people also revealed their arrogance for lack of medical facilities in their village. The health centre does not have permanent doctor for 24 hours. They are compelled to go to the Jangipur sub-division hospital far away from their village for treatment by motor cycle or tractor etc. Sometimes the border security force help by providing GPSY on humanity ground in case of patients serious condition. During rainy season the villages are surrounded by river water & totally detached from main land.

### Non-availability of pure drinking water –

The head teachers focused on the water born diseases due to contaminated drinking water. The teachers carry pure drinking water bottle with their bags. But, the students are to swallow polluted water. The villagers claim purified water facility in large in their village.

## Electricity problem –

While undertaking survey, researcher also found out that concerned primary schools as mentioned before have got arrangement of solar power to cater their electricity need; apart from getting electricity through traditional way. Notably, head teachers of both primary schools have expressed their apprehension about the utility of solar power during monsoon season as solar power will not tend to function properly in providing seamless power supply during scheduled season. Thus, solar power system solely will not act as an effective medium to rely upon in solving electricity problem in their villages. Moreover, they also experience frequency power cuts or load shedding during night which also directly hampers their wards education. Interruption of power supply goes on large scale during monsoon season where solar power also remain ineffective.

### Less availability of educational resources –

As these two villages lying in the vicinity of Bangladesh border, where strong vigilance is necessary as security issues hold much better here. Now, often going through local inhabitants, researcher found out that due to security reasons Border security force puts limit on stocks of shopkeepers. Which acts as a driving force among local inhabitants for not choosing shopkeeper as their profession. Thus for two sole reason few shops were their. Where education condition were procured to be sold to open market, parents of local students have shown their regret for not availing educational commodity in their area due to shortage of it for which they had to travel nearby town (Jangipur) to purchase it.

**Strong surveillance of Border Security force –**

The concerned researcher personally visited 02 (two) villages where it is being observed that as these two villages lies in the close proximity of India-Bangladesh border which are not being properly demarcated with fencing and is porous where any person from both sides can easily pass through the border, for such Border

Security forces had put strong surveillance into practice toward illegal influx of people with no proper documents for corroboration of their credentials. As above matter corresponds with country's security issue, local inhabitants or any person residing in on India side had to go through lab of security and document checking.

This whole scenario acts as a stumbling block for the common people which encompass on school goers also. Fear complex and uneasiness prevails in the mind to their students.

#### **Insufficient classrom and modern facilities –**

Here researchers also observed that these primary schools are delivering education through teaching from Primary level to class IV standards where classroom allotted against student strength per class boards is insufficient. Only 08 & 07 classrooms are available in 29 No. Char Pirojpur Primary schools and 86 No. Char Bajitpur Primary school respectively in proposition with total students' strength which stands at 450 & 432 respectively.

The dimension of classroom cannot be considered as spacious where there is no proper facility for the students to sit on benches available. Ironically there students had to sit on the surface. Moreover, there are no electronic boards available as well in the classroom. There are no provisional recreation activities available in the school where, students can relieve their stress and involve themselves in some physical activities.

**Lack of educational awareness among parents/guardians-** After discussion with head teachers of two schools it is revealed guardians are less aware on necessity of education of their wards. According to them most of guardians' occupation is farming, guardians are not highly educated.

**Suggestions and Conclusion -** some suggestions for improving the condition of government primary school education in Indo-Bangla border area of raghunathganj-2 block, Murshidabad-

1. Govt. should build more concrete roads in these villages. This will help students to reach schools in monsoon session.
2. More number of primary schools has to be started keeping in view the local demand.
3. More number of teachers has to be deployed in the present Govt. Primary schools of these villages.
4. Central Govt. of the India should complete the fencing work on border area which will help the BSF to easily monitor the border, and by this way villagers as well as students will also be benefited from the strong surveillance of BSF. Parents/ Guardians then can easily cross the 'Padma' river for any recruitment. Shopkeepers also will be benefited to carry and store products in their shops. Shopkeepers can easily maintain their stocks related to educational needs.
5. Better equipped health centers should be developed in these villages. Doctors, nurses, para- medical staffs should be deployed in health centers. Prevailing health centers should give service for 24\*7 hours. It will help students to maintain their proper health.
6. Purified water facilities should be provided in Govt. primary schools. It will help students to maintain their health and hygiene.
7. Govt. should allot ambulance in the health center of these villages. It will help parents to rescue their wards from health hazards.
8. More powerful solar plants should be developed in these villages for uninterrupted power supply in these areas. So, students can easily read and write any time.
9. BSF should be more familiar with the local habitants and school students. It will help students to remove their fear complex.
10. Adult education center should be developed in these villages. It will help the illiterate or less literate guardians to be educated themselves which ultimately help them to become conscious about education. And finally it will help their wards indirectly or directly regarding their education concern.
11. Govt. should arrange speed boats during monsoon session for primary school teachers who are deployed in the primary schools of these villages. It will help the schools to maintain regularity in education.
12. Special classes should be arranged for primary school students of these villages to compensate their education due to flood during monsoon session.
13. Computers should be provided in these primary schools. It will help students to be educated on computer related studies.
14. Modern educational equipments should be provided by the Govt. to these primary schools which will help the teachers to deliver their lessons.
15. Special monitory packages should be allotted for the teachers who are deployed in this type of remote, sensitive areas that will create special motivation, energy among them to execute their duty.

Overall development of the rural areas cannot be possible without proper basic education of the children. Utility of labour, punctuality, discipline, health and hygiene etc. will be developed among children through primary education which ultimately help children to become complete man/woman. By this way rural population as well as population of the whole nation will be benefited holistically.

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