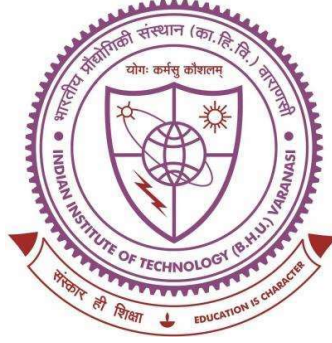


**CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE  
LIVELIHOODS AMONG MARGINAL COMMUNITIES  
IN RURAL AREAS OF *JANGAL MAHAL*, WEST BENGAL**



Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of

*DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY*

*by*

**Babita Chatterjee**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

(BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY)

VARANASI-221005

ROLL NO.: 19191003

Year of Submission: 2024

### Conclusion

---

---

Based on the findings and the preceding discussion, it can be said that the initiatives implemented prior to 2011 did not significantly benefit the rural inhabitants of the study area.

However, the new government has taken significant measures to give them a better life from 2011 onwards. Among these measures, the 'low cost or zero cost' rationing system has benefited the *Jangal Mahal* people. Some recent schemes, such as Kanyashree's (2014) and Lakshmir Bhandar's (2023), have significantly contributed to the economic and social empowerment of women. Other administration-level initiatives include cluster development, promoting handicrafts, and organizing handloom exhibitions at various fairs. Moreover, the failure of these initiatives in our study area can be attributed to a lack of awareness and low educational standards. However, it is believed that the strategies recommended in this work are—

1. i) 'Learning with Earning' (refers to an apprenticeship programme in rural small-scale handicraft industries, which guarantees a provision of scholarships from class IX standards)
2. ii) 'Clavipectoral Farming' (plantation along with cattle and animal husbandry in a commercial way)

These two frameworks play a crucial role in fostering economic resilience and promoting self-reliance among rural people, as the framed strategies aim to promote community-level development. Both of the frameworks are based on grass-roots socioeconomic situations. Addressing more populations from bottom to top would benefit the marginalized and ensure sustainable livelihoods for all.

Over the past few decades, the role of extension has changed substantially, shifting away from a production-oriented, technology transfer model to a greater emphasis on broader development objectives such as improving rural livelihoods through a demand-led, participatory, and market-oriented approach. In other words, extension

## ***Conclusion***

---

can handle the diversity of multidisciplinary approaches. Additionally, the extension system benefits a) an established infrastructure, b) cultural awareness, which includes understanding how to mitigate the constraints faced by farmers, and d) an understanding of how to mitigate these constraints.

Similarly, the growth of the rural secondary and tertiary sectors necessitates a specific methodology. This study reveals a skewed distribution of people in rural areas across primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, with minimal development in secondary processing and tertiary services. The marginal and small farmers may only be able to survive in the short run if they continue to produce traditional food grain crops. Of late, there has been a growing concern that small farms must diversify in favour of high-value crops based on land zoning systems, preferably drought-resistant crops, for commercial production. Therefore, forming partnerships with entrepreneurs or financial entities affiliated with the government is necessary. This can be achieved in small-scale setups through government subsidies and other enterprise relaxation policies. This will encourage investors to establish their farms in rural areas using local resources and sustainable pathways (Figs. 7.2 and 7.3), thereby promoting livelihood diversification in the studied region. Restrict the circular mobility.

Farmers' organizations and cooperatives must either be present or adequate to meet the needs of marginal and small farms. Steps to initiate and strengthen such institutions would be necessary. There is no denying the fact that market intervention and price support by the government are pre-requisites for the diversification and sustainability of small farms, and the development of infrastructural facilities such as roads, transport, storage, and processing is essential to making market intervention and price support more effective, particularly for perishable high-value commodities. In addition, (Research and Development) R&D efforts would have to be strengthened to evolve appropriate labour intensive technologies, enterprises, and cropping systems for negligible farm diversification.