

Urbanization and Status of Slum Population in Ramjibanpur Municipality, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal

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Abstract: Across the world, the profile of the urban areas has undergone a drastic change. Developing countries and India in particular, have experienced rapid urbanization coinciding with the development of metropolitan cities, as also small and medium towns. In fact, the Census of India statistics reveal that smaller urban areas are growing faster than larger cities. According to Mazumder (1977), the Delhi's majority of slum populations are engaged in informal sector Mitra (1993) in his study observed that the slums of Calcutta and Howrah are mainly dominated by poor people. Slum or slum area is a compact settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of a poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions. The present study is based on the secondary data of census of India and municipality office. The data will be processed and analysis with the help of simple cartographic diagrams and charts. The study observed that Ramjibanpur Municipality is a oldest town of in the Paschim Medinipur district but the environmental condition in the slums is little bit poor. The slum is partially covered with surface drains. Most of the roads are semi metallic and kuchha. Most of the dwelling units are kuchha, semi pucca or dilapidated. There is needed of proper drinking water supply, street light and sanitation system.

Keywords: Urbanization, Slum, House condition, Basic amenities.

1. Introduction

Slum or slum area is a compact settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of a poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions. Ramjibanpur Municipality is one of the oldest municipality in the state of West Bengal. It is a small town surrounded by villages and agricultural crop lands. The social and economic structure shows a rural - urban mixed nature. According to Indian Census, Total population of this municipality is 19611, and the share of slum population is about near 57%. Slums are located core and fringe area of the municipality. In the municipality there had 35 slums located across all the 11 wards of the municipality. Most of the slum households have poor hosing conditions as well as poor amenity facilities and unhygienic environment. So, the present study has correlated the urbanization and the status of slum populations in Ramjibanpur Municipality.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the study area are

- To analysis the urbanization trends of the Ramjibanpur Municipality
- To analysis the Demographic and socio - economic status of slums in the municipality

Database and Methodology:

The present study is based on secondary data of

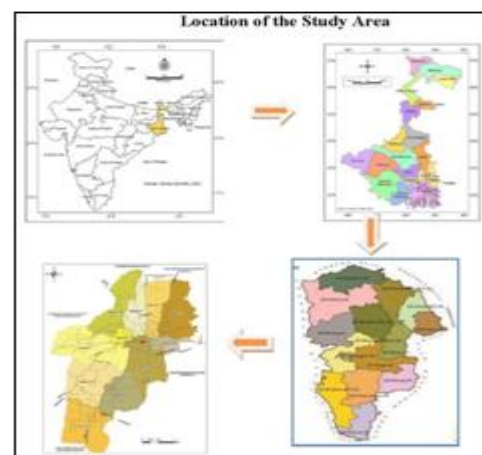
- 1) Primary Census Abstract, Census of West Bengal, 2011 (Electronic format).
- 2) Houselisting & Housing Census, Census of West Bengal, 2011 (Electronic format).

- 3) Statistical Abstract, Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal, 2011 (Electronic format).
- 4) Ramjibanpur Municipality office (Published and unpublished data)

The data will be processed and analysis with the help of simple cartographic diagrams and charts.

Study Area:

Ramjibanpur Municipality belongs to the district of Paschim Medinipur of West Bengal. This Municipality is situated at the border of two districts which are the end of Paschim Medinipur and starting point of Hooghly. The municipality of Ramjibanpur was established on 1st April in the year 1876 and is a one of the oldest Municipality of West Bengal. This Municipality has 11 wards. The total area of the municipality is 15.83 Sq. Km. Ramjibanpur is located at 22.83°N 87.62°E It has an average elevation of 11 metres.



Map 1

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Trend of Urbanization

More than half of the world’s population are lived in urban areas. Due to the ongoing urbanisation and growth of the world’s population, there will be about 2.5 billion more people added to the urban population by 2050, mainly in Africa and Asia. The world’s urban areas are highly varied, but many cities and towns are facing problems such as a lack of jobs, homelessness and expanding squatter settlements, inadequate services and infrastructure, poor health and educational services and high levels of pollution.

Table 1: Decadal Growth Rate of Ramjibanpur Municipality

Decade	Population Growth (%)
1941 - 1951	24.9
1951 - 1961	1.09
1961 - 1971	35.99
1971 - 1981	18.76
1981 - 1991	21.09
1991 - 2001	16.51
2001 - 2011	12.94

Source: Census of India, 2011

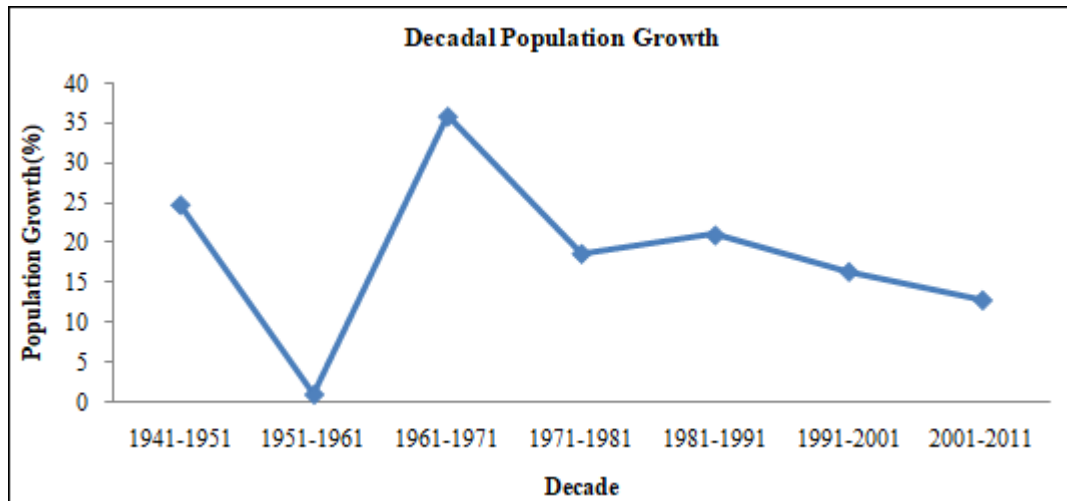


Figure 1

From the above table and diagram is shown that Ramjibanpur Municipality growth rate is highest (35.99%) in the decade 1961 - 71 and lowest rate is in the decade 1951 - 61. The average rate of growth of this town is 1.88% per annum.

Demographic and Socio - Economic Status:

Urbanization process reflects on its demographic and socio - economic structure of this area. The present study analysis the demographic and socio - economic status of the Raamjibanpur municipality.

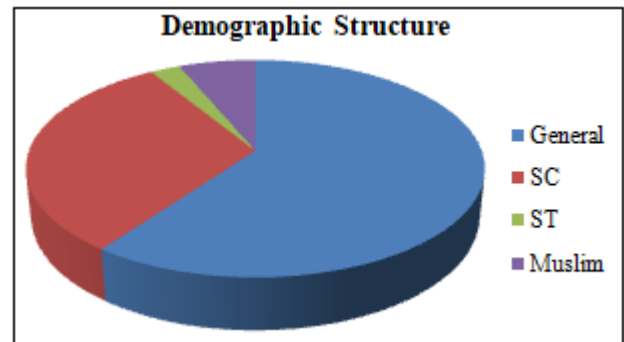


Figure 2

Table 2: Demographic Structure of Ramjibanpur Municipality

Caste	Population	% of Population
General	11771	60.02
SC	6112	31.17
ST	485	2.47
Muslim	1243	6.34
Total	19611	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Authority

The above figure noted that most of dwellers of the municipality are in general caste category followed by SC, Muslims and ST. SC, ST and minorities are economically very poor and most of lived in slum areas of the town.

Table 3: Ward wise Distribution of Total Population and Slum population

Ward No.	No of Households	Total Population	No of Slum Households	Slum Population	% of Slum population to total population	No. of Notified Slum	No. of Non - notified Slum
1	478	2157	217	982	45.53	1	2
2	448	2020	281	1463	72.43	1	2
3	341	1589	146	740	46.57	1	2
4	534	2358	210	972	41.22	1	2
5	305	1329	229	1049	78.93	1	2
6	447	2043	177	940	46.01	1	2
7	351	1578	175	888	56.27	1	3
8	304	1556	196	1102	70.82	1	2
9	386	1858	264	1151	61.95	1	3

10	272	1263	206	1029	81.47	1	2
11	383	1860	277	979	52.63	1	2
Total	4249	19611	2378	11295	57.6	11	24

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Authority

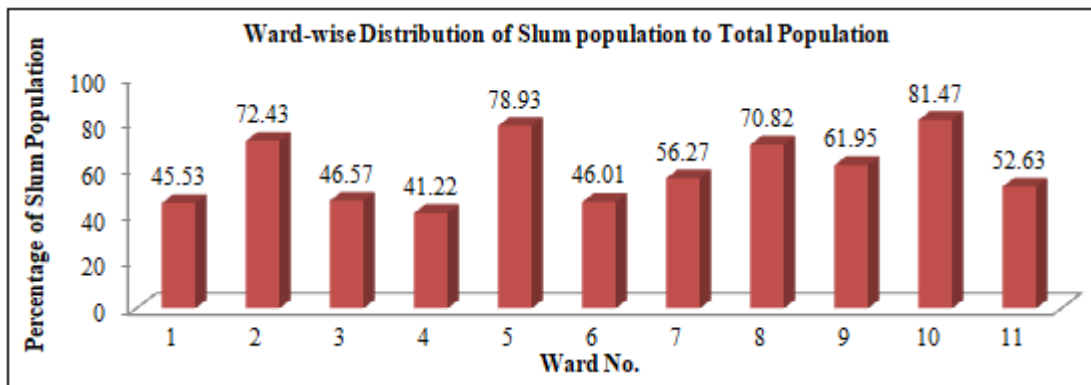


Figure 3

Ramjibanpur Municipality had a 35 slums spreads across all the 11 wards of the town. Table 3 reflected that more than half of dwellers (57.60%) of the municipality have lived in slum area. In the Ward No.10, the highest (81.47%) slum

dwellers lived in the town. It is noted that this urbanization and basic services of the area are not properly developed. Both core and fringe areas of the town have grown the slums haphazardly.

Table 4: Ward wise Distribution of Notified and Non - notified Slums

Ward No.	Name of the Slums	Category of Slum	Age of the Slum	No of Households	Ward No.	Name of the Slums	Category of Slum	Age of the Slum	No of Households
1	Gorogot Hnari Polli	Notified	110	81	7	Bonpur Duley Polli	Notified	100	77
	Natun Hut Bagdi Polli	Non - notified slum	120	88		Bonpur Adibasi Polli	Non - notified slum	95	24
	Kalitala Santra Polli	Non - notified slum	120	48		Rajma Roy Polli	Non - notified slum	90	21
Rameswarpur Majhi Polli	Notified	110	184	Bonpur Piripukur Duley Polli		Non - notified slum	100	53	
2	Ramjibounpur Pandit Polli	Non - notified slum	137	50	8	Amdan Bagdi Polli	Notified	100	57
	Ramjibanpur Hnari Polli	Non - notified slum	142	47		Amdan Muslim Polli	Non - notified slum	120	94
3	Ahermore Ruidas Polli	Notified	120	23		Amdan Ruidas Polli	Non - notified slum	95	45
	Rameswarpur Muslim Polli	Non - notified slum	120	85	9	Serbaj Duley Polli	Notified	110	120
	Ramjibanpur Dhatri Polli	Non - notified slum	120	38		Serbaj Malik Polli	Non - notified slum	120	55
Rajarpukur Duley Polli	Notified	130	86	Serbaj Ruidas Polli		Non - notified slum	110	69	
4	Ramjibanpur Ruidas Polli	Non - notified slum	70	72		Gobindapur Karak Polli	Non - notified slum	100	20
	Gobindapur Dom Polli	Non - notified slum	125	52	10	Kantagola Bagdi Polli	Notified	95	89
	Bondanga Ruidas Polli	Notified	110	67		Pandua Dhara Polli	Non - notified slum	100	68
Ramjibanpur Dhatri Polli	Non - notified slum	30	89	Manoharpur Hati Polli		Non - notified slum	90	49	
5	Krishnaganja Bagdi Polli	Non - notified slum	120	73	11	Deopur Adibasi Palli	Notified	125	85
	Ramjibanpur Duley Polli	Notified	120	108		Deopur Duley Palli	Non - notified slum	125	91
	Ramjibanpur Majhi Polli	Non - notified slum	130	47		Deopur Pandit Palli	Non - notified slum	125	101
6	Ramjibanpu Suripukur Duley Polli	Non - notified slum	40	22					

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Authority

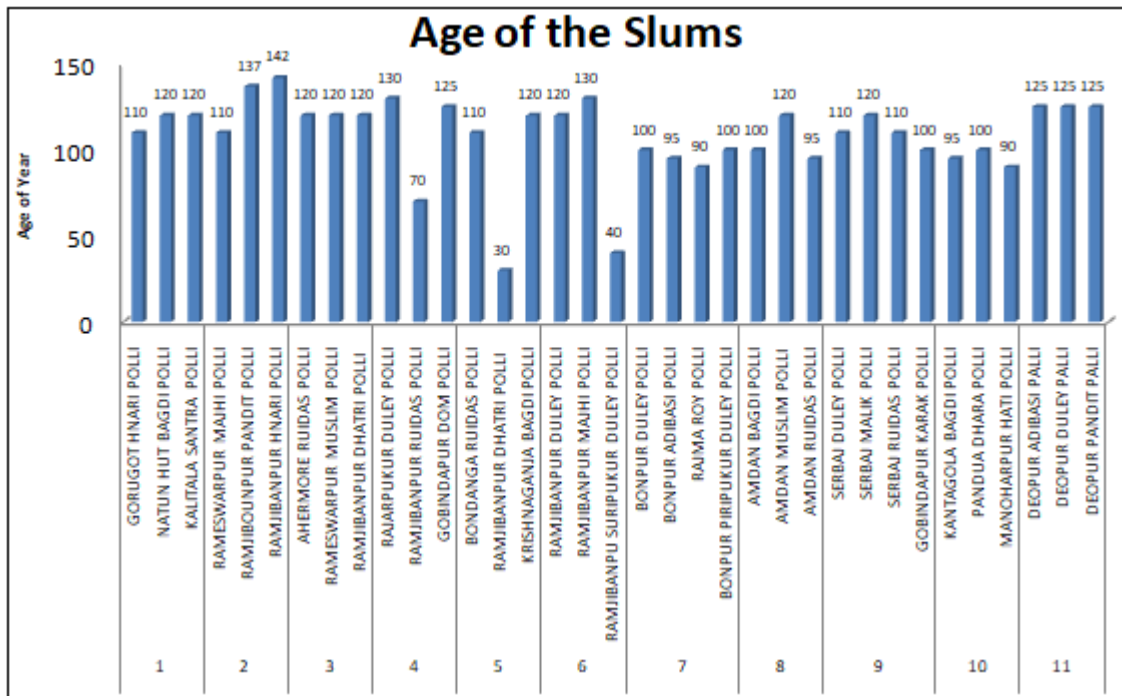


Figure 4

Migration:

The above table presented that most of the slum dwellers are living more than 90 years in the municipality. Maximum dwellers have migrated from rural areas due lack of employment to agricultural sector. Hence, slum dwellers are now permanently depending on 35 no. of slums.

Occupation:

Ramjibanpur is a small town of Paschim Medinipur District in West Bengal. It is surrounded by the villages and agricultural fields. Agriculture and traditional trading had the backbone of the economy of the municipality dwellers. Once upon a time, Ramjibanpur was a flourishing town with handloom and brush metal industries are the main economic activity. In the change of scenario of modern time, handloom and traditional brush metal industries have declined, but good numbers of dwellers are engaged in this trade. Apart from these some slum people are also engaged in the zari, pottery, clay modelling, bamboo works etc.

House Conditions:

Housing is the constituents of the social infrastructure of the economy. Urban housing conditions, amenities and assets are very precious items for human being as well as for our society, because people always want to get better opportunities for their livelihood (Sahoo, 2019, 2023).

Table 5: House conditions of Slums in Ramjibanpur Municipality

House Conditions	No of Slum Households	% of Slum Households
Kachha	2092	87.97
Semi - pucca	230	9.67
Pucca	56	2.36
Total	2378	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

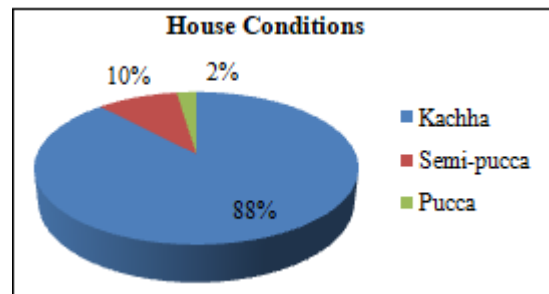


Figure 5

According to Table - 5 noted that near about 88% slum households have kachha followed by semi pucca. A least no of slum households (2.36%) have pucca and dilapidated.

Source of Drinking Water Facility:

The following section represents the drinking water facility of slum dwellers of Ramjibanpur municipality.

Table 6: Sources of Drinking Water Facility of Slum Households

Source of Drinking Water facility	% of Slum Households
Individual Tap	2.39
Municipality Tap	66.56
Tube well/Bore Well/ Hand Pump	18.35
Open Well	11.17
Pond/ River etc	1.53
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

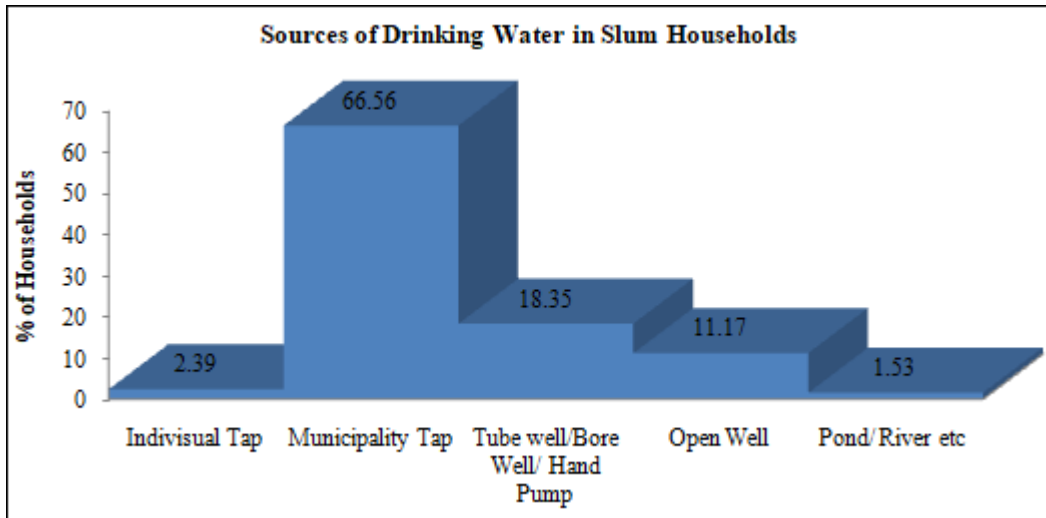


Figure 6

Table 7: Location of Drinking Water Facility of Slum Households

Location of Water Facility	% of Slum Households
Within Premises	20
Out of Premises	80
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

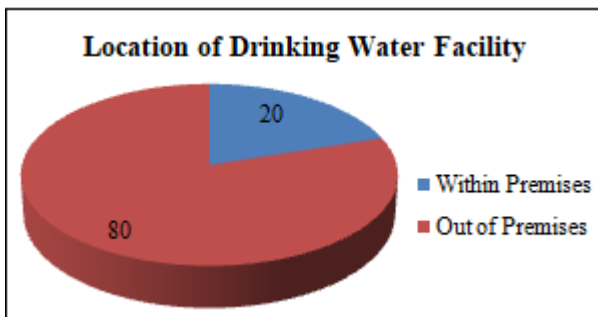


Figure 7

The above figures represented that more than 66% of the total slum households are depends on municipality tape followed by Tube well/Bore well/ Hand Pump and open well. Most of the slum dwellers 80%) collect the drinking water out side their premises and remaining only 20% have water connection inside their house.

Sanitation Facility:

Good sanitation is the prime need of the society. The following table discuss the sanitation facility of the slums in Ramjibanpur Municipality.

Table 8: Sanitation Facility of Slum Households

Sanitation Facility	% of Slum Households
Own Septic Tank With Flush Latrine	15
Sheared Septic Tank With Flush Latrine	3
Community Latrine	57
Open Defecation	25
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

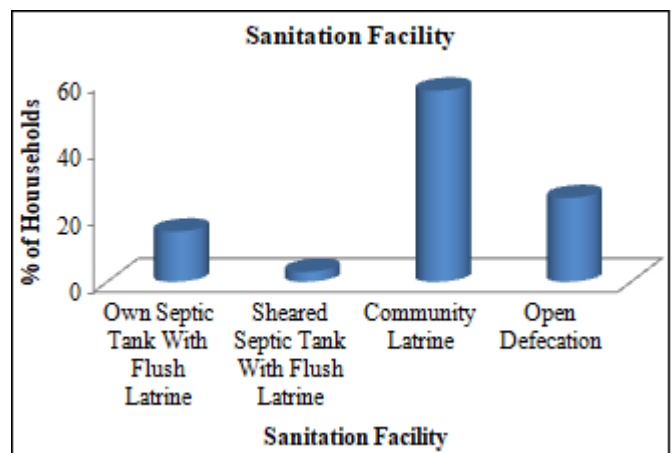


Figure 8

In term of sanitation facility, majority of the households have access to sanitary service from community latrine followed own septic tank with flush latrine. It is remarkably noted that one fourth share of the total slum dwellers depends on open defecation.

Bathroom Facility:

The following table represents the bathroom facility of slum dwellers in the Ramjibanpur Municipality

Table 9: Bathroom Facility of Slum Households

Bathroom Facility	% of Slum Households
Own Bathroom Within Premises	21
Bathroom Outside Premises	26
No Bathroom	45
Pond/River etc	8
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

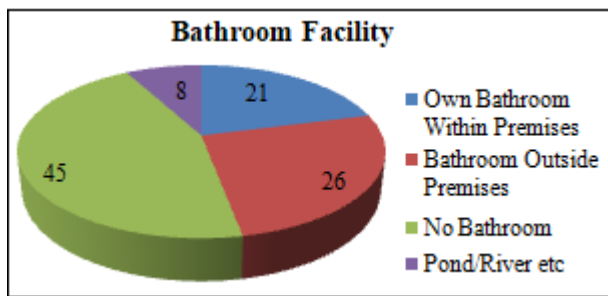


Figure 9

It is observed that only 21% households have own bathroom and rest of households have not any bathroom facility inside their premise. It is remarkable noted that 45% slum households have no bathroom facility, they depends on municipality tap, ponds, canal etc.

Drainage Facility:

Improper drainage system is one of the emerging challenges in Ramjibanpur Municipality. The following table portrays the drainage connectivity and facility of those slum areas.

Table 10: Drainage Facility of Slum Households

Drainage Facility	% of Slum Households
Open	100
Closed	0
Both Open and Closed	0
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

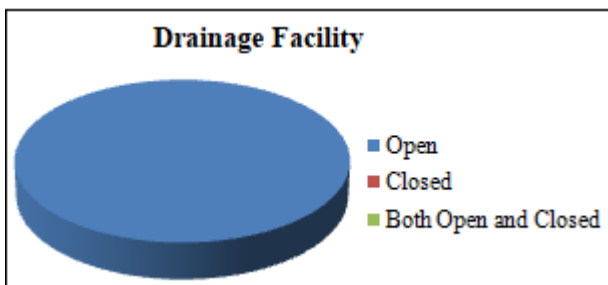


Figure 10

Table 11: Drainage Connectivity of Slum Households

Drainage connectivity	% of Slum Households
Fully connected	0
Partly Connected	54
Not connected	46
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

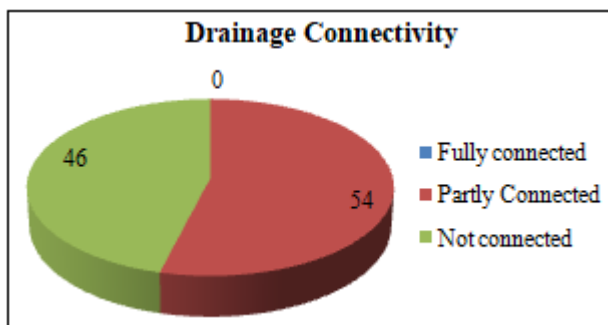


Figure 11

It is noted that there are no closed drainage system facility shown in this area. Out of 35 slums, only 54% households have partially connected with drain, rest have not connected. Most of the drains are tilted and broken. This situation is indicated more alarming to proper development of those slums area.

Road Conditions:

Accessibility to roads is an important parameter for development of slum. The following table represents the road conditions of slums in Ramjibanpur Municipality.

Table 12: Road Conditions of Slum Households

Road Connectivity	% of Slum Households
Metalled Road	43
Concrete Road	54
Katcha Road	3
Total	100

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Municipal Office

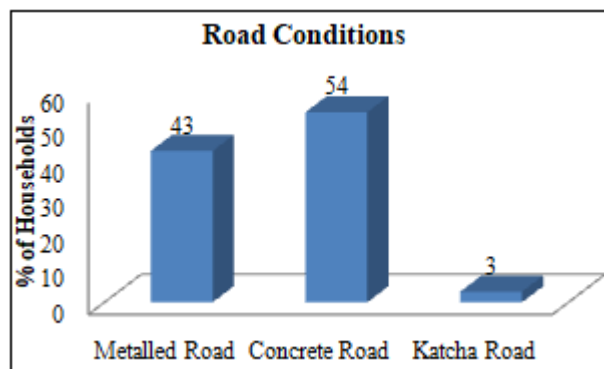


Figure 12

Above the table analysed that about 43% households have connected with metalled roads and another 3% katcha rest of the 54% households' access to concrete roads.

2. Conclusion

The present study observed that

- Ramjibanpur Municipality is a oldest town of the Pachim Medinipur district but the environmental condition in the slums is little bit poor.
- The average rate of growth of this town is 1.88% per annum.
- Maximum slum dwellers have migrated from rural areas due lack of employment to agricultural sector.
- Majority of the households have access to sanitary service from community latrine followed own septic tank with flush latrine and one fourth share of the total slum dwellers depends on open defecation.
- Only 21% households have own bathroom and rest of households have not any bathroom facility inside their premise and 45% slum households have no bathroom facility, they depends on municipality tap, ponds, canal etc.
- The slum is partially connected with surface drains and all are open system. Most of the roads are semi metallic and kuchha. Most of the dwelling units are kuchha, semi pucca or dilapidated.

To give pucca house for every family is currently on the global agenda. One of the Millennium development Goals (MDGs) is to achieve significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers. Similar goals are set by Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to create pucca house for every family. ULB undertake a demand survey through suitable means for assessing the actual demand of housing and needed to proper planning for Housing, proper drinking water supply, street light and sanitation system of those slum areas of Ramjibanpur Municipality.

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