

[Special]

Geographical Reappraisal of Human Resources and Its Impact on Regional Development in India

[特集]

インドの社会経済開発における人的資質に関する地理学的研究

Two Villages in West Bengal

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The Research Center for Regional Geography, Hiroshima University conducted geographical field researches eight times in India from 1967 to 1990, for which the full sanction of the grant-in-aid was given by the Ministry of Education, Government of Japan and the authorization by the Government of India.

The second year of the Research Project 1991-93 was held in September-November, 1992.

It is well known that the growth of agriculture and industries in India since the Independence has greatly contributed to the regional development. Many Indian scholars have produced research works on economic development of macro regional scale. However synthetic research of micro regional scale is underdeveloped.

The purpose of this research project is to make a geographical reappraisal of human resources in the context of the regional development which focuses upon the improvement of living standard and the growth of industries in micro regional scale.

The careful attention should be paid on the process of efforts by the inhabitants in the variety of regional development programs. The geographical field work shall be

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employed as a core methodology in the major part of the project.

The field research was conducted in two villages, namely Radhaballavpur and Tentleberia.

Radhaballavpur and Tentleberia in Midnapur District of West Bengal have a close relationship to Haldia which located at the mouse of Hooghly River, because of the construction of oil refinery in 1967. Furthermore, the access to Calcutta has been strengthened by the construction of railway from Haldia. We surveyed the changes in the way of living of inhabitants for 25 years with reference to the relationship between the two villages and Haldia or Calcutta in particular.

This field survey was planned to reappraise the following items based on the previous intensive research in 1967 with collaboration of the lated Prof. S.P. chatterjee, Calcutta University. The surrounding areas of the two villages were surveyed in case of necessity.

1. Dynamics of population
2. Changes in occupational structure
3. Changes in school attendance
4. Changes in agriculture and other industries
5. Changes in the way of living
6. Changes in the attitude toward traditional events
7. Changes in the attitude toward panchayat
8. Participation of the inhabitants to regional development programs

The following papers are the first report of field research conducted in W. Bengal in 1992. Especially these are the results based on their individual interests. The final report of this project will be published soon including papers of Indian co-researchers.

I would like to express my thanks to the research members in this survey work, especially three Indian cooperators, Prof. R.C. Sharma J.N.U. as research adviser, and Prof. B. Banerjee and Prof. T.C. Betal, University of Calcutta as the research cooperator.