



## **Impact Of Occupational Structure On Household Food Security In Malda District (West Bengal)**

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***Abstract:***

*Food security is the burning problems not only for India all over the world due to the rapid growth of population and decreasing of agricultural land because establishment of settlement, industry, construction of transport and offices. The paper attempt to examine the relation between food security and occupational structure. According to survey only 31.62 percent households are food secure and remaining 68.38 percent are insecure. Most of services (64.77 per cent) and business men (39.83 per cent) household are food secure. Very negligible percentages of food secure household are found among the farmers (21.91per cent), daily labourer (12.24 per cent), agriculture labourer (9.09), and other workers (20.00 per cent).*

***Keyword:*** food security, occupational structure

### **1.Introduction**

Household food security and occupational structure are closely related to each other. Status of household depends upon the occupation of the house members. Here occupations refer to services, business, farmer, daily labourer, agricultural labourer, and other workers (other worker including rickshaw puller, driver, private store keeper, sweeper etc.) activities. Food security means people get sufficient amount of food for active and healthy life. In another word, food security explains a situation when people not go to bed in hungry. Food security means that food is available at all times, that all persons have means of access to it, and that it is nutritionally adequate in terms of quantity, quality and variety; and that it is acceptable within the given culture. Only when all these conditions are in place, can a population be considered “food secure” (food and agriculture organization (FAO) of the United Nations 1996).

### **2.Objectives**

- Try to find out the relation between food security and occupational structure.
- To find out the occupation wise food security status of household.

### **3.Study Area And Sampling Villages**

Malda was the Capital of Gour-Banga and now the gate way of North Bengal. It is located between latitudes  $24^{\circ} 40' 20''$  N to  $25^{\circ} 32' 8''$  N, and longitudes  $87^{\circ} 45' 50''$  E to  $88^{\circ} 28' 10''$  E, Malda District is bounded by Bangladesh and Dakshin Dinajpur district to its East and North East, by Uttar Dinajpur to the north, Bihar to the West, South-west part is bounded to Jharkhand and by Murshidabad district across the river Ganga. Malda is spreading over an area of 3733, Sq. Km and covering 4.2 per cent of the total landmass of the West Bengal and support with a large number of population of 32, 90468, about 4.1 per cent of the total states population with the density 881 persons per. Sq. Km.

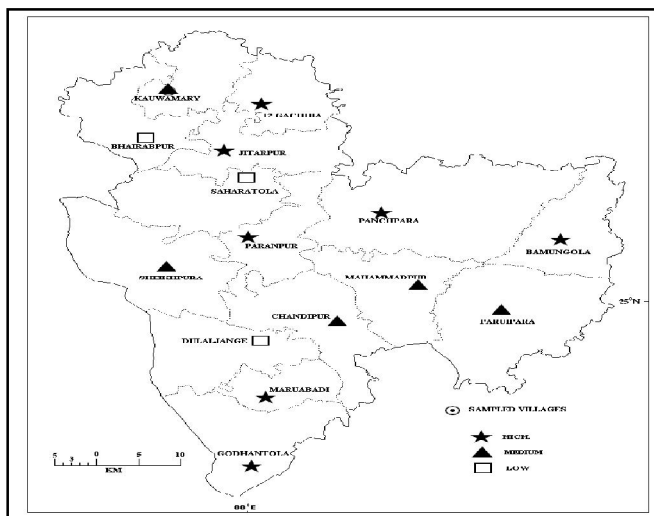


Figure 1

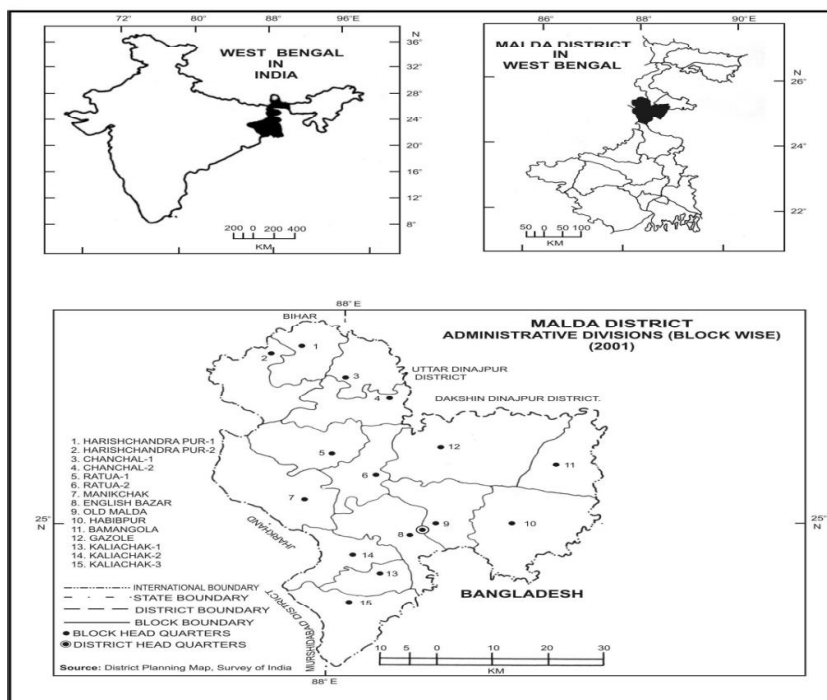


Figure 2

#### 4. Methodology

The study is fully based on primary survey with help of questionnaire. Fifteen villages have selected from the 15<sup>th</sup> block over the Malda district. Eight villages have been taken from remote areas of the blocks and seven villages have been taken from near road side and near about block headquarter. Nearly 10 per cent households have been taken from each village for sampling and total numbers of sampling are 506 households. For

analysis of data simple percentage method is used for calculate the percentages of various workers and correlation is used for the show the relation among the different types of occupation. Food secure household get more than 2400 kcal per day per head , Insecure household are those they get 1810- 2399 kcal per day per head and hungry household get below 1810 kcal per day per head. All the consumption of daily food items converted to caloric on the basis of their standard food values and added all the together. The total calories intakes are divided by total family members of each household, to get per head per day caloric consumption

### **5.Occupational Structure**

A close relationship between employment structure and food security has been observed at the national level. Nearly 90.91 per cent of the households who are engaged in agricultural wage labour as their main occupation and are food insecure. On the other hand, incidence of food insecurity is the lowest (35.33%) among the government servicemen and private jobs holders. It is generally described that households with their members not being permanently employed have greater chance of becoming victim of food insecurity.

The village wise primary sources of data have been used for the present research work. The village wise rural working force, i.e. total village workers in proportion to total rural population in percentage have been calculated. After that percentage of workers is under the six broad categories: a). service holders, b).businessmen c). farmers, d). daily labourers, e). agriculture labourers and f). Other workers

### **6.Service Holders**

The service holders who are engaged in both Government and private sectors, it shared about 17.36 per cent of the total sample workers. The highest percentage of servicemen are recorded in Paranpur village (41.18%) followed by 12-Gachhia (38.36%), Bamungola (24.09%), Panchpara (18.18%) and Jitarpur (17.02%). The lowest percentage of service are recorded in Bhairabpur village (00. %) followed by Paruipara (6.25%), kauwamary (7.02%) Godhantota (9.86%), Saharatola (13.64%), and Maruabadi (11.90%).

### 7. Businessmen

Businessmen are contributed 23.26 per cent of the total workers. The business men include small shop keeper, larger shop, whole sale, haircutting shops, and all kinds of selling activities. The distribution of businessman varies from village to village, 2.13 per cent in Jitarpur to 50.00 per cent in Paruipara. The very high percentages of businessman are followed by Saharatola (29.41%), Sheikhpura (24.25%), Paranpur (29.41%), Chandipur (27.91%), Maruabadi (21.43%) and 12-Gachhia (20.55%). On the other hand, very low percentages of businessman are mainly confined in the Kauwamary (17.02%), Bhairabpur (11.84%), Paranpur (13.64%), Bamungola (15.12%), Godhantola (16.90%) and Dulalguanje (18.89%).

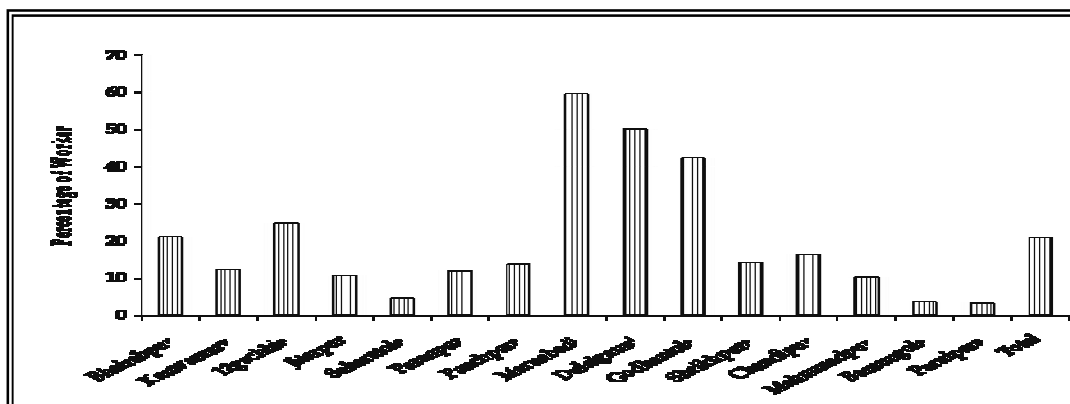


Figure 3: Village-wise Employment Rate in Malda District-2009

The higher percentage of business in some village (Paruipara, Paranpur, 12-Gachhia and Sheikhpura) are due to well transport and communication, lack of agricultural land, high percentage literacy rate and high level of literacy and locate near the block head quarter etc.

Village Name	Workers in per cent ages							
	Male Worker	Female Worker	Service	Business	Farmer	Daily Lab.	Agri. Lab.	Other
Bhairabpur	100	00	00	11.84	38.16	21.05	7.89	21.06
Kauwamary	100	00	7.02	7.02	57.89	12.28	3.51	12.28
12gachhia	95.89	4.11	38.36	20.55	5.48	10.96	00	24.66
Jitarpur	80.85	19.15	17.02	2.13	36.17	12.77	21.28	10.64
Saharatola	96.59	3.31	13.64	46.59	28.41	2.28	4.55	4.55
Paranpur	94.12	5.88	41.18	29.41	17.76	00	5.88	11.76
Panchpara	82.61	17.39	18.18	13.64	22.73	9.09	22.73	13.64
Maruabadi	57.14	42.86	11.90	21.43	2.38	4.76	00	59.52
Dulalgaunj	75.56	24.44	20.00	18.89	5.56	2.22	3.33	50.00
Godhantola	61.97	38.03	9.86	16.90	18.31	12.86	00	42.25
Sheikhpura	97.18	2.82	19.72	42.25	12.68	11.27	00	14.08
Chandipur	95.35	4.65	23.26	27.91	25.58	2.33	4.65	16.28
Mahmmadpur	95.92	4.08	24.49	28.57	24.49	8.16	4.08	10.20
Bamungola	79.07	20.93	22.09	15.12	23.26	10.47	25.58	3.49
Paruipara	96.88	3.12	6.25	50.00	15.63	25.00	00	3.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.15</b>	<b>12.85</b>	<b>17.36</b>	<b>23.26</b>	<b>22.11</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>6.60</b>	<b>20.95</b>

Table 1: Village-wise Employment Structure in Malda District-2009

Note: Agri- Agriculture, Lab: Labours , Source: Field survey, 2009

### 8.Farmers

Farmer shared nearly 22.11 per cent of the total workers. The maximum percentage of farmers are recorded in kauwamany (57.89%), followed by Bhairabpur (38.16%) Paranpur (36.17%), Saharatola (28.41%), Chandipur (25.58%), Mahammadpur (24.49%) Paranpur (17.76%), Banungola (23.26%) Panchpara(22.73%) and Dulalgaunje (18.31%). The lowest percentages of farmer are founded in the village of Maruabadi (2.38%), 12-Gachhia (5.48%), Paruipara (15.63%). The most of the Muslim dominated village has very high percentage of farmer such as Bhairabpur, kauwamany, Saharatola, etc but in case of Maruabadi, Dulalgaunje shows different pictures.

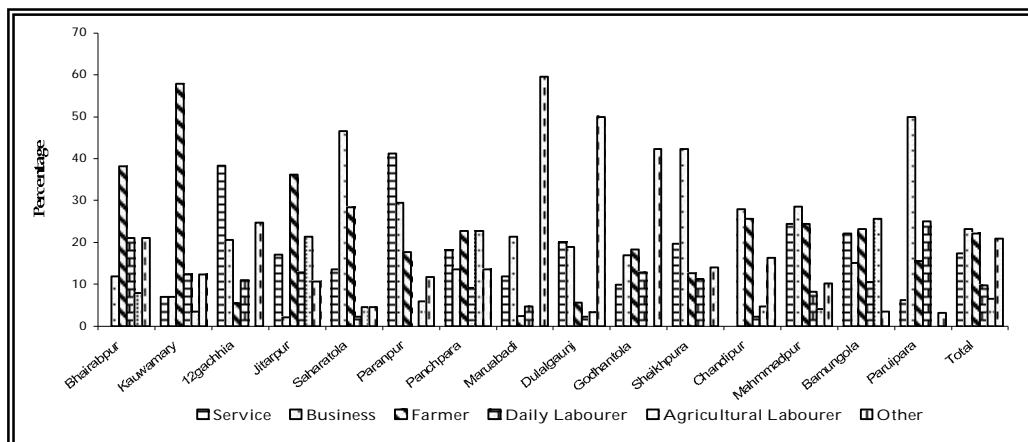


Figure 4: Village-wise Employment Structure in Malda District- 2009

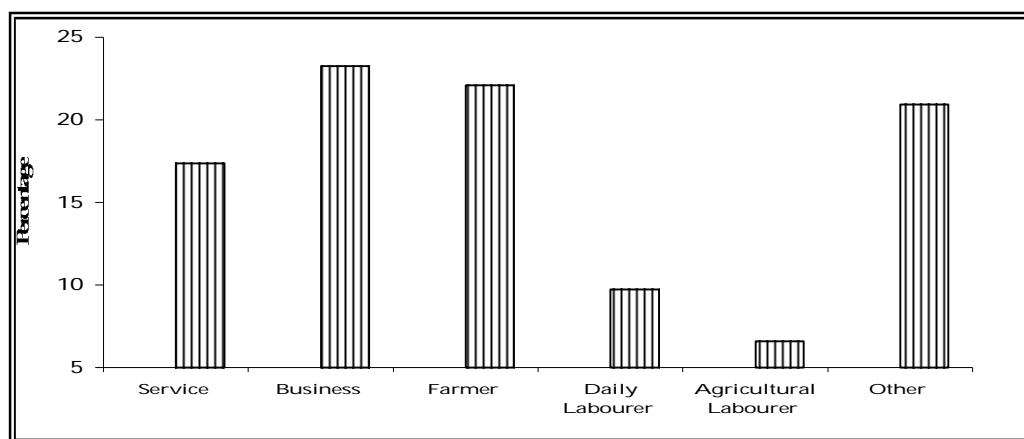


Figure 5 : Employment Structure in Malda District-2009

### 9. Daily Labourers

About 9.72 per cent of the total workers are engaged as daily labourers in different part in Malda. More than 21.5 per cent of the people are worked as daily labours of at Bhairabpur and followed by Paruipra (25.00%), Jitarpur (12.77%), Godhantola, (12.86%), Kauwamary (12.28%), Sheikhpura (11.27%) 12-Gachhia (10.96%), and Bamungola (10.47%). The low percentage daily labourer are found in Paranpur (00%), Saharatola (2.38%), Chandipur (2.33%), Dulalgaunje (2.22%), Maruabadi (4.76%), Mahammadpur (8.16%) and Panchpara (9.09%).The high percentages of daily laborers are confined due to the lack of land, lack of education and lack of employment opportunities in different sectors.

### **10. Agricultural Labourers**

Only 6.60 per cent of the total rural workers are engaged as an agricultural labourer. The distribution of agricultural labourers is depending upon the size of farmer and size of land holding. The high percentages of agricultural labourer are belonging to the tribal community of santhal and santhal tribe village are contribute more agricultural labourers. The high percentage of agricultural labourer is recorded in Bamungola (25.58%), followed by Panchpara (22.73%) Jitarpur(21.28%), Bhairabpur(7.89%), Parapur(5.88%), Chandipur (4.65%), Saharatola (4.55%) and Mahammadpur (4.8%). According to primary survey there are numbers of village; have no agricultural labourers and very low percentage is recorded in kauwamary (3.51), followed Dulalgaunje by (3.33%) and 12-Gachhia, Maruabadi, Godhantola Sheikhpara, and Paruipara are recorded zero per cent of agricultural labourer.

### **11. Other Worker**

Other workers include forestry orchards, fishing, hunting, driver, mining and quarrying, constructions and other households' industries workers which contribute more than 20.95 per cent of the total workers. The pattern of other workers is shown in the table. The very high percentage of other workers is found in Maruabadi (59.52%) followed Dulalgaunje (50.00%), and Godhantola (42.25%). The moderate category (Below 40.00-Above 10.00%) occupied by villages followed by kauwamary and Bhairabpur (21.06% and 12.28%) 12-Gachhia(24.66%), Jitarpur(10.64%), Parapur(11.76%), Panchpara(13.64%), Sheikhpara(14.08%), Chandipur(16.28%), and Mahammadpur(10.20%). The very low percentage of other worker is recorded in Paruipara (3.12%), Bamungola (3.49%) and Saharatola (4.55%).

### **12. Female Worker**

Women also play a greater role for food security. According to one some estimates, women comprise 26 per cent of the labour force in agriculture. As far as fisheries is concern, there is no separate data available but it could be taken that the percentage is almost the same (Yadav Y.S and Juneja C.J. 2000).

The extensive poultry production which is limited in rural sector and managed by housewives produces 80 per cent of eggs and poultry meat in china compared to 75 per cent in Africa and 40 per cent in India and other South Asian countries (Kurukshttra, Vol -56, No. 8, page-24).



In Malda District, more than 12.85 per cent are the female worker, they engaged as servicemen and different primary sectors but most of them are the agricultural labourer and Bidi workers. They provide additional family income, it is very important for food Security. The highest percentage of housewives supply green leaves weekly for their families followed by daily supply through collection from outside and cultivation in homestead lands.

Daily farm women enhance the self life of cereals and pulses through fermentation for preparation of different types of cake, weekly through preparation of dry food mixes. The role of farm women in supply of staple foods is very important. Some women are involved monthly in preparation of flattened rice, puffed rice, and value flattened rice, and puffed rice. For supply of all these food items the women mobilize their resources through daily labour work (12.86), part time economic activity and selling of farm products.

### 13. Status Of Food Security

The table shows the employment status of the households and food security status of the households. It is shown in the table that most of the secure households found among the servicemen and business man. Permanent income play vital role for food security. Most of the agriculture labour, daily labour and other workers are temporary or seasonally employed failed to ensure food security in their households in the year. On the other hand, small numbers of households have food security all through the year among the labourer (daily labour 12.24 per cent, agricultural labour 9.09 per cent and other workers 20 per cent).

Occupation	Secure	Insecure	Hunger
Service	64.77	23.87	11.36
Business	39.83	47.46	12.71
Farmer	21.91	32.58	45.51
Daily labour	12.24	32.65	55.11
Agriculture labour	9.09	36.36	54.55
Other worker	20.00	57.5	22.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.62</b>	<b>36.76</b>	<b>31.62</b>

Table 2: Food Security Status on the basis of Occupational Structure

Source: Field survey-2009

Majority of the household heads are engaged in agricultural farmers (35.18%) however, primary activity of the households is found to be an important factor responsible for ensuring food security. Only 21.91 per cent households are food secure among the different size of farmers. Status of businessmen is well as compared to farmer; more than 39.83 per cent households are food secure among the businessmen on the basis of caloric intake.

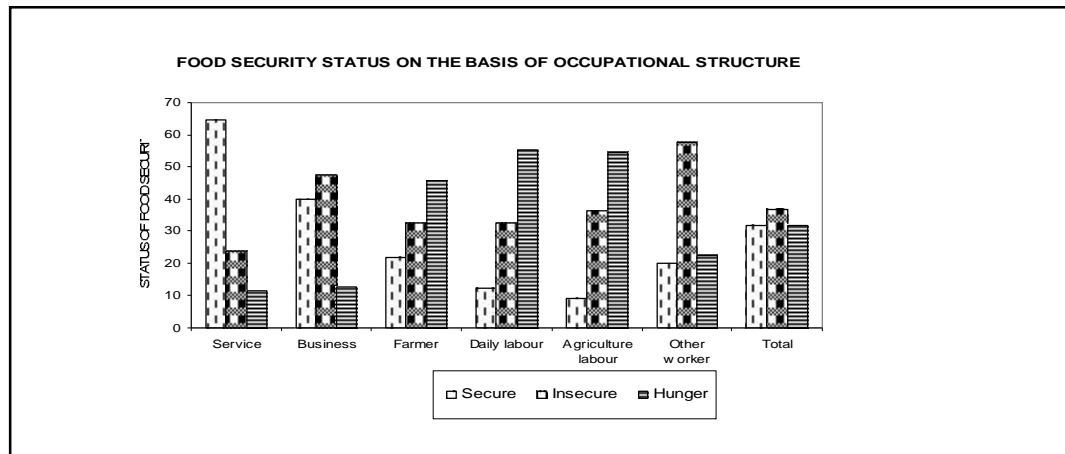


Figure 6

Larger number of household engaged in service (64.77%) and businessmen (39.83%) other activities (20%) than in farmer (21.91%) ensured food security for their households. In contrast, large number of household engaged in agricultural activities than non-agricultural activities ones is food shortage that food secure households with engaging in secondary activities had enough purchasing power to avail sufficient food.

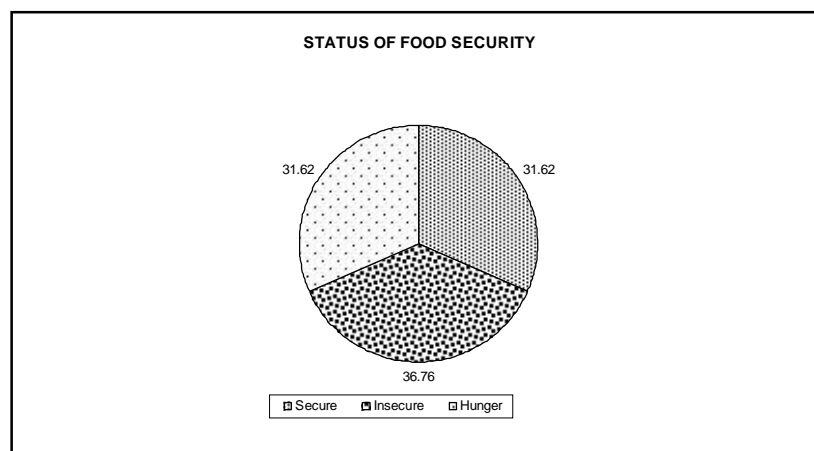


Figure 7

**14. Conclusion**

It is clear that food security decreasing from high profession to low occupation. About 64.77 per cent households are secure among service men while only 9.09 per cent are secure among the agricultural labourer. In this study proved that there is close relation between food security and occupation. Service and food security is highly correlated each; other variables are also having a strong relation with food security.

**15. Suggestion**

- To remove illiteracy and increase the level of education.
- To provide services for each family that may be decreased the food insecurity.
- To provide vocational education and job oriented courses for the betterment of society.
- To provide common minimum programme for all people.
- To establishment guidance centre for different kinds of information for common people.

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