

## TRANSITION OF SHIBPUKUR OF GOGHAT, WEST BENGAL FROM MULTIPLE USE SYSTEM TO LIMITED USE SYSTEM OVER THE CENTURIES

N. C. Nandi;

Email: nepalchandra.nandi@gmail.com

Social Environmental and Biological Association, Kolkata

Both natural and man-made wetlands have multiple use values. 'Pukur' or pond is not exception in this context. Actually ponds are smaller man made wetlands dug out for various local usages, both for agri-horticultural purposes and domestic requirements. Earlier ponds were used in rural India intensely for bathing, cleansing of clothes, washing of utensils, water for cooking of rice, pulses, vegetables, fire fighting, etc. But, in the present century such multiple use values have undergone obsolete and turned into limited use values only because of easy household level availability of pipeline potable water even in the remote villages. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century local households of 'Nandipara' on its western side used this pond water, especially for cooking pulses because tubewell water took too much time to boil the 'dal' for not having pressure cooker with them. In earlier years beside pisciculture, local residents mainly share holders used to grow Ipomoea shak for domestic needs, and there were plenty of various trees of immense use values. Now in the present century people are more market oriented (twice a week), less labour intensive and more cost benefit friendly.

Thus there is progress and promotion of price or cost relevant work approach towards education of children and sacrifice of circumstances to meet the betterment of living with less intensive labour. Progress is paramount, with or without leaps and bound!



Shibpukur of Goghat, West Bengal