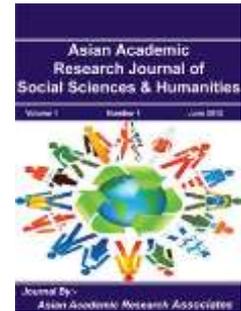




A Peer Reviewed International Journal of Asian
Academic Research Associates

AARJSH

**ASIAN ACADEMIC RESEARCH
JOURNAL OF SOCIAL
SCIENCE & HUMANITIES**



**DETERMINANTS AND CONSTRAINTS OF RURAL LIVELIHOOD
DIVERSIFICATION: A STUDY FROM BIRBHUM DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

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ABSTRACT

Livelihood diversification is viewed as a critical component of the rural economy. The study conducted in the Birbhum district of West Bengal provides an insight about the livelihood pattern and intends to identify the determinants and constraints to livelihood diversification in the study area. The rural resource base often has bearings on livelihood and well-being of their people, constraining improvement in the economic conditions of farm households solely from farming. The emerging consensus is that the livelihood security and well-being of rural households improves with the blending of non-farm economic activities with farm activities and such diversification of rural livelihood positively impacts the living conditions. In this study a sample of households from three different villages of the study region was surveyed using sampling techniques. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, frequency distribution tables and logit regression analysis. The results shows that number of adult members in a household, agricultural asset base, percapita expenditure, income accrued from different Govt schemes and the overall level of economic development of a region are the main driving force towards livelihood diversification in the study area. The main constraints faced by the households in the area are: poor asset base, lack of credit facilities, lack of awareness and ignorance, lack of rural infrastructure and lack of opportunities for new employment. However the results bring out the positive impact of diversification on the rural livelihood.

Keyword: *Livelihood, Diversification, constraints to livelihood diversification, determinants of livelihood diversification.*
