District Attachment Report

by S ALI

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WINTER STUDY TOUR

DISTRICT ATTACHMENT REPORT

PART	TOPIC
A	Tehsildar
B	Education

Name of the State	: West Bengal
Name of the District	: Nadia
Name of the Officer Trainee	: S. Asker Ali
OT Code	: C19

NADIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

PART A

CIRCLE OFFICER/ TEHSILDAR

In West Bengal, The functions of Tehsildar are performed by 2 offices:

a) Land Revenue by BLLRO (Block Land and Land Reforms Officer)

b) Development and welfare functions by BDO

BLLRO

Name of Office/ Section	Designation of Head	Responsibilities of Section	Act/ Rules implemented	Records maintained
BLLRO	BLLRO	Interface with Public, Monthly Progress report, Court Summons report, Land Ceiling	Section 23 of WBLR Act' 1955	Patta, RoR, Mutation
Revenue Office	Revenue Officer	Hearing on Section 50, Mutations, Enquiry on Industrial Conversions, Certification of RoR	Section 49, 50 of WBLR Act' 1955	
Gram Panchayat	Revenue Inspector	Inspection of land possession, Crop damage assessment, Patta enquiry for Landless labourers		
	Bhoomi Sahayak	Collects tax on land and provides Rent Revenue Receipts		

Remarks: All the sections were maintained neatly and computerization has been successfully done in these offices.

Functions of BLLRO

(i)   Revenue

Role	Act/ Provision	Remarks
Collection of Land Revenue and Cesses, Royalty, Price of Earth, Minor Minerals, Long and Short term lease, Change of Classification of Land, Short term quarry Permit	Section 22,23 of WBLR Act' 1955	Officials were very cooperative.

[1]
(ii)   Regulatory

Role	Act/ Provision	Remarks
Land Disputes	Section 50 of WBLR Act' 1955	Officials usually take longer time to address this issue.

[1]
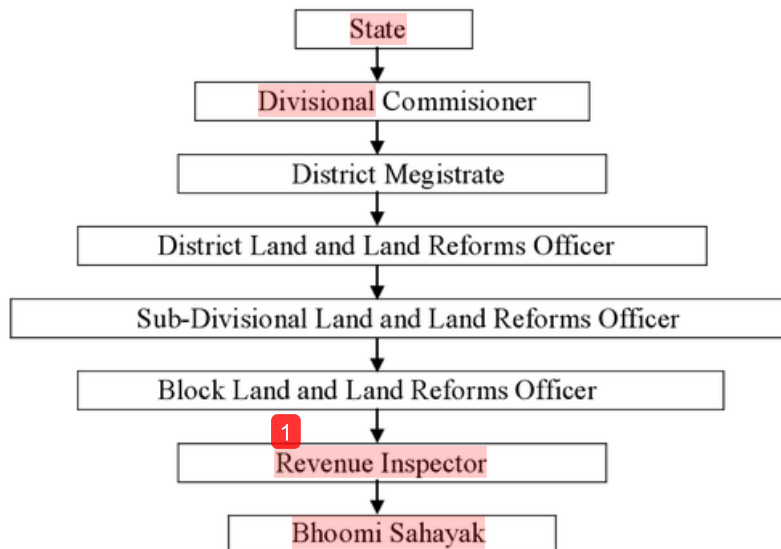(iii)   Role as certificate issuing authority

Role	Act/ Provision	Remarks
Patta, RoR, Mutation	Section 49 of WBLR Act' 1955	Mutation is done very systematically in a specified time period

[1]
(iv)   Emergency/ Disaster Management Role – No

It is taken care of by Special Officer Disaster Management.

(v)   Coordination with other departments - Registration department, BDO, SDO and Treasury Office

Structure of Revenue administration below Tehsil

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                    State
                      ↓
              Divisional Commisioner
                      ↓
              District Megistrate
                      ↓
        District Land and Land Reforms Officer
                      ↓
      Sub-Divisional Land and Land Reforms Officer
                      ↓
        Block Land and Land Reforms Officer
                      ↓
              [1] Revenue Inspector
                      ↓
                Bhoomi Sahayak
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Service Provided by BLLRO
- Issue of Patta,
- Record of Rights,
- Mutation
- Barga (Sharecroppers) Implementation
- Allocation of land for landlss labourers

BDO: Functions

(i)   Revenue

Role	Provision	Remarks
Block Development Officer	Plan & Supplementary Plan approval , Inspection of Scheme, Demand of wages and over all in charge of Block	BDO was very proactive and explain every minute details of the office

(ii)   Regulatory

BDO is the Executive magistrate for L&O like land litigations and Inquest at block level, in case of a Commissionerate area.

(iii)   Emergency/ Disaster Management Role

- Role in Relief and Rehabilitation during natural calamities in terms of Funds and materials.
- Report on Lightning, snake bite, drowning through SDM to DM.

(iv)   Coordination with other department

Department	Role
Executive Officer	As decided by the PRI bodies at Panchayat Samity level as per Action Plan and budget provisions implementing all kind of development schemes under the purview of WB Panchayat financial Rule 2003 & Panchayat Act1973

Structure of Revenue administration below Tehsil

(i)   Revenue village - not applicable for BDO

(ii)   Halka – not applicable

Services provided by Circle/ Tehsil office

Issue of certificates like Residential, Income, Married and Unmarried certificate is done by BDO office.

Financial management at Tehsil level

(i) No. of schemes implemented:

    a. Central – **28** (as per financial year 2016-17) like SBM, MGNREGS, IAY, etc

    b. State – **30** like Shikhashree, Kanyashree, Swathasathi, Samabathi

    c. Others – **3** like MPLADS, CSR from Damodar Valley Corporation and Eastern Coal Fields Limited

(ii) No. of bank Accounts: At **block level – 01**; **Panchayat Samiti – 10**

(iii) Is there any deviation from the guideline that there should be one bank Account per scheme? If so, why? **No**

(iv) Are all the bank Accounts updated? Check two passbooks and note when they were updated? It was told **Yes.** Last date of passbook updating – Could not see passbook

(v) Cash book: Study the cash book and note the following:

    a. Is it up-to-date (note date and last entry)? Yes

    b. How many heads are recorded in cash book? 15

    c. Are there any schemes which are no longer functional but the fund is parked? Yes **3 schemes** – Health sustem development programme, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, RLI

    d. Is double entry system of accounting followed? **Yes**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

- **Efficiency of the System and Office Management:**

The BDO office has adequate infrastructure in terms of space and building. The various documents related schemes and programmes were very well maintained. BDO is very active in scheme implementation. BDO office has a clear cut administrative division over inter-departmental and intra departmental boundaries over its functions.

While the BL&LRO office has a better infrastructure. The BL&LRO office has been computerized recently by National land Records Computerization Program. This Office is getting related documents from Gram Panchayat level and passing appropriate order regarding land disputes and mutations. The e-bhuchitra scheme is initiated for land records digitalization.

- **Financial Management:**

    Financial statements and passbooks are maintained up to date. Each programme has separate account and it is updated regularly. Land revenues collected are deposited in treasury. The main office which handles the land revenue had a single entry system.

    Further, financial administration was better in terms of schemes because only the administration related expenses were under the control of BDO. The BDO had the double entry system. Though financial administration is critical in running the day to day administration, its accountability is not fixed and consequently there is a high probability of misappropriation of fundsand other resources.

- **Devolution of Authority and Responsibility:**

    The BDO had designated roles and responsibilities for every department but the BLLRO officer had to call various authorities for giving a single document. The offices of BDO and BLLRO are equally sharing the functions of Tehsidhar. Both have the responsibility to do their functions with accountability and transparency.
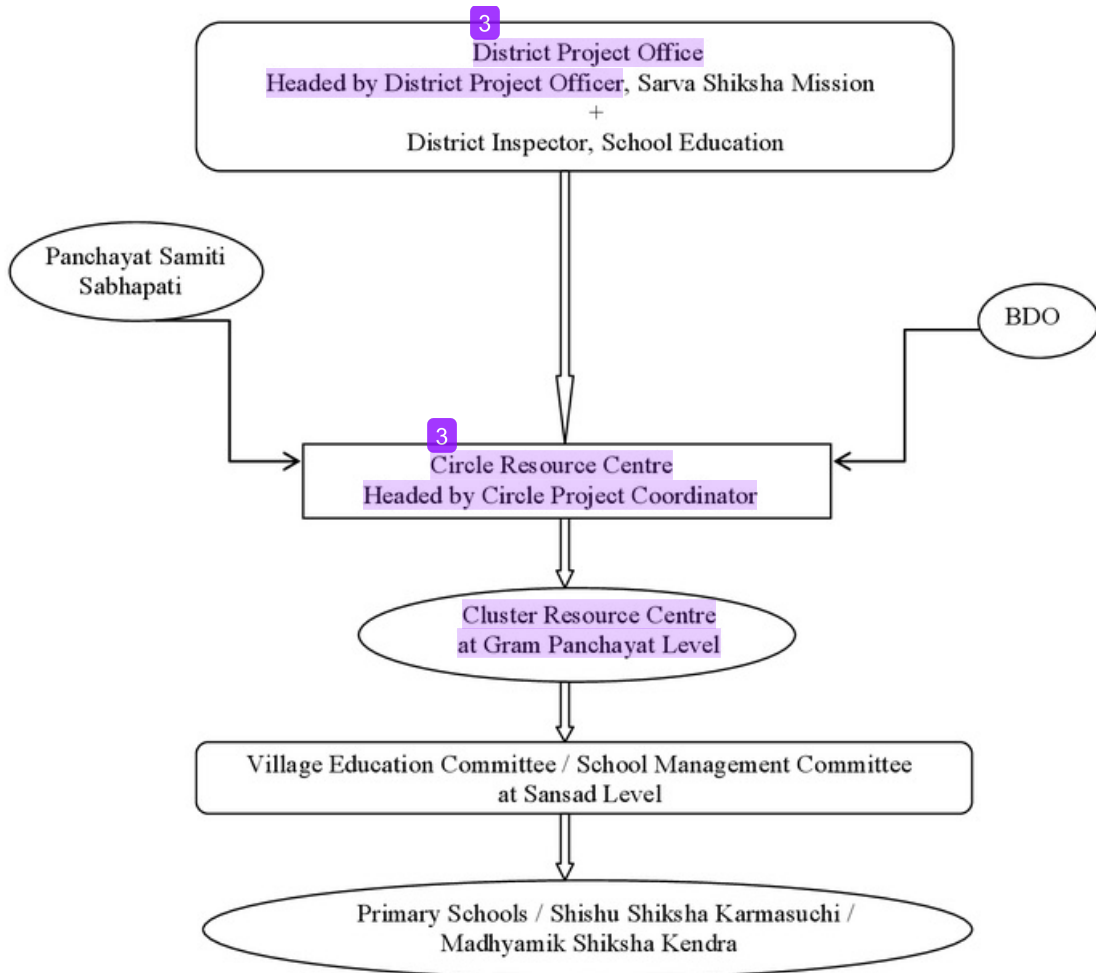
CONCLUSION

In a state like West Bengal, Land is considered as a pride. Land and Revenue administration play a very important and crucial role. Though land reforms achieved a land ownership for landless labors, still many confusions and complexities are there. Land records computerization process will solve all these issues. Moreover, to address the complexities associated with land and land reforms, political will, proper alignment of resources as well as commitment of the field level government functionaries are critical. Regular updation of land records and proper training of the lower rung officials will enhanced capacity of the state to deliver at the optimum level.

PART B

EDUCATION

1. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

a. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

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                    [3] District Project Office
              Headed by District Project Officer, Sarva Shiksha Mission
                                    +
                    District Inspector, School Education
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Panchayat Samiti Sabhapati → [3] Circle Resource Centre / Headed by Circle Project Coordinator ← BDO

Circle Resource Centre → Cluster Resource Centre at Gram Panchayat Level → Village Education Committee / School Management Committee at Sansad Level → Primary Schools / Shishu Shiksha Karmasuchi / Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra

b. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

At the district level, there is District Project Officer and District Inspector, School Education who acts as Project Officer and Joint Signatory for the implementation of the scheme. At the Block level as well as at the cluster level, there is no specific functionary to implement or monitor this Abhiyan.

2. PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

a. Shikshashree Scheme

It has been launched for Scheduled Caste day scholars studying in class V to VIII and it has been implemented since 2014-15 by merging the then existing schemes of Book Grant and Maintenance Grant.

b. Kanyashree Scheme

Unmarried girls between 13 - 14 years and studying in class VIII to XII standards in an institute affiliated to the state government are eligible for a scholarship of Rs. 500 per annum.

c. Teachers' Training Programme

It provides various incentives to persuade primary teachers and seconday teachers to come for training and skill development. Right now, 2134 teachers are undergoing training at the primary level and 734 upper primary teachers are also undergoing training.

3. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The various initiatives taken by the state government to ensure inclusive education are:

- Teachers training on Indian sign language.

- Teachers training on curriculum adaptation.

- Parents' training on awareness and different topics.

- Special educator training.

- Training on promotion of barrier free environment.

- Camps for assessment and providing disability certificate.

- Camps for assessment and providing aids and appliances.

- CLRC level awareness programme providing large print and braille books.

- Providing transport and escort grant (Class I to VIII) at the rate of Rs. 2500 per child per year.

4. STATUS OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION IMPLEMENTATION IN THE DISTRICT

Nadia is an educationally progressive district in the state of West Bengal. Its average literacy rate is 74.97% where male and female literacy rates are 79% and 70.9% respectively. 25% reservation of seats for non-minority, SC&ST, scavengers and BPL students in private schools are ensured.

Primary Educational Scenario

Number of Primary Schools	2630
Number of SSK	528
Total Enrolment	286798/282648
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	101.97
Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)	99.71
Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)	1:35
Number of Teachers	8174
Number of New Primary Schools sanctioned	39
Number of New Primary Schools functioning	30

Upper Primary Educational Scenario

Number of Upper Primary Schools	645
Number of MSK	106
Total Enrolment	329846
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	103.69
Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)	102
Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)	1:30
Number of Teachers	10793

Indeed the Right to Education Act is implemented effectively in the district and it is well supported by state government's schemes like Shikshashree and Kanyashree.

5. GIRL CHILD EDUCATION

Two Kasturba Gandhi Bal Vidyalayas (KGBV) are functional in the district and they act as feeders to high schools. I had visited one KGBV located in Krishna Nagar I Block. The girl students were very enthusiastic and they had dreams to become doctors and engineers and bring changes in the society.

6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RMSA account is maintained by RMSA district programme officer. All subject training fund is transferred to HM's account and finally HM will provide the Utilisation Certificate. School grant is given to 85 schools. RMSA fund received from central government share 75% and state government share 25 %.Auditing is done every year at school level and district level.

On the other hand, SSA in Nadia aims at providing a convergent framework for implementation of the basic postulate of the mission. This has encouraged all resources from different plan outlays for the district to converge towards infrastructure development in the education sector. Usually, trends reflect that the district level officials prepare the plans after assessing the needs of the people by ensuring overall participation. SSA account is maintained by SSA account manager, all utilisation certificates are also maintained in district, block and school level. Auditing is done every year.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND ASSESSMENT

The DM takes special care in imparting quality education at all levels of schools:

- **Primary:** Here SABL (Simplified Activity Based Learning) methodology is employed. When I assessed class I and II students, many of them could relate to their activity charts and knew basic alphabets and counting. Class V students could do addition, subtraction, simple division in maths, paragraph writing and dictation in English, as well as basic questions in sciences and social sciences.

- **Middle School:** ALM (Alternate Learning Methodology) is used. Children in class VI - VIII were studying Bengali, English, Maths, Sciences, Social Sciences as their subjects. They described, when asked, about India's freedom movement in history, disaster management in geography, United Nations, natural numbers, mensuration, geometry in mathematics.

- **High School**: Here, many schools had facilities like science laboratory, computer laboratory and library. In the school I visited, I attempted to assess attainment levels in Maths of class 10th and they were found lacking.

- **Senior High Schools**: Here too, educational levels were assessed and they showed a below satisfactory picture especially in science stream. Students were also not sure of what they would do after their class XII.

CONCLUSION

Nadia is a land of Bhagirathi and the land of Gouranga Mahaprabhu were Sanskrit teaching is a unique tradition of the district. The plan and budget of the district has always been prepared by keeping in mind the goals and objectives of SSM. The education sector is one of the priority sectors and "Education for All" is the mantra of the district administration. However, certain initiatives need to be taken up on a mission mode.

- Regular assessment of learning level of students in all the schools.

- Need to develop school buildings as learning aid for the students.

- Special residential schools for the SC&ST need to be developed.

- Tuition culture in the district is rampant and this requires special attention.

- Teachers' training needs to be prioritised as it is the weakest link as of now.

- Teachers' attendance needs to be improved and in this, use of biometric attendance will be crucial.

- Performing teachers need to be acknowledged and incentivised.

- Proper sanitation and cleanliness need to be maintained in all the schools.

Indeed, education is the most effective tool for the social transformation and everyone has a critical role to play. The District Collector being the head of the district has to be very proactive and ensure quality education for every child in the district. This will help in achieving an educationally developed district which in turn, will bring peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

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