

## **Department of Geography, 15/06/2022:-**

### **Report on “Field trip to study the floods and bank erosion of Majuli, Assam”**

#### **Introductions and Study area :-**

On 12 Jun 2022, the 6<sup>th</sup> semester students of Department of Geography arranged a field trip to study the floods and bank erosion of Majuli, Assam to fulfill the requirements of their disaster management based project work in their 6<sup>th</sup> semester syllabus of CBCS curriculum. The largest river island is a home to 1,67,245 people (2011) and the pristine cultural heritage of Assam and the Vaisnavite shrines, popularly known as Satras. As such, the island has been a principal place of pilgrimage for the last 400 years. However, presently it is well known for having suffered from two natural hazards- severe bank erosion and flooding cause by the erratic behaviour of the river Brahmaputra. The Brahmaputra river is characterized by high seasonal variability in monsoon flow, sediment transport and channel pattern, it creates severe bank erosion and flood to Majuli every year.

#### **Objective:-**

- The main objective of the project is to develop understanding of the learner about “Disaster Management” and to make the students’ aware about the concepts of hazards, risk and vulnerability.
- To familiar with the measures taken to control bank erosion and flood.
- To familiar with the Socio-economic conditions of the people of Majuli, Assam.

#### **Methodology:-**

To fulfill the objectives of the study both primary and secondary data has been collected. Relevant information was collected by personnel interview from the office of DC and other officials of revenue circle authority. Field visits were done to get first hand observation of bank erosion and flood affected areas. Cultural heritage site were also visited to develop better understanding about Socio-economic and cultural heritage of Majuli.

#### **Observation:-**

- The flood of Brahmaputra river has been creating havoc every year in the Island. This year over 1875 hectares of croplands were damaged by food.
- Bank erosion was commonly observed in different areas (6.7 km<sup>2</sup> per year), like Bengena Ati, Naya Bojar and Nimati Ghat area.
- Flood and bank erosion has a disastrous impact on the environment and ecology of the Island.
- Government has constructed more than 100 km embankment surrounding the island in an effort to give relief from recurring floods.
- Majuli is the hub of Assamese new-Vaishnavism and represent the colourful Assamese culture. It is a home to diverse ethnic peoples, tribes and castes of Assam.

## Outcome:-

They were able to relate the concept and lessons though in the classroom and read from the books or hearing from all other sources to their ground reality. It gives the students an access to learn how bank erosion and flood seriously disrupts the topography and society of a place (Majuli). They observed how people and environment were adversely affected by natural disaster and people suffer for their survival. By visiting Satras (Namghar/ Vaishnavism monastic) they understood the Satriya culture, history and heritage of Majuli as well as Assam.

## Photo gallery:-

