

## 【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】

### Integrated Science and Innovative Science (New multidisciplinary fields)



Title of Project : Long-term Trends of Indian Villages

**Tsukasa Mizushima**

(The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology,  
Professor)

Research Area : Area Study

Keyword : South Asia

#### 【Purpose and Background of the Research】

India is now experiencing rapid and drastic changes. It is widely believed that India would greatly improve her economic and political position in the world in the coming decades. Assessing her direction, estimating her deepening socio-economic problems, and seeking solutions for further development is one of the most important tasks for the Japanese scholars engaged in area studies in Asian regions.

For performing the task it is essential to accumulate information and methodologies in various aspects of social and economic lives in India for decades. The academic facilities held by the Academics are, however, poor and wait for drastic improvement.

This project, which is to be jointly conducted by those from social sciences and by those from natural sciences, is organized to improve the situation drastically. It will build up a strong research base for analyzing the long-term trends of Indian rural scene by accumulating source materials and by constructing essential data bases. Based on these fundamental works, it will seek best solutions for the problems India is facing at.

#### 【Research Methods】

The specific feature of the project's methodology lies in the combination of macro and micro studies based upon GIS (Geographical Information System). The macro study team will process the reports and statistics such as National Sample Survey, Census, Annual Survey of Industries, Agricultural Statistics of India, Season and Crop Report, Rural Household Survey, National Family Health Survey, School Report Cards, National Readership Survey, records from National Council of Applied Economic Research, Environmental Information Centre, Ministry of Environment and Forest and others. Starting from the contemporary period, it will try to clarify the historical processes as much as possible by bringing up quantitative issues.

The micro team, on the other hand, will conduct

field surveys and to bring up qualitative issues. The current situation, its past trend, and the issues are then discussed and analyzed by all the members for further clarification with the assistance of GIS-based analysis.

#### 【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

The economic and environment data bases compiled and processed in the project would become the fundamental information stock in ensuring the scientific understanding of rural India not only for the future but also in the past. The research based on them would also provide ample knowledge for the academics or those in government/non-government organizations in Japan, India, and other countries in elaborating academic and pragmatic issues.

The research will involve Indian and other scholars, hold several international workshops and symposiums, put GIS maps on the web, and publish results in various forms basically in English.

It is hoped not only the international research communities on India but also India herself will greatly be benefitted by this project.

#### 【Publications Relevant to the Project】

- T. Mizushima, "From Mirasidar to Pattadar: South India in the Late Nineteenth Century", *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, vol. 39, nos. 2 & 3, 2002.
- T. Mizushima, "Constructing Spatial Databases from Old Paper Documents", *Islamic Area Studies with Geographical Information Systems*, Okabe Atsuyuki (ed.), RoutledgeCurzon, London, 2004, pp.21-28.

【Term of Project】 FY2009-2013

【Budget Allocation】 128,200 Thousand Yen

#### 【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://www.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~zushima9/>  
(Another web for the project is now under construction)