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Emergence of Census Towns and its Socio-Economic Condition: Case of West Bengal

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Abstract

This paper analyses the growth of urbanization in West Bengal with a special focus on census towns in West Bengal using census data of 2011. West Bengal registered a massive increase in urbanization. West Bengal is one of the most populous states in India and according to the 2011 census the state has 31.87 percent of urban population. The growth of urban population since 1991 is more than 4 percent. However West Bengal has only 129 (Municipalities 124 and 5 Municipal corporation) legal urban local bodies. The state of West Bengal tops the list with total 782 census towns against the figure of 252 in the previous census. Major contribution of this increase was due to increase in number of census towns which are not governed by urban local governments. Census has defined census towns as 'places that satisfy three fold criteria of population of 5000, 75 per cent of male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and density of 400 persons per sq.km. They can be easily defined as transitional urban areas at various levels of transition which is also known as urbanization by implosion, where massive density of population, economic change and access to good level of public services leads to urban growth. In west Bengal the higher growth of census towns have occurred in Gangetic alluvial plain and traditionally such growth of census towns took place in an around the Kolkata Metropolitan Area (KMA). The paper categorized the state into five zones on the basis of geographical homogeneity and tried to locate the socio-economic changes of the each zone. Emergence of huge number of census town can be attributed partly to the change in the economy of the zone which include massive decline of the male workforce in agriculture and related activities along with shift to tertiary sector.

Key word: *Census town, work participation rate, spatial distribution, Lopsided Urbanization, Statutory town*

Introduction: Data from Census 2011 indicates that the decline in demographic growth in districts within the metro cities which suggesting that these have become less welcoming to prospective migrants, concerns about exclusionary urbanization. On the other hand, the small and medium towns, located away from the emerging global centres of growth, particularly those in backward regions, have failed to attract substantial private investment. So it advocates that urbanization process has become concentrated in developed regions and larger cities in recent years, with backward areas and smaller towns tending to stagnate.¹ West Bengal has long history Urbanization. Its lopsided pattern of urbanization is evolved over two hundred years as a consequence of colonial economic and administrative policy. West Bengal urban population traditionally concentrated in Kolkata and Burdwan district. Rest of the state is backward and neglected due to its agricultural base. Recently published census data on urbanization reveals that growth of census towns in the state is highest in India. So this paper tried to identify the spatial distribution of census towns across the state as well as their socio economic conditions. Some of the important fact of the west Bengal urbanization was that dominance of urban scene by the Kolkata metropolis, and Burdwan district even after the six decades

¹Kundu, A. (2011) Trends and processes of urbanization in India. Human Settlements Group International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

of independence. Situation has now changed slightly. Number of class I and II towns are now found not only in Burdwan and Kolkata metropolitan region but also in the Jalpiguri and West Medinipur and Nadia.

Objectives: The main objective of this paper is – i) to find out spatial distribution and size classification of census towns of West Bengal with respect to the four regions and districts respectively. ii) To find out socio economic conditions of census towns of different zones. Socio economic conditions of the census town include literacy rate, sex ratio, work participation rate, female work participation rate and availability of work through main and marginal workers.

Material and Methods: Mainly 2011 census database of West Bengal has been used. 2001 census is used to compare with 2011 census database. Apart from that different published article has been used for the fulfillment of the study.

Methods include compilation, calculation and presentation of collected data. Socio-economic data of census towns of west Bengal has been analysed and presented in a tabular form with percentage and ratio.

Analysis and Findings: The emergence of large number of census town in West Bengal is remarkable. According to 2011 census West Bengal tops the list with total 782 census towns against the figure of 252 in the previous census. In this paper an attempt has been made to find out the causes behind the coming out of large number of census town with their spatial distribution, density of population and occupational situation of the census towns. It is to be noted that census towns are those towns that has been recognized census of India on the basis of certain predetermined criteria.

Table: 1 Growth of Census Towns and Statutory Towns of West Bengal

Year	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011
Growth rate of census town	6.62	7.02	21.03
Growth rate of statutory town	-----	0.60	0.49

Source: Census of India 1981,1991,2001,2011 data compiled by author

State authority may not recognize the area as urban. According to 2011 census West Bengal has 31.89 percent urban population with a decadal growth 2.99 percent. Emergence of Such a huge urban population is possible due to emergence of large number of census towns in the state. Growth of the statutory town in West Bengal is very slow. From 2001-2011 it became slower than in 1991-2001. Whereas the growth of census town is steady but previously it has observed that the development of new census towns in West Bengal are found in areas which are already relatively highly urbanized.² After two decade is there any change in process of urbanization in the state? Or is it the same story which shows new census towns are concentrated in an around the metropolitan area and major urban complex of the state. However recent study on spatial pattern of census town shows that maximum number of towns emerged in the agriculturally prosperous districts located in the central part of the state. The main reason behind such growth is agricultural prosperity and presence of agro-based industries in the state.³

²Dasgupta, B et al (eds) (1988) *Urbanization Migration and Rural Change- A study of West Bengal*, New Delhi, A Mukherjee & Co Pvt Ltd

³Chatterjee, M (2013) A preliminary Discussion on the census 2011 Results, *Urban India*, Vol-33, Issue- I, Jan-June,

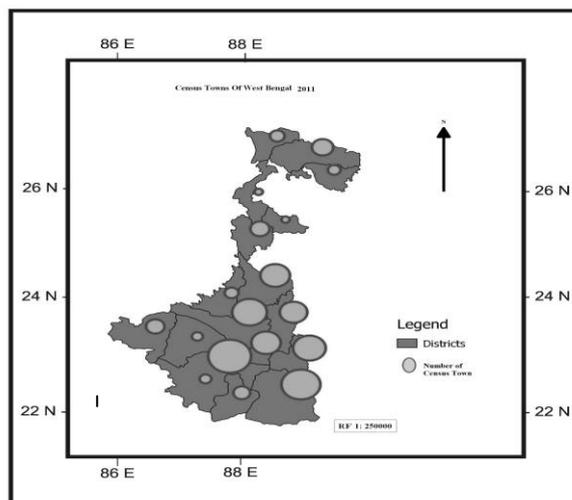


Fig-1

To understand the spatial distribution of census town Dasgupta et.al (1988) has classified the West Bengal into four regions followed by Chatterjee (2013) also classified the state into five regions on the basis of geographical contiguity. This paper also made an attempt to classify the state into five major zones on the basis of geographical homogeneity to understand the recent changes in process of urbanization of the state.

Maximum number of census town emerged in the South twenty four pgs, Haora, North twenty four pgs, Murshidabad and Nadia district. Apart from Murshidabad the other five districts are close to Kolkata metropolis although parts of these districts are under metropolitan area. Uttar and Daksin Dinajpur, Birbhum, Kochbihar and Bankura have minimum number of census towns compare to the other districts of West Bengal. All these five districts are peripheral districts of the state. Town density per block of the district is also high in case of Haora, South twenty four pgs, North twenty four pgs, Hooghly and Nadia. Medium town density per block is found in Burdwan, Murshidabad, and newly created Alipurduar district. Rests of the 11 districts have very low town density per block.

Table: 2 Decadal Changes and Density of Census Towns per CD Block of West Bengal

Name of the District	Absolute change of census towns 2001-2011	Census town density per blocks of each district	
		2001	2011
Darjeeling	20	0.33	2
Jalpaiguri	21*	1	2.4
Kochbihar	8	0.3	1
Uttar Dinajpur	2	0.33	0.55
Daksin Dinajpur	5	0	0.6
Maldah	24	0.2	1.8
Murshidabad	43	0.8	2.5
Birbhum	13	0.05	0.7
Burdwan	33	1.7	2.8
Nadia	40	0.8	3.2
North 24 pgs	58	0.9	3.5
Hooghly	36	1.5	3.5
Bankura	7	0.09	0.4

Purulia	16	0.45	1.3
Haora	85	3.5	9.6
South 24pgs	97	0.5	3.8
West Medinipur	22	0.3	0.3
East Medinipur			0.8
Alipureduar	----	----	2.8
West Bengal	530	0.7	2.2

Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011, data compiled by author

*including Alipurduar district

Decadal Change in town density of Bankura districts is very slow while in case of Haora it is very fast.

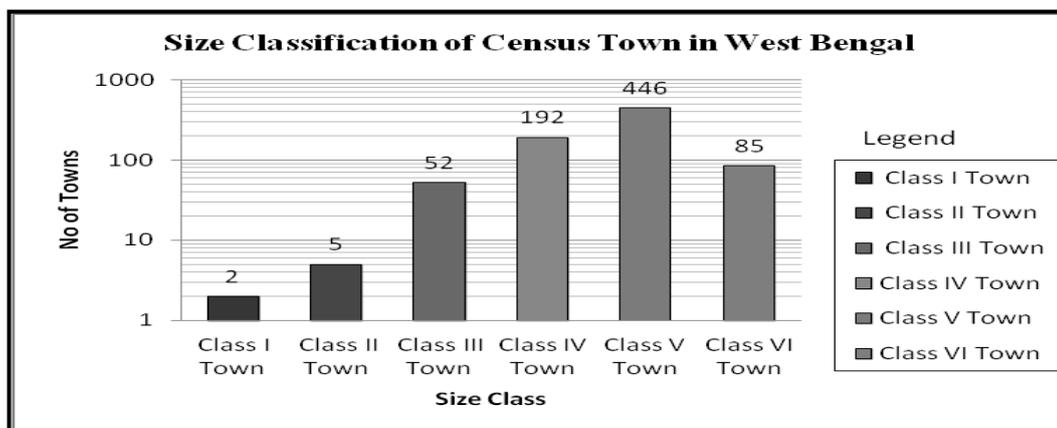
To examine the concentration of urban population size classification of town is necessary. It helps to understand whether maximum proportion of urban population living in large towns or small towns. According to 2011 census maximum number of urban population living in the class V towns followed by class IV and class III towns.

Table: 3 Class Wise and District Wise Distribution of Census Towns in West Bengal 2011

Districts	Size class						Total number	Percentage of total
	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI		
Darjeeling	---	---	1	7	12	4	24	3.06
Jalpaiguri	1	2	2	5	4	4	18	2.3
Kochbihar	---	---	2	1	5	4	12	1.5
Uttar Dinajpur	---	---	---	1	4	---	5	0.63
Daksin Dinajpur	---	---	---	---	4	1	5	0.63
Maldah	---	---	---	11	15	1	27	3.45
Murshidabad	---	---	13	18	32	2	65	8.31
Birbhum	---	---	---	5	8	1	14	1.79
Burdwan	---	---	5	20	44	19	88	11.25
Nadia	---	1	3	20	27	4	55	7.03
North 24 pgs	---	---	3	21	50	4	78	9.97
Hooghly	---	---	3	16	40	5	64	8.18
Bankura	---	---	---	1	8	---	9	1.15
Purulia	---	---	2	3	19	1	25	3.19
Haora	1	1	10	31	80	12	135	17.26
South 24pgs	---	---	7	24	60	20	111	14.19
West Medinipur	---	1	---	1	8	---	10	1.27
East Medinipur	---	---	1	1	17	2	21	2.68
Alipureduar	---	---	---	6	9	1	16	2.04
West Bengal	2	5	52	192	446	85	782	100
percentage	0.26	0.65	6.64	24.57	57.0	10.88	100	
Population %	2.9	4.06	17.05	32.71	38.53	4.69	100	

Source: Census of India 2011, data compiled by author

Bally Jagacha census town of Haora and Debgram of Jalpiguri are only two class I town where there is more than one lakh population. Both Bally Jagacha and Debgram towns are located close to Haora and Siliguri Municipal Corporation respectively. They can be called an extension of both these Municipal Corporation.



Source: Census of India 2011

Fig-2

Five class II towns are Binnaguri, Daksin Khagrabari, Bankra, Phuliya and Khargapur railway station. Both Binnaguri, Daksin Khagrabari is located in Jalpiguri and close to Siliguri Municipal Corporation. Therefore Debogam, Binnaguri and Daksin Khagrabari can form a large metropolitan area around the Siliguri in near future. Phuliya is traditionally a hub of small weavers so agriculture activity is in less priority compare to household industry. Kharagpur is a railway town so growth of this town is expected. It is apparent from the District wise distribution of size classification of town is that class IV and Class V towns are high in south twenty four pgs, Haora, North twenty four pgs and Hooghly. It is because of the spillover from Kolkata metropolis and led to the transformation of adjoining rural areas into census towns.⁴ It may be pointed out here that the population growth (0.19%) of Kolkata Municipal Corporation from 2001-2011 is negative. Class VI census towns are high in South twenty four pgs, Haora and Burdwan and completely absent in Bankura and Uttar Dinajpur District.

To get a clear picture of the spatial distribution of newly emerged census town a classification is being prepared on the basis of geographical homogeneity of the region. Five major zones have been identified on the basis of geographical homogeneity. Following are the major five zones.

Table: 4 Classifications of Census Towns

Zones	Name of the Zones	Number of Districts	Number of Census towns located
I	Census town located at the Hill and Terai zone	Darjeeling, Jalpiguri, Kochbihar, Alipurduar	70 (8.95%)
II	Census town located on Gangetic alluvial Plain (except the KMDA)	Uttar Dinajpur, Daksin Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad, North 24 pgs (Part), South 24pgs (part), Nadia (part), Hooghly (part), Haora (part), Burdwan,	321 (41.04)
III	Census towns close to the Kolkata metropolis	North 24 pgs (Part), South 24pgs (part), Nadia (part), Hooghly (part), Haora (part)	286 (36.58%)

⁴Ibid

IV	Census town in the Red lateritic/ Rur area	Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, West Medinipur	59 (7.54%)
V	Census town located on Coastal zone	Sundarban blocks of South 24pgs and North 24 pgs, East Medinipur	46 (5.89)

* District headquarters of North 24 pgs, South 24pgs, Hooghly and Haora has been excluded.

Parentheses figures are in percentage

Census towns in **zone I** has extended in hill and *terai* districts of the state. Darjeeling, Jalpiguri, Kochbihar and newly created Alipurduar district are included in this zone. These four districts have total 37 blocks and 70 census towns have emerged in 25 blocks. Geographically this area is partly under swialik Himalaya and partly under *terai*. The area has so many large and medium tea garden based settlement and out of which six has become census towns. Total population of the census towns in this zone is almost 9 lakh. In this zone only one census town is belong to class one town i.e. Debogarm. Binnaguri is another settlement which is a class II town. Both these towns are close to the Siliguri municipal corporation and they can be called as the extension of the Siliguri Corporation which is the gateway of the North eastern states. 30 percent of the census towns in this zone belong to the class V town. Inter district variation are present here. Darjeeling district has largest number of census towns and most of them are belong to the class IV and V category. It is to be noted that most of census towns have developed close their district headquarters.

Zone II covers the whole Gangetic plain except the KMDA area. This zone includes the part of North and south 24 pgs, Haora, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Maldah, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Burdwan and Nadia. This is the largest zone and has total 199 blocks. Out of which 30 blocks are under the Kolkata metropolitan Area. This zone has total 321 census towns and more than 50 percent of them are belong to the class V town. There are more than 23 percent town belong to the class IV town. This zone has inter and intra district disparity in number census towns. Burdwan has the highest number of census town i.e. 88 followed by Murshidabad district with 65 census towns. In Burdwan district 69 census towns out of 88 are spread around the Durgapur and Asansole urban complex. There are some blocks in Murshidabad, Howrah, Maldah and Burdwan where more than 10 census towns developed in a single blocks. In Mushidabad Raghunathganj II and Suti II blocks have 10 and 13 census towns respectively in each block. In Burdwan there are three blocks namely Pandabeswar, Ondal and Raniganj have presence of

15, 14, and 13 census towns in each block respectively. Howrah and Maldah district have one block each where there is presence of more than ten census towns namely Jagatballavpur and Kaliachak I.

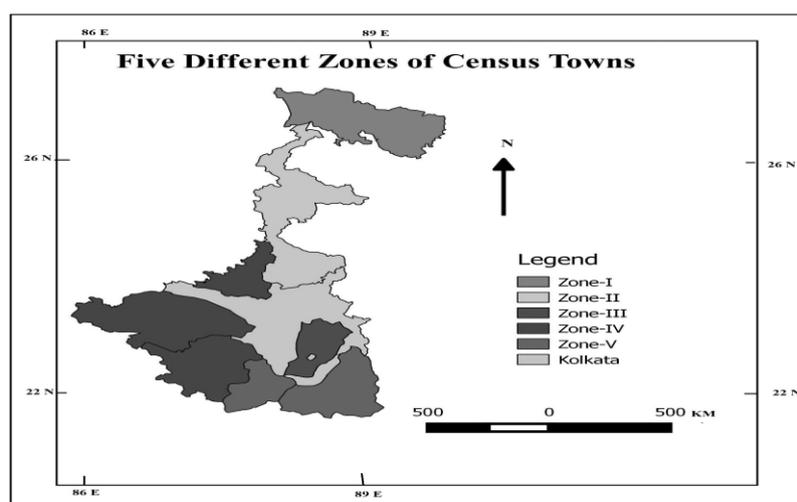


Fig-3

Census towns in **zone III** are directly influenced by the Kolkata metropolis. This zone comprised of 281 census town within 30 blocks of five districts namely North 24 pgs, South 24 pgs, Nadia, Hooghly, Haora. This zone holds more than 36 percent of the total census town emerged in state. No doubt spill over of population from Kolkata metropolis is responsible for such transformation of rural area close to the Kolkata. Ball jagachha and Bankra of Howrah district are class I and Class II town respectively in this zone. More than 58 percent of towns are in class V category and more than 27 percent towns are in class IV towns. Both Bankra and Ballyjagachha are close to the Howrah Municipal Corporation so they are just extension of that settlement. This zone also has inter-district disparity of number of census town. Howrah alone has 91 census towns in this zone. It is only Howrah where there is presence of both class I and Class II towns. In Howrah there are three blocks Domjur, Sankrail and Panchla have 23, 23 and 20 census towns respectively. Apart from that there are other blocks in other districts in this zone where more than 10 census towns develop. These blocks are Barakpore I and Barakpore II, Barasat I, Chanditala II and Bishnupur.

Table: 5 Measures of Concentration of Census Towns of Five Different Zones

Name of Zones	Mean	STDEV	CV
I (Hill and terai)	17.5	5	0.29
II (Gangetic Alluvial Plain)	32.1	27.4	0.85
III (KMA)	57.2	23.37	0.41
IV (Red Lateritic/ Rur Area)	14.5	7.32	0.5
V (Coastal Area)	15.66	10.11	0.64

Source: Census of India Calculated by the author

Zone IV comprised four districts which include Bankura, Birbhum, Puruliya and West Medinipur. This zone is covered extensively by the deciduous forest locally called jungle *mahal*. This zone has total 90 blocks and in which 59 census towns developed within 37 blocks. It is traditionally backward region of West Bengal. Presence of lateritic soil makes difficult for Agriculture. More than 74 percent of the census towns in this zone are in class V category. Maximum number of census towns develops in Puruliya district. Kharagpur Railway station is only class II census town present here. In Bankura census towns develop in Barjora are close to the Durgapur Asansol urban complex area. It is to be noted that heart of Bankura district has complete absence of census towns. On the other hand census towns in puruliya are wide spread across the district.

Zone V is the composed of the coastal district of West Bengal. Sundarban blocks of both North 24 pgs, South 24 pgs and East Medinipur districts are included in this zone. This zone has total 44 blocks and in which 46 census towns develop within 19 blocks. 26 census towns develop in Sundarbans 7 blocks. This zone is also a backward area of West Bengal. Schedule tribe and Schedule Caste population are dominated in this Zone. More than 67 percent towns in this zone are belonging to class V towns. Census towns in sundarban region develops mainly in an around the Canning I and Canning II block. In East Medinipur Kolaghat block alone have five census towns.

Though the highest number of census town is located in the Gangetic alluvial plain but highest average number of census town is located in zone III, close to the Kolkata. It is evident from the coefficient of variation that though large number of census town emerge in the Gangetic alluvial plain but they may not be able to hold such transformation for longer period and again it would be counted as large village. While census town emerge in zone I and zone III are more stable and transformation of these rural areas are stronger than the others.

Above five zones census towns are the product of economies of urbanization. In other words it is city specific economies of agglomeration. Out of 25 agglomerations 48 percent are concentrated in the zone III. Hill and Terai zone as well as the Kolkata metropolitan are also have more than 20 percent urban agglomeration. On the other hand coastal zone of West Bengal has complete absence of urban agglomeration.

Table: 6 Urban Agglomerations Corresponding to Different Zones

Name of the Zones	Urban Agglomeration	Percentage
I	Jalpiguri, Siliguri, Alipurduar, Darjeeling and Kochbihar	20
II	Burdwan, Englishbazar, Berhampore, Raiganj, Krishnanagar, Balurghat, Santipur, Nabadwip, Dhuliyon, Jangipur, Basirhat, Durgapore and Asansol	48
III	Kolkata, Habra, Dankuni, Ranaghat, Chakdah	24
IV	Khargapore, Puruliya	8

Source: Census of India 2011

In terms of population size largest urban agglomeration is the Kolkata and followed by Asansol, Siliguri and Durgapur and Burdwan. On the other hand smallest urban agglomeration is Kochbihar and Jangipur. There are four municipalities which are not under urban agglomeration. Haldia, Medinipur, Bankura and Bongaon municipalities have not fall geographically under urban continuum. It should be mentioned that Murshidabad and Nadia district both have develop five and three sizeable urban agglomerations.

So it is very apparent from the above discussion is that maximum number of census towns develops on the Gangetic alluvial plain followed by the Kolkata metropolitan area. Notably urban agglomerations on the Gangetic alluvial plain are also highest. However size of urban agglomeration varies in different zone. Kolkata urban agglomeration is largest in terms of both size of population and number of urban unit it covers. Urban agglomeration has vital role in the transformation of rural area into urban and benefits derives from the agglomeration produce diversity of economic activities that concentrated in a space.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Census Towns

Emergence of census towns indicates the transformation of rural area. Such demographic, social and economic transformation of rural area can be identified with sex ratio, literacy rate, female literacy rate, number of total worker, number of female worker etc. In this part an attempt has been made to catch such transformation of rural area at the zonal level.

Table: 7 Zone Wise Demographic Features of Census Towns

Zones	Total Population	Male Population	Female Population	Schedule Caste	Schedule Tribe	Sex Ratio
I (Hill and terai)	11.30	50.50	49.49	31.54	6.80	978
II (Gangetic Alluvial Plain)	39.15	51.20	48.79	20.08	1.86	952
III (KMA)	37.66	51.03	48.96	22.14	0.8	959
(Red Lateritic/ Rur Area)	6.91	51.01	48.99	20.03	3.27	957
(Coastal Area)	4.97	51.01	48.98	26.14	0.25	958

Source: Census of India 2011 Note: except parentheses figures all are in percentage

Zone II census towns have highest number of people followed by zone III has the population. Zone II is the Gangetic alluvial plain and 48 percent of urban agglomeration are present in this zone that makes it the number one in total population. Earlier it was Kolkata metropolitan area which occupied the top position in terms of total population. Apart from that zone II is wider and population in this zone is dispersed across the zone. Coastal zone has the lowest number population. Basically due to the backwardness both zone IV and V have low level of urbanization.

Table: 8 Literacy of Census towns 2011

Zone	Total literacy rate	Male literacy rate	Female literacy rate
I	75.38	75.71	66.59
II	69.88	69.81	60.26
III	78.96	78.28	71.23
IV	76.78	73.92	61.19
V	79.88	75.62	65.62

Source: Census of India 2011 Note: figures are in percentage

Literacy rate across the five zones are not uniform. Highest literacy rate is found in zone V followed by zone III and IV. Lowest literacy rate is found in zone II although this zone is highly urbanized compare to the zone IV and V. On the other hand highest male literacy is found in zone III and this zone level of urbanization is the highest. It indicates that educated men are migrating in this zone. Female literacy is also highest in zone III and lowest in zone II. The probable reason is that zone II is extensive compare to others and include some districts like Murshidabad, Maldah, South Dinajpur and North Dinajpur which are backward in terms development aspect of the district.

Table: 9 Work Participation of Census Towns 2011

Zones	Total worker	Male Worker	Female worker
I	36.23	56.20	17.15
II	38.06	54.17	21.05
III	37.12	59.17	14.55
IV	34.24	52.50	15.29
V	35.53	54.72	14.58

Source: Census of India 2011 Note: figures are in percentage

Work participation is important factor to be qualified as a census town. Work participation is highest in the zone II followed by zone III and zone I. It indicates two things one is that availability of work has increased in Gangetic alluvial plain. Two is that non agricultural activities are growing slowly in this area. Data also reveals that dependency ratio is very high in all the five zones almost 60 percent people are dependent population in all the five zones. Female work participation rate is highest in zone II followed by zone I. surprisingly female work participation is lowest in most urbanized zone III. Now it would be ideal to look the availability of work from two perspectives provided by the census one is in form of main worker and other is in form of marginal worker.

Table: 10 Distributions of Main and Marginal Worker 2011

Zone	Main worker	Marginal worker	Main worker		Marginal worker	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
I	85.53	14.47	80.57	19.43	51.06	48.94
II	79.60	20.40	83.29	16.71	53.33	46.67
III	85.03	14.97	85.24	14.76	56.62	43.37
IV	76.60	23.40	84.02	15.98	60.47	39.53
V	72.85	27.15	86.27	13.72	64.87	39.13

Source: Census of India 2011 Note: figures are in percentage

Main Workers are those workers who had worked for the major part of the reference period i.e. 6 months or more. Marginal Workers are those workers who had not worked for the major part of the reference period i.e. less than 6 months. It is apparent from the table 1.10 that highest number of main worker is found in zone I and III. Zone III is highly urbanized so job availability is higher in this zone compare to others. State two backward zones have lowest number of main worker and highest number of marginal worker. If we look at the marginal worker from the gender perspective then it is apparent that first three zone have the highest number of female marginal worker compare to the last two backward area.

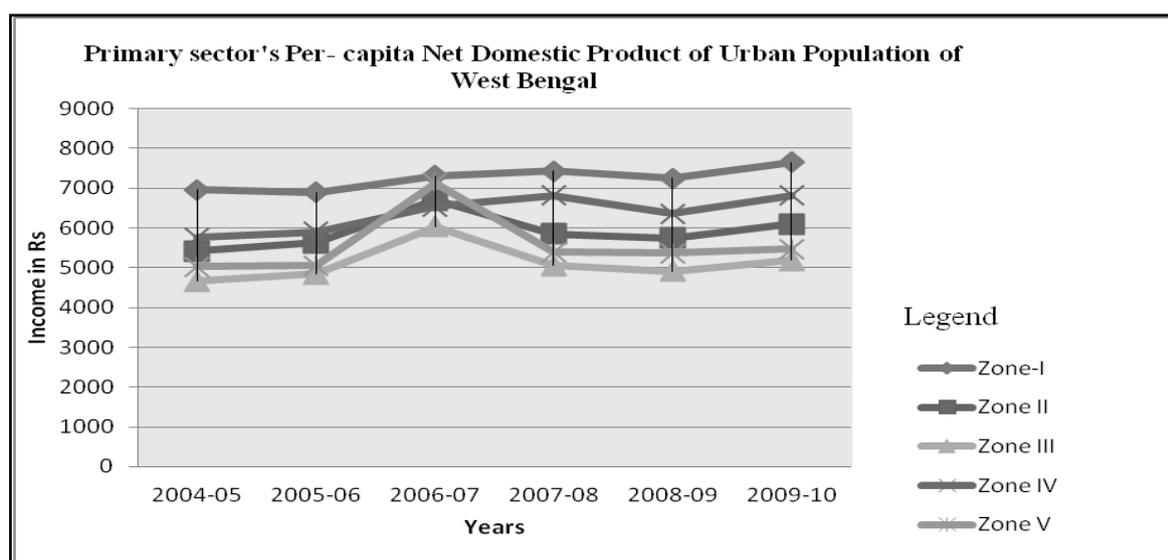
Table: 11 Occupational structures of main worker of Census Towns 2011

Zone	Cultivator		Agriculture labour		Household industry		Others	
	Main	Marginal	Main	Marginal	Main	Marginal	Main	Marginal
I	2.75	3.81	4.65	12.57	2.88	6.25	89.72	77.39
II	2.97	1.86	8.08	15	22.34	31.45	66.59	51.71
III	1.95	1.80	3.96	9.30	14.69	26.55	79.40	61.66
IV	2.90	2.32	6.85	2.32	6.55	23.25	83.59	62.89
V	4.54	4.16	10.22	29.16	4.54	4.16	79.37	58.43

Source: Census of India 2011 Note: figures are in percentage

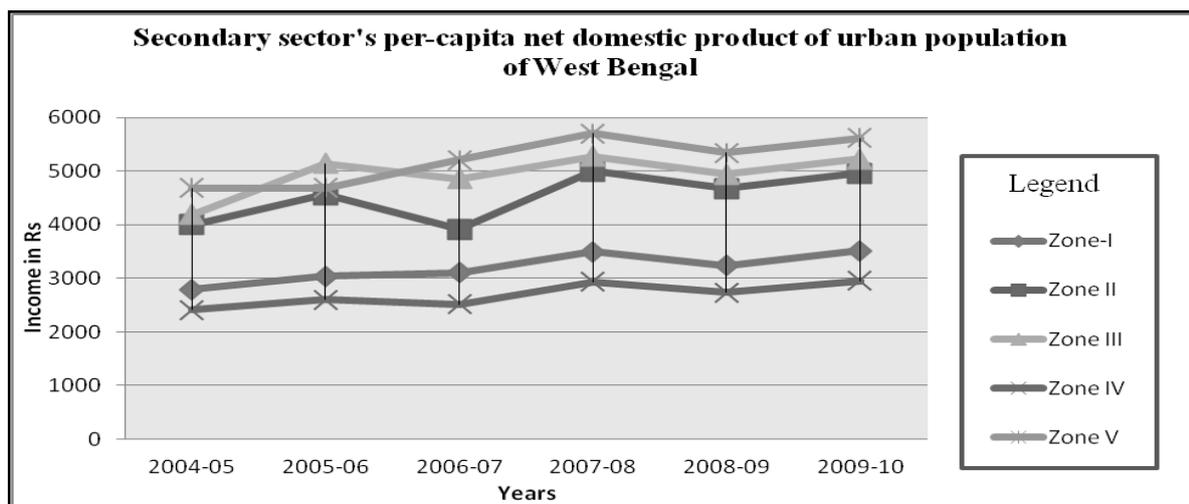
The Main workers are classified on the basis of Industrial category of workers into the four categories. Transformation of the rural area is happening due to the shifts from agriculture to household industry and other sectors. It clearly indicates that development of household industry in zone II is highest compare to the other four regions. Other category workers which is mainly composed of non household industry, construction, trade and transport are very high in zone I followed by zone IV. It is low in zone II which is close to the Kolkata metropolitan area. Expectedly number of agricultural labour and cultivator is very high in zone V.

To find out the factor behind the socio-economic change of the each five zone and transformation of the rural areas per-capita net domestic product of is calculated. Primary sector is mainly composed of agriculture and its allied activities while secondary sector formed by the industry and tertiary sector is composed by the service sector. Hill and Terai zone is mostly dominated by the primary sector and followed by Red lateritic zone is also have a dependence on agriculture and allied activities so number of census town in these zones are low in number. Zones surrounding Kolkata have minimum dependence on primary activities.



Source of Economics survey 2011-12

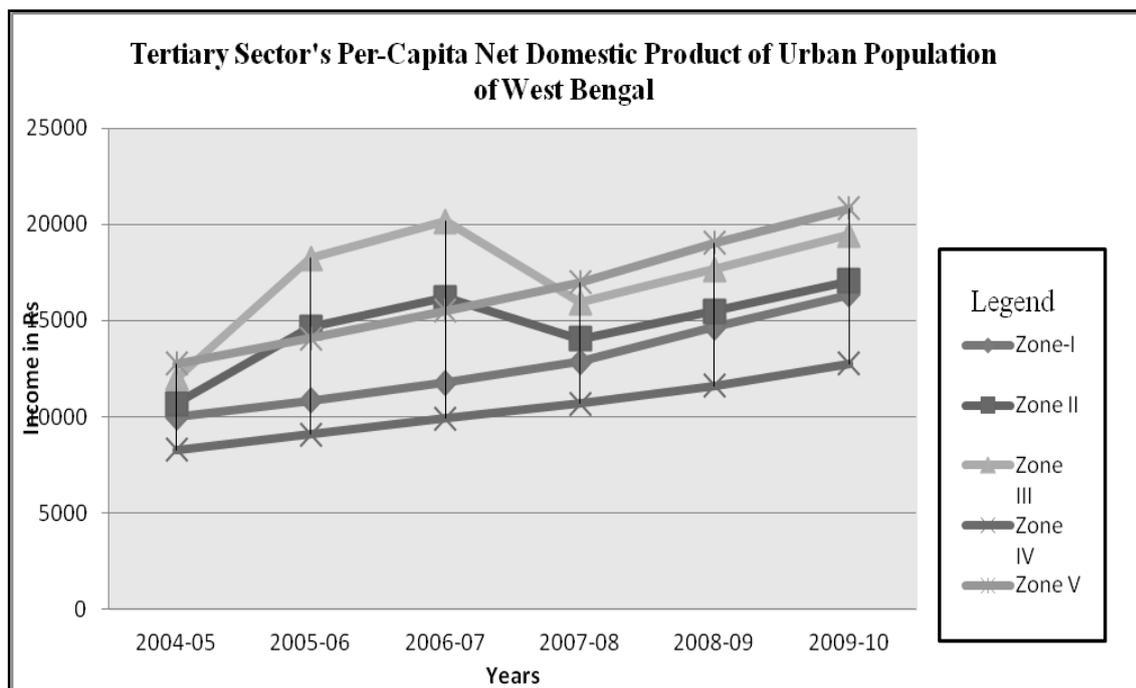
Fig- 4



Source: Economic Survey 2011-12

Fig-5

While zone V and followed by zone III and II have major share of secondary activities. Zone III i.e. the Gangetic alluvial plains per capita share from secondary activities have increased over the year compare to the other zones. In other zone contribution of secondary sector remain same over six years. Growth of secondary sector in the zone III is mainly due to growth small scale and household industry in this area.



Source: Economic Survey 2011-12

Fig-6

Tertiary sector is one of the important sectors for the transformation of the rural areas. Compare to the other sector per capita income from the tertiary sector is the highest in all of the five zones. It established the fact that transformation of rural areas have major role of tertiary sector. Zone V has a substantial industrial base as well a port so per capita income is highest in this zone though it is not

uniform over the zone. Zone III and II are also have higher share of tertiary sector compare to the other zone.

Sectoral growth of income also proves that tertiary sector growth is very high. Transport, real estate have played major role in increasing the share of tertiary sectors growth. The average growth of the per capita net domestic product of entire five zones is almost uniform. But growth of tertiary sector distinguishes the one zone from the other.

Conclusion: Urban population of an area can be increased in two ways one is migration of rural population in the existing urban centre and secondly transformation of the rural areas in urban. Higher number of census town indicates the transformation of the rural area into urban. It is now clear from the above findings that maximum number of census towns are belong to zone II. Secondly these towns have been emerged mainly in the Gangetic alluvial plain area. Thirdly Schedule tribe and schedule caste population are concentrated in zone I and zone V both the zone have substantial number of SC and ST population.

Table: 12 Sectoral Income Growth Rate of the five different Zones of the West Bengal 2004-05 to 2009-10

Name of the Zone	Growth of Income in Primary Sector	Growth of Income in Secondary Sector	Growth of Income in Tertiary Sector	Average Growth
Hill and Terai	1.65	4.31	10.58	5.51
Gangetic Alluvial Plain	2.09	4.02	9.95	5.35
KMA	1.85	4.11	10.33	5.43
Red Lateritic/ Rurh	3.06	3.76	9.01	5.27
Coastal	1.47	3.30	10.47	5.08

Source: *Economic Survey 2011-12*

Zone II has low sex ratio and over all literacy rate. So transformation in the Gangetic alluvial plain has occurred in the economic front mainly by the changes in the secondary and tertiary sector. Therefore it can be concluded that as the new urban area is under panchayat so municipalization of the state have to be rapid otherwise rapid spread of unplanned census town lead to chaotic urbanization in the Gangetic plain. Western zone and the coastal area have higher share of income from secondary and tertiary sector but it is concentrated in industrial and urban complex area so the zone still remain backward.

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