



TRENDS AND PATTERN OF URBANIZATION IN PURBA MEDINIPUR DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Somnath Bhunia

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University, Vidyanagari, Jhunjuunu, Rajasthan-333001.

ABSTRACT Urbanization is a global phenomenon; it is nearly a universally accepted truth that economic progress and the amount of urbanization are directly linked to one another. Purba Medinipur district includes 25 urban centres with a total population of 592714 people, accounting for 9.2 percent of the district's total population. To investigate the trends and patterns in urbanization levels in the Purba Medinipur district. The entire investigation was carried out with the assistance of a secondary data source. In the Arc-GIS platform, the cartographic approach is used, and maps are created. According to the findings, Haldia municipality is the district's main urban centre, with an 18.40 percent population. The overall male literacy rate in Purba Medinipur is 92.32 percent, while the female literacy rate is 81.32 percent, with a discrepancy of roughly 11 percent; 92.90 percent of literate males are found in urban regions, while the ratio drops to 83.95 percent in urban females. Thus, proper gender inequality in terms of literacy rate between urban and rural Purba Medinipur has been discovered.

KEYWORDS : Urbanization, gender ratio, urban center, literacy, development

Introduction:

Urbanization is a term that refers to the development of cities and the concentration of people in urban areas around the world. Almost all countries, especially after World War II, have seen tremendous urbanization. Urbanization has been the most sacred demographic transformation that has continued to spread globally, regardless of north or south. The world's post-colonial period has been marked by capitalist society and industrial growth, which has accelerated the pace of urbanization. Between the early nineteenth and late twentieth centuries, most industrialized nations had gone through substantial urbanization processes, whilst poor countries are still battling with proper urbanization. Urbanization has always had a favourable economic influence, but it may also add to a country's difficulties. Major economic activity has switched from primitive agricultural techniques to industrial growth as a result of urbanization, which would boost a country's economic standing but would also lead to a slew of negative consequences. Due to incorrect urbanization in a nation, human trafficking, slum development, resource distribution inequity, unorganized sectors, and levels of informality have developed. Between the late twentieth century and the early twenty-first century, the world had a 304 percent increase in urban population (World Bank, 2021). The analysis of the rural population revealed that, while an additional 1.3 billion people were added to the existing rural population, they were only an afterthought when compared to the urban migration during those eras. The rural-urban ratio was 2:1 in the 1960s, but it has since surged and altered dramatically, owing to the addition of almost 3 billion people to the current urban group. In 2007, a UN study revealed that "for the first time, more people in the world lived in urban than in rural areas," and the trend is continuing, with urban centres containing an increasing number of people, peripheral rural areas attached to core areas and elevated to the next urban hierarchy, and new centres sprouting up with nonagricultural privileged activities.

2. Objective of the study:

1. To examine the spatial variation in the levels of urbanization in the Purba Medinipur district.

3. Study area:

Underdevelopment, poor agricultural production, large areas of unirrigated land, a lack of alternative sources of income, high vulnerability to natural hazards, a limited resource base, and excessive reliance on woefully underdeveloped agricultural production are all expressed in the Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. The pedo-geomorphological, socio-economic, and cultural aspects of the Purba Medinipur district are highly impacted by West Bengal's coastal areas. Purba Medinipur district is located in West Bengal, India, and is part of the Lower Gangetic Plain (Coastal Belt on the Bay of Bengal). Its geographical position is between 21° 36' 35" and 22° 02' 23" North latitude, and 87° 22' 48" and 88° 01' 12" east longitude, with a total area of 4295.00 sq. km.

4. Material and Methods: A secondary data source was used to conduct the entire investigation. The cartographic approach is used to

better comprehend urbanization trends and patterns. Both simple and complex bar graphs are used to display trends of urbanization in the district's various blocks and urban centres. A proportionate circle diagram depicted the population size of the district's various urban centres. The Arc-GIS platform is used to create maps. The Secondary data have been collected from the following sources Table 1.

Table No. 1 Nature and source of secondary data

Source	Nature of data
i. Census of India (2011, 2001), Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (https://censusindia.gov.in/)	Demographic and socio-economic profile of the people.
ii. District Census Handbook, Purba Medinipur, Directorate of Census Operations West Bengal 2011 (https://censusindia.gov.in/2011census/dchb/WBA.html)	Village and Town directory (population composition, distribution, gender ratio, etc)
iii. District Human Development Report; Purba Medinipur: Department of Planning and Statistics (2014) (http://14.139.60.153/handle/123456789/3836)	Qualitative information about urbanization

5. Analysis:

5.1 Pattern of Urbanization at District level: According to the 2011 Census, the total population of Purba Medinipur district is 50, 95,875 people, with 45, 03,161 people living in rural areas and 5, 92,714 people living in urban areas" (DCHB, 2011). For over seven decades, urban growth in the Purba Medinipur area has been stagnant. Purba Medinipur district had a population of 1.66 million people after India's independence, with 96,009 people residing in urban areas, accounting for 5.76 percent of the district's total population. From 1951 to 2011, the pace of urbanization gradually rose; currently, 11.63 percent of the district's population lives in urban areas. It took over seven decades to double the "rate of urbanization," which is still low in comparison to both West Bengal and India. The path of urbanization in Purba Medinipur is littered with "ifs" and "buts" (e.g., Bengal is the epicenter of activism, the country's separation, the genesis of the new district from undivided Medinipur, etc.). The most optimistic rate of urbanization has rapidly surged in the previous decades (2001-2011); roughly 23 lakhs new people are joining the district's various urban areas, and the urban population share of the overall population has climbed from 8.29 percent to 11.63 percent. This picture is clearer when you consider that the Purba Medinipur district's urban population increased by 3.6 million over the last six decades (1951-2001), but the absolute number of urban populations increased by 2.3 million in just one decade (2001-2011), which was a massive increase in the district's history.

5.2 Pattern of urbanization at Block level: The Purba Medinipur district's block-level pattern of urbanization (2011) is marked by fast increases in both the urban population and the overall number of urban

centres. In 2001, 15 blocks out of a total of 19 had no discernible urban centres; this situation substantially altered between 2001 and 2011. Between 2001 and 2011, ten new urban centres were registered in Potashpur-I, Mahishadal, Nandigram-I and II, Sutahata, Bhagawanpur-I, Khejuri-I, Ramnagar-I, and Deshapran. In the last ten years, the population of the Sahid Matangini, Tamluk, and Kolaghat blocks has grown by more than 100%. (2001 to 2011). Table 4.7 depicts the blockwise trend of urbanization in the Purba Medinipur district. In the Purba Medinipur district, a total of 25 urban centres have been identified: one municipality belongs to the class-I category (>100000 population), three municipalities belong to the class-II (50000-99999 population), one municipality and one census town belong to the class - III (20000-49999 population), one census town belongs to the class - IV (10000-19999 population) category, 16 census towns belong to the class - V (5000-9999 population) category, and only two. Different urban centres and population size in the Purba Medinipur district according to their class (Fig 1.1).

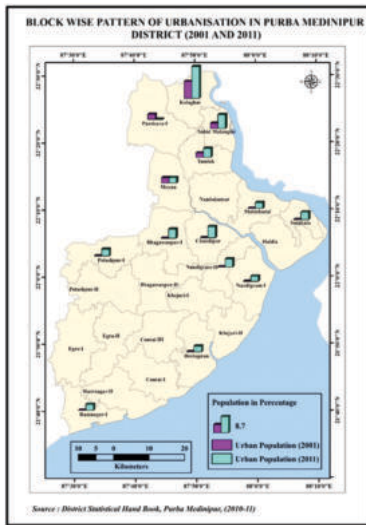


Fig. 1 Percentage of Urban population 2001 and 2011

5.3 Urban Center-wise Pattern of urbanization

There are 25 separate urban centres in the Purba Medinipur district. Although the population of these centres is not evenly dispersed, 5 municipalities and 20 census towns account for around 9% of the urban population. Haldia is the district's largest municipality and urban centre, with a population of over 2 lakhs, whereas the other municipalities have populations of less than a hundred thousand. About 75.32 percent (4,46, 439 people) of the total 592714 urban population lived in the big five municipalities, while the remaining one-fourth lived in 20 census towns (Fig 2). Kolaghat is the most populous census town in the Purba Medinipur district, with the potential to grow into a municipality. Kolaghat has a population of 25191 people, whereas Amalhara has a population of about 14000. Furthermore, the other 18 census towns had populations of less than 10,000 people. Erashal has the district's smallest urban population. The majority of census towns have populations of 5000 to 5999 people; Nandigram, Anantapur, Kakdihi, Basantia, and Hincha Gerya are six census towns with populations of 5000 to 5999 people, while Mihitikri, Benudia, Garh Kamalpur, Goasafat, Amarshi Kasba, and Kotbar have urban populations of 6000 to 6999 people. According to the 2011 Census, the gender ratio in Purba Medinipur district is 939 females/1000 males, whereas the gender ratio in urban centres is 929 females/1000 males. Despite the fact that the district's overall sex ratio is 938, (census, 2011). Only Erashal census town (CT) has a sex ratio of above 1000 (1019), while the rest of the 24 urban centres have a sex ratio of less than 1000. Another finding in table 5.8 is that large urban centres have a lower gender ratio than small urban centres. In the research region, five urban centres (Egra (M), Mihitikri (CT), Amarshi Kasba (CT), Erashal (CT), and Kharisha (CT)) have a high child gender ratio (>1000), ten centres perform averagely (950-1000), and ten centres have low child gender ratios (950). Figure 3 depicted the size distribution of urban centres; the Indian Census categorizes towns based on their population. The district's urban centres are divided into six categories, with only Haldia municipality in category I, with a population of just over 200 thousand people. Contai, Tamluk, and Panskura are the municipalities with populations ranging from 5000 to

99999 people. A census town (Kolaghat) and a municipality were given category III status since their populations range from 20000 to 49999. The remaining census towns have populations of less than 15000 people and are classified as V and VI urban centres. Figure 4 shows that one urban centre in the Purba Medinipur district is a category I town, while the number of urban centres in the II, III, and IV categories is 3, 2, and 1. Category V towns are comprised of 16 census towns. Hincha Gerya and Khadal Gobra are examples of category VI urban areas. The following research shows that the district's larger urban units have an ideal site and situational advantages; these centres are occasionally used as a significant node of the transportation network; on the other hand, relatively distant and remote regions are not recognized as municipalities.

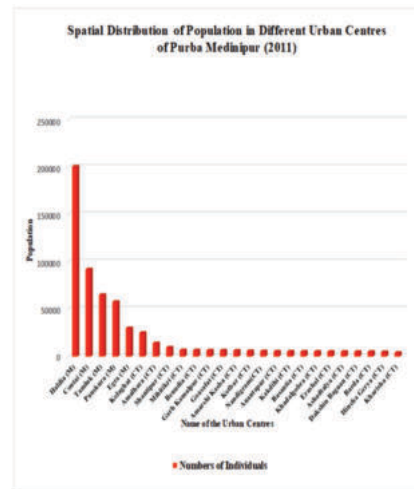


Fig. 2 Number of Population in urban centers of Purba Medinipur

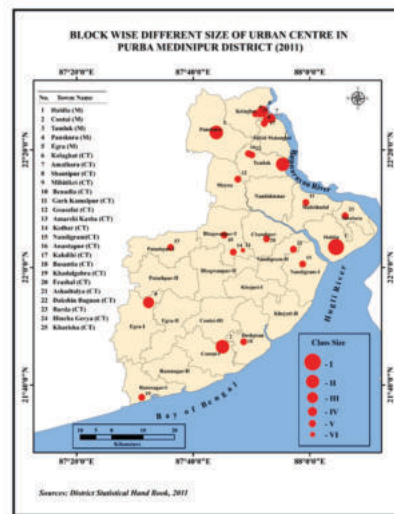


Fig. 3 Size of urban centers in Purba Medinipur

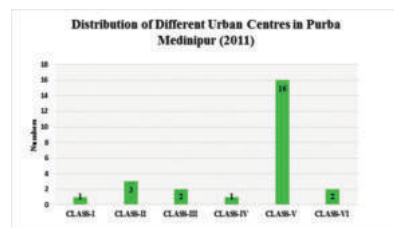


Fig. 4 Class-wise distribution of urban centers of Purba Medinipur

6. CONCLUSION:

The urbanization of the district was concentrated in classes I and II, with limited urbanization in the interior blocks (Giri, 1998). Despite a significant inter-block disparity in urban population distribution, the Purba Medinipur district saw rapid urbanization from 2001 to 2011.

(Ghosh & Chakma, 2014). In comparison to West Bengal, the Purba Medinipur district's rate of urbanization has been slower yet steady. The Purba Medinipur district is notable for its high level of spatial concentration, which is dominated by the town of Haldia. An uncommon event in the urban environment has been witnessed in the Purba Medinipur district over the last two decades. The Purba Medinipur district contains about 500 census towns, the bulk of which are small towns with populations of 5,000 to 20,000 people. They have shifted urbanization from a monocentric to a more dispersed structure, both geographically and functionally. Due to the pull pressures of urbanization, the southern half of the Purba Medinipur district has a greater rate of urbanization than the rest of the district. As a result, the Purba Medinipur district has a predominant trend of urbanization and job chances outside of basic labour. Due to work opportunities in basic industries, the state's western and northern regions have a smaller proportion of urban residents or a larger concentration of rural inhabitants. As a result, the shifting pattern and regional distribution of occupational structure are influenced by urbanization processes and geographical dispersion of urbanization. In the current and future society, sustainable urbanization through smart city policies and effective labour utilization should be stressed. In developing nations like India, appropriate synchronization between urbanization and job structure is required to justify development in any urban region.

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