

CHAPTER ONE

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF THE TOWN

INTRODUCTION

Demography that studies population has its focus on measure, the rates and trends of various population characteristics such as distribution, growth, density, composition etc. In fact, there is practical value in measuring population growth to be able to plan for satisfying man's needs throughout life like food, clothing, shelter and many other necessities. The development of a towns and population growth are intimately related and homologous in nature. The enormous growth in population within a comparatively short span of time has brought in its wake, several interesting demography aspects which have greatly moulded the structural form and cultural life of the city (Singh 1972). Any comprehensive geographical analysis of a region should take into account the differential growth of the population. According to Trewartha, number, densities, distributions and qualities of the population provide the essential back ground for all geography (Trewartha, 1972). Demographic movement is at the heart of the forces which influence the change in time and space content. Population is the central element around which all other elements revolve. It is from population only that other elements derive geographical significance. Thus, the study of population is the single most important approach to Geography and one in which the regional concept has its broadest application (Ghosh, 1985).

1.1. AREA AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Spatial distribution and arrangement of population are significant for the development of a town. Distribution of population refers to the way of people are spaced over the surface of the earth (Ghosh, 1985). In fact, the distributional pattern of population is an eloquent expression of the synthesis of all geographical phenomena operating in the area. (Singh, 1985).

The wards in the town have been classified for both area and population on the

basis of their mean (x) and standard deviation (sd); This are

below (x-1sd) = very low,

(x - 1sd) to x = low

x to (x+1sd) = moderate

(x + 1sd) to (x+2sd) = high

Above (x + 2sd) = very high

English Bazar town had an area of was 4.63 km² upto 1983-84. But it's present area is 13.25 km². In 1901 the total population of English Bazar was 13,667 and in 1991 it had reached to 1,40,861. From (Table 1.1) which it reveals that the population of the town has been increased many folds due to several factors. Only in 1921, its population was decreased due to epidemic and famine. While the population in all other decades had been accelerated by the great advances of medical facilities and natural growth. Death rates and infant mortality rates have been drastically reduced resulting in increase in population.

Table 1.1 : Number of wards in different categories of area (1991).

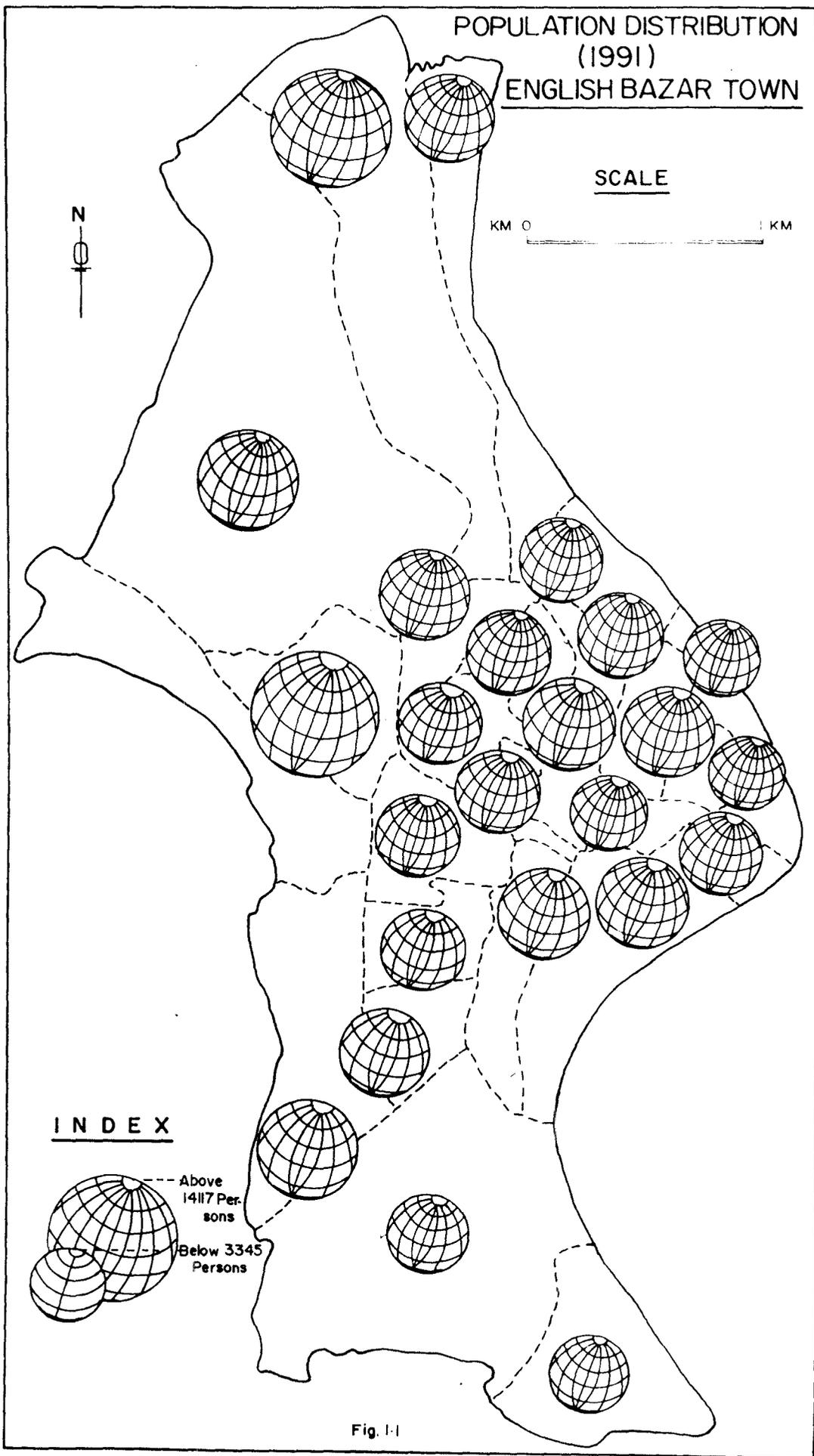
Area in sq ²	Category	Wards	No. of Wards
Below 0.400	Small	I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII.	16
0.400-0.800	Medium	III,	1
0.800 - 1.200	Large	XIX, XX, XXI	3
Above 1.200	Very large	XVIII, XXII, XXIII, XXIV	4
Total			24

The distribution of population depends primarily on natural factors but to a large extent it depends also on human and cultural factors. The concentration of population rise widely within the town by physical, economic as well as social factors. The nature of the land, its location, the nature of activities and religion, ethnicity and languages, education, economic status etc. are some of such factors which define the distribution of population within the urban area. For instance,

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
(1991)
ENGLISH BAZAR TOWN

SCALE

KM 0 1 KM



I N D E X

Above 14117 Persons
Below 3345 Persons

Fig. 1.1

the low lying areas of the town have less density of population. Areas inhabited by rich people have occupied large area consequently have lower densities than those areas inhabited by people of low income groups. People speak in particular language of different religions may give rise to concentration of people belonging to the same group.

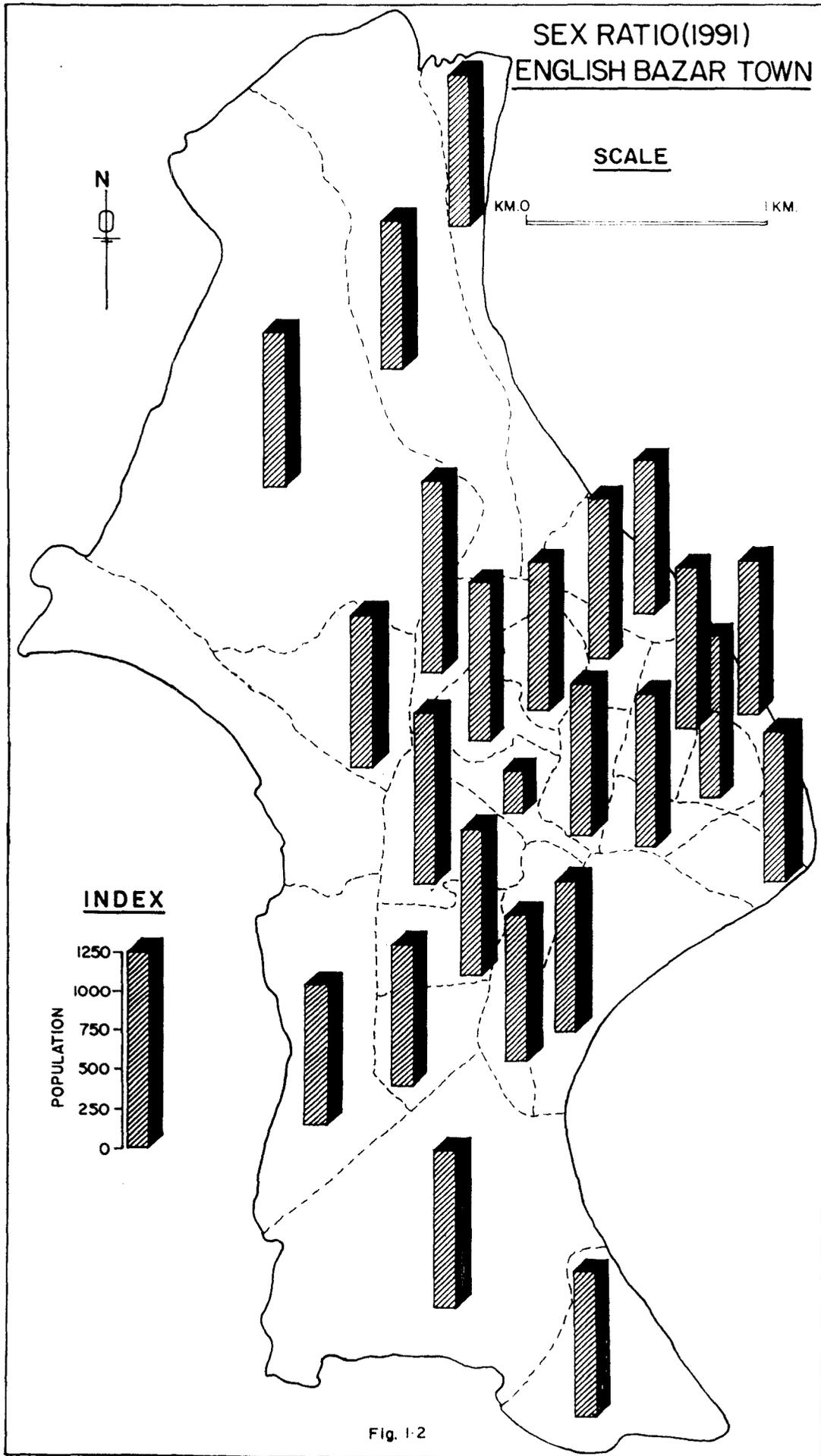
1.1.1. Distribution of population of English Bazar

The distribution of population in the town is not uniform due to various factors. It is seen that the area of wards in English Bazar town is not uniformly demarcated for administrative purposes. As a result, the ward population varies from ward to ward. (Fig.1.2) The area of the wards located at the core area is smaller compared to the wards located at the periphery. So the larger wards have larger population. The population distribution of English Bazar town depends on availability of certain urban amenities, accessibility, nearest to the market centre and other cultural factors. From the field study, it is revealed that the wards those are located near the highway, markets, are highly concentrated with population where as the wards having low infrastructural facilities are thinly populated. This non-uniformity of distribution of population creates certain problems because the urban amenities are generally concentrated on certain points or places. Moreover uneven population distribution crates congestion, crowding and hapazards growth of houses. These create problems for development.

The town has 24 municipality wards and the sizes of the ward in area and population are very irregular. (Appendix - 1). The ward XXIV covers the largest area (1.470Km²) where as the wards IX has the smallest area (0.1.3Km²). On the basis of the sizes, the wards can be classified for comparative studies.

Table : 1.2. Number of wards in different categories of population size (1991)

Population	Category	Wards	No. of Wards
Below 5000	Low	II,IV,V,VI,X, XII,XIII, XIV,XV,XVIII	10
5000-8000	Moderate	I,VII,VIII,IX,XI,XVI, XVIII,XIX,XX,XXI,XXIII	11
8000-11000	High	III	1
Above-11000	Very high	XXII, XXIV	2
Total			24



Like area, the population is also highest (14,117 persons) in the ward XXIV and lowest (3345 persons) in ward X. The classification of the wards on the basis of population (Table 1.1) reveals that population in majority of the wards (10 out of 24 wards) is below the average population (below 5000) of the wards and it is high (above 11,000) in two wards. From Fig.1.2 the location, area and population of wards can be revealed that the wards lying mainly at the centre are smaller in sizes as well as in population than those on the periphery of the town. The wards XXII and XXIV have very high population and only ward III is high category.

1.2 COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

1.2.1. Sex ratio

Under demographic studies sex composition in a city deserves special attention as it has bearing on socio-economic aspect of city life. The cities of India have a higher proportion of male population and Malda is no exception to it. Sex ratio does not influence marriage, birth and death rates only but many economic and social relationships are also closely related to the balanced or disparity between males and females (Singh, 1985).

In English Bazar town total, number of males and females are 71,504 and 67,700 respectively (Census 1991). The ratio of females per 1000 males was 960 which is the highest and is 253 which is the lowest. It indicates that most of the people live in the town with their families. Because English Bazar being the seat of the Divisional Commissioner's Office has more potentialities of service opportunities. A continuous increase of female ratio has been noticed in different decades in the town due to flow of refugees from the neighbouring districts and Bangladesh. (Formation of Bangladesh in 1972). From the study it has been noticed that the sex ratio different varies wards. Highest and lowest sex ratio are found in ward XX and XVIII respecting (Fig. 1.3). It is also seen that sex ratio in ward XVIII is very low because it is dominated by commercial function and there is no scope for residential uses.

1.2.2. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Two fundamental and primary strata within the Hindu Society are the ritually higher castes, and the untouchable, officially are called Scheduled Castes (Bhardwaj, 1975). These minority groups of people in urban areas are very often found to settle in most underdeveloped localities. Owing to their low income and poor standard of living, they prefer to reside in old delighted residential areas where livelihood is less costly.

COMPOSITION OF
POPULATION (1991)
ENGLISH BAZAR TOWN

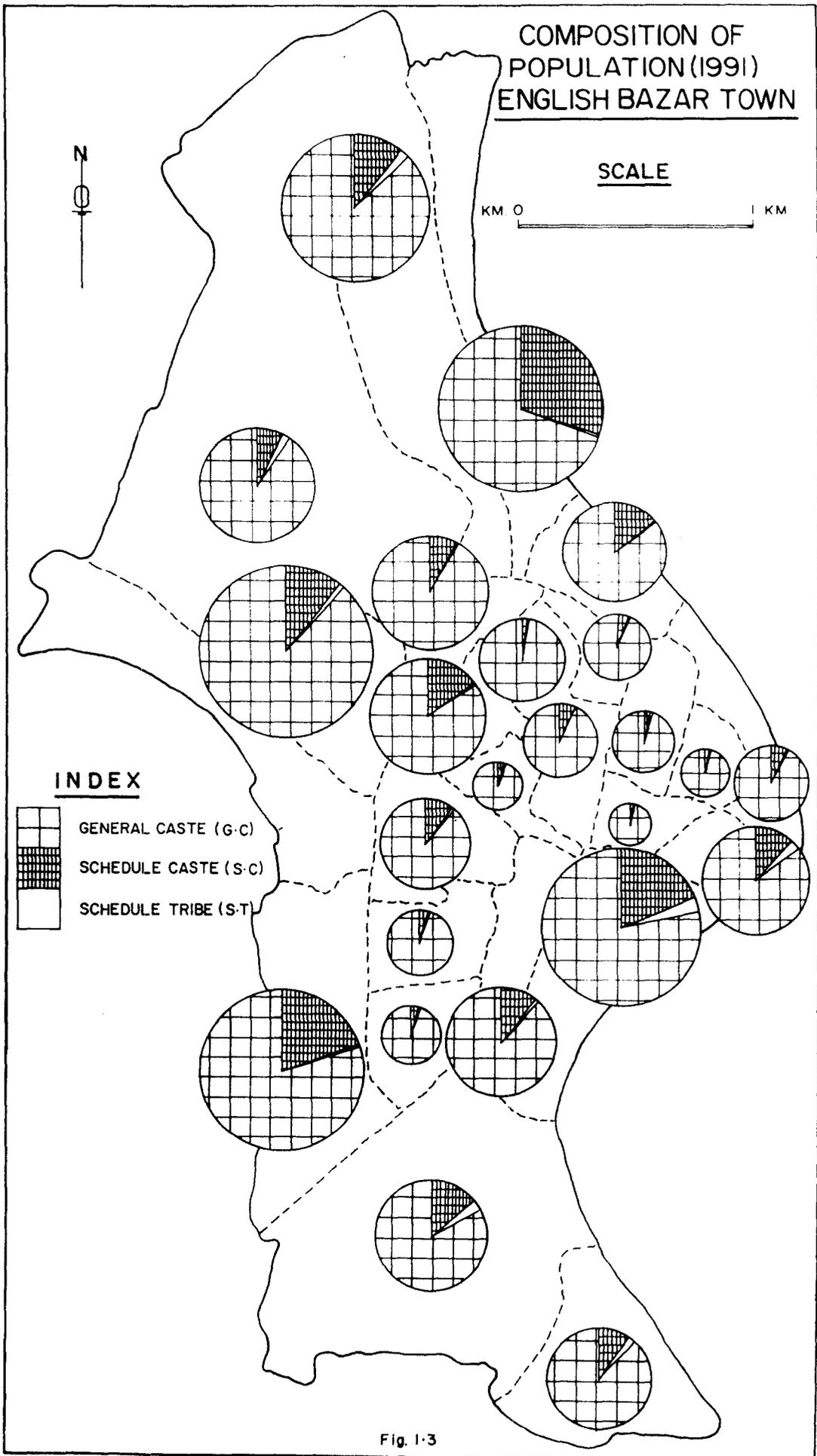


Fig. 1-3

In total population of the town includes 14416 scheduled castes and 1275 scheduled tribes (Census, 1981). Their percentages are 10.23 and 0.91 respectively of the total population of the town and these are less than the district averages. Recently, number of backward population has been increasing in galloping rate, as they settled in slum areas for getting more facilities in livelihood and selection of odd jobs. To avail these facilities they are coming to the town from rural areas more in number and settle in different parts of the town. Field survey suggests that most of the scheduled castes are "Vhunmali" who have concentrated in the wards away from CBD. (Fig.1.3) Higher land-value as well as economic insolvency and infiltrations of higher caste people with better economic capability have pushed away the scheduled caste people in the fringe area from their original places.

1.2.3. Religion

The religion is one of the aspects of study in urban centre because it directly effects agglomeration of people in a particular area of the town. As a result, standard of living, culture and development depend on the people of different religions. At the time of field investigations, growth of different pockets of localities inhabited by people of different religions were observed in the town. In a pocket, people of the same religion use to prefer to live for better understanding, co-operation and security.

The town is situated near the border of Bangladesh. The town is also a cosmopolitan town where people of different religions live together. In 1991 percentages of Hindus were 70% and Muslims shared 25% of total population. The percentage increase for the Muslims during 1971-81 was almost equal to that of Hindus. The percentages of other religions viz. Buddhists, Christians, Jains are very small compared to the Hindus and the Muslims. But a tremendous increase of Chistians during 1981-91 occurred in the town.

1.2.4. Literacy

Among the different qualities of population, literacy perhaps is the most important. A low degree of literacy is an obstacle to economic growth. The most basic minimum measurement of educational status is the degree of literacy. But it is very difficult to measure the degree of literacy in accurate terms. (Ghosh, 1985).

Table : 1.3: Literacy group in different wards 1991

Literacy group in percentage	Category	Wards	No. of wards
Below 30	Low	II	1
30-60	Moderate	I,III,IX,XXIV,XXII	5
Above 60	High	XI,V,VI,VIII,VIII, X,XI,XII,XIII,XIV XV, XVI,XVII, XVIII, XIX. XX, XXI, XXIII.	18

In English Bazar, the total number of literates in 1991 were. 86,323. Of which 47,716 are males and 38,606 are females (Census1991). The percentage of literacy in the town is 61. 28 to the total population. About 33.87 percent males and 27.41% females are literates. Analysing the wardwise distribution of literacy it is found that ward XIII records the highest percentage of literates (89.23%) where as ward II shows the lowest (28.79%) rate. Among 24, wards, 6 have below average literacy rates (60%) due to high concentration of backward class population. The grouping of wards on the basis of percentages shows that out of 24 wards only one is in the low group (below 30%) where as 5 are in the moderate group (30-60%). and 18 are in the high group (above 60%). The literacy rate is high in the central part and moderate in the southern and northern part of the town.

1.3. DENSITY OF POPULATION

The distribution of arithmetic density of population can also be explained by analysing the density pattern. Population density a useful abstraction, assisting in the analysis of diversity of population in the town is uneven. The people mainly are concentrated in wards VIII, XIX, X, XIV, XVI where the density of population is above 20, 000 persons per Km². (Fig. 1.4) The people are mainly concentrated here because of agglomeration of large number of service facilities like market, hospital, banks, post offices, schools and others.

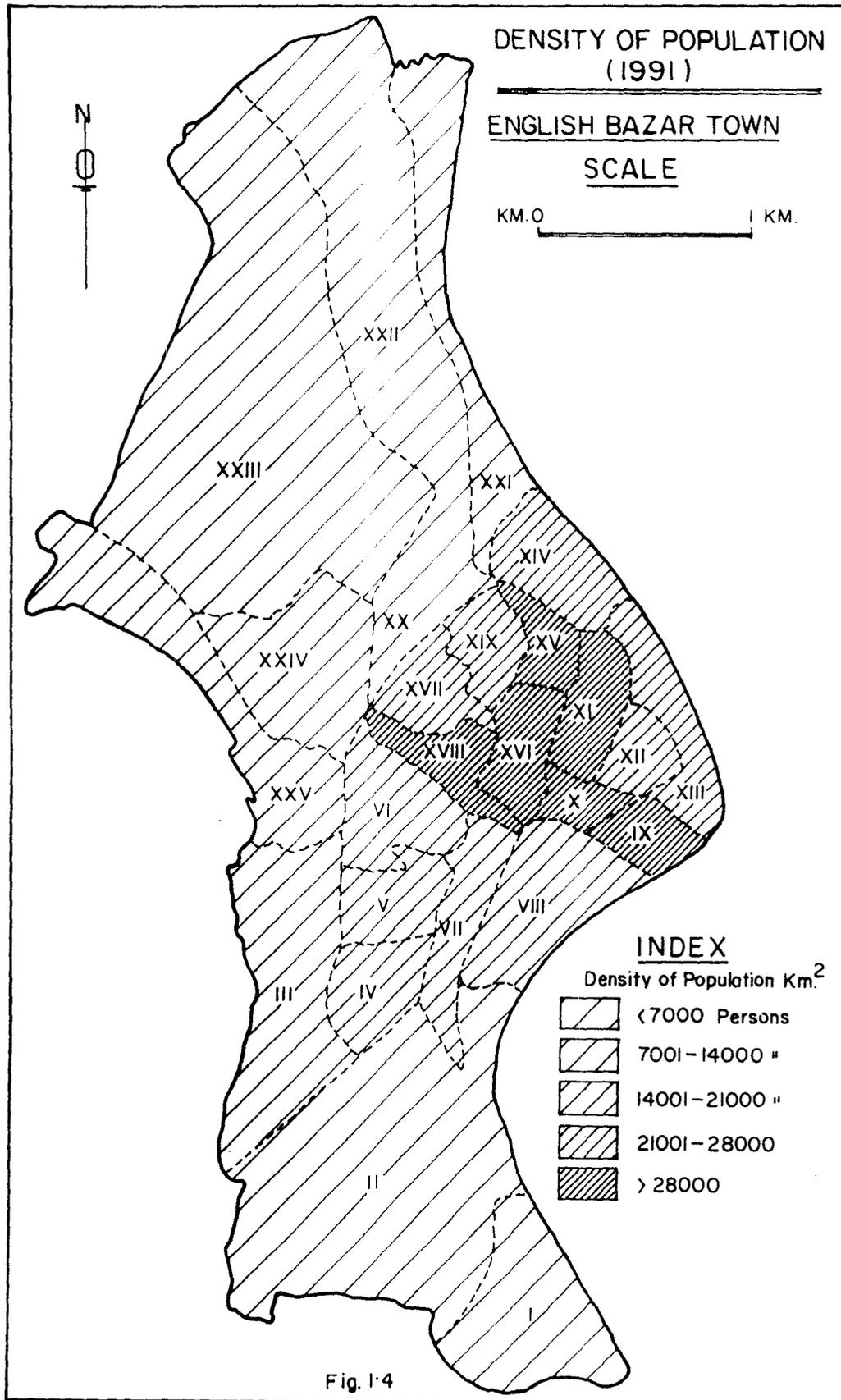


Table 1.4 : Density of population per km² in different ward of English Bazar Town from in 1991.

Category	Density per / km ²	Wards	No. of Wards
Very low	< 7000	II, III, XXII, XXIII	4
Low	7001-14000	I, VII, XXI, XXIV	4
Moderate	14,001-21,000	IV, V, VI, VIII & XX	5
High	21,001-28,000	XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVII & XVIII	6
Very high	28,001-35,000	IX, X, XI, XVI and XIX	5

Analysing the diversity of population of 1991 it is found that the lowest density is found in both the wards. III and VI. The means cause of the low density in ward III is the lack of facility. The market area is far from this ward and it lies at the boundary of the town. Also there is no facility of municipal water connections. A housing estate and an Industrial Technical Institute (I.T.I), are located in the ward. Ward VI has also the low density because a large part of it is occupied by recreational grounds like playground, D.S.A., Exhibition ground, swimming pool and Inspection Bungalow. These two wards having density 7001-14000 persons per km².

On the other hand density of 7001-14,000 persons per km². is found in wards I, VII, XIII. These wards are also situated along the periphery of the town & far from the main market area. In ward II Krishnapally is also located in a low density area.

The density is high in wards V, VII, XII, XVII, These are the old part of English Bazar Municipality. Municipal facility is satisfactory here and having a density of 14,000-21,000 persons per km². The wards IV and XI have low density (7001-14,000 per km². Ward I is situated far from the heart of the town where most of the facilities are not available. Municipal facilities like water connections and others are very little in the ward.

The people are mainly concentrate in wards VII, VIII, X, XIV, and XVI. The high density is found in these wards which is 21,000-28,000 persons per km². Here, the high density has resulted from the availability of service facilities. I, II, III and XIII which is 7001-14,000 per km². These wards are situated extreme northwest and the extreme southwest corner of the municipality. Distance from the market and leave of other facilities are the main reasons for the low density.

Moderate density 14,001-21,000 is found in wards V, XI, and XV. A high density of 21,001 to 28000 persons is found in ward IX, XIII and XVII which have easy access to a large number of service facilities. In general, the density is high in the central part of the town, where the major roads converge, and decreased gradually outwards becoming minimum along the periphery of the urban centre.

A very high density in certain wards of the town is due to water supply transportation, market and recreational facility. Relatively high density in some wards are also mainly due to location of educational institutions like college, school, cinema halls, water supply facilities transport Route (N.H.34), tourist lodge, Industrial Estate. In a few wards, the density of population is moderate though certain amenities like college, veterinary hospital, District hospital, water supply, Ramkrishna Mission, Exhibition Ground, Indian Oil, Mill, Saw Mills, Steel Factory are located.

1.4. GROWTH OF POPULATION

Changes in population are more normal than stable states, so it is no surprise that observes attempt to isolated those elements which combine to produce output measures of population (Baxter and Williams,1978). A population is constantly in a state of influx. During this process, the size of population varies and develops potentialities for unlimited growth (Ramkumar, 1986). The dynamics of population growth of an area over a certain length of time is the sum of the net migration in the region during the period under consideration (Singh, 1985).

English Bazar town, a tiny settlement in 1901 had 13,667 population. In 1911 the population increased from 13,667 to 14,322; the actual growth rate (1901-1911) was + 4.79%. But in 1921, the population of English Bazar Municipality decreased slightly. It was then 14,057 persons. So the growth rate was coming down to 1.85%. In 1931, the urban population of the municipal area increased at a higher rate (Fig.1.5). The growth rate in 1921-31 was + 20.27% which is meant an over all increases of 2850 persons between 1921 and 1931. The population also increased in the next decade, and rate of increase was + 38.00%. The trend was thus a graduate increase from decade to decade. In 1951 the municipal population also increased, but the rate of increase was slow than the previous decade. The actual growth rate was +31.4%. During 1951-61, the population were increased at a higher rate which was +49.69% in the previous decade to + 33.63. Also in 1981 the population increased to 79,014 recording a growth rate of 42.82%. It was slightly lower than that of the previous decade.

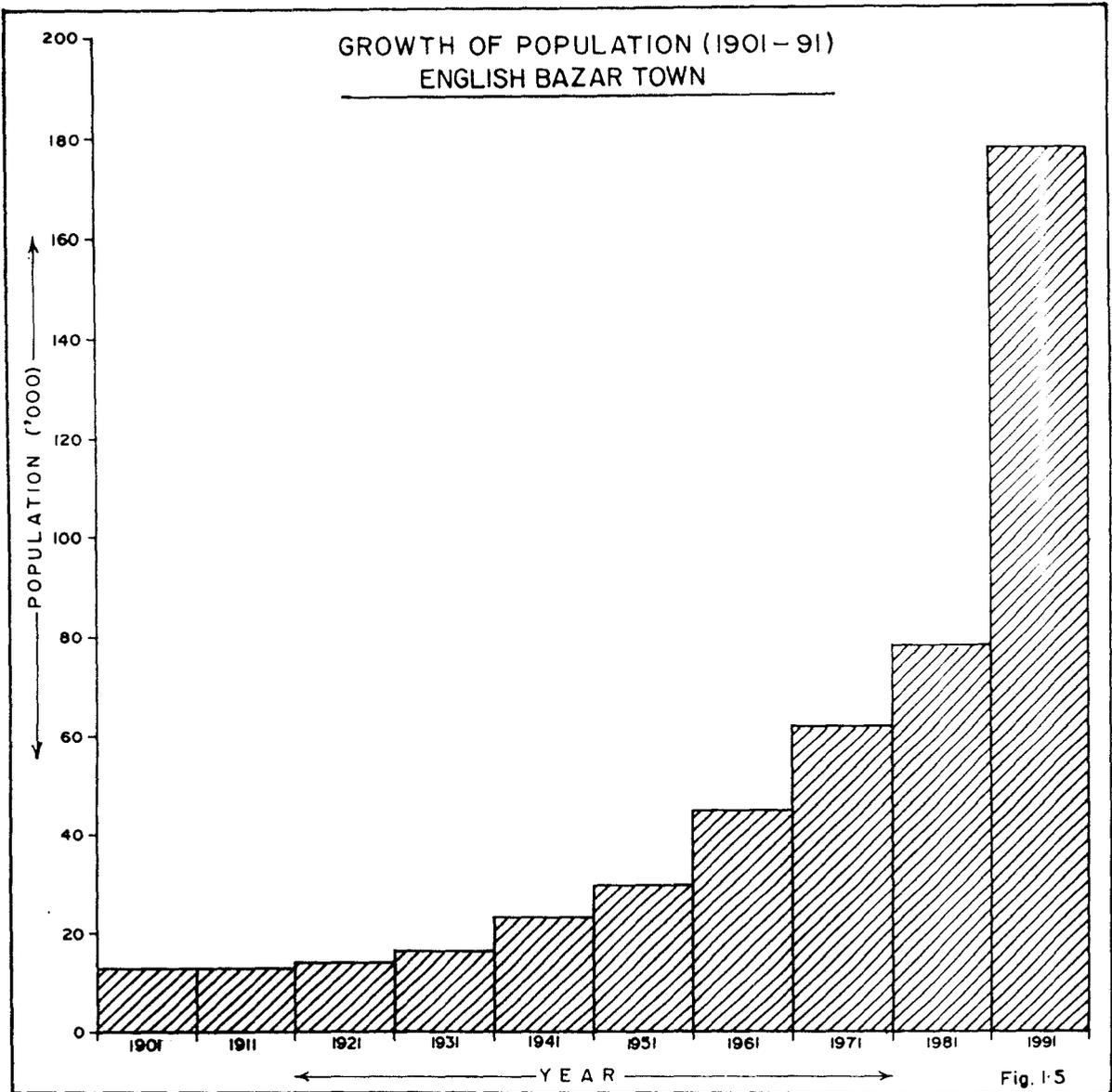


Fig. 1.5

DECADEL GROWTH OF POPULATION (1901-91)
ENGLISH BAZAR TOWN

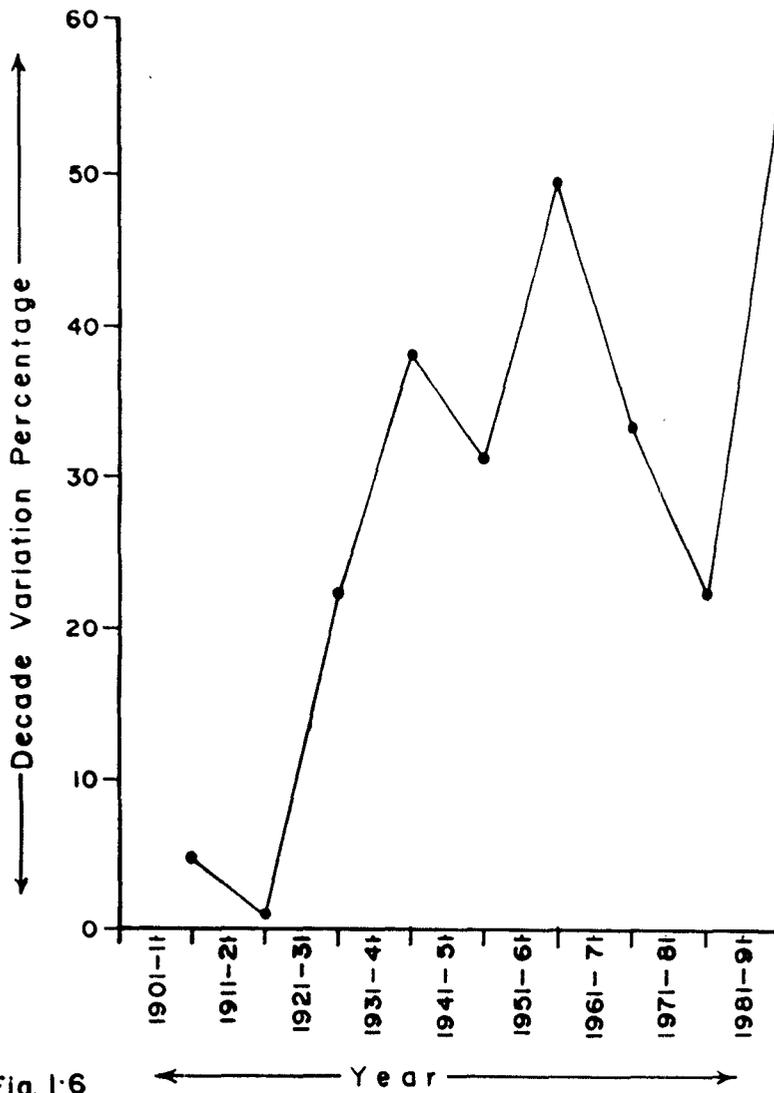


Fig. 1-6

But there is a distinct change in 1991. The population increase was so much in 1991 that it recorded an all time high of + 75.94% in 1981-91, turning the town into a city. (Fig.1.6). The decadal growth and index of growth of population in English Bazar town are shown in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5 : Growth rate of population in (1901-1991).

Year	Population	Decadal Growth in %	Index of growth in %
1901	13,667	—	100
1911	14,322	+ 4.79	105
1921	14,057	- 1.85	103
1931	16,907	- 20.27	124
1941	23,333	+ 38.00	178
1951	30,663	+ 31.41	224
1961	45,900	+ 49.69	336
1971	61,335	+ 33.63	449
1981	79,014	+ 28.82	578
1991	1,39,018	+ 75.94	1017

From the table 1.5 it is revealed that the index of population growth of English Bazar town was not so high during the three decades. But it became double and triple in 1961 and 1971 respectively (Fig. 1.7).

1.5. MIGRATION

Migration has its relative role in the growth of population. The study of migration to city is an essential aspect of planning. The concept of migration along with natural increase has great significance in population changes. The demographic dynamics of the town particularly during the post-Independence period is not only reflected in the phenomenal high rate of its population increase, but also in migration of its inhabitants to some extent (Sing, 1985).

The distinguishing characteristic of migration is that its direction and volume are entirely the results of human actions and reactions to situations. Hence, it is not easy to arrive at Universe acceptable definitions and methods of measurement (Ram Kumar, 1986). The causes of migration are described as due to "Push and Pull" factors. Some of the important push-pull factors of English Bazar is :

- 1. Push Factor :** (a) Unemployment and under employment in the rural areas.
- (b) Low wage and salary of agricultural workers
- (c) Desire for better urban life,
- (d) High man-land ratio in the neighbouring areas.

INDEX OF
GROWTH OF POPULATION
ENGLISH BAZAR TOWN

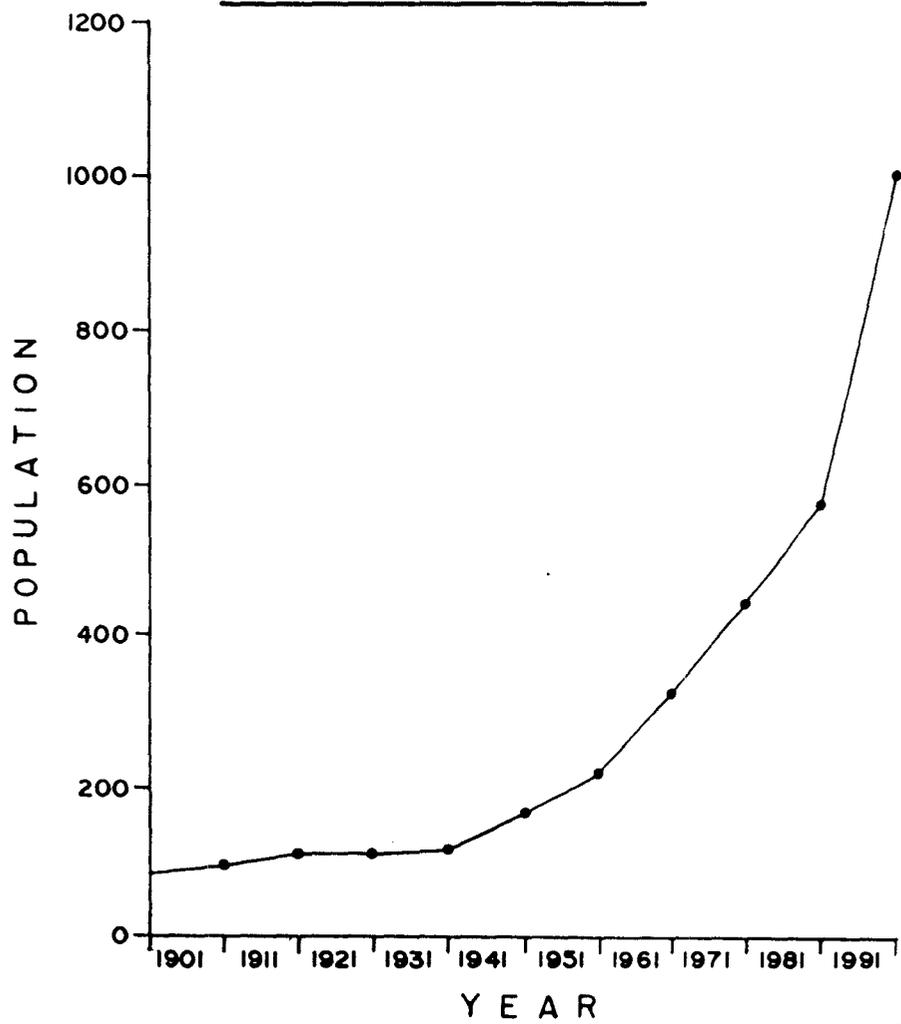
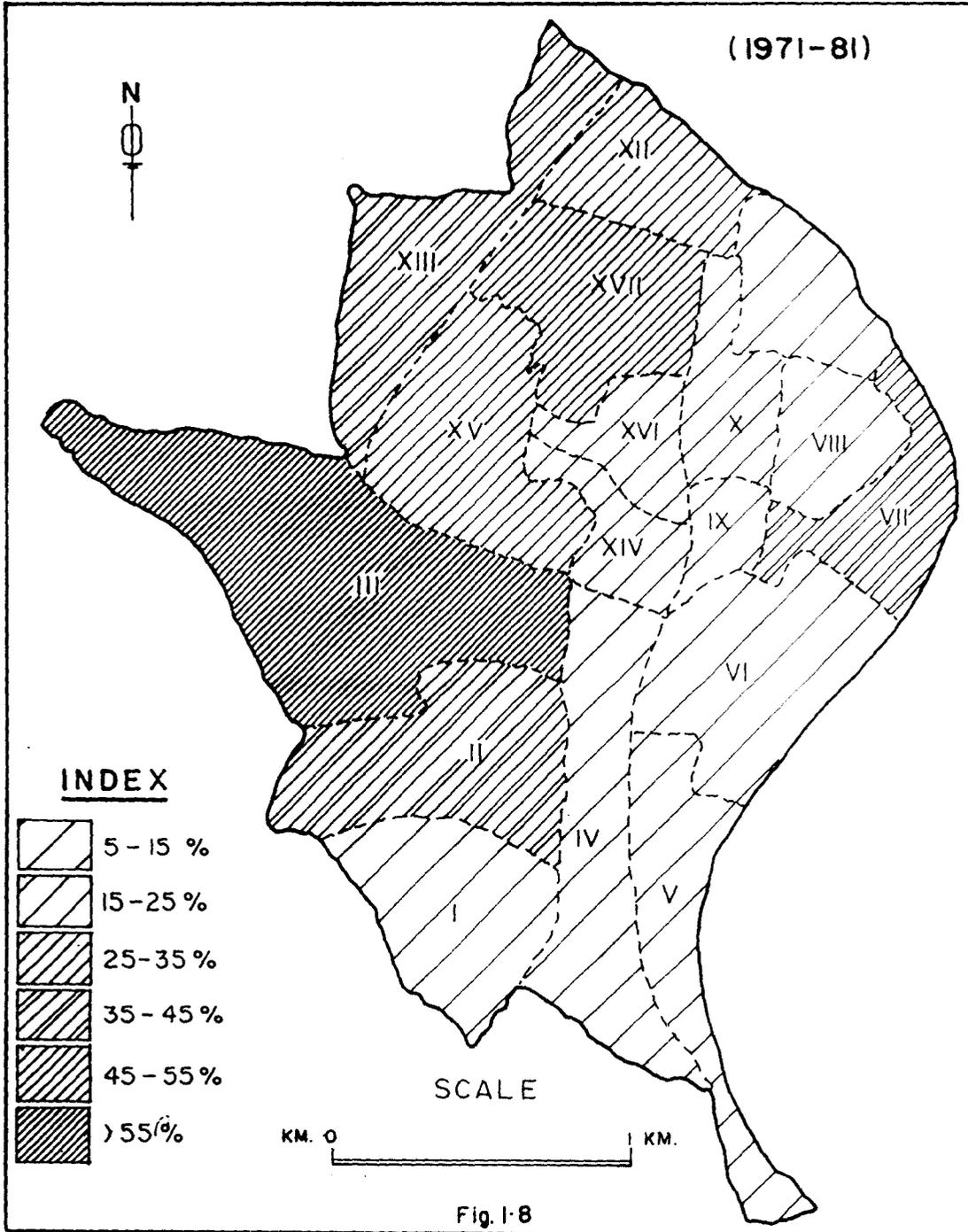


Fig. 1.7

WARDWISE DECADEEL GROWTH OF POPULATION
ENGLISH BAZAR TOWN



2. Pull Factors : (a) Better economic prospects, better living way of life in the town. (b) Better working conditions and employment opportunities in trade and commerce (c) Increasing demand for labour and skill in tertiary activities (d) Better transport and communication facilities between rural areas and the town.

In estimating the future population of the city special stress of immigration has to be thoroughly evaluated. Unfortunately the latest census of migration of the town under study is not available. As such quantitative measurement of migration in these towns is really very difficult.

English Bazar's population growth is very much dependent on its increasing prosperity due to growth of agriculture in this region (Table 1.6). In fact, the whole history of the growth of population in the tract which is also known as western part is nothing but history of immigration to the various part of the town. For official work the clerks and for legal advice, the advocates, came with their families to the town followed by doctors and teachers to provide medical assistance and teaching respectively. So from the very beginning, a continuous flow of migration to the town took place which was accentuated after the partition of India. The household survey report (Table 1.6) shows the nature of migration.

Table 1.6 : Migration from different places in the town 1991.

Original birth place	Migration in percentage to their total migrants
Bangladesh (East Pakistan)	70
Malda town and surroundings	9
Other districts of W.B.	10
Other states	67
Other countries	4
	100

Source : Field work (1998).

So, 70% people came from the then East Pakistan and have settled more in number in the northern half of the town and those who came from other states have mostly settled in the heart of the town as well as in business area.

1.6. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

Work is considered the activity that is performed in the occupational role. The occupation determines the individual's relationships with other individuals in the

same and other occupations (Hall, 1975). Occupation reveals the nature of economic progress of a country. It depends upon the degree of economic development and sophistication of a country (Ghosh, 1985).

Occupational structure is the unitary relationship pattern of the 3 occupational components, primary, secondary and tertiary working population of an area, which constitute the core of the economic system. Among all of the social attributes of a given individual or group, occupation is of paramount importance. It is particularly significant for the population analysis, since to a considerable extent, the nature of work determines the surroundings, both physical and cultural. (Smith, 1948).

Total Workers : Total workers in the town is 37582 or 26.68% of the total population where as in the district (urban) it is 20.62% (Census 1991). The growth of total workers during 1971-81 was considerably low both for males and females. It means the population growth cannot keep pace with the growth of total workers. The growth of female workers was tremendous during 1981-91. An increase in total workers in 1991 might be due to rapid expansion of different activities. The percentage of female workers in this town is very low. The wards around the CBD have less number of female workers because less number of families are living in this area.

The workers of different activities are divided into various categories. It is obvious that the percentages of workers in agricultural activities in the town is extremely low compared with that of workers in other activities. The percentages of workers in household industries are also very low due to lack of resources for industries and less incentives. The high percentage of workers in other activities reveals the importance of the town in tertiary activities. Most of the immigrants worked as agricultural labourers or as labourers in small scale industries.

1.7. SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS

Density of Households

A study of the density and spatial distribution of households in any town gives an idea about the housing facilities available for the urban residents. In English Bazar Municipality, there are 33,011 households. Out of which 27,095 are residential and 3916 are non-residential. From the data available the ward wise distribution is very uneven, the actual number is varying from a minimum of 598 in ward I to a maximum of 3,834 in ward XXIV.

In the municipality, ward X and XIII have very low number of households 598 and 784 respectively. Here the household density is very low because, Their areas are very small and also ward XIII is situated in the periphery of the town along the river bank.

In contrast, the wards having households 801-1100 are I, II, IV, V, VI, IX, XII, XIV, XIX, XXI. These wards are located in central and southern part of the municipality. Four wards namely, VII, VIII, XI and XX have a very large households viz. 1205, 1252, 1172 and 1259 respectively. This is the oldest part of the Town. High concentration of households is found in part of Makdampur, Pirojpur is in Netaji Subhash Road, Kalitala, Immambari, Golapatty, Mission road etc.

The density of households is high in wards XXIII and III, each having respectively 1607 and 1560 households. Concentration of households is high due to presence of a large number of facilities.

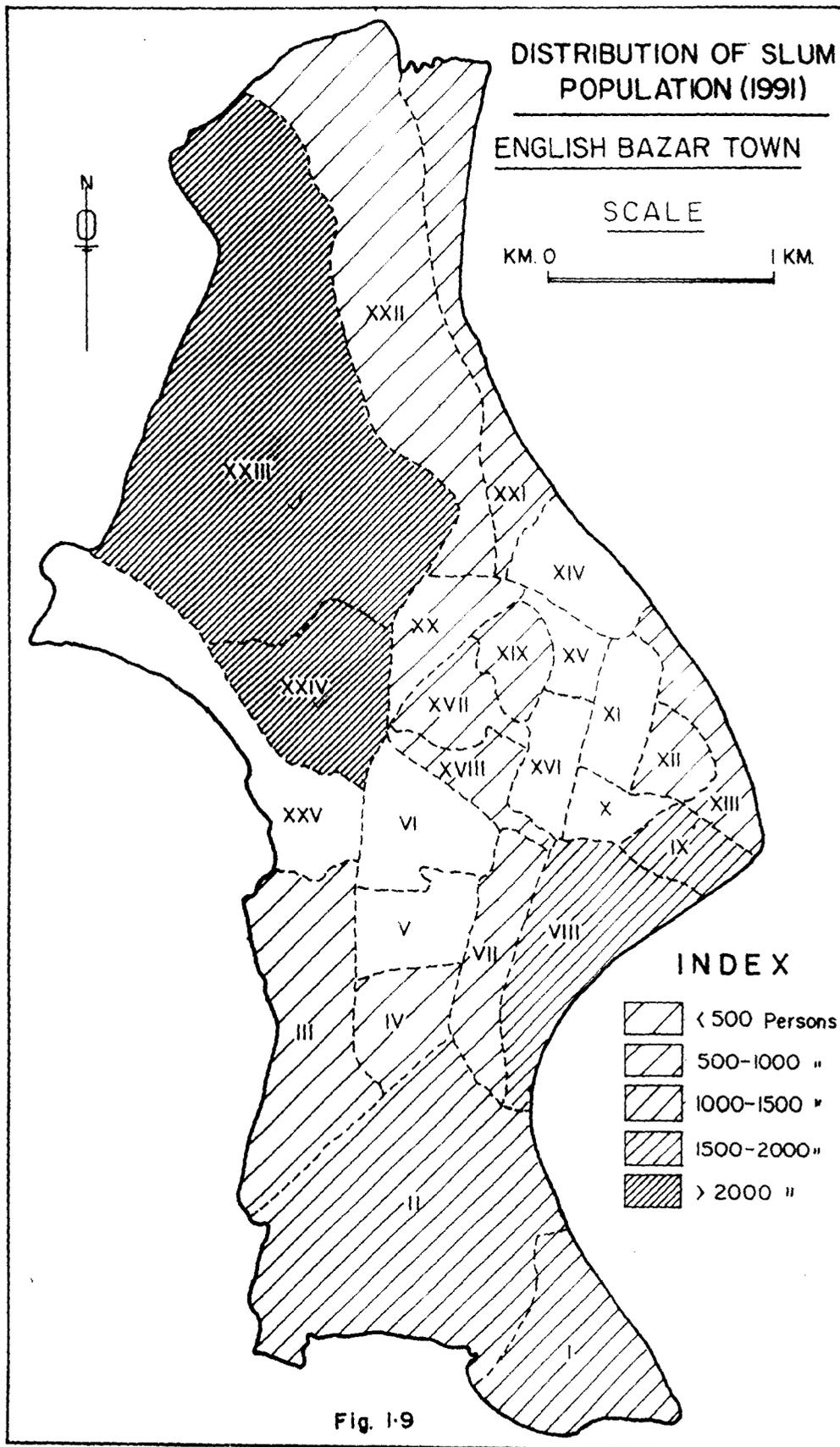
The concentration of households rises from 2147 in ward XXII to the highest number of 3834 households in ward XXIV which is very large in area and also is nearer to the market area. The land price is still low here with vacant lands available for housing purpose.

1.8. BACKWARD POPULATION

The development of slums is another important feature of this town. The municipal area of English Bazar is divided into 24 wards. In this spatial distribution most of the slums are confined to certain wards while other wards are free of them. As for example V,VI,X,XIV, XV,XVI have no slums. (Fig.1.9) They represent economically the best parts of the town.

In terms of the number of slum families living in respective wards, a size classification has been made. The study shows that there are 86 families living in slums of ward IV. Similarly ward XII has 44 slum families and ward XVII has 27 slum families. The ward XVII has 52 slum families, ward XIX-53, Ward XX-54 & XXII-40 slum families. Actually slums have grown up outside of the developed areas. The availability of land is very low in the developed area which keeps the price high with a high standard of living.

The number of slum families increases in ward III, XIII and XXI each consisting 118,111 &109 families continuously. The number increased further in ward I, II,VII,VIII,IX with 321, 259, 336 , 362, 301 respectively. This area is situated



south eastern part of the municipality. Here, ward II is mainly covered with paddy fields, wheat fields and mango gardens. In ward VII, slum families are found in the southern, part, while in ward VIII they are mainly found near the river. On the river bank, slum families are highly concentrated on the Bandh Road. They have also developed on the Burning Ghat Road, in Baluchar I and Baluchar II which belong to ward IX.

Ward XXII has 523 slum families concentrated Talipukur, Bishghar colony and along the Rail line. After 1983 this area came under the municipality and a number of mango orchards is located in ward XXIV which has 1888 slum families. Mainly lower class people have concentrated in this remote part of the town. But now the town has extended to cover this ward. Slum families are found here in Buraburitala & Ghorapir south.

The number of people living in the slum in English Bazar is very varied from the lowest of 137 persons to the highest of 9441 persons between different wards. According to the data available the ward XVII has the lowest number of 137 persons which is mainly a market area. There number increase slightly, ranging between 204 and 431 in wards XXII, XII, XVIII, XIX and IV. There number increases further in wards XXI, XIII, III & VII with a variation from 548 to 681 heads.

It is, however, in wards II, I, VIII, IX and XXIV the slum population is still large ranging from 1296 to 9441 heads. The last one have the highest record for the town in number of slum family & its population.

CONCLUSION

English Bazar is a district headquarters and its area and population is 13.25 Km² and 1,40,861. respectively. The trend of growth rates in the last few decades were of geometrical progression upto 1951. In the '40s higher growth rate in the town was due to high influx of population from. East Pakistan, neighbouring districts of West Bengal and other States of India. The growth of population and other demographic characters have almost no significant positive development in English Bazar during the last few decades. In general, characteristics of the town is cosmopolitan in nature.

In English Bazar Municipality, the total population was 13,667 in 1901 and now it is 1,40,861. The population increase is very faster rate than the other towns in

the neighbouring districts. The town is situated in a north-south alinement but with the increase of population, the town is spreading in the western direction. Mainly people are concentrated in various wards. Analysing the growth rate of population in different wards the concentration of population can be revealed. 42% of the total population residing in the town for 2-3 generations are mostly confined in the central part, where as 50% have been residing particularly in the northern and southern part since independence. Field survey suggests that most of the scheduled castes are "Vhunmali" who have mainly concentrated in the wards from CBD. The percentages of Hindus are 70% Muslims shared 25% of total population. Households density gives an idea about the housing facilities available for the urban residents. Here it is found that there are 30,011 households. Out of which 27,493 are residential and 5,518 are non-residential. From the data it is observed that large number of residential houses are in ward XXIV. Slums population are also growing up in the urban area, rapidly. In English Bazar Municipality slum population is found in many wards but the number of slum families occupy in large number in Buraburitala and Ghorapir.

In English Bazar Municipality, 9240 holdings are occupied with buildings. Where as 5110 house hold are with water connection, 937 households are with service privies. 1180 households are with vacant land and ponds. In English Bazar, houses are mainly one storied with cemented floor, brick walls and concrete roofs. Maximum houses are constructed within 1000 to 1500m. where people live in their own houses with three to four and five to six family members. Head of the family is mainly service holder or businessman. Mainly houses are furnished with three to four bed rooms, one drawing room, one kitchen, two bathrooms and latrine. It is noticed that each and every house has connected with electricity. Maximum number of residential houses are connected with water lines.