

CHAPTER-VII

SEX RATIO OF RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Shelter is one of the most important basic necessities of human being. Man needs some sorts of shelter for safe rest. “With the establishment of any sort of dwelling, the foundation of a civilization is laid which grows, flourishes and spreads like petals of blossoming flowers in all directions in varied tint and colour and temporal and spatial variations in the form of inhabitations”(Singh, R.Y.). However, with the passage of time, these settlements became the home of concrete anthropogenic expressions and technogenic adaptations of human beings. Settlements may be classified into two broad categories: rural and urban. Rural settlements are those where people are mostly engaged in agriculture and allied activities, while urban settlements are those whose residents are engaged in non-agricultural activities. In fact, the distinction is based on the modes of community life. A rural area has a community bond, whereas the urban life is heterogeneous, alien and desperate.

However, the 2001 data reveals that, in North Bengal, about 86 per cent of its people are living in rural areas covering about more than 95 per cent area of the region. Hence the main character of the region may be observed in rural areas. Among all the districts, Maldah is comparatively more rural having 93 percent of its population as rural living in about 99 percent of its total area, while Darjiling with about 68 percent rural population, is the more urbanized district having 98 percent area under rural settlements (Appendix 7.1).

7.2 PART I

RURAL SEX RATIO

7.2.1 SEX RATIO FOR TOTAL RURAL POPULATION

According to the Primary Census Abstract 2001, about 86 percent people of North Bengal lived in rural areas. Therefore sex ratio pattern in rural North Bengal cast its impact in the overall pattern of female-male ratio in the northern part of the state of Bengal. This part of the state is more rural than the southern part. Among the rural people, about 51 percent are male and remaining 49 percent are female. During 2001 census year, the sex ratio among rural population of North Bengal region has recorded as 947. If we consider the rural to urban male migration as the main determining factor of low sex ratio in the urban areas, then it can be easily said that the recorded sex ratio in rural areas in the region is very low and it indicates high deficiency of female in rural areas also. However, the districtwise rural sex ratio reveals that, maximum is recorded in Darjiling with 956 females per 1000 males and the minimum of 944 is found in the district of Jalpaiguri (Appendix 7.1). Though, in case of total population, North Bengal records more sex ratio than that of West Bengal as a whole, but among total rural population, sex ratio in North Bengal is low than that of the whole state. Like the region as well as the whole state, the sex ratio is recorded slight high in rural areas than the total of rural and urban areas in Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur. In case of Maldah, the number of females per every 1000 males is same as total area of the district. Remaining two districts reveal the opposite picture and in these two districts, the sex ratio has recorded a little bit low in rural areas than among total population. Dakshin Dinajpur occupied first position among all of six districts of North Bengal in case of sex ratio among total population. But, in case of rural sex ratio, maximum sex ratio recording district is Darjiling, which is also having sex ratio of more than the state's average and remaining five districts have their sex ratio of less than that of the state's average. If we consider the average sex ratio of the whole region of North Bengal, then it is clear from the Appendix 7.1 that, Darjiling along with Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah have recorded sex ratio among rural population more than region's average. On the other hand, Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur, the two districts with minimum rural sex ratio in the whole

region lie in the below region's average rural sex ratio line. Koch Bihar records rural sex ratio same as the region's average of 947 females per 1000 males.

Figure 7.1: - District wise Distribution of Total Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001

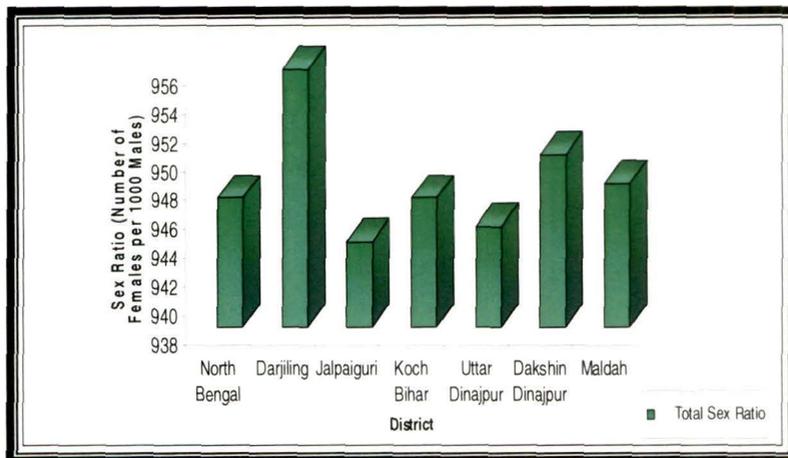
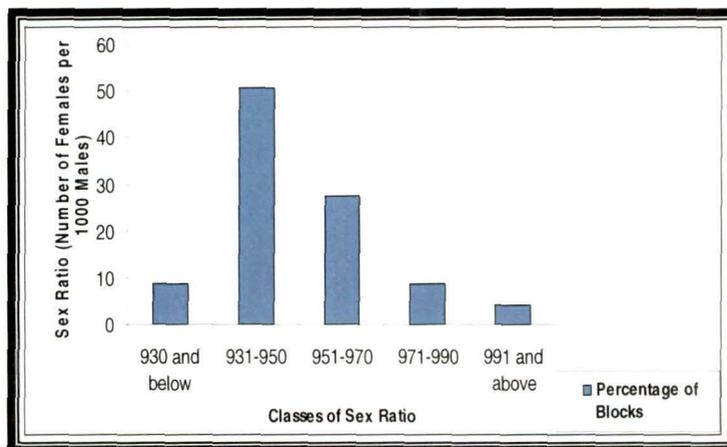


Figure 7. 2: - Block wise Distribution of Total Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001



However, the rural sex ratio varies from maximum of 956 to minimum of 944 among all of six districts of North Bengal. Only Darjiling have sex ratio more than 950 females per 1000 males. This fact indicates that there is high deficiency of women in rural areas of North Bengal. As North Bengal is a region, where most of the people lived in rural areas and the economy is also mainly agrarian and thus, this deficiency of females create much problem in agricultural as well as economic development.

The block wise distribution of rural sex ratio among 69 blocks of North Bengal shows that, it varies from maximum of 1022 females per 1000 males in JoreBungalow-Sukhiapokri block to minimum of 903 females per 1000 males in Matigara block, both in Darjiling district. Apart from JoreBungalow- Sukhiapokri, Mirik also registered rural sex ratio more than 1000. That means, out of total 69 blocks, these two blocks have number of females more that of males in rural areas. These two blocks have number of females more than that of rural areas. Rangli-Rangliot in Darjiling district is the only block in the whole region, where rural sex ratio ranges between 990 and 1000 females per 1000 males and in this block, there is 992 females have recorded per 1000 males (Table 7.1).

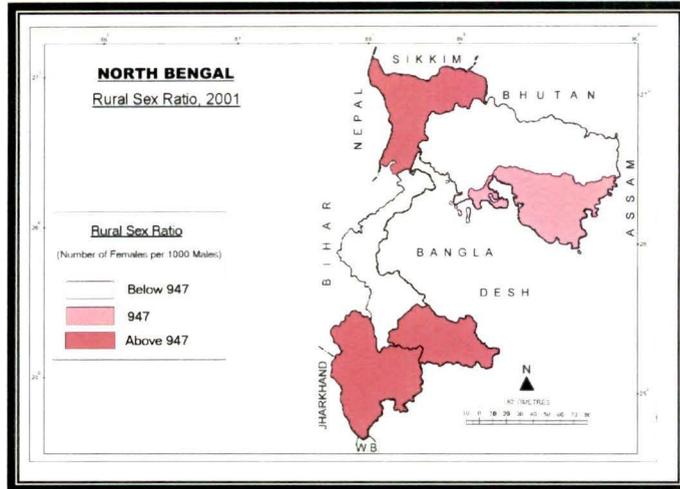
**Table 7.1: - Rural Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
Block Level Variation**

Class of Rural sex Ratio	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
930 and below	6	8.70
931-950	35	50.72
951-970	19	27.54
971-990	6	8.70
991 and Above	3	4.35
Total	69	100.00

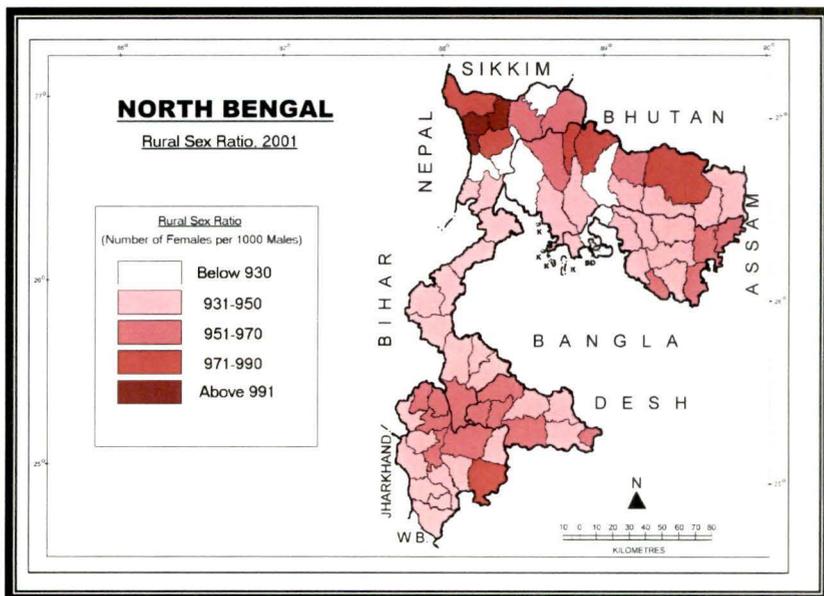
Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

There are three blocks in North Bengal, where the rural sex ratio varies between 980 and 990 and these blocks are Darjeeling-Pulbazar and Kurseong both of Darjiling district and Matiali of Jalpaiguri district. Therefore these six blocks along with Habibpur, Nagrakata and Kalchini have recorded their sex ratio of above 970 and these 9 blocks form only 13 percent of whole region. Besides these nine, there are 19 blocks, where the rural sex ratio are more than 951 females per 1000 males, that is above the state's average sex ratio for rural population. These 19 blocks constitute about 28 percent of whole North Bengal region. Therefore about 41 percent blocks of North Bengal show their sex ratio among rural population above the state's average. However, these 41 percent along with two blocks constituting about 43 percent of whole North Bengal record sex ratio more than the region's average of 947 females per 1000 males (Appendix 7.2).

Map 7.1: - Rural Sex Ratio for Total Population in North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.2: - Rural Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Distribution



The table indicates that, in the below average group, maximum concentration of blocks are in the Uttar Dinajpur district, where 78 percent blocks of this district record their rural sex ratio below 947 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, maximum concentration of blocks by individual district has recorded in case of Darjiling, where about 67 percent blocks show their rural sex ratio more than the region's average. Though, Darjiling have maximum concentration of blocks with more than region's average group among all of six districts of North Bengal, but minimum sex ratio

recording blocks are also in this district. These are Matigara, Naxalbari and Kalimpong-II with rural sex ratio of below 930. In Jalpaiguri, Rajganj have the minimum sex ratio in rural areas of 911 females per 1000 males. In Koch Bihar, the minimum sex ratio is found in Mekliganj with 929 females per 1000 males. These above mentioned blocks have rural sex ratio below 930. Though, majority of blocks of Uttar Dinajpur record their rural sex ratio of below region's average group, but the minimum rural sex ratio in this district is much higher than that of the minimum rural sex ratio of Darjiling, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar and Maldah and a little bit low of that of Dakshin Dinajpur (Map 7.1).

The block wise distribution of sex ratio of rural people varies from maximum of 1022 females per 1000 males in JoreBungalow-Sukhiapokri to minimum of 903 females per 1000 males in Matigara. Both of these blocks are located in the Darjiling district. Therefore all blocks of North Bengal vary between 903 and 1022 in number of females per 1000 males in rural areas. There are only two blocks in whole region, where the sex ratio is more than 1000, i.e., in these two blocks the number of females are more than the number of males in rural areas. These are JoreBungalow-Sukhiapokri and Mirik, both locates along the western boundary of Darjiling district with sex ratio 1022 and 1001 respectively.

If we classify the whole range of rural sex ratio from blockwise minimum to blockwise maximum into five classes of 930 and below, 931-950, 951-970, 971-990 and 991 and above; then from the table 7.1, one can easily identify the high concentration of blocks in the range of 931-950. This range of rural sex ratio covers about 51 percent blocks of whole North Bengal. In other words, more than half blocks of the region record rural sex ratio more than 931 and less than 950 females per 1000 males. Out of 35 blocks constituting 51 percent of whole North Bengal, Maldah's share is highest with 9 blocks, i.e., 26 percent of this group located in Maldah. While minimum share is of Darjiling's, because only 6 percent blocks of this group is located in this northern district. However, within this group of rural sex ratio, maximum concentration of blocks is found in Uttar Dinajpur of which 89 percent blocks record rural sex ratio between 931 and 950. It is followed by Maldah, where 60 percent blocks of the district have recorded rural sex ratio of this range. Maldah is followed by two northern districts of Koch Bihar and Jalpaiguri in terms of concentration of blocks of this range. These two districts have recorded, during the 2001 census year, about 58 percent and 46 percent blocks respectively having

rural sex ratio between 931 and 950. Remaining two districts record rural sex ratio between this range in about 38 percent and 17 percent of these blocks respectively. Therefore, with only 2 blocks in this range, Darjiling record minimum concentration of blocks (Map 7.2).

Next important group of sex ratio is 951-970, where lies about 28 percent blocks of the whole North Bengal region. In this group of rural sex ratio, maximum concentration of blocks is found in Dakshin Dinajpur district. In this district, about 63 percent blocks record rural sex ratio between 951 and 970. Two districts follow it, i.e., Koch Bihar and Maldah with 33 percent blocks each in this class of rural sex ratio. Concentration of blocks in the remaining three districts is more or less similar and varies between 11 percent and 17 percent. Total 19 blocks of North Bengal record rural sex ratio between 951 and 970 and among these blocks, maximum number of block is located in two southern districts of which 5 blocks each record rural sex ratio in this group, constituting about 26 percent of all blocks in this group. Lowest share is of Uttar Dinajpur's, because only one block of this range is located in this district. Two groups of sex ratio among rural population record about 9 percent blocks and these are 971-990 and 930 and below. In the former group of rural sex ratio, Jalpaiguri record with about 23 percent of its blocks, which is followed by Darjiling and Maldah. About 17 and 7 percent blocks of these districts record rural sex ratio between 971 and 990 respectively. Thus, out of total 69 blocks of whole region, about 5 have sex ratio in this range constituting about 9 percent in the region. Same percentage of blocks also constitutes the lowest group of rural sex ratio, i.e., the class of below 930 females per 1000 males. Three districts have this type of sex ratio in rural areas of some of their blocks and these are Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar. These record low sex ratio of below 930 females per 1000 males in about 25, 15 and 8 percent blocks respectively. There are only four percent blocks of whole region in the maximum rural sex ratio class of above 991. All of these are located in the Darjiling district.

There are total 12 blocks in this northernmost district and among them two record number of females more than the number of males in rural areas of the district. These are JoreBunglow-Sukhiapokri and Mirik (Appendix 7.3). Another block, namely, Rangli-Rangliot record rural sex ratio of 992 females per 1000 males. These three blocks, in whole North Bengal region record such a high rural sex ratio of above 990. In spite of

these three high rural sex ratio in the northern part of the district, two southern blocks, namely, Matigara and Naxalbari have recorded very low sex ratio of below 915 females per 1000 males. Matigara is the block, with lowest rural sex ratio in whole North Bengal region. Thus, in two parts of the district contrasting feature can be observe in term of number of females per 1000 males in rural areas. However, except Kalimpong-II, all the northern and middle blocks have recorded rural sex ratio of more than 968. Two other southern blocks, i.e., Kharibari and Phansidewa record 941 and 950 females per 1000 males respectively. Therefore, about 58 percent blocks of this district record rural sex ratio of more than the district's average of 956 females per 1000 males. About 944 females are there in Jalpaiguri district per 1000 males in the district's rural population. Maximum sex ratio is recorded in the Matiali block with 981 females per 1000 males and the minimum rural sex ratio is recorded in Dhupguri with 921 females per 1000 males. Only the former records rural sex ratio of more than 975 in whole district. However, four northern blocks, Kalchini, Nagrakata, Madarihat and Mal record rural sex ratio above 960 females per 1000 males. These four along with Matiali record comparatively high rural sex ratio than that of the southern part of the district. Thus, like Darjiling, this district also records relatively high rural sex ratio among its northern blocks and low sex ratio in its southern blocks. The Rajganj block, which occupies a part of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, records only 926 females per 1000 males in its rural areas. In Koch Bihar district, the maximum sex ratio have recorded in Dinhata-II and Tufanganj-II with 965 females per 1000 males in each and minimum is recorded in Mekliganj with 930 females per 1000 males with 947 females per 1000 males as the district average. Thus, in this district, no block is there which records rural sex ratio of more than 970 females per 1000 males. About 17 percent blocks of this district record rural sex ratio more than 961 female per 1000 males, while two other blocks constituting about another 17 percent record rural sex ratio between 950 and 960. On the other hand, Mekliganj record very low rural sex ratio of below 930 females per 1000 males. About 945 females per 1000 males have recorded in rural areas of Uttar Dinajpur district. The block wise sex ratio varies from maximum of 960 in Itahar to minimum of 938 females per 1000 males in Chopra. Thus, the rural sex ratio is the maximum in extreme south and minimum is in extreme north of the district (Map 7.2). However, only Itahar record rural sex ratio more than 950 females per 1000 males and all other blocks record rural sex ratio between 931 and 950 females per 1000 males. About 950 females have enumerated

per 1000 males in rural areas of Dakshin Dinajpur district. This is the second highest sex ratio in the whole North Bengal region following Darjiling. Very low range of sex ratio is found in this district between highest of 964 and lowest of 939 females per 1000 males. Only two blocks, namely, Harirampur and Kushmundi have sex ratio more than 960 females per 1000 males, while about 38 percent blocks record sex ratio between 950 and 960 females per 1000 males. Balurghat has the lowest rural sex ratio where the sex ratio is less than 939 females per 1000 males. In this district, about 38 percent blocks have sex ratio less than 950 females per 1000 males and remaining 62 percent record more than 950 females per 1000 males. In case of Maldah district, maximum rural sex ratio is recorded in the Habibpur block, where about 977 females are there per 1000 males and minimum sex ratio is found in Ratua-I with 934 females per 1000 males. Only Chanchal-II and Gazole have recorded rural sex ratio between 960 and 980 females per 1000 males, while three northwestern block have rural sex ratio between 950 and 960 females per 1000 males. Therefore, out of 15 blocks, 6 constitute about 40 percent blocks of the district record rural sex ratio more than 950 females per 1000 males, and thus more than half, i.e., about 60 percent blocks record sex ratio of below 500 in rural areas. All the southern blocks of the district have very low number of women compared to that of males in rural areas (Appendix 7.3).

7.2.2 SEX RATIO FOR CHILD (0-6 Ages) POPULATION

Sex ratio among 0-6 populations in whole North Bengal has recorded 966 females per 1000 males in 2001. District wise distribution reveals the fact that, Jalpaiguri with 969 females per 1000 males occupies highest position while Koch Bihar recording child sex ratio of 963 secure lowest position (Appendix 7.1).

But in case of block wise distribution, Gorubathan records maximum sex ratio of 1045 with Rangli-Rangliot records minimum sex ratio of 919 girls per 1000 boys. Gorubathan is the only block with more number of females than males (Appendix 7.5). Remaining 68 blocks record child sex ratio of below 1000 girls per 1000 boys. Only in JoreBunglow-Sukhiapokri the number of girl child for every 1000 boy child is less than 1000 but more than 990. At least 8 blocks record child sex ratio ranges between 981 and 990 girls per 1000 boys with Gazole having 980. There are 19 blocks in the range of 970-980. In the

range of 961-970, there are 18 blocks. About 15 blocks are in the group of 951-960 in the below 950 group, there are total 6 blocks.

**Table 7.2: - Child (0-6 Ages) Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001-
Block Level Variation**

Class of Child Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
930 and below	1	1.45
931-950	6	8.70
951-970	33	47.83
971-990	27	39.13
991 and Above	2	2.90
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Therefore, Table 7.2 reveals that maximum concentration is in the range of 951-970 where, about 48 per cent block of the whole region record their child sex ratio in rural areas with the region's average itself lies in this class of child sex ratio. In this range, maximum cluster of blocks is found in Uttar Dinajpur constituting 67 per cent blocks of the district. Next important cluster is in Jalpaiguri, where about 58 per cent blocks record their rural child sex ratio varies between 971 and 980 girls per 1000 boys respectively. Koch Bihar and Dakshin Dinajpur come next both with half of their blocks under this category. These are followed by Maldah with 47 per cent blocks. Remaining one, i.e., Darjiling records sex ratio among rural children of 0-6 ages of this class in its 25 per cent blocks.

According to the table 7.2, next important class is 971-990, where about 39 per cent blocks of the whole region lie. Among these blocks, majority comes from three districts of Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar constituting more than half blocks lying in this class. But in case of individual district, Dakshin Dinajpur possesses major contribution of blocks constituting its half (50 per cent) blocks in this class. Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar record rural sex ratio for 0-6 population of this class in their 46 and 42 per cent blocks respectively. Except these three, remaining three districts share between 33 percent of their blocks each in this class. About 8 per cent blocks of whole North

Bengal region record child sex ratio for rural areas in the class of 931-950 girls per 1000 boys. Only Maldah, Darjiling and Koch Bihar share their blocks varies between 8-20 per cent in this category.

In the above 991 group, there are total two blocks and both are of Darjiling district's with Gorubathan having more females than males in the age group of 0-6 in rural areas. But in the below 930 group, there is one block namely, Rangli-Rangliot which is located in the extreme north of Darjiling district (Appendix 7.5).

If we classify all blocks of North Bengal into two groups based on the regions average, then Appendix 7.4 reveals that about 46 per cent blocks of the whole region record sex ratio for 0-6 age groups in rural areas of less than the region's average of 966 females per 1000 males. Koch Bihar and Dakshin Dinajpur have recorded half blocks of each district is on the below average group. This means, in other words, except Koch Bihar and Dakshin Dinajpur, all remaining four districts have recorded more than half of their total blocks in the above average group.

On the other hand, remaining 54 percent blocks of the whole region form the above region's average group. As mentioned earlier, in case of Koch Bihar and Dakshin Dinajpur, the distribution of Community Development blocks in the below average and above average group is same, i.e., 50 per cent. in each group. More than 55 per cent blocks each of Darjiling and Uttar Dinajpur have recorded child sex ratio for rural areas more than the North Bengal's average of 966 females per 1000 males. These two districts are followed by Jalpaiguri with 54 per cent and Maldah, the southern most district, having its 53 per cent blocks in the above average group.

The district wise distribution shows that in Darjiling district, major concentration of blocks is in 971-980 group, where about 33 per cent of its blocks lie. Next important cluster of blocks of this district is in the below 950 group with 25 per cent blocks recording child sex ratio of such a very low range. These blocks include two extreme southern, i.e., Naxalbari and Kharibari along with one northern, i.e. Rangli-Rangliot. It is interesting to note that remaining two southern blocks record slightly more sex ratio for rural children with Matigara and Phansidewa having comparatively high sex ratio of more than 971 girls per 1000 boys. Two hilly blocks one located in extreme north east

namely, Gorubathan and another on extreme north west, i.e. JoreBunglow-sukhaipokri record very high child sex ratio of more than 991 girls per 1000 boys in rural areas. Only Gorubathan block have recorded child sex ratio for rural areas more than 1000. In other words, Gorubathan is the only block in the whole region, where girls are more in number in the age group 0-6 in rural areas (Map 7.4).

Figure 7. 3: - District wise Distribution of Child (0-6) Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001

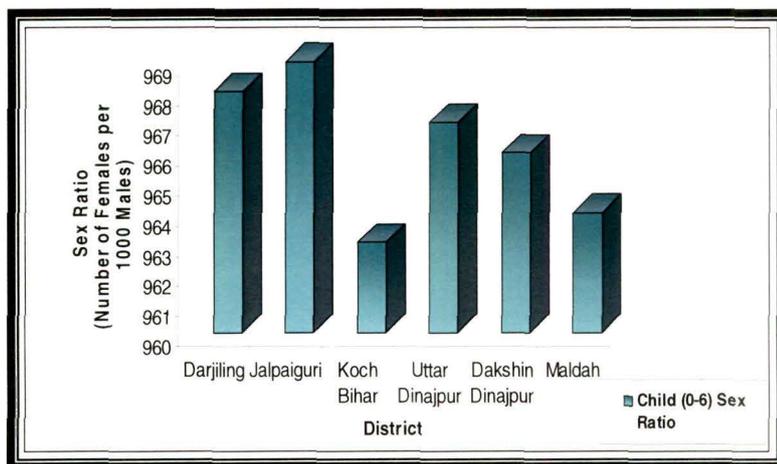
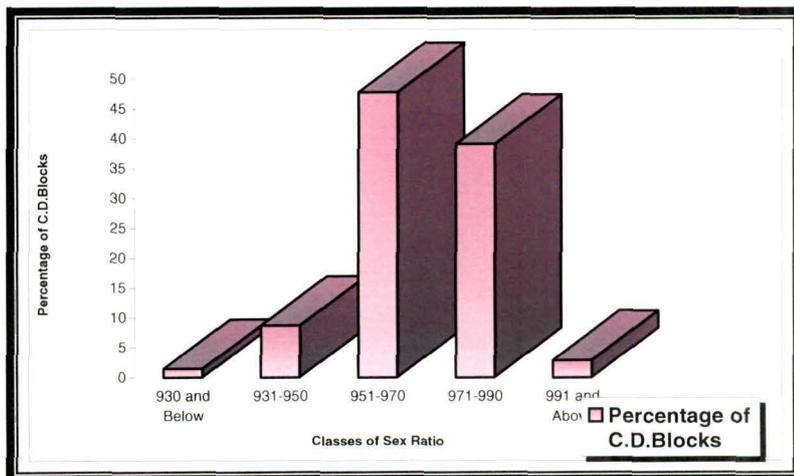


Figure 7. 4: - Block wise Distribution of Child (0-6) Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001



In the district of Jalpaiguri, the two extremes of child sex ratio for rural areas are Jalpaiguri block with 956 and Nagrakata located on the northern part of the district with

the highest sex ratio of 988 females per 1000 males. It is interesting to note that, all the blocks of this district with rural child's sex ratio varies within two groups of sex ratio of 951-970 and 971-990 females per 1000 males. About 58 percent blocks record child sex ratio for rural population varies between 951-970 females per 1000 males. In this group, only Jalpaiguri have recorded child sex ratio for rural population of below 960 females per 1000 males. Remaining all six blocks of this group ranges from 960-970 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, in the 971-990 group, Alipurduar-I, Kalchini and Nagrakata have recorded sex ratio above 981 girls per 1000 boys.

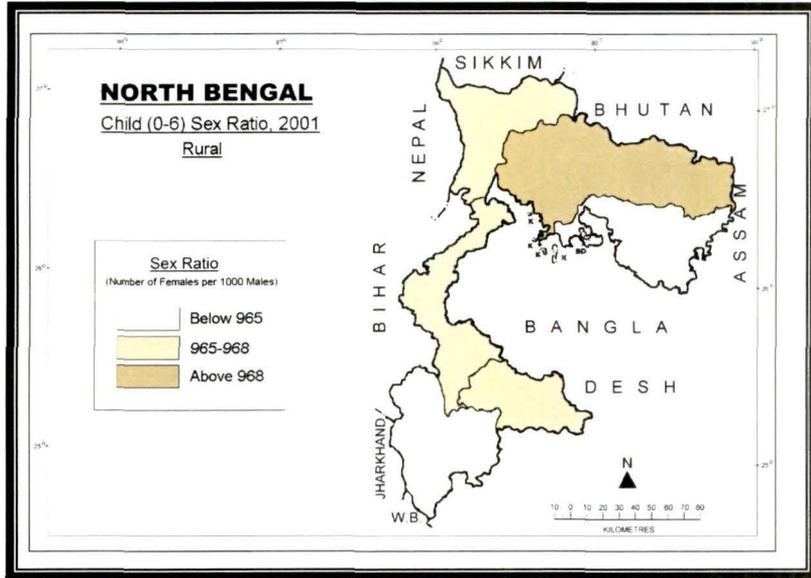
The block wise distribution of child sex ratio for rural areas varies from maximum of 985 girls per 1000 boys in Haldibari to minimum of 943 girls per 1000 boys in Dinhat-I in the district of Koch Bihar. Therefore, there is no block having sex ratio more than 990 girls per 1000 boys as well as less than 930 girls per 1000 boys. However, only Haldibari records sex ratio more than 980 girls per 1000 boys. Dinhat-II, Sitalkuchi, Tufanganj-I and Mathabhanga-II also lie in the sex ratio group of 971-980. Therefore, these six blocks form the group of above region's average child sex ratio group of 966 girls per 1000 boys. There are two blocks, Mathabhanga-I and Tufanganj-II which have recorded sex ratio for rural 0-6 age groups ranges within 961-970 females per 1000 males. Only Dinhat-I have recorded very low sex ratio for rural children of 0-6 ages less than 950 girls per 1000 boys.

In the Uttar Dinajpur district, Raiganj records the highest child sex ratio in rural areas, with 975 girls per 1000 boys. On the contrary, the lowest sex ratio is in Goalpokhar-II with 954. Thus, there is large gap between highest and the lowest sex ratio. However, majority of blocks of about 55.56 percent blocks of this district lie in the group of 961-970. Only three blocks comprising about 33 percent blocks of the district namely Itahar, Goalpokhar-I and Raiganj record child sex ratio of more than 971 females per 1000 males in the age group of 0-6 among rural population.

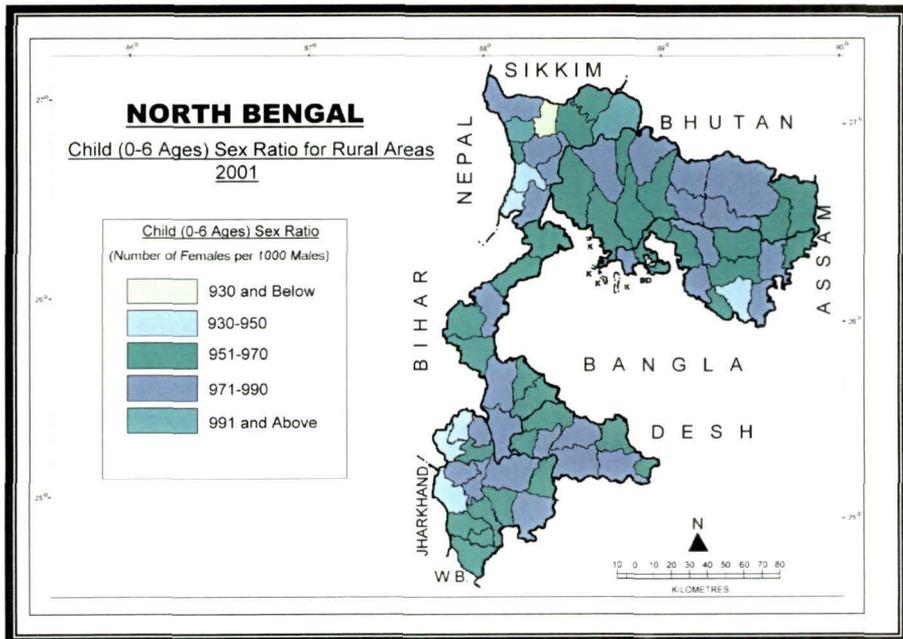
The block wise distribution of child sex ratio varies in Dakshin Dinajpur from maximum in Bansihari with 975 girls per 1000 boys to minimum in Kushmundi with 953 girls per 1000 boys. Thus, between maximum and minimum sex ratio, the gap is very small. No block records sex ratio more than 980 girls per 1000 boys. There are three blocks namely; Gangarampur, Balurghat and Tapan record sex ratio of 971 each. About 38

percent blocks record child sex ratio for rural areas less than 970 but more than 960 girls per 1000 boys. Thus, out of total 8 blocks, 4 blocks record child sex ratio more than North Bengal's average of 966 girls per 1000 boys.

Map 7.3: - Rural Sex Ratio for Child (0-6 Ages) Population in North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.4: - Child (0-6) Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



In case of Maldah district maximum child sex ratio is found in Habibpur with 988 girls per 1000 boys, while minimum sex ratio is found in Harishchandrapur-I with 934 girls per 1000 boys. Thus, there is no block having child sex ratio more than 991 girls per 1000 boys. Four blocks, two, i.e., Chanchal-I and Ratua-II located on the northwestern part and two namely Gazole and Habibpur located on the north and eastern part, record sex ratio of comparatively high of more than 980 girls per 1000 boys. Only Ratua-I have recorded sex ratio of between 971 and 980 girls per 1000 boys. About 33 percent blocks record sex ratio for rural children of 0-6 ages between 960 and 970 females per 1000 males. Harishchandrapur-I and Harishchandrapur-II, the two northwestern blocks along with western block, Manikchak record very low child sex ratio of less than 950 girls per 1000 boys in rural areas. Remaining three blocks constituting 20 per cent of the district form the group of 951-960 girls per 1000 boys (Map 7.4).

7.2.3 SEX RATIO AMONG LITERATES

Literacy is the first step towards formal education. It refers to the ability to read and write. Female literacy has been improving over the years. The proportion of women who are literate has increased by 15 percent in the whole country over the last decade from 39 percent in 1991 to 54 percent in 2001. This is a remarkable improvement that reflects the concerted efforts of the state along with the assistance of non-governmental organizations and other concerned groups. But the point to consider is the unequal improvement of female literacy among all states of the nation. West Bengal is also behind some states in terms of female literacy.

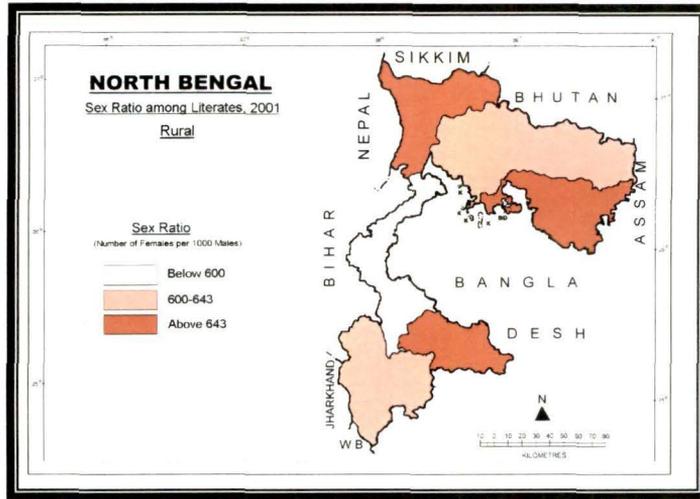
While the low literacy rate may be explained by a range of factors such as non-availability of schools, teachers, equipments and infrastructure, which affect both sexes, it is the social attitude and perception that attach lower preference to girls' education that increase the gender gap in literacy. The emphasis laid upon training girls for marriage, inadequate facilities for girls in schools, absence of adequate female teachers, fear for their safety and so on are among the reasons for the low enrolment of girls in schools. The use of girls in sibling care, as additional hands for helping mothers in the household, farm and off-farm work and so on operate to reduce the availability of formal education

for them. Due to low retention at the primary level, very few girls reach middle and secondary schools or higher levels of education. This implies low human capital development, poor levels of skill to meet market demands, lowering the probability of women joining the labour market except in jobs that are in the informal sector, which are low-paid and virtually with no protection or security. Lower literacy also impacts upon women's awareness levels regarding their own health needs, thereby foreclosing the possibility of improving their access to the available services for their well being.

Though the overall sex ratio for the whole region of North Bengal is 676 females per 1000 males among literates during the year 2001, but for rural areas of the region, it is 643. That means, only 643 female literates are there per every 1000 male literates. This figure for the rural areas of the whole state is something more and it is about 691 females per 1000 males. In terms of rural sex ratio for literates, all the districts of North Bengal ranges between 533 and 694 females per 1000 males in Uttar Dinajpur and Darjiling respectively as the minimum and the maximum sex ratio. Dakshin Dinajpur follows Darjiling, where about 681 females are literate against every 1000 male literates in rural areas of the district. Closely lying behind Dakshin Dinajpur is the Koch Bihar with 680 females per 1000 males as sex ratio among rural literates, occupies the third highest position. Among the rest three districts, Maldah occupies highest position and Jalpaiguri follows Maldah. The lowest sex ratio of rural literates has recorded in the Uttar Dinajpur district. This is the only district having less than 600 female literates per 1000 male literates in rural areas (Appendix 7.1).

The literacy rate in rural areas is also high for males, females and total population in Darjiling and minimum in Uttar Dinajpur. The second highest sex ratio among rural literates is found in Dakshin Dinajpur but the second maximum literacy rate is found in Koch Bihar district for the entire three male, female as well as total population. Dakshin Dinajpur places third highest in case of literacy rate. Uttar Dinajpur records very low female literacy rate in rural areas having only 31 percent females as literate in whole rural female population. Maldah is another female illiterate prone area with about 39 percent of district's female population as literate. Darjiling leads all districts in female literacy rate having 55 percent of its rural females being educated, but this figure is very low in relation to male literacy rate of rural areas in the district (Map 7.5).

Map 7.5: - Sex Ratio among Literates in Rural North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.6 - Sex Ratio among Literates in Rural North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation

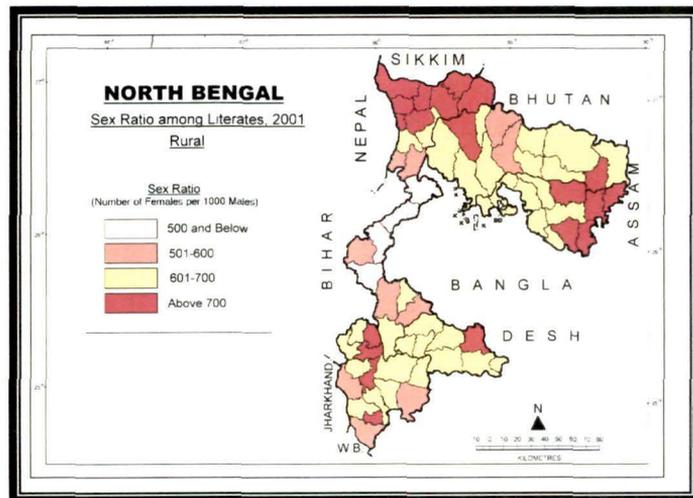


Figure 7. 5: - District wise Distribution of Literates Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001

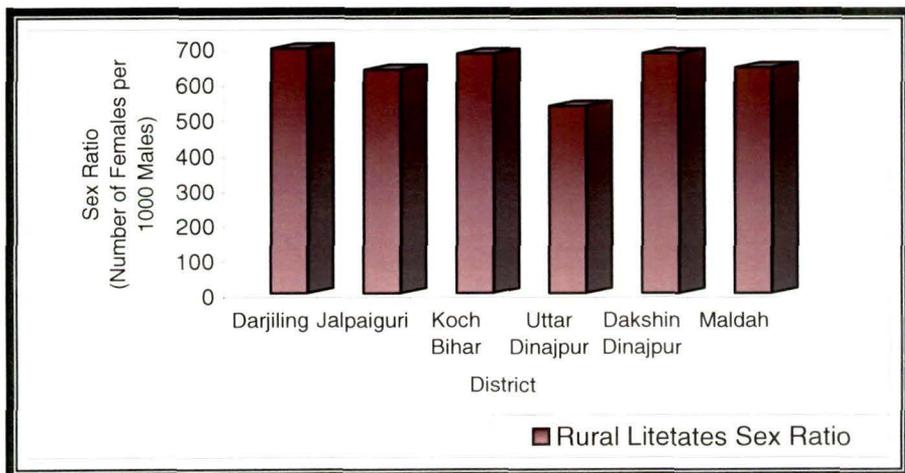


Figure 7.6: - Block wise Distribution of Literates Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001

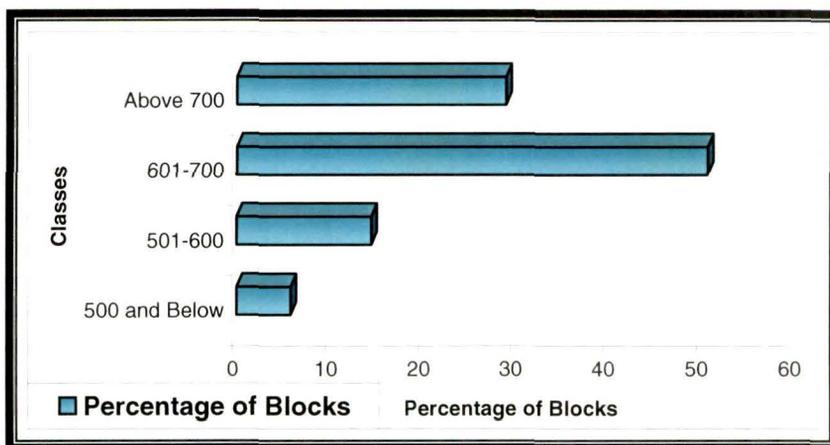


Table 7.3: - Sex Ratio among Literates in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block Level Variation

Class of Literates Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
500 and below	4	5.80
501-600	10	14.49
601-700	35	50.72
700 and Above	20	28.99
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.4: - Sex Ratio for Literates in Rural North Bengal –Block Level Variation by Districts 2001

	Percentage of C.D. Blocks in each group of Sex Ratio for Rural Literates in North Bengal			
	500 and Below	501-600	601-700	Above 700
Darjiling	0.00	16.67	16.67	66.67
Jalpaiguri	0.00	15.38	69.23	15.38
Koch Bihar	0.00	0.00	58.33	41.67
Uttar Dinajpur	44.44	33.33	22.22	0.00
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.00	0.00	87.50	12.50
Maldah	0.00	20.00	53.33	26.67
Total	5.80	14.49	50.72	28.99

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

The district wise distribution of rural literates shows that there are three out of 6 districts which record sex ratio more than that of the region's average of 643 females per 1000 males. These three includes two northern districts of Darjiling, Koch Bihar, and one southern district namely Dakshin Dinajpur. Among these only first is above state's average sex ratio for rural literates during the year 2001. Thus, remaining three districts are on the lower side of the region's average sex ratio of 643 females per 1000 males.

However block wise distribution shows that the sex ratio varies from 793 females per 1000 males in Kalimpong-I to 432 in Goalpokhar-I as the maximum and the minimum respectively. Therefore, all blocks of the region varies between 432 and 793 females per 1000 males in case of sex ratio among rural literate. Appendix 7.6 reveals that, out of total 69 blocks, 36 have recorded sex ratio more than the region's average of 643 females per 1000 males, which constitutes about 52 percent while remaining 48 percent blocks record sex ratio less than the region's average. In this above average group, maximum share is from four districts, namely Darjiling, Dakshin Dinajpur and Koch Bihar and all of these shares more than 50 percent each of all blocks lies in this group. Most important concentration of block is observe in the Dakshin Dinajpur district, where all of the blocks of the district record sex ratio among literates for rural areas more than the region's average of 943 females per 1000 males. Darjiling comes next with about 67 percent of its blocks having sex ratio in this group. Koch Bihar follows Darjiling with concentration of its 58 percent blocks in the above average group of sex ratio. Thus, apart from these three districts, Maldah and Jalpaiguri record their 47 and 46 percent blocks respectively in this above average group. But in case of below average group, cent percent blocks of Uttar Dinajpur record their sex ratio in this group.

But if we consider the state's average, then it will be clear from the above table that, only 20 blocks constituting only 30 percent of whole North Bengal has recorded their sex ratio on the above state's average group. Out of these 21 blocks 8 comes from Darjiling district whereas remaining 12 includes 2 from Jalpaiguri, 5 from Koch Bihar, 1 from Dakshin Dinajpur and 4 from Maldah district. The block wise distribution of sex ratio among literates in rural areas shows that it varies from maximum of 793 females per 1000 males in Kalimpong-I to minimum of 432 in Goalpakhar-I.

It is clear from Appendix 7.6 that, in Darjiling concentration of blocks having sex ratio for literates in rural areas above state's average is the maximum in the whole North Bengal. On the other hand with all blocks in the above North Bengal's average, Dakshin Dinajpur possesses highest position in the whole region. In the former, about 68 percent blocks record sex ratio for literates in rural areas above region's average, as well as above state's average. It is interesting to note that all of 8 blocks constituting 68 percent of the district are all hilly northern blocks of the district. While four southern blocks namely Phansidewa, Kharibari, Matigara and Naxalbari record sex ratio below the regions average sex ratio.

If we classify the whole range of rural sex ratio for literates in rural areas from below 500 to above 701 females per 1000 males into four group of High, Moderate, Low, and very low then it will be clear that majority blocks of the whole North Bengal region lie moderate sex ratio group which is followed by high group. The table 7.3 and table 7.4 shows that about 20 blocks of the whole region constitutes 29 percent record high sex ratio of more than 700. These 29 percent comprises about 67 percent of Darjiling district, 15 percent of Jalpaiguri, 42 percent of Koch Bihar, 13 percent of Dakshin Dinajpur and 27 percent of Maldah district. Therefore, majority blocks of Darjiling have high sex ratio among literates in rural areas. On the contrary, no block of Uttar Dinajpur is in this group (Map 7.6).

The Table 7.4 also shows that, majority blocks of the region are showing moderate sex ratio. More than half of North Bengal's blocks, i.e. about 51 percent record sex ratio for literates in rural areas in this group. About 17 percent blocks of Darjiling, 69 percent of Jalpaiguri, 58 percent of Koch Bihar, 22 percent of Uttar Dinajpur, 88 percent of Dakshin Dinajpur and 53 percent of Maldah have shown sex ratio of moderate group between 601 and 700. Major concentration of blocks in this range is in Dakshin Dinajpur where 7 blocks out of total 8 are in this group. Next important concentration is in Jalpaiguri, Maldah and Koch Bihar with more than half blocks of each have moderate sex ratio. Uttar Dinajpur and Darjiling share the minimum concentration of their blocks in this moderate group. However in the low sex ratio group, 14 percent blocks of whole North Bengal region record their rural literates sex ratio. Major concentration is in Uttar Dinajpur where 33 percent blocks have low sex ratio for rural literates. Maldah with 20 percent, Darjiling with 17 percent and Jalpaiguri with 15 percent blocks follow it in this

low group. No block of Koch Bihar and Dakshin Dinajpur is in this group. About 44 percent blocks of Uttar Dinajpur shows very low sex ratio of less than 500 females per 1000 males. Only this district has its blocks in this group. These blocks are Goalpokhar-I, Karandighi, Islampur and Chopra.

The block wise distribution of sex ratio for rural literates in Darjiling district varies from maximum of 793 females per 1000 males in the Kalimpong-I block to minimum of 572 females per 1000 males in the Phansidewa block. The former is the block wise maximum in the whole region of North Bengal. No block of this district records sex ratio for rural literates of below 500 females per 1000 males. Four southern blocks namely, Phansidewa, Kharibari, Matigara and Naxalbari record sex ratio less than 700 females per 1000 males. Remaining 8 hilly blocks constituting about 67 percent record sex ratio for rural literates of more than 701 females per 1000 males in 2001. Out of these 8 blocks 5 have recorded sex ratio more than 750 females per 1000 males.

In Jalpaiguri district, there are 6 blocks recording sex ratio of more than the region's average. This district varies in sex ratio for literates in rural areas from the maximum of 782 females per 1000 males in Mal to the minimum of 586 females per 1000 males in Nagrakata and Dhupguri. Only Mal and Alipurduar –II have high sex ratio of more than 700 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, Nagrakata and Dhupguri have recorded moderate sex ratio of less than 600 females per 1000 males.

In Koch Bihar district, average sex ratio is 680 females per 1000 males, which is the third highest in North Bengal. The sex ratio in Koch Bihar district varies from maximum of 723 females per 1000 males in Cooch Behar-II to minimum of 612 females per 1000 males in Mekliganj block. There are total five blocks including Cooch Behar-II, Tufanganj –I, Dinhata –II, Tufanganj-II and Dinhata –I, where sex ratio for rural literates is more than 700 females per 1000 males. There is no block in this district where sex ratio is less than 600. These above mentioned five blocks along with Cooch Behar-I and Mathabhanga-II form the category of above region's average.

In case of Uttar Dinajpur district, average sex ratio is recorded as 533 females per 1000 males, which ranges between maximum of 638 to minimum of 432 females per 1000 males i.e. from Hemtabad to Goalpokhar –I respectively. Hemtabad and Itahar with 638

and 604 females per 1000 males respectively are only two blocks with sex ratio more than 600 females per 1000 males. Remaining about 78 percent blocks are in the below 600 females per 1000 males sex ratio group. There are four blocks, namely, Chopra, Islampur, Karandighi and Goalpokhar –I, where sex ratio rural literates is so low that these are below 500 females per 1000 males. Thus, Uttar Dinajpur district have very low sex ratio among rural literates than all other districts of North Bengal.

Dakshin Dinajpur district have sex ratio of 681 females per 1000 males, i.e. district wise second highest position in North Bengal. In this district, block wise maximum sex ratio has been found in Kumarganj, which is the only block of this district with sex ratio more than 700 females per 1000 males. Except this mentioned block, all other seven blocks have sex ratio ranges between 600 and 700 females per 1000 males and there is no block with rural literate sex ratio below 600 females per 1000 males. Not only that, all blocks of this district has sex ratio more than the region's average for rural population.

In case of Maldah district, though the average sex ratio for rural literates is noticed as 641 females per 1000 males, but it varies from maximum of 711 females per 1000 males in Chanchal-I to minimum of 539 females per 1000 males in Manikchak. Along with Chanchal-I, Kaliachak-I, Ratua-II and Chanchal-II also recorded sex ratio among their rural literates more than the 700 females per 1000 males. Therefore remaining 53 percent blocks of Maldah district have recorded their sex ratio below North Bengal's average of 643 females per 1000 males. There are three blocks namely Habibpur, Kaliachack –III and Manikchak, where sex ratio for rural literates is as low as below 600 females per 1000 males.

Therefore, from the above discussion it is clear that in the whole North Bengal, out of total 69 blocks, 20 constituting 29 percent of the whole region have recorded sex ratio among rural literates of more than 700 females per 1000 males. Out of these 20 blocks 40 percent are located in northernmost hilly district of Darjiling.

Map7.6 reveals the fact that, there are mainly three concentration of high sex ratio for rural literates in North Bengal region. One concentration of blocks of comparatively high literacy is on the extreme northwest corner of the region. Another is on the extreme northeast corner of North Bengal region and the third one is some small pockets

spreading over extreme southern section of the region. On the contrary, concentration of blocks having the minimum sex ratio for rural literates is located only in the central portion of the region.

7.2.4 SEX RATIO FOR SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION

In a traditional rural society, developed around a largely self-sufficient village community, various castes have performed their well-regulated functions. In ancient and medieval times spatial mobility and linkages were restricted to a few pilgrimages to sacred places, and to trips associated with marriages. During the last fifty years, with the establishment of an increasing number of spatial links of villages to urban centers, caste structure is undergoing change and its ritual role is declining. However, different castes perform traditionally defined economic, social and ceremonial roles within the village. The upper castes depend on the lower ones for labor, artisan goods and menial services; the lower castes look upon for the upper ones for financial rewards and loans in times of need. Historically, this interdependence has preserved and strengthened the caste structure.

However, in the whole North Bengal about 30 percent of the total population has been enumerated as scheduled castes population. In case of rural population, the sex ratio for scheduled castes have recorded as 946 females per 1000 males. According to the Appendix 7.1, the sex ratio for scheduled castes in rural North Bengal ranges from the maximum of 951 females per 1000 males in Koch Bihar to the minimum of 942 females per 1000 males in Jalpaiguri district. Darjiling follows Koch Bihar with 950 females per 1000 males. These two districts along with Dakshin Dinajpur record sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population of more than the region's average (Map 7.7).

The block level variation ranges from the maximum of 1091 females per 1000 males in Jore Bunglow- Sukhiapokhri of Darjiling district to the minimum of 921 females per 1000 males in the English Bazar block of Maldah district. In other words, in terms of sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population, block wise highest is recorded in extreme north and the block wise lowest is in the extreme south of the North Bengal region.

If we divide this gap of block wise highest and lowest, then from table 7.5, it will be clear that, majority of blocks are concentrated in the group of sex ratio for rural

scheduled castes population ranges between 941-960 females per 1000 males where about 41 percent of all blocks have been enumerated in the census year 2001. Next two concentrations of blocks are in the class of sex ratio of 940 and below and 961-980 with concentration of about 26 and 20 percent of blocks respectively. It is interesting to note that, about 7 percent of blocks have recorded sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population of more than 1001 females per 1000 males.

Table 7.5: - Sex Ratio among Scheduled Castes in Rural North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation

Class of Scheduled Castes Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
940 and below	18	26.09
941-960	28	40.60
961-980	14	20.29
981-1000	04	5.80
1001 and Above	05	7.25
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.6: - Sex Ratio for Scheduled Castes in Rural North Bengal –Block Level Variation by Districts 2001

	Percentage of C.D. Blocks in each group of Sex Ratio for Scheduled Castes Population in Rural North Bengal				
	940 and Below	941-960	961-980	981-1000	1001 and Above
Darjiling	25.00	8.33	8.33	16.67	41.67
Jalpaiguri	30.77	38.46	20.08	7.69	0.00
Koch Bihar	16.67	50.00	33.33	0.00	0.00
Uttar Dinajpur	22.22	66.67	11.11	0.00	0.00
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.00	75.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Maldah	46.67	26.67	20.00	6.67	0.00
Total	26.09	40.60	20.29	5.80	7.25

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

The block wise distribution of sex ratio for scheduled castes population in rural North Bengal region reveals the fact that, though about 7.25 percent blocks of the whole region record more females than males, but all these blocks are located in Darjiling district constituting about 42 percent of the whole district. On the contrary to this, Maldah district's share is the highest among all districts in the lowest class of sex ratio of 940 and below, where about 47 percent of all blocks of Maldah have recorded sex ratio of this lowest class. However, table 7.6 reveals that, about 75 percent blocks of the Dakshin Dinajpur district have recorded sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population between 941 and 960 females per 1000 males. This is the largest concentration of blocks of any district in one class.

In case of Darjiling district, major concentration of blocks is in the above 1001 class of sex ratio where about 42 percent blocks were enumerated during the 2001 census. These blocks are located in the north and northwestern part of the district. These blocks are Jorebunglow- Sukhiapokri, Mirik, Darjiling-Pulbazar, Kurseong and Kalimpong-I. The second largest concentration of blocks is in the below 940 group. Remaining about 33 percent blocks of this district record sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population between 941 and 1000 (Table 7.5).

In the Jalpaiguri district, no block is recorded sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population of more than 1000. The block wise highest and the lowest sex ratio are recorded in the Kalchini and Dhupguri with sex ratio of 996 and 932 respectively. Kalchini is the only block in the district with sex ratio more than 981 females per 1000 males. About 69 percent blocks of Jalpaiguri district record sex ratio less than 960 females per 1000 males. Three blocks namely, Nagrakata, Madarihat and Matiali record sex ratio more than 961 but less than 980 females per 1000 males.

About 50 percent blocks of the district of Koch Bihar record sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population of between 941 and 960 females per 1000 males. Two western blocks of the district, namely Haldibari and Mekhliganj have recorded very low sex ratio of less than 940 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, two easternmost blocks namely Tufanganj-I and Tufanganj-II have recorded sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population of more than 970 with the second one as the highest sex ratio recording block with 976 females per 1000 males.

Majority of blocks, i.e., about 67 percent of the Uttar Dinajpur district record sex ratio among scheduled castes of rural areas between 941 and 960 females per 1000 males. Itahar with sex ratio of 961 form the block wise maximum in the district. It is the only block with sex ratio more than 960 females per 1000 males.

About 75 percent blocks of the Dakshin Dinajpur district have registered their sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population between 941 and 960 females per 1000 males. Remaining 25 percent blocks record sex ratio between 961 and 980. Hilli and Bansihari with 965 and 942 females per 1000 males respectively are the maximum and minimum sex ratio recording blocks of the district.

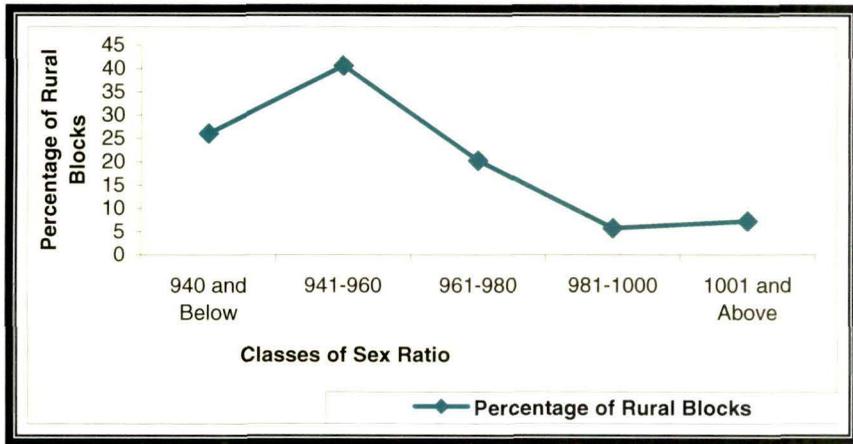
In Maldah district, the sex ratio for rural scheduled castes population ranges from the maximum of 996 in Chanchal-II to the minimum of 921 females per 1000 males in the English Bazar block. Only the former records sex ratio of more than 981 females per 1000 males. About 47 percent blocks record sex ratio below 940 females per 1000 males. Three blocks namely, Chanchal-I, Habibpur and Ratua-II have recorded sex ratio among scheduled castes population in rural areas of more than 961 but less than 980 females per 1000 males (Table 7.8).

Map 7.8 shows that, on the extreme north west corner of the North Bengal region one can identify easily the concentration of high sex ratio group of more than 1000. This is the only one concentration of such high sex ratio among rural scheduled castes population in the whole region. These blocks are all located in the northern hilly part of the region. There are only three very small pockets of sex ratio of 981-1000 females per 1000 males. Among these three, two are located along the northern boundary of the region, while the third one is located in the western side of the southern part of the region. The map shows that, there are nine very small pockets of sex ratio of 961-980 females per 1000 males distributed in the whole region. There are two small and two large concentrations of blocks of sex ratio of 941-960 females per 1000 males. Among the large two, one is located on the northeast portion of the region covering eastern and southern part of Jalpaiguri and central part of the Koch Bihar district. The second one is like a wide belt starting from the central part of the region covering almost whole of Dakshin Dinajpur, central and southern part of Uttar Dinajpur as well as the northern part of Maldah district. The Lower group of sex ratio is distributed in six small pockets of the

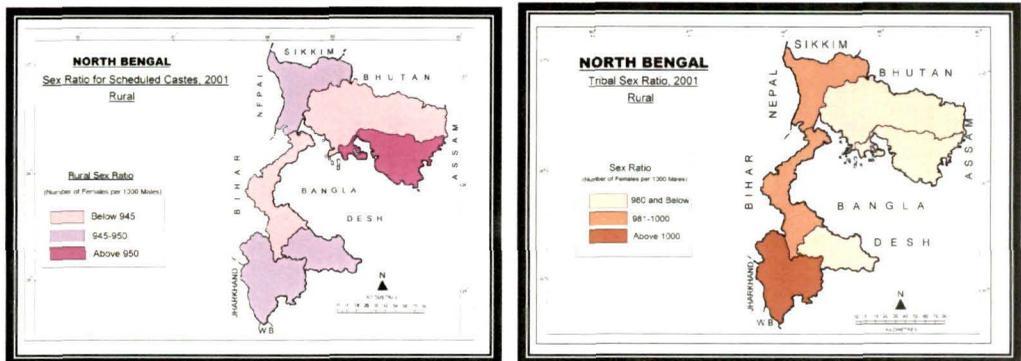
region. Among them two concentration are most important and these are one located in the central portion of the northern part of the region and the second important one is located along the southwestern boundary of the region covering the western portion of the Maldah district.

The constitution of India forbids untouchability, and in theory the scheduled castes were granted privileges through legislation. But in reality, there is little evidence of significant change. The future of untouchability is linked to modernization and urbanization. In the villages, where illiteracy and ignorance are more prevalent and where the traditional social taboos are deeply entrenched, untouchability remains a fact of life.

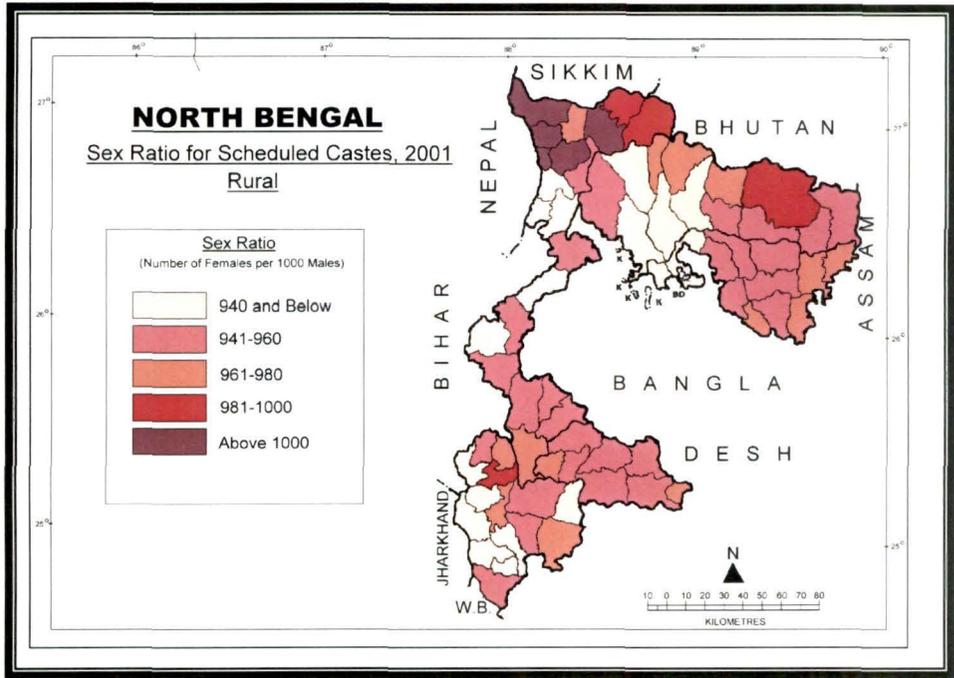
Figure 7.7: - Block wise Distribution of Scheduled Castes Sex Ratio in Rura I North Bengal, 2001



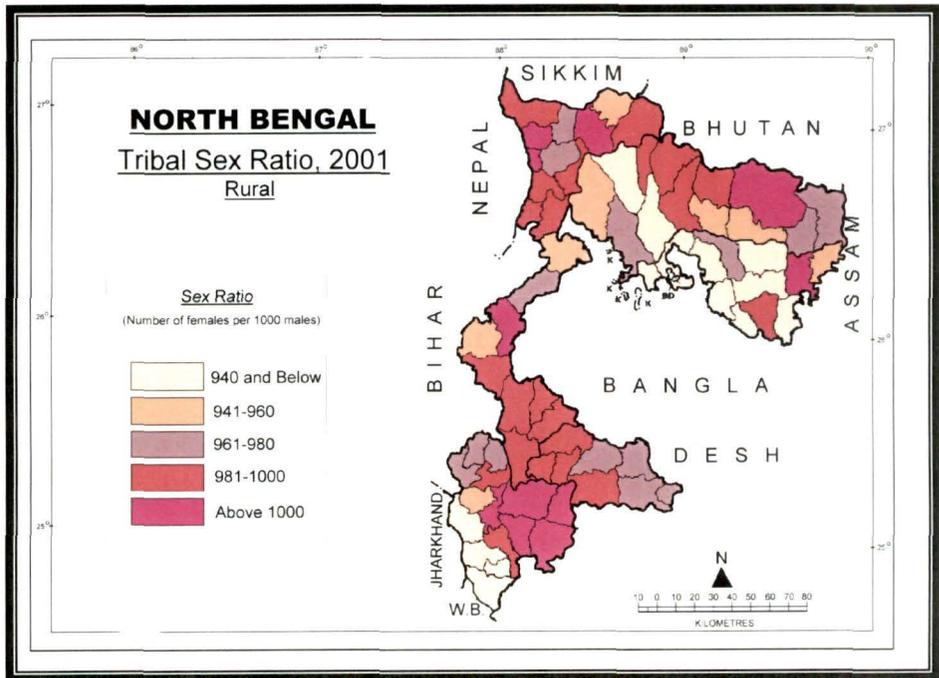
Map 7.7 - Sex Ratio for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Rural North Bengal, 2001- District Level Variation



Map 7.8 - Sex Ratio for Scheduled Castes in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block Level Variation



Map 7.9 - Sex Ratio for Scheduled Tribes in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block Level Variation



7.2.5 SEX RATIO FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES POPULATION

The term tribal is usually applied to the aboriginal population of India not a derogatory sense but as an indication of their being the earliest among the present inhabitants of this country. Not all of them are in the same stage of culture and civilization or speak the same language or are not racially homogeneous. They differ in these respects in a very marked manner. These tribes have long retained their distinctive languages and religious beliefs. They are geographically scattered. The main areas of their concentration are generally hilly, forested and inaccessible areas. Relative inaccessibility has no doubt imposed on them cultural, environmental and economic isolation from the mainstream of Indian society. Their isolation and comparatively socially autonomous status have posed administrative and economic problems of integration of their territory into a unified national political system.

However, about 9.88 percent of total population of the whole North Bengal region has registered as scheduled tribes during the census 2001. Appendix 7.1 shows that, 985 females have been enumerated in the census year 2001 against 1000 males in whole North Bengal region among scheduled tribe population in rural areas. District wise figures vary from the maximum of 1001 in Maldah to the minimum of 916 females per 1000 males in Koch Bihar. Maldah is the only district in the whole region, with more females than that of males among rural tribal population. Maldah along with Darjiling district record rural tribal sex ratio of more than the region's average (Map 7.7).

The block level distribution shows that, the highest tribal sex ratio for rural areas have recorded in Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokri with a sex ratio of 1082. On the other hand Sitalkuchi have recorded the lowest sex ratio of 195 females per 1000 males. Therefore, for analyze properly, we can divide this huge gap into five classes as shown in the table 7.7. These Classes include very low sex ratio (940 and Below), low sex ratio (941-960), moderate sex ratio (961-980), High sex ratio (981-1000) and very high sex ratio (Above 1001). Among these five, maximum concentration of blocks is in the class of high sex ratio, where about 32 percent of all blocks of the region have registered their tribal sex ratio for areas.

Figure 7.8: - Block wise Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001

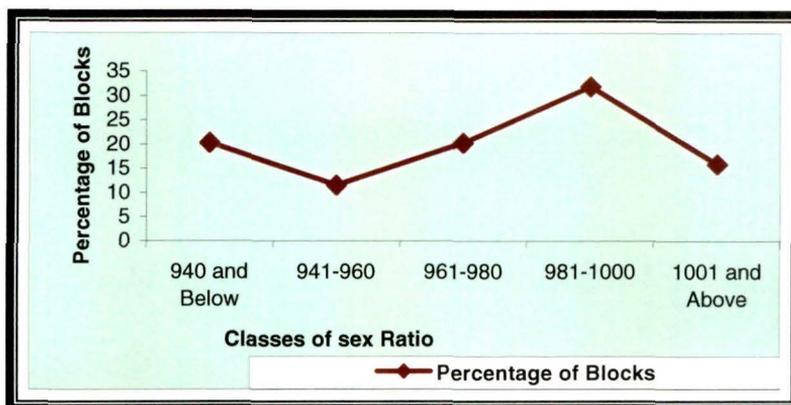


Table 7.7: - Sex Ratio among Scheduled Tribes in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block Level Variation

Class of Scheduled Tribes Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
940 and below	14	20.29
941-960	08	11.59
961-980	14	20.29
981-1000	22	31.88
1001 and Above	11	15.94
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.8: - Sex Ratio for Scheduled Tribes in Rural North Bengal –Block Level Variation by Districts 2001

	Percentage of C.D. Blocks in each group of Sex Ratio for Scheduled Tribes Population in Rural North Bengal				
	940 and Below	941-960	961-980	981-1000	Above 1001
Darjiling	0.00	8.33	16.67	50.00	25.00
Jalpaiguri	15.38	23.08	23.08	30.77	7.69
Koch Bihar	66.67	8.33	8.33	8.33	8.33
Uttar Dinajpur	0.00	22.22	11.11	55.56	11.11
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Maldah	26.67	6.67	20.00	13.33	33.33
Total	20.29	11.59	20.29	31.88	15.94

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

According to table 7.7, About 20 percent blocks each have recorded tribal sex ratio for rural areas of very low and moderate sex ratio. In the very low sex ratio group, out of total 14 blocks with tribal sex ratio for rural areas 9 blocks record sex ratio below 900 females per 1000 males. Not only that, extreme low sex ratio is found in three blocks with less than 500. These are Sitalkuchi with 195, Kaliachack-II with 300 and Sitai with 333 females per 1000 males. Not only that, in this class of very low sex ratio, Mathabhanga-I records 684 females per 1000 males. Apart from these, five blocks record sex ratio between 800 and 900 females per 1000 males. It is interesting to know that, all of these blocks having tribal sex ratio for rural areas below 900 females per 1000 males are located in two districts, covering about 50 percent of Koch Bihar and 20 percent of Maldah. About 7 percent blocks have recorded sex ratio between 901 and 940 females per 1000 males. These are 5 blocks namely, Maynaguri, Mal, Cooch Bihar-I, Haldibari and Manikchack. That means about 15 per cent blocks of Jalpaiguri, 17 percent of Koch Bihar and 7 percent of Maldah district have recorded tribal sex ratio for rural areas between 901 and 940 females per 1000 males.

Contrary to this very low sex ratio, about 16 percent blocks record very high sex ratio of more than 1001. These include 25 percent of Darjiling, 8 percent each of Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar, 11 percent of Uttar Dinajpur and about 33 percent of Maldah (Table 7.8). These are Jore bungalow-Sukhiapokri, Mirik and Kalimpong-I with 1082, 1042 and 1020 females per 1000 males respectively in Darjiling district; Kalchini and Tufanganj-I of Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar with 1002 and 1061 females per 1000 males respectively; Goalpokhar-I of Uttar Dinajpur with 1021 and five of Maldah district namely, Habibpur with 1029, Gazole with 1017, Ratua-II with 1016, Old Maldah with 1010 and Bamongola with 1009 females per 1000 males.

Major concentration of blocks is in the group of 981-1000. About 32 percent of all blocks of the region registered in this group. Out of total 22 blocks of this group consisting about 32 percent of the region, district wise major concentration is in Uttar Dinajpur district with 56 percent of its blocks in this group. Darjiling and Dakshin Dinajpur having half of their blocks in the 981-1000 group follow it. About 31 percent of Jalpaiguri are in this group. Remaining two districts namely, Maldah and Koch Bihar have recorded low concentration of their blocks in this group with about 13 and 8 percent blocks respectively.

About 20 percent blocks of the whole region record sex ratio among rural tribes between 961-980 females per 1000 males. In this group, major concentration is in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Half of all blocks of this district record sex ratio in this group. All of remaining five districts vary with 8 to 24 percent of their blocks in this group. The lowest concentration of blocks can be observed in the group of 941-960. About 12 percent blocks of North Bengal region have registered their sex ratio for rural tribes in this group.

The Map 7.9 shows that, there are five small patches and a quite large pocket of very high tribal sex ratio for rural areas of more than 1001 are there in North Bengal region. Among these, the last larger one is located in the extreme southeastern part of the region, while the small patches are distributed mainly over northern and central part of the region. The high sex ratio is distributed in two belts. One belt is located in the central portion extending towards south while the second one is located along the northern and northwestern boundary of the region of North Bengal. There are seven very small patches of moderate tribal sex ratio for rural population. Four of them are distributed over the northern part, one is located in the north central part and among the remaining two, one is in extreme southwest and one is in the extreme southeast corner of the region. There are seven small patches of low sex ratio. Five of them are in the northern part of the region. One is in the central and one in the southern section of the region. There are two long belts of very low tribal sex ratio among rural population of the North Bengal region. The smallest one is in the extreme southwest corner of the region and the second comparatively longest one is located along a narrow but elongated strip along the central and southern portion of the northern part of the region.

Most of the tribal groups remain largely poor, illiterate and culturally remote. With increasing contact with the outside world, they are gradually being assimilated into Hindu society. Their lot is roughly analogous to the tribal Indian groups in the United States of America. On the other hand, there is the problem of their integration into the mainstream of society, on the other there is a genuine concern regarding the prospective loss of their identity and religion as they are acculturated into the main society.

7.2.6 SEX RATIO FOR PEOPLE ENGAGED IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Both men and women play critical roles in agriculture by producing, processing and providing the food we eat. Rural women in particular are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing countries yet despite their contribution to global food security, women farmers are frequently underestimated and overlooked in development strategies. In the study region, both men and women farmers do not have access to adequate resources, but women's access is even more constrained as a result of cultural, traditional and sociological factors. As women constitute half of our population, hence they play a vital role in the economic development of any region. It has been widely recognized that, unless women's potential is properly developed, no transformation and economic development is possible. Therefore, to accelerate the growth and prosperity of any region it is very important to create opportunities for socio-economic development of women in rural areas.

7.2.6.1 SEX RATIO AMONG TOTAL WORKERS

In general, the main occupation of rural labour force is agriculture and its related activities or in other words mainly primary occupation. As agriculture or forestry, i.e., primary occupation needs more labour force both skilled and unskilled, thus it involves majority of people both males and females of rural areas as unskilled labour. In West Bengal, according to 2001 census, the sex ratio among total workers is more in rural areas than in whole state. It is measured 311 females per 1000 males for the total population but 366 females per 1000 males for rural areas. In case of North Bengal, the picture is same. It is 437 females per 1000 males for the whole population, while 473 females per 1000 males for rural areas. Therefore, due to more engagement of women in agricultural work in rural areas of North Bengal the sex ratio for total workers is more in rural areas than among total population of both rural and urban areas (Appendix 7.9).

The district wise distribution of sex ratio among total workers of rural areas shows that, maximum sex ratio is found in Maldah and minimum in Koch Bihar with 533 and 400 females per 1000 males respectively. Maldah is the only district, where the sex ratio is more than 520 females per 1000 males, while Koch Bihar is the only district with low

sex ratio of less than 450 females per 1000 males. Except Maldah, Darjiling also records sex ratio above 500 females per 1000 males. Remaining three districts, i.e. Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur record sex ratio between 450 and 500 females per 1000 males. Jalpaiguri records more or less similar sex ratio as the whole North Bengal's average sex ratio with 474 females per 1000 males. While only Maldah and Darjiling record total worker's sex ratio in rural areas more than the North Bengal's average, but all of six districts of North Bengal record sex ratio more than the state's average of 366 females per 1000 males (Appendix 7.9 & Map 7.10).

It should be mentioned that in all districts, the sex ratio for rural workers are more than workers in total i.e., rural and urban areas combined. This gap is participation rate in work force in rural areas is more in all districts of North Bengal than all areas (rural and urban combined). The block wise distribution of sex ratio for rural workers varies from maximum of 910 females per 1000 males in Kaliachak-1 to minimum of 140 females per 1000 males in Haldibari. Therefore, there is a wide gap between these two extreme values. But it is interesting to note that these two extremes are not common in the whole region, as except the former, there is no other block with as high sex ratio as more than 900 females per 1000 males and except the later, no block in North Bengal record such a low sex ratio of less than 145 females per 1000 males. However, there are total 37 blocks constituting about 54 percent blocks of whole region record total worker's sex ratio in rural areas less than the North Bengal's average.

About 67 percent blocks of Darjiling records sex ratio more than the region's average. Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar follow it with about 54 and 50 percent of their blocks respectively in above region's average group. Remaining three southern districts record sex ratio of rural workers in their less than 50 percent blocks. On the other hand, Dakshin Dinajpur records about 75 percent of its blocks in the below average group of rural worker's sex ratio. Therefore all these southern and central districts of North Bengal record sex ratio below 473 females per 1000 males in their more than half blocks. But two northern hilly and forested districts covering it the sub-Himalayan tract have sex ratio of below North Bengal's average in their less than 40 percent blocks. Therefore, it can be said that in northern part of the North Bengal, the number of female workers per 1000 male workers in rural areas are more than that of the southern part of the region.

Table 7.9: - Sex Ratio among Total Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation

Class of Total Workers Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
300 and Below	09	13.04
301-500	34	49.28
501-700	22	31.88
Above 700	04	5.80
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.10: - Sex Ratio for Total Workers in Rural North Bengal – Block Level Variation by Districts, 2001

	Percentage of C.D. Blocks in each group of Sex Ratio for Total Workers in Rural North Bengal			
	300 and Below	301-500	501-700	Above 700
Darjiling	8.33	25.00	50.00	16.67
Jalpaiguri	7.69	53.85	41.67	0.00
Koch Bihar	25.00	58.33	16.67	0.00
Uttar Dinajpur	11.11	44.44	44.44	0.00
Dakshin Dinajpur	12.50	62.50	25.00	0.00
Maldah	13.33	53.33	20.00	13.33
Total	13.04	49.28	31.88	5.80

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

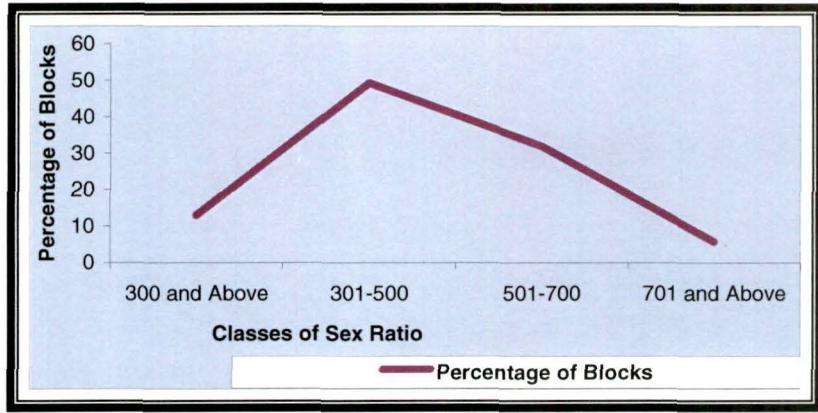
However, the maximum and minimum sex ratio among rural total workers, as mentioned earlier ranges from 910 to 140 females per 1000 males. This means, there is a wide variation in the female participation rate as worker in North Bengal and it varies from block to block. Thus we can classify this gap into four classes of high, medium, low and very low groups, so that the block wise distribution of sex ratio will become clearer to analyze (Table 7.9 and 7.10). Table 7.9 reveals that out of total 69 blocks of the region, as much as 49 percent record rural workers sex ratio as low (between 301 and 500

females per 1000 males). In this range maximum number of blocks come from Maldah district, followed by Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar. But in this group of sex ratio, percentage of blocks in individual district is the maximum in Dakshin Dinajpur, where about 63 percent blocks of this district record low sex ratio among rural total workers. Next important cluster of blocks is found in Koch Bihar where about 58 percent of its blocks record sex ratio of this class. Two districts come next to this namely Jalpaiguri and Maldah with 54 and 53 percent blocks respectively having sex ratio of the low group. Remaining two districts, i.e., Uttar Dinajpur and Darjiling have very low percentage of blocks in this group of low sex ratio with 44 percent and 25 percent blocks respectively.

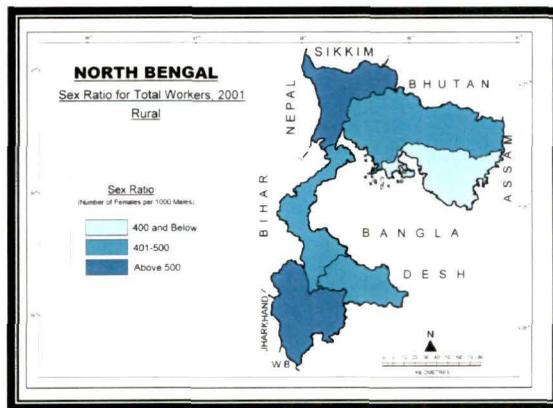
Therefore, as depicted from the table 7.9, majority of blocks of whole North Bengal record rural total worker's sex ratio between 301 and 500 females per 1000 males. This high concentration of blocks in this group reveals the fact that females' participation in labour force as compared to that of males' participation is low in majority of blocks in the region. And except the northernmost district Darjiling, and centrally located Uttar Dinajpur, all remaining four have their more than half blocks in this low sex ratio group in terms of total workers in rural areas (Map 7.11).

However, next important cluster of blocks record sex ratio of medium range between 501 and 700 females per 1000 males, where about 32 percent blocks of whole North Bengal register their name. In contrary to the low sex ratio class of 301-500, this medium class of sex ratio record in maximum number of blocks in northern two districts of Darjiling and Jalpaiguri of which more than 5 blocks each come in this class. But district wise maximum percentage of blocks comes from Darjiling. This district records sex ratio between 501-700 females per 1000 males in its 50 percent blocks. This cluster is followed by 44 percent and 42 percent in Uttar Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri respectively in terms of the sex ratio for rural workers. Minimum concentration of blocks are found in Koch Bihar, where only 17 percent blocks record such type of sex ratio while two southern districts, Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah form the intermediate percentage of blocks with 25 and 20 percent of their blocks respectively in the medium sex ratio group. Therefore, though the southern districts dominate the low sex ratio class, the medium class is dominated by northern two districts (Table 7.10).

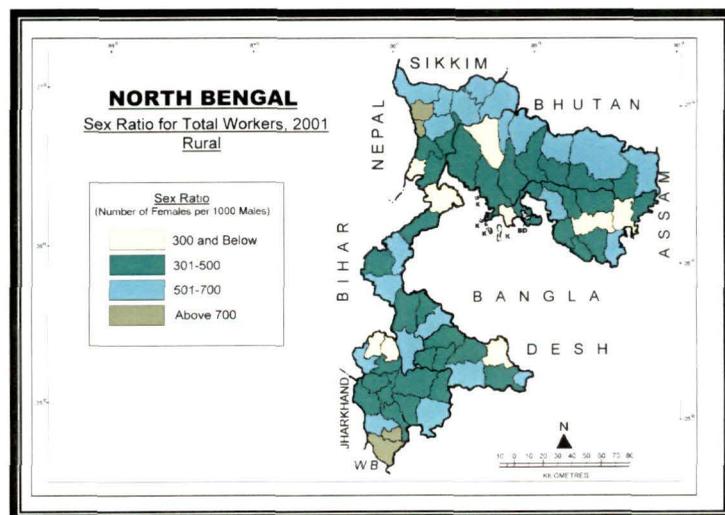
Figure 7.9: - Block wise Distribution of Total Workers Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.10 - Sex Ratio for Total Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001- District Level Variation



Map 7.11 - Sex Ratio for Total Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block Level Variation



There is about 13 percent of blocks record very low sex ratio of below 300 female workers per 1000 male workers in rural areas. In these blocks, this very low female participation rate in labour force indicates very poor condition of womenfolk in terms of the social as well as economic status. Majority of blocks of this very low sex ratio group comes from southern and central three districts, which constitute about 56 percent of total block of North Bengal recording sex ratio of this type. However in this group, maximum cluster of blocks are found in Koch Bihar with 25 percent of its blocks in this group followed by two southern districts namely Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah record very low sex ratio in their 13 percent blocks each. The lowest concentration of blocks is found in Uttar Dinajpur, Darjiling and Jalpaiguri, where only one block each namely Chopra, Naxalbari and Mal record very low sex ratio of less than 300 females per 1000 males.

Only about 6 percent blocks of whole North Bengal record rural worker's sex ratio more than 701 females per 1000 males i.e., high sex ratio recording blocks of North Bengal. Among these blocks, two comes from northernmost district of Darjiling, while two blocks are located in southernmost district of Maldah. Among these two in Darjiling, one is Mirik, located along the western boundary of the district, while another is JoreBunglow-Sukhiapokri is located on the central part of northern portion of the district. One common fact between these two blocks is the existence of tea gardens, which absorb a large number of womenfolk as labourers and workers in these gardens. In case of Maldah, Kaliachak-III, the extreme southern block records sex ratio of 797 females per 1000 males. Another southern block of Maldah, i.e., Kaliachak-I, which records highest rural workers sex ratio of more than 910 females per 1000 males (Map 7.11).

In case of district wise distribution of sex ratio among rural total workers in every block shows wide variation in every block of individual district. This is mainly due to wide variation of relief and topography from north to south in the North Bengal. This variation in relief features result in much variation in agricultural activities as well as the social and economic structure of the society. As for example, in the northern part of the region, tea industry, timber industry require special type of labours for their special type of activities while in the southern part of the region, wide agricultural land along with some sort of household industries also require other type of workers for these activities. Therefore, these variations also influence the sex structure of work force in different parts of the region.

In Darjiling district, the sex ratio among rural workers varies from maximum of 762 females per 1000 males in Mirik to minimum of 294 females per 1000 males in Naxalbari. There are two blocks, namely Mirik and JoreBunglow-Sukhiapakri, where the rural worker's sex ratio is more than 700 females per 1000 males. Out of total 12 blocks in the district, eight have recorded sex ratio more than 501 females per 1000 males and all of these are located on the northern as well as eastern part of the district constituting about 67 percent blocks of Darjiling. Four southern blocks record sex ratio less than 500 females per 1000 males with Naxalbari as the lowest sex ratio recording block.

In case of Jalpaiguri, all the blocks have between 148 and 687 females per 1000 males in terms of sex ratio of rural workers. It is interesting to note that all of five blocks located on the northern part of the district record more than 501 female workers per 1000 male workers in rural areas. Only exception is Mal with the lowest sex ratio of 148 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, seven southern blocks record sex ratio of less than 500 females per 1000 males. But only 46 percent blocks of the district, all are in southern part, record rural workers' sex ratio less than the region's average of 468 females per 1000 males. Maximum sex ratio is recorded in Nagrakata, where about 687 females work for every 1000 male workers in rural areas. On the contrary, the lowest sex ratio recording block is Mal, i.e., extreme northwestern block of the district.

Koch Bihar district varies in block wise distribution of sex ratio from maximum in Dinhat-II (623 females per 1000 males) to minimum of Haldibari (140 females per 1000 males). Only in the former, the sex ratio is more than 600 females per 1000 males, while the later is the only block with sex ratio less than 200 females per 1000 males. Mathabhanga-I is only block, where the sex ratio is between 500 and 600 females per 1000 males. There are about 58 percent blocks of the district record rural workers' sex ratio between 301-500 females per 1000 males. There are four blocks namely Dinhat-I, Cooch Behar-II, Sitalkuchi and Sitai, where sex ratio is between 400 and 500 females per 1000 males. Cooch Behar-I and Tufanganj-I are recorded sex ratio between 200 and 300 females per 1000 males.

In case of Uttar Dinajpur district, sex ratio varies from Itahar with 628 females per 1000 males to Chopra with 269 females per 1000 males. That is sex ratio increases from north to south. Sex ratio more than 600 females per 1000 males is only found in Itahar, while

in Goalpokhar-I, Karandighi and Kaliaganj, it is between 500 and 600 females per 1000 males. Islampur and Goalpokhar-II have sex ratio between 300 and 400 females per 1000 males. The northern block, i.e. Chopra records sex ratio less than 300 females per 1000 males.

In Dakshin Dinajpur, sex ratio varies from Hilli as maximum with 612 females per 1000 males to Kumarganj as minimum with 285 females per 1000 males. Hilli along with Tapan record sex ratio more than 501 females per 1000 males. About 63 percent blocks of the district record sex ratio between 301 and 500 females per 1000 males. Only Kumarganj have sex ratio below 300 females per 1000 males.

In Maldah, maximum is found in Kaliachak-I with 910 females per 1000 males and minimum in Harishchandrapur-I with 264 females per 1000 males. Thus it increases from northwest to south. Kaliachak-I and Kaliachak-III record sex ratio more than 701 females per 1000 males. These two along with Habibpur, Kaliachak-II and Harishchandrapur-II record sex ratio more than 500 females per 1000 males. Five blocks namely, Gazole, Manikchak, Chanchal-II, Bamongola and Old Maldah have sex ratio between 400 and 500 females per 1000 males, Ratua-II, Ratua-I and English Bazar record sex ratio between 300 and 400 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, Chanchal-I and Harishchandrapur-I record sex ratio less than 300 females per 1000 males.

The Map 7.11 shows there are only two small patches of high sex ratio of more than 700 females per 1000 males- one is in the extreme northern part of the region covering two blocks of Darjiling and another patch is in extreme south of the region, i.e., in southern end of Maldah. There are some zones, of sex ratio between 501 and 700 females per 1000 males. Among these zones, one is in the form of a large belt covering whole northern part of the region. Another two are in southern part covering middle part and southern part of the central region. This category of sex ratio also found in some small patches in southern part of the region covering some portions of extreme south and southeast as well as some small area of northeast also. There are two large and three small concentrations of blocks in the low sex ratio group. Among the two large, perhaps most important, one is in the form of narrow but elongated belt extending from the western boundary to eastern boundary of northern part of the region. The second large

concentration is located in the extreme south covering almost whole middle part of the southern districts of the region forming a quite large zone of low sex ratio between 301-500 females per 1000 males. Apart from these two zones, there are some small pockets also spreading over the central part of the central region. There are seven small pockets, which form the low sex ratio patches with below 300 females per 1000 males. Five of them are distributed over the northern part, while two are over two ends of the southern part of the region.

7.2.6.2 SEX RATIO AMONG MAIN WORKERS

In case of the state as a whole, the sex ratio for rural main workers has recorded 189 females per 1000 males, which is 257 females per 1000 males for the whole North Bengal. Therefore, like the sex ratio among total workers, for main workers also the sex ratio is more in North Bengal than that of the state as a whole. But the district wise variation of sex ratio among rural main workers varies from maximum of 407 females per 1000 males in Darjiling to minimum of 178 females per 1000 males in Koch Bihar. Thus in all the districts, as in Appendix 7.9, the sex ratio for rural main workers is very low. Though in Maldah, the sex ratio for total workers in rural areas is the maximum of 533 females per 1000 males, but for main workers in rural areas, the sex ratio in this district occupies second highest position with only 290 females per 1000 males. Jalpaiguri follows Maldah with 277 females per 1000 males. Thus, Darjiling, Maldah and Jalpaiguri are the three districts, where number of female main workers per 1000 male main workers in rural areas is more than 257 females per 1000 males, i.e., more than the region's average. On the other hand, remaining three districts have sex ratio less than the North Bengal's average. Except Koch Bihar, all five districts of North Bengal record sex ratio among rural main workers more than 200 females per 1000 males, while only in Koch Bihar, the sex ratio is as low as 178 females per 1000 males (Map 7.12).

The block wise distribution of sex ratio reveals that it varies from maximum in JoreBunglow-Sukhiapokri with 733 females per 1000 males to minimum in Haldibari with only 98 females per 1000 males. Therefore, there is a large gap between these two extremes. Based on the region's average sex ratio for rural main workers, all blocks of North Bengal region may be classified into two-less than the average and more than the average. It is interesting to note that only about 38 percent blocks record sex ratio more

than the average among main workers in rural areas while remaining about 62 percent record sex ratio of less than the region's average. Contrary to the whole region's picture, about 83 percent blocks of Darjiling record sex ratio of above region's average and these blocks constitute about 38 percent of all blocks of whole North Bengal recording sex ratio of above region's average group. However, this high concentration of blocks of Darjiling is followed by Jalpaiguri, of which about 62 percent blocks record above average sex ratio for rural main workers.

Therefore, these two northern districts of the region combine account for about 69 percent of all blocks of whole North Bengal recording rural main worker's sex ratio above 257 females per 1000 males. No block of Koch Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur records sex ratio more than 257 females per 1000 males, i.e., in other words, there is no block in Koch Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur, which records sex ratio more than that of the region's average. About 27 and 25 percent of Maldah and Dakshin Dinajpur record sex ratio of this range. This includes one block namely Balurghat, the southeast corner block of Dakshin Dinajpur record sex ratio of exactly 257 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, in the below region's average group all blocks of Koch Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur register their name. It is followed by Dakshin Dinajpur with 75 percent of its blocks, Maldah with 73 percent of its blocks in this category of sex ratio. Therefore, in these two southern districts, more than half blocks record sex ratio among rural main workers less than the region's average. Least concentration of block is found in Darjiling, where only 17 percent block record sex ratio below 257 females per 1000 males for rural main workers. Another northern district i.e., Jalpaiguri records below region's average sex ratio in its about 38 percent blocks (Map 7.13).

All of 69 blocks of the whole North Bengal region may be classified into four classes in terms of sex ratio among main workers of rural areas and these classes are High, Moderate, Low and Very low. Table 7.11 reveals the block wise distribution of whole North Bengal in these above mentioned four classes.

Table 7.11: - Sex Ratio among Main Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001- Block

Level Variation

Class of Main Workers Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
200 and Below	25	36.23
201-400	32	46.38
401-600	07	10.14
Above 600	05	7.25
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.12: - Sex Ratio for Main Workers in Rural North Bengal –Block Level Variation by Districts 2001

	Percentage of C.D. Blocks in each group of Sex Ratio for Main Workers in Rural North Bengal			
	200 and Below	201-400	401-600	Above 600
Darjiling	0.00	50.00	16.67	33.33
Jalpaiguri	23.08	46.15	30.77	0.00
Koch Bihar	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.00
Uttar Dinajpur	33.33	66.67	0.00	0.00
Dakshin Dinajpur	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
Maldah	46.67	40.00	6.67	6.67
Total	36.23	46.38	10.14	7.25

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

The larger cluster of blocks is found in the class of low sex ratio. About 46 percent blocks of whole North Bengal fall in this group. About 67 percent blocks of Uttar Dinajpur record in this group which is the maximum share of blocks in individual district. Darjiling, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Maldah record very low sex ratio in about 40-50 percent of blocks. The remaining district, i.e., Koch Bihar records very low sex ratio in about 33 percent blocks. Among total 32 blocks of the whole North Bengal in the low sex ratio group, about 50 percent comes from southern three districts of Uttar

Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah and remaining 50 percent from the northern three.

Though the maximum sex ratio for rural main workers record more than 700 females per 1000 males, but about 71 percent blocks of whole North Bengal record sex ratio below 300 females per 1000 males for rural main workers. Not only that 25 blocks constituting about 38 percent have very low sex ratio of below 200 females per 1000 males. This means, in majority of blocks of whole region female participation in labour force as main worker is very low. In the northernmost hilly district of North Bengal, no block records very low sex ratio for rural main workers. The number of female main workers per 1000 male main workers in rural areas is more than 201 females per 1000 males in all blocks of this district. Remaining five districts record very low sex ratio in some of their blocks. Maximum number of block among these districts recording very low sex ratio is in Koch Bihar, where about 67 percent blocks have less than 200 females per 1000 males in rural main workers. Next important cluster of blocks is found in Dakshin Dinajpur, with half of its blocks record very low sex ratio. Maldah and Uttar Dinajpur come next with 47 percent and 33 percent blocks respectively in this class. The district covering foothills of the Himalayas, i.e., Jalpaiguri record very low sex ratio in its three blocks constituting 23 percent of whole district. Therefore, among total 25 blocks of whole North Bengal recording very low sex ratio, about 58 percent comes from southern three districts. Not only that Koch Bihar along with Maldah constitute 58 percent of all blocks of North Bengal in this group.

Next important cluster of blocks are found in the class of moderate sex ratio about 10 percent blocks are in this group. Only in some blocks of Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Maldah, sex ratio of this range is found. Major concentration of blocks is found in Jalpaiguri, where about 31 of all blocks record moderate sex ratio between 401-600 females per 1000 males. About 17 percent and 7 percent blocks of Darjiling and Maldah respectively register sex ratio for rural main worker between 401 and 600 females per 1000 males.

There are about 7 percent blocks of whole study region, recording high sex ratio of above 601 females per 1000 males. There are only two districts recording high sex ratio in their total five blocks. Four blocks namely, Kurseong, Darjiling-Pulbazar, Mirik and

Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhri are in Darjiling and one namely, Kaliachak-I in Maldah consisting 33 percent blocks of the former and 7 percent of the later in this group of sex ratio among rural main workers. About 6 percent blocks of whole North Bengal record rural main workers sex ratio between 501 and 600 females per 1000 males. Only two blocks, namely, Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhri and Kaliachak-I have recorded sex ratio among rural main workers of more than 700 females per 1000 males.

Therefore, maximum concentration of blocks of high sex ratio is in Darjiling district. There are total four blocks having rural main worker's sex ratio more than 601 females per 1000 males and these are JoreBunglow-SukhiaPokri, Mirik, Darjiling-Pulbazar and Kurseong. The last three have sex ratio between 601 and 700 females per 1000 males, while the first one records sex ratio as high as 733 females per 1000 males. This is the maximum sex ratio among rural main workers in the district as well as in the whole North Bengal region. It should be mentioned that all these four high sex ratio recording blocks are located in the hilly part of the district, mainly in the northwestern part of the district. The north-east corner block namely, Gorubathan records about 514 females main workers per 1000 males main workers in rural areas while the northern block of Rangli-Rangliot record 500 females for every 1000 males among main workers. All these above mentioned six blocks of the district have more than 400 females per 1000 males in main work force in rural areas. Remaining 50 percent blocks have sex ratio less than 400 females per 1000 males. Out of these six blocks, in below 400 group, two hilly namely Kalimpong-II and Kalimpong-I and one comparatively alluvial and plain tract of terai namely Phansidewa record sex ratio between 301 and 400 females per 1000 males. Three southern blocks have less than 300 females per 1000 males in rural main workers and Kharibari is the block having minimum sex ratio of 235 females for thousand males.

The maximum and minimum sex ratio recording blocks of Jalpaiguri are Nagrakata and Mainaguri, with sex ratio among rural main workers of 537 and 148 females per 1000 males respectively. Nagrakata along with Matiali record sex ratio above 501 females per 1000 males. Four blocks namely, Kalchini, Madarihat, Mal and Kumargram form the group of sex ratio between 301-500. Therefore all of six northern blocks of the district

Out of total 12 blocks in Koch Bihar, only four namely Mathabhanga-I, Dinhtata-II, Sitai and Dinhata-I record sex ratio more than 200 females per 1000 males with Mathabhanga-

I as the highest sex ratio recording block of 244 females per 1000 males. Remaining 67 percent blocks record very low sex ratio. Among these Haldibari record only 98 female main workers per 1000 male main workers in rural areas. Two other blocks namely Tufanganj-II and Mekliganj record sex ratio between 100 to 150 females per 1000 males. Therefore, overall sex ratio in Koch Bihar is very low in the whole North Bengal and Haldibari is the lowest sex ratio recording block in whole North Bengal region.

Like the Koch Bihar, Uttar Dinajpur also record very low sex ratio in its all blocks and all of 9 blocks record sex ratio less than 300 females per 1000 males for rural main workers. The block wise distribution of sex ratio varies from the maximum of 296 in Goalpokhar-I to the minimum of 134 females per 1000 males in Goalpokhar-II. Three blocks namely Goalpokhar-I, Karandighi and Kaliaganj record sex ratio more than 250 females per 1000 males.

In case of Dakshin Dinajpur district the maximum sex ratio for rural main workers found in Hilli, where it is about 399 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, the minimum sex ratio is recorded in Bansihari, with 163 females per 1000 males. Balurghat, Tapan and Gangarampur record sex ratio between 201-300 females per 1000 males, while 50 percent blocks of this district record very low sex ratio of less than 200 females per 1000 males. Only Hilli, in this district records sex ratio among rural main workers more than that of the region's average.

In Maldah district the block wise distribution of sex ratio among rural main workers varies from the maximum of 722 females per 1000 males in Kaliachak-I to the minimum of only 109 in Harishchandrapur-I. However, Kaliachak-I is the only block with sex ratio more than 700 females per 1000 males and it is followed by Kaliachak-III with sex ratio 513 females per 1000 males. Thus, between highest and second highest sex ratio, there is a wide gap at more than 200 points. However, these two blocks have sex ratio more than 500 females per 1000 males. There is no block in this district with sex ratio ranging between 401 and 500 females per 1000 males. Another southern block namely, Kaliachak-II along with eastern block Habibpur, record rural main workers sex ratio between 301 and 400 females per 1000 males. Thus, these above-mentioned four blocks not only record sex ratio of more than 300 females per 1000 males but also they record sex ratio of more than the whole North Bengal region's average. Four blocks, namely

Old Malda, Gazole, Manikchak and Bamongola record sex ratio between 201-300 females per 1000 males, while about 47 percent blocks of the district located mainly in the north-western part of the district have recorded very low sex ratio of less than 200 females per 1000 males. Among these three, i.e., English Bazar, Ratua-II and Chanchal-II record sex ratio between 150 and 200 females per 1000 males among main workers in rural areas (Table 7.12).

The Map 7.13 shows that sex ratio among rural main workers more than 601 females per 1000 males in northwestern corner of the region covering northwestern blocks of Darjiling district. Another small pocket of more than 601 females per 1000 males is found in southern portion of the region occupying one block of Maldah district. There are only four small zones of blocks having sex ratio 401-600. Three of them are located along the northern boundary of the region. There is one small zone of sex ratio of the group of 401-600 females per 1000 males in the extreme southern part of the region. Thus, comparatively high sex ratio among rural main workers is found in small patches over northern part of the study region. The blocks having sex ratio 201-400 spread over two elongated belt and three small pockets over the region. One elongated belt lying in the northern part stretching from northwestern part through extreme northern part, north central towards northeastern tip of the region. There are two small zones of low sex ratio of 201-400 females per 1000 males covering small pockets over the southern portion of the northern part of the region. The second elongated zone stretches over the central, eastern and the southeastern portion of the southern part of the region. The third small pocket of low sex ratio is located along the southwestern boundary of the region. However, according to the Map, the very low sex ratio of 200 and below is found in seven large and small zones. Among then two are quite large and five are small zones. One large zone spreads over the southern portion of the northern part of the North Bengal region in the form of a narrow belt; while the second large zone forming a narrow belt stretching over the western section of the southern part of the region. Besides these, there are five small pockets of low sex ratio spreading over northern, central and the southern part of the North Bengal region. Therefore, though major concentration of blocks having high sex ratio are in the northern half of the region and low sex ratio among rural main workers are over the southern part of the region; but there are numerous small patches of various sex ratios in different parts of the region.

Figure 7.10: - Block wise Distribution of Main Workers Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001

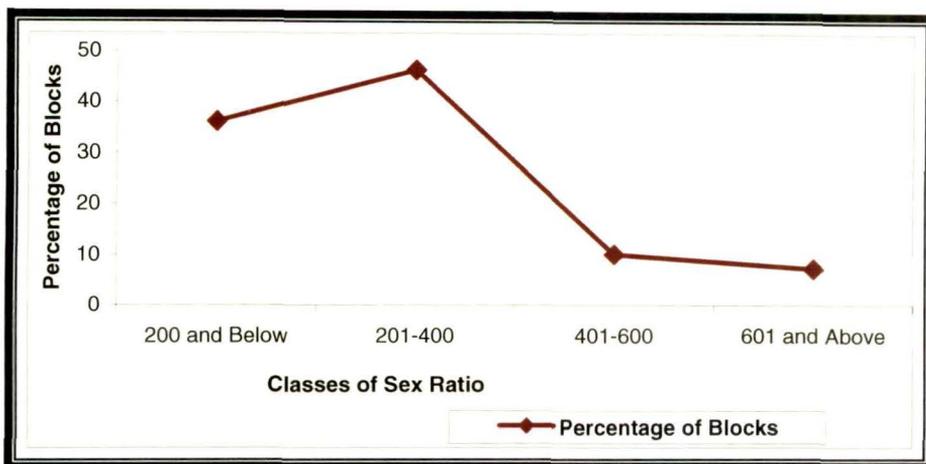
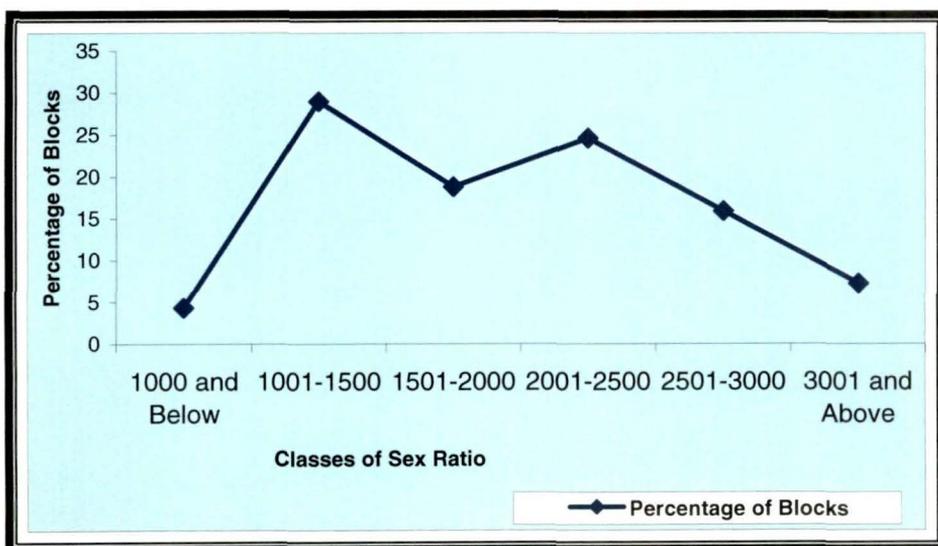
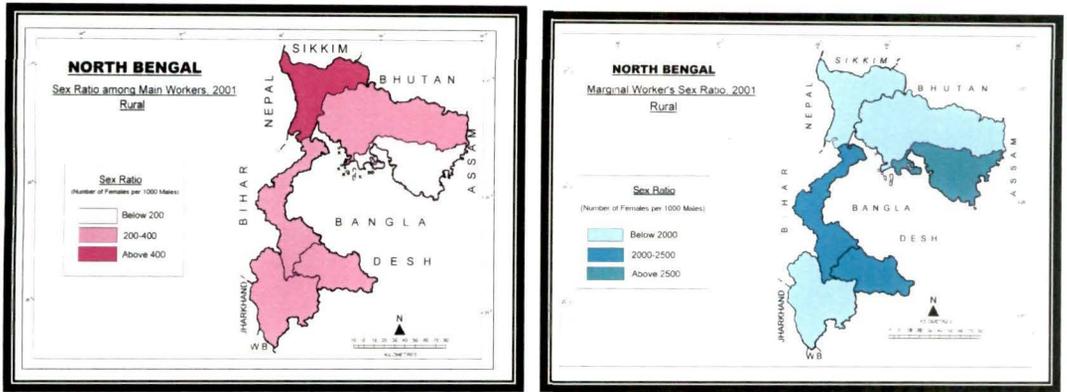


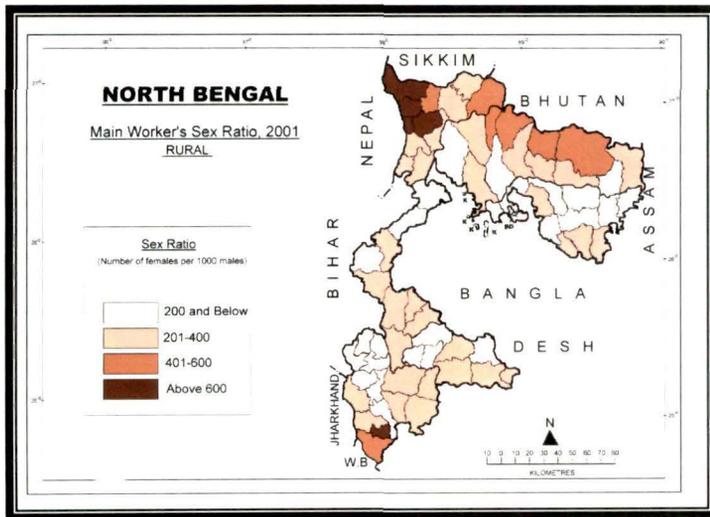
Figure 7.11: - Block wise Distribution of Marginal Workers Sex Ratio in Rural North Bengal, 2001



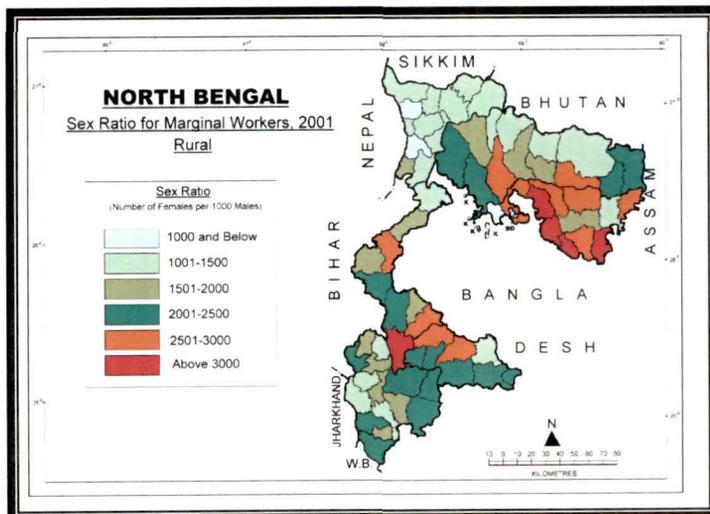
**Map 7.12 - Sex Ratio for Main and Marginal Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001-
District Level Variation**



**Map 7.13- Sex Ratio for Main Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block Level
Variation**



**Map 7.14- Sex Ratio for Marginal Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001-Block
Level Variation**



7.2.6.3 SEX RATIO AMONG MARGINAL WORKERS

In case of marginal workers, among rural population of the whole North Bengal about 2032 females are recorded against every 1000 males, while in case of whole state the figure is 1343 females per 1000 males in the year 2001. Therefore, more females are engaged in work force as marginal workers in the northern part of the state than that of the southern part.

Table 7.13: - Sex Ratio among Marginal Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation

Class of Marginal Workers Sex Ratio for Rural Areas	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
1000 and Below	03	4.35
1001-1500	20	28.99
1501-2000	13	18.84
2001-2500	17	24.64
2501-3000	11	15.94
Above 3000	05	7.25
Total	69	100.00

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.14: - Sex Ratio for Marginal Workers in Rural North Bengal –Block Level Variation by Districts 2001

	Percentage of C.D. Blocks in each group of Sex Ratio for Marginal Workers in Rural North Bengal					
	1000 and Below	1001-1500	1501-2000	2001-2500	2501-3000	Above 3001
Darjiling	16.67	75.00	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jalpaiguri	0.00	30.77	23.08	30.77	15.38	0.00
Koch Bihar	8.33	8.33	8.33	41.67	41.67	33.33
Uttar Dinajpur	0.00	11.11	33.33	22.22	22.22	11.11
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.00	12.50	0.00	62.50	25.00	0.00
Maldah	0.00	26.67	33.33	40.00	0.00	0.00
Total	4.35	28.99	18.84	24.64	15.94	7.25

Source: - Calculated from PCA, 2001

The district wise distribution of sex ratio among rural marginal workers reveals that it varies from the maximum of 2716 in Koch Bihar to minimum of 1169 in Darjiling. It is interesting to note that, three districts, namely Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur have recorded sex ratio more than the North Bengal region's average while except Darjiling all the five districts have recorded sex ratio more than that of the state's average. In other words, the three districts of Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur have sex ratio more than 2000 females per 1000 males, i.e., number of female marginal workers is double than that of the males in rural area of these three districts. Out of three remaining districts, Jalpaiguri and Maldah, have recorded number of female marginal workers are less than 2000 but more than 1500 per every thousand male marginal workers. Only the northwestern district i.e., Darjiling, having maximum sex ratio among main workers record minimum sex ratio among marginal worker of below 1500 females per 1000 males in the census year 2001 (Appendix 7.9 & Map 7.12)).

The block wise distribution shows that, it varies from maximum of 3494 in Sitai to minimum of 777 in Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokhri. More than half blocks of whole North Bengal record sex ratio among marginal workers less than the region's average of 2032 females per 1000 males, while about 48 percent blocks record more than that of the region's average. About 88 percent blocks of Dakshin Dinajpur have sex ratio above region's average followed by 75 percent blocks in the above average group in Koch Bihar. About 56 percent blocks of Uttar Dinajpur have sex ratio more than 2032 females per 1000 males, while two districts namely, Jalpaiguri and Maldah have sex ratio above regions average in 46 percent and 40 percent blocks respectively. In Darjiling district, no block records sex ratio of above average group. However all blocks of North Bengal may be classified into Below1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000, 2001-2500, 2501-3000 and Above 2501 group of sex ratio (Table 7.13).

The table 7.13 reveals that maximum concentration of blocks is found in the group of 1001-1500. About 29 percent blocks have recorded in this group of sex ratio. Darjiling's share is the highest of about 75 percent followed by Jalpaiguri and Maldah with 31 and 27 percent respectively. Remaining three districts record rural marginal workers sex ratio between 1001 and 1500 in their less than 20 percent blocks.

The second largest concentration of blocks is in the sex ratio group of 2001-2500 with 25 percent blocks of the whole North Bengal region. Majority of percentage of blocks comes from the Dakshin Dinajpur with about 63 percent of its blocks record sex ratio of this class followed by Koch Bihar and Maldah with 42 and 40 percent blocks respectively. No block of Darjiling record sex ratio of this class. About 31 percent and 22 percent blocks of Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur record sex ratio between 2001 and 2500 females per 1000 males.

About 19 and 16 percent blocks record sex ratio between 1501-2000 and 2501 and 3000 females per 1000 males respectively. In the former class of sex ratio major concentration of blocks come from two districts namely Uttar Dinajpur and Maldah with 33 percent blocks each. Jalpaiguri follows them with about 23 percent blocks in this class. Dakshin Dinajpur have no block in this class while remaining two districts record sex ratio of 1501-2000 in their one block each. In the later class of 2501-3000, about 42 percent blocks of Koch Bihar record sex ratio of this class followed by Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur with 25 and 22 percent blocks respectively. About 15 percent blocks of Jalpaiguri record such kind of high sex ratio for rural marginal workers during 2001 census. Two extreme districts, i.e., Darjiling and Maldah have no block with this type of sex ratio.

About 7 and 4 percent blocks record sex ratio among rural marginal workers of more than 3000 and less than 1000 females per 1000 males respectively. There are total five blocks in the more than 3000 group. Out of these five, four are located in Koch Bihar and one in Uttar Dinajpur district namely Mathabhanga-I, Sitalkuchi, Dinhata-II, Sitai and Itahar respectively. On the contrary, there are three blocks with sex ratio among rural marginal workers of less than 1000 and these are Jorebunglow-Sukhiapokri and Naxalbari of Darjiling and Haldibari of Koch Bihar district.

The block wise distribution of sex ratio for rural marginal workers by district shows that, in case of Darjiling, all blocks record sex ratio of below 2000 females per 1000 males. In this district, the sex ratio among marginal workers in rural areas ranges from maximum of 1656 to minimum of 777 females per 1000 males in Kharibari and Naxalbari respectively. These two blocks are located in southern part of the district. Two blocks namely Naxalbari and JoreBunglow-Sukhiapokri have sex ratio less than 1000 females

per 1000 males. On the other hand another southern block of the district namely, Kharibari where about 1656 females work against every 1000 male workers in rural marginal workers. Remaining all 9 blocks constituting about 75 percent of the district record sex ratio between 1001 and 1500 females per 1000 males. Among these nine blocks, only one, i.e., Kalimpong-II has sex ratio between 1400 and 1500 females per 1000 males. That is, though maximum sex ratio among rural marginal workers is found in extreme southwestern part of the district, but second highest sex ratio can be observed in extreme northern boundary in Kalimpong-II. Two other Himalayan blocks of the district bordering by Sikkim in their northern boundary, have recorded sex ratio for rural marginal workers between 1300 and 1400 females per 1000 males and these three blocks are Kalimpong-I, and Gorubathan. The two extreme northwestern blocks i.e., Darjiling-Pulbazar and Rangli-Rangliot have recorded low sex ratio as compared to other hilly blocks of the district (Map 7.14).

In case of Jalpaiguri district, the sex ratio varies from maximum of 2731 in Maynaguri to minimum of 1281 in Kalchini. The former is located on the southern part of the district, while the later is in northern part. Maynaguri along with another southern block namely Alipurduar-I have recorded sex ratio more than 2500 females per 1000 males. It is interesting to note that, two southwestern blocks namely Rajganj and Jalpaiguri and two northeastern blocks, i.e., Kumargran and Alipurduar-II record rural marginal worker's sex ratio between 2001 and 2500 females per 1000 males. Remaining 54 percent blocks of the district, covering whole northern part and middle southern part recorded sex ratio less than 2000 females per 1000 males during 2001 census.

The sex ratio among marginal workers of rural Koch Bihar varies from 3494 as maximum in Sitai to 798 as minimum in Haldibari. That means the maximum is found in southern corner while minimum is found in western corner of the district. Sitai and Dinhata-II – these two southern blocks along with two other southwestern blocks, namely Sitalkuchi and Mathabhanga-I also record more than 3000 female marginal workers for every 1000 male marginal workers in rural areas. Two northern blocks, namely Mathabhanga-II and Cooch Behar-II have sex ratio between 2800 and 2900 females per 1000 males. Two middle blocks of the district, i.e., Cooch Behar-I and Tufanganj-I have recorded sex ratio between 1000 and 2000 females per 1000 males. There is no block in the district, where rural marginal worker's sex ratio ranges between

2001 and 2500. Therefore, about 17 percent blocks have recorded sex ratio among rural marginal workers between 1001 and 2000, while about 42 percent record sex ratio between 2000 and 3000 and 33 percent record more than 3000 females per 1000 males. Only extreme western block, i.e., Haldibari records sex ratio less than 1000 females per 1000 males.

In the Uttar Dinajpur district, sex ratio among rural marginal workers have recorded maximum in Itahar with 3072 females per 1000 males to minimum in Chopra with 1435 females per 1000 males. That means two extreme sex ratio are found in extreme southern and extreme northern blocks of the district. Only Itahar have the number of female marginal workers three times more than that of males in rural areas. Another southern block, namely Kaliaganj have recorded sex ratio between 2900 and 3000 females per 1000 males and it is followed by one central block, i.e., Goalpokhar-I where the sex ratio has recorded 2524 females per 1000 males. Two blocks located on the southern part of the district, namely, Raiganj and Karandighi have recorded sex ratio ranging between 2000 and 2500. Thus remaining about 44 percent blocks of the district record less than 2000 females per 1000 males in case of rural marginal workers.

The northwestern corner block of Dakshin Dinajpur namely Kushmundi have sex ratio 2977 females per 1000 males, which is maximum in the district while minimum is found in Kumarganj, which is situated on the northeastern corner of the district. Kushmundi along with another northern block of the district, namely Gangarampur record sex ratio of more than 2500 females against every 1000 males among rural marginal workers. About 63 percent blocks have recorded sex ratio between 2000 and 2500 females per 1000 males. Among these, Tapan and Hilli have recorded sex ratio between 2400 and 2500 females per 1000 males.

In Maldah district, the sex ratio varies from maximum of 2392 in Habibpur to minimum of 1261 in Ratua-I. There is no block in this district with sex ratio below 1000 and more than 2500 females per 1000 males. Habibpur and Harishchandrapur-II, i.e., one in extreme southeast corner and another in extreme northwest corner have sex ratio more than 2350 females per 1000 males. Two southern blocks namely Kaliachak-II and III have sex ratio between 2200 and 2350 females per 1000 males, while two northern blocks, i.e., Gazole and Bamongola record sex ratio between 2000 and 2200 females per

1000 males. Therefore, about 40 percent blocks of the district record sex ratio among rural marginal workers more than 2000. Chanchal-II and Ratua-II have sex ratio between 1800 and 2000 females per 1000 males. Three blocks constituting 20 percent of whole district record sex ratio between 1500 and 1600. About 27 percent blocks of the district have sex ratio below 1500 with Ratua-I and English Bazar with sex ratio less than 1300 females per 1000 males among rural marginal workers.

The Map 7.14 shows that, maximum concentration of blocks with sex ratio below 1500 females per 1000 males is found in the northern part of the region covering most of the northern blocks of northern boundary and some central as well as southern blocks of the northern part of the region. This belt extends up to the southern end of the northern part of North Bengal region. Another small pocket of sex ratio of 1000-1500 females per 1000 males is found in middle western part of the south. There are very small patches of sex ratio of below 1000 located on the north and northeastern part of the region. On the other hand, major concentration of blocks having sex ratio 2001-2500 females per 1000 males is found in the form of a belt over southeastern portion of the southern part of the region. Some small patches are found in the extreme south of the region. Another small pocket of sex ratio between 2001-2500 is found in the extreme northeastern corner of the region and the other is along the southern boundary of the northern part of the region. However, very high sex ratio of 2501-3000 concentrates in two comparatively large and three small areas spread over the region. Out of two large concentrations, one is located in the southeastern part of the region, while the second one is on the central portion of the northeast part of the region. The small three pockets are located in the central and northeastern part of the region. The zones having sex ratio 1501-2000 is recorded in numerous small patches which are distributed here and there all over the region. There are only three small patches of very high sex ratio among rural marginal workers. Two of them are in the northeastern corner of the North Bengal region, while the third one is in the southern part of the region.

7.2.6.4 SEX RATIO AMONG AGRICULTURAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

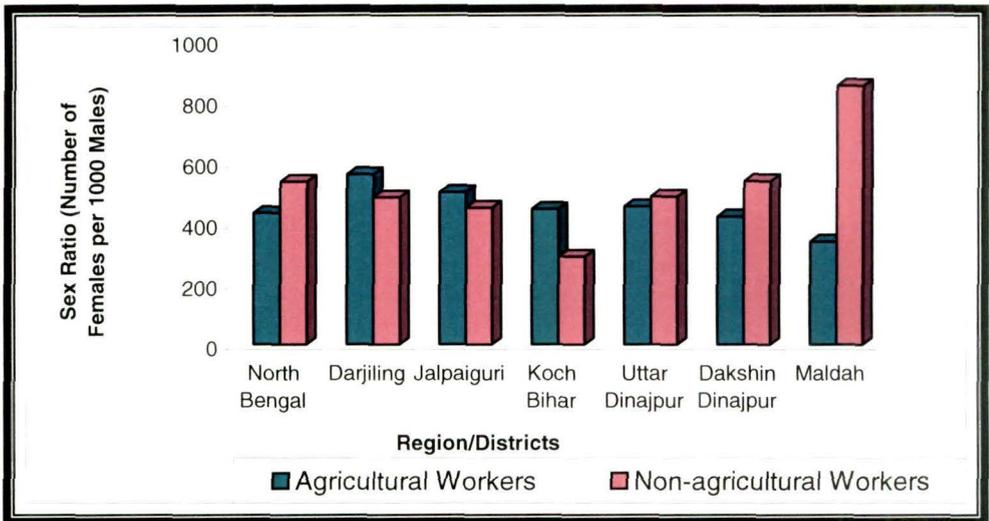
According to the Census of India, all categories of working population may be easily classified into two broad groups. These are people who are engaged in agricultural

activities and the others who are engaged in some non-agricultural activities. The former group mainly includes people categorized as cultivators and those of agricultural labourers. On the other hand, people who are engaged in various household industries and also who are engaged some other tertiary and service sectors.

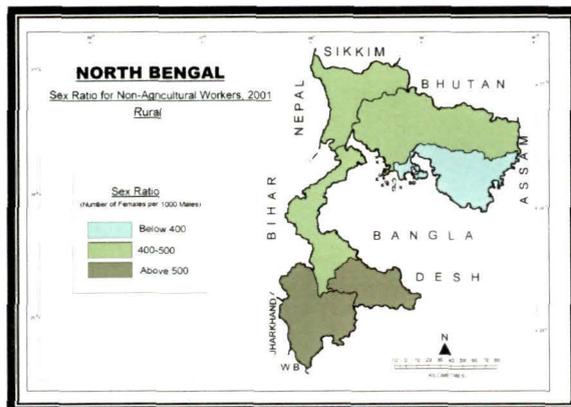
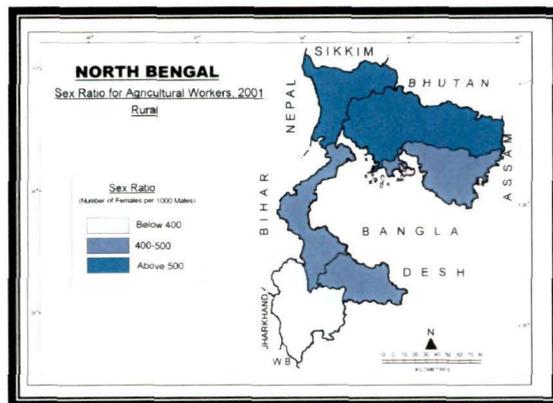
Among rural areas, in both the state as well as North Bengal region, the sex ratio is more in non-agricultural activities than that of the agricultural activities. But in three northern districts, namely Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar, the sex ratio is more in agricultural activities. With about 561 females per 1000 males, Darjiling records maximum sex ratio for agricultural workers and with only 340 females per 1000 males, Maldah shares the lowest. Remaining four districts varies with sex ratio among agricultural workers between 422 and 502 females per 1000 males. Therefore, except Maldah and Dakshin Dinajpur, all of four have more females per 1000 males than North Bengal's average of 433 females per 1000 males in case of agricultural workers (Map 7.15).

However, in case of non-agricultural workers, Maldah records maximum sex ratio if 852 females per 1000 males in 2001. It is the only district with such a high sex ratio of more than 800 females per 1000 males. Dakshin Dinajpur follows it with 539 females per 1000 males in non-agriculture activities. Only these two districts have sex ratio more than that of the region's average of 536 females per 1000 males engaged in non-agricultural activities (Appendix 7.10).

Figure 7.12: - Distribution of Sex Ratio among Agricultural and Non-agricultural Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.15- Sex Ratio for Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Workers in Rural North Bengal, 2001



7.3 PART II

URBAN SEX RATIO

7.3.1 SEX RATIO FOR TOTAL URBAN POPULATION

India has a continuous history of urbanization since 600 B.C. Over this period the country has witnessed major cultural influences, which have shaped the character of its urban societies. The history of urbanization in India reveals, broadly, four processes of urbanization as work throughout the historical period. These are:

- (a) the emergence of new social relationships among people in cities and between people in cities and those in villages through a process of social change;
- (b) the rise and fall of cities with changes in the political order;
- (c) the growth of cities based on new productive processes, which alter the economic base of the city; and
- (d) the physical spread of cities with the inflow of migrants, who come in search of a means of livelihood as well as a new way of life.

All these processes have been enriched by the influences of other world cultures, in particular those from West Asia and Europe.

Cities in India, as elsewhere, have been the centers of cultural diffusion. In modern times, in addition to their cultural role, these centers have become foci of manufacturing, trade and transport, thereby acting as magnets for varied employment opportunities. Thus in the midst of a vast countryside still steeped in backwardness and apathy, urban centers propagate modern economic, social and political ideas. The cities are the places where the social change originates and where the talent and organization necessary for the birth and execution of new ideas are available. Indian cities lead in the growth of literacy and education and therefore help diffuse progressive modern ideas into the countryside. All these characteristics of Indian cities are also applicable to the cities of the state of West Bengal and obviously to the study region.

Unlike rural sex ratio, the sex ratio among urban population has recorded more in North Bengal than that in the whole state. There are 926 females per 1000 males in the former

whereas it is 893 females in the later area. The district wise distribution of urban sex ratio among urban units shows that, the sex ratio varies from maximum of 964 females per 1000 males in Koch Behar district to minimum of 893 females per 1000 males in Uttar Dinajpur. Followed by Koch Bihar the second highest urban sex ratio is occupied by the Dakshin Dinajpur district with 958 females per 1000 males. Next important district in this field is the Maldah where 947 females have recorded against each and every 1000 males. Jalpaiguri district, with sex ratio of 933 females per 1000 males and Darjiling district with a sex ratio of 899 are the next two districts follows Maldah. Thus, except the Uttar Dinajpur and Darjiling, all other districts recorded their sex ratio in urban area more than 900 females per 1000 males. Not only that, Uttar Dinajpur district records urban sex ratio same as that of the state's average of 893 females per 1000 males. If we consider the urban sex ratio of North Bengal, then it is clear from the above discussion that, only Darjiling along with Uttar Dinajpur are the below side and remaining four districts have their urban sex ratio more than the region's average of 926 females per 1000 males (Appendix 7.11).

If we compare the sex ratio of individual district of North Bengal between their rural and urban units, then a clear picture about the number of females per 1000 males in different economic areas will come out. These is a general trend of more females can be observed in rural areas in majority of district. But, in Koch Bihar and in Dakshin Dinajpur an opposite trend is observed, where the sex ratio in urban areas has recorded more than that of the rural areas (Appendix 7.11). But in remaining four districts, number of females is more in rural areas than that in case of urban areas for every 1000 males. This difference is maximum in Uttar Dinajpur district, where there is 52 females have recorded more for in every 1000 males in rural areas as compared to the urban areas and the difference is minimum in Maldah district, i.e. only one female are more in rural units in every 1000 males than urban units. It is interesting to note that, though about 32 percent people of Darjiling district are urban, yet this district has a very low urban sex ratio whereas it records highest rural sex ratio in North Bengal. On the other hand, Koch Bihar district have only 9 percent of its total population as urban population. But it records highest number of females per 1000 males among all districts of North Bengal. Another district of this kind is Dakshin Dinajpur, where 13 percent of its total population lived in urban areas, yet, the urban sex ratio is more than the rural sex ratio of this district.

About 12 percent people of Uttar Dinajpur district are lived in urban areas and this district possesses lowest sex ratio in urban areas among all districts of North Bengal. Out of total 69 blocks, only 32 blocks have their urban areas and these 46 percent blocks of the whole North Bengal, where urban units present includes 6 blocks of Darjiling district, 10 of Jalpaiguri, 7 of Koch Bihar, 4 of Uttar Dinajpur, 2 of Dakshin Dinajpur and 3 blocks of Maldah district. If we consider all urban units with their respective blocks of North Bengal, then from Appendix 7.12 it is clear that, there is no block in whole region, where the sex ratio is above 1000 i.e. females are more in number than males. However, the maximum urban sex ratio is recorded in Jalpaiguri block recording about 982 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, the lowest urban sex ratio has been recorded in Islampur of Uttar Dinajpur where 874 females are there per 1000 males were recorded during the 2001 census. Therefore in whole North Bengal, block wise distribution of urban sex ratio ranges between 874 and 982 females per 1000 males. Total 28 blocks have recorded urban sex ratio more than 900 females per 1000 males. Remaining 4 blocks record urban sex ratio of below 900 females per 1000 males and these are Islampur, Matigara, Karandighi and Raiganj. Among these low urban sex ratio recording blocks, except Matigara, all are located in Uttar Dinajpur district. Therefore majority of blocks have their sex ratio between 900 and 1000 females per 1000 males. There are total 10 blocks where urban sex ratio is less than the region's average urban sex ratio of 926 females per 1000 males and these are Naxalbari, Darjeeling-Pulbazar, Rajganj, Mal, Falakata, and Dhupguri along with four low urban sex ratio recording blocks of below 900. Thus, all blocks having urban units of Koch Bihar and Maldah have their urban sex ratio more than 926 females per 1000 males. Most remarkable among those blocks, where urban sex ratio is more than 926 females per 1000 males, are Kurseong, Mirik and Jalpaiguri of Darjiling and Jalpaiguri district respectively because these blocks record urban sex ratio of more than 975 females per 1000 males, i.e., relatively high sex ratio (Appendix 7.12).

In Darjiling district, the urban sex ratio varies from maximum of 979 females per 1000 males in Mirik to minimum of 887 females per 1000 males in Matigara with the district average of 899 females per 1000 males. Three blocks namely Matigara, Naxalbari and Darjeeling-Pulbazar with urban sex ratio of 874, 915 and 917 females per 1000 males respectively show their sex ratio below the North Bengal region's average. Apart from Mirik, Kurseong and Kalimpong-I blocks have urban sex ratio more than the region's

average of 926 females per 1000 males. Therefore out of total 12 blocks of this district, 6 blocks have urban units, which constitute 50 percent of total blocks.

Table 7.15: - Urban Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Distribution

Class of Urban Sex Ratio	Number of Community Development Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Community Development Blocks to total in North Bengal
900 and Below	04	12.50
901-925	06	18.75
926-950	09	28.13
951-975	10	31.25
Above 975	03	9.38
Total Urban Blocks	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

If we consider only individual urban units of this district, then it can be said that there are total 9 urban centres recorded in this district. Among these 9 urban centers recorded in 2001, one namely Pattabong Tea Garden is newly created in latest census as Census Town under Darjeeling Urban Agglomeration. Except Siliguri and Bairatisal, all seven records urban sex ratio more than 900 females per 1000 males. Mirik is the only one Notified Area of the district with sex ratio of 979 females per 1000 males. The Census Town namely Pattabong Tea Garden records sex ratio 1026 females per 1000 males. Therefore, if we consider the urban units of Darjiling district, then it is clear from above discussion that, the maximum sex ratio has recorded in Pattabong Tea Garden, whereas minimum in Bairatisal located in Darjeeling–Pulbazar and Matigara block respectively.

Jalpaiguri district has total 13 blocks; out of which 10 blocks have urban units and remaining 3 are totally rural. Among these 10 blocks, urban sex ratio varies from maximum of 982 females per 1000 males in Jalpaiguri block to minimum of 901 females per 1000 males in Rajganj block. Rajganj is the only block with urban sex ratio of less than 910 females per 1000 males and the former is the only block with sex ratio of more than 960 females per 1000 males. Therefore, except these two extremes, remaining 8 blocks varies with their urban sex ratio between 911 to 968 females per 1000 males. Along with Rajganj; Mal, Falakata, and Dhupguri have recorded urban sex ratio of less than the district's average urban sex ratio of 933 females per 1000 males and these

blocks have their urban sex ratio between 901 and 925 females per 1000 males. Remaining six blocks have recorded their urban sex ratio above the district's average urban sex ratio of 933 females per 1000 males. These blocks are Alipurduar-II, Alipurduar-I, Mainaguri, Kumargram, Kalchini and Jalpaiguri (Map 7.18).

If we consider the sex ratio of individual urban centres of Jalpaiguri district, then it will clear that, the sex ratio of total 17 urban centres varies from 982 in Jalpaiguri to minimum of 840 females per 1000 males in Chechakhata. Out of total 17 urban units, there are only 4 municipal areas, which are Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Mal, and Siliguri (Part of Siliguri Municipal Corporation) and their respective sex ratios are 982, 957, 911 and 901 females per 1000 males. Remaining 13 urban units are Census Towns, where sex ratios are ranging between 840 and 963 females per 1000 males in Chechakhata and Paschim Jitpur respectively. Those, which have sex ratio of more than the district average of 933 females per 1000 males, are Paschim Jitpur, Mainaguri, Alipurduar Rly. Inc., Uttar Latabari, Uttar Kamakhyaguri, Gairkata, Sobhaganj and Bholar Dabri. Remaining four urban units have sex ratio of less than 933 females per 1000 males and these are Chechakhata, Jaygaon, Falakata, Dhupguri and Banarhat Tea Garden.

There are 7 blocks in Koch Behar, where urban areas are included in the total area of the block. Among these blocks, urban sex ratio ranges from maximum of 971 females per 1000 males to minimum of 939 females per 1000 males in Cooch Bihar-I and Mekliganj respectively. The average urban sex ratio in the district is 964 females per 1000 males, which is the maximum among all districts of North Bengal. Therefore, urban sex ratio among these 7 blocks varies within 939 and 971 females per 1000 males. Mekliganj and Cooch Bihar-II are having urban sex ratio below 951 females per 1000 males. Out of remaining five blocks, three namely Cooch Behar-I Haldibari and Tufanganj-I have recorded their urban sex ratio more than the district's average of 964 females per 1000 males. Rest two i.e., Dinhata-I and Mathabhanga-I with urban sex ratio of 962 and 961 females per 1000 males respectively are placed below district's average urban sex ratio and above 951 females per 1000 males. Therefore, there is not a wide range of variation of urban sex ratio in the block level distribution of urban sex ratio in Koch Behar.

In case of urban centres only, this district consists of 10 urban centres and 6 of them come under two Urban Agglomerations namely Koch Bihar and Dinhata. There are total

6 Municipality Areas and 4 Census Towns in this district. Among these 10 urban centres, highest sex ratio is observed in Kharimala Khagrabari as 985 females per 1000 males and lowest sex ratio in the Mekliganj with 939 females for every 1000 males. Former is a Census Town under Koch Bihar Urban Agglomeration and the later is a Municipal Area. Remaining 5 municipal areas ranges with their sex ratio between 961 to 971 females per 1000 males. These are Koch Bihar, Tufanganj, Dinhata, Mathabhanga and Haldibari. On the other hand, apart from Kharimala Khagrabari, i.e., Urban Centre with highest sex ratio in Koch Bihar district, remaining three Census Towns, namely Guriahati, Khagrabari and Bhangri Pratham Khanda varies between urban sex ratio of 946-964 females per 1000 males (Appendix 7.13).

Table 7.16: - Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Among Urban Centres

Class of Urban Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
900 and Below	07	13.73
901-925	08	15.69
926-950	12	23.53
951-975	17	33.33
976-1000	06	11.76
1001 and Above	01	1.96
Total Urban Blocks	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

In case of Uttar Dinajpur district, out of total 9 blocks, urban areas have recorded in 4 of them. This is the district of North Bengal, where average urban sex ratio for the whole district is the lowest in whole region. Out of these 4 blocks, where urban areas are observed, only one has urban sex ratio more than 900 females per 1000 males and this is Kaliaganj, where 937 females are counted against each 1000 males. Thus, this block has the maximum urban sex ratio in this district, while remaining three blocks vary between 874 and 889 females per 1000 males with their urban sex ratio. Among these three, Raiganj have 889 females per 1000 males followed by Karandighi with 883 females per 1000 males. Islampur records lowest urban sex ratio in the district having 874 females per 1000 males.

In case of urban units, there are total six urban centres in Uttar Dinajpur district. Raiganj Urban Agglomeration is the only urban agglomeration in this district. Islampur, Raiganj and Kaliaganj are three Municipality Areas of this district, where sex ratio have recorded as 874, 889 and 937 females per 1000 males respectively. Remaining three Census Towns, namely Kasba, Dalkhola and Nachhratpur Katabari vary with their respective sex ratios between 875 and 905 females per 1000 males. Therefore, it is clear that the sex ratio of all urban units ranges below 937 females per 1000 males (Appendix 7.13).

Dakshin Dinajpur district have recorded urban sex ratio of 958 females per 1000 males in the whole district. Out of total 8 blocks in the district, two blocks only possess urban areas within them and these two blocks are Balurghat and Gangarampur and their urban sex ratios are recorded as 970 and 927 females per 1000 males respectively. These two urban areas in these two blocks are Municipality Areas. Balurghat Urban Agglomeration is the only one of its kind. There are two Out Growths within this urban agglomeration namely Chakbhrigu and Baidhyanathpara with their respective sex ratios of 938 and 977 females per 1000 males. Therefore, if we consider the Urban centres of Dakshin Dinajpur district, including two Municipality Areas and two Out Growths, there are total 4 urban units, sex ratio of which varies from maximum of 977 females per 1000 males in Baidhyanathpara Out Growth to minimum of 927 females per 1000 males in Gangarampur Municipality.

In case of Maldah district, the average urban sex ratio for the whole district is 947 females per 1000 males. Out of total 15 blocks, only 3 have urban areas and these are Habibpur, English Bazar and Old Maldah, where urban sex ratios have recorded as 968, 949 and 937 females per 1000 males respectively. There are 5 Urban Centres in this district. The sex ratio among them ranges from maximum of 994 females per 1000 males in Aiho Census Town to minimum of 937 females per 1000 males in Old Maldah Municipality. Out of these 5 urban units, Old Maldah and English Bazar are two Municipality Areas, and remaining three are Census Towns, namely, Kachu Pukur, Kendua and Aiho. These three census towns have recorded relatively higher sex ratio of 957, 954 and 994 females per 1000 males respectively. On the other hand, the two municipality areas have comparatively lower sex ratio of 949 and 937 females per 1000 males in English Bazar and Old Maldah respectively. Only Old Maldah have sex ratio

lower than the district average sex ratio for all urban units while remaining 4 urban units have sex ratio more than the district average (Appendix 7.13).

From the above discussion, it is clear that in North Bengal, among total 51 urban units, sex ratio varies from maximum of 1026 females per 1000 males in Pattabong Tea Garden to minimum of 840 females per 1000 males in Chechakhata. Out of these 51 Urban Centres, 21 units are Municipal Areas (including both parts of Siliguri Municipal Corporation of Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts), one Notified Area and two Out Growths and remaining 27 urban units are Census Towns as indicated by the Primary Census Abstracts published in 2001. There is only one urban unit in whole North Bengal, where number of females is more than the number of males and this urban unit is Pattabong Tea Garden with 1026 females per 1000 males located in Darjiling district. Aiho is newly formed Census Town in Maldah district during 2001 Census, where sex ratio is 994, i.e., only urban unit having sex ratio between 990 and 1000 females per 1000 males. There are two urban units in North Bengal, where sex ratio varies between 980 and 990 females per 1000 males and these areas are Kharimala-Khagrabari and Jalpaiguri. Among these, first one is a Census Town located in Koch Bihar district and last one is a Municipality Area located in Jalpaiguri district. Therefore, total four urban units constituting about 8 percent of all urban units have recorded sex ratio more than 980 females per 1000 males. Among them only Jalpaiguri is Municipal Area. It is generally believed that, urban areas have more number of males due to rural to urban sex selective migration. But these above mentioned urban units reveal an opposite trend of this general character of urban population. However, followed by these four urban units; Mirik, Baidhyanathpara, Cooch Behar and Balurghat are four urban units in North Bengal having sex ratio between 970 and 980 females per 1000 males. There are total 14 urban units having sex ratio between 951 and 970 females per 1000 males out of which, 7 are in 950-960 range and rest 7 are in 960-970 range of sex ratio. Apart from these, there are total 14 urban units with sex ratio more than 926 and less than 950 females per 1000 males. Therefore, total 36 urban units have recorded sex ratio more than 930 females per 1000 males, i.e., 35 urban units constituting about 71 percent of all urban units of North Bengal record sex ratio more than the region's average urban sex ratio of 926 females per 1000 males. Remaining 15 urban units ranges with their sex ratio between 926 and 840 females per 1000 males. Among these 15 units, 7 have recorded below 900 females per 1000 males and remaining 8 are in the range of 900 and 926

females per 1000 males. The remarkably low sex ratio urban units, i.e., below 900 range, are Chechakhata, Bairatisal, Islampur, Siliguri of Darjiling dist., Kasba, Dalkhola and Raiganj. Among these urban areas, 2 are of Darjiling district, one is in Jalpaiguri district and 4 are located in Uttar Dinajpur district. Thus, majority of urban units of Uttar Dinajpur show sex ratio of below 900 females per 1000 males. Remaining 8 urban units of below region's average group are located in Darjiling Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur district. This means, all urban units of Koch Bihar Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah district have recorded sex ratio of more than the North Bengal's average (926 females per 1000 males). Though one urban unit having sex ratio more than 1000 are located in Darjiling district, but the average urban sex ratio of this district is much low (899 females per 1000 males). This is mainly due to the fact that some urban units of this district record very low sex ratio of below 900 females per 1000 males. On the other hand as most of urban areas have sex ratio more than 950 females per 1000 males, that's why average urban sex ratio is relatively high in Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah district.

If we consider the distribution of sex ratio among urban agglomerations (U.A.) of North Bengal, then the table (Appendix 7.13) with show that out of total 7 Urban Agglomerations in North Bengal, only Darjiling U.A. have recorded sex ratio more than 1000. Darjiling U.A. marks the highest sex ratio recording U.A. in North Bengal while the lowest is the Raiganj U.A., where only 888 females are recorded for every 1000 males. Not only that, Raiganj U.A. is the only U.A. in N. Bengal, where number of females per 1000 males are less than 900 females per 1000 males. It is followed by English Bazar U.A., where 944 females are counted per 1000 males. Therefore, Raiganj U.A. is the only with sex ratio lower than region's average urban sex ratio of 930 females per 1000 males. Alipurduar U.A. have recorded slightly more sex ratio than that of English Bazar U.A. with 949 females per 1000 males, i.e., only 5 females more per 1000 males than English Bazar U.A. Out of remaining 3 U.A., Dinhata U.A. and Balurghat U.A. have recorded sex ratio between 960 and 970 range and their respective sex ratios are 964 and 969 females per 1000 males. Remaining Koch Bihar U.A. have recorded sex ratio of more than 970 and here 972 females have recorded per 1000 males. It is interesting to note that, all urban areas under Darjiling U.A. have recorded sex ratio above 1000 while all urban areas under Raiganj U.A. have recorded sex ratio below 900 females per 1000 males.

Figure 7.13: - Distribution of Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

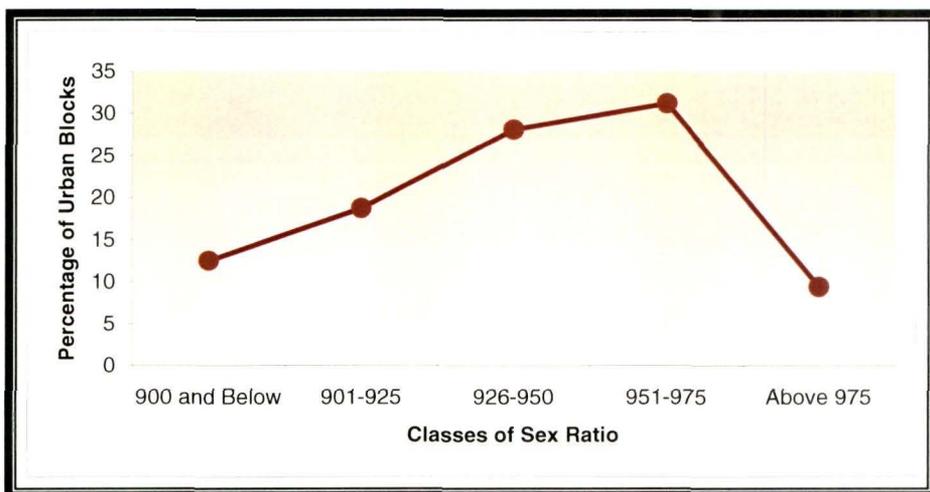
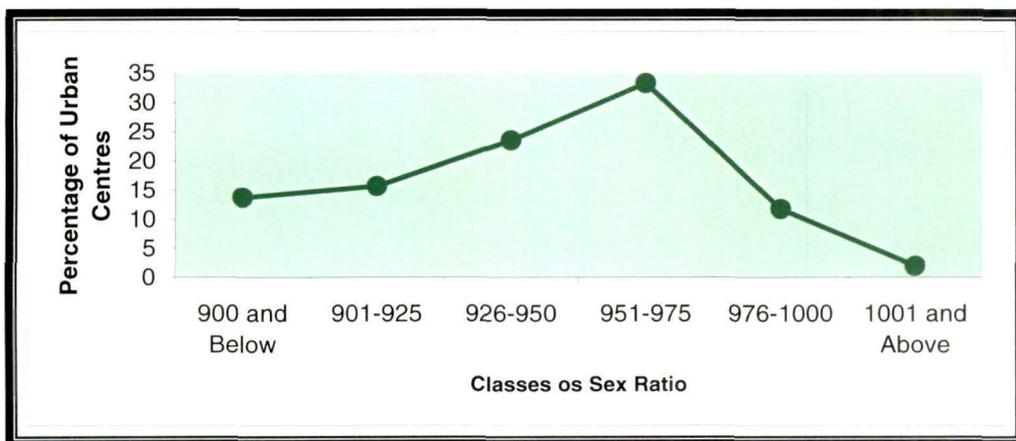
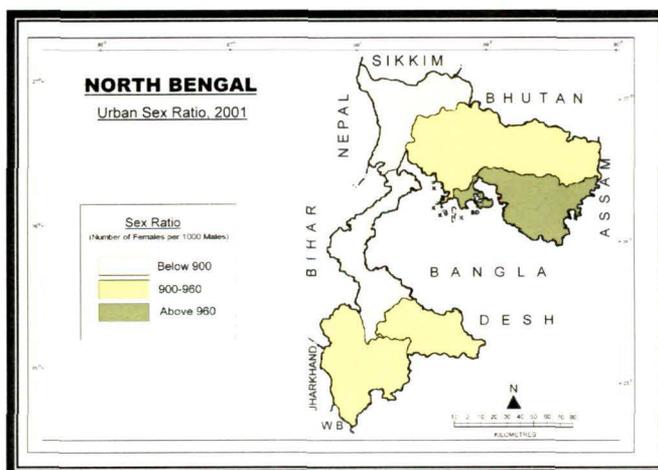


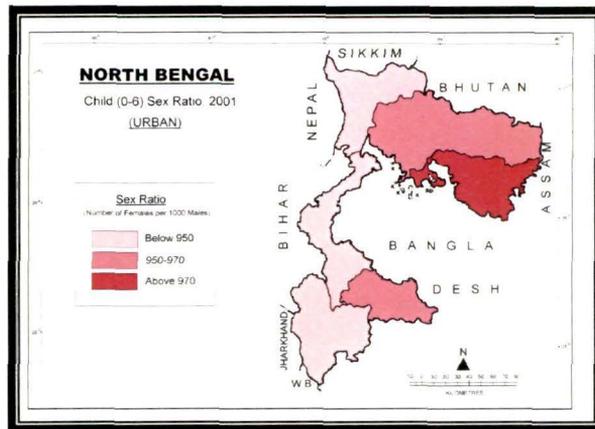
Figure 7.14: - Distribution of Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



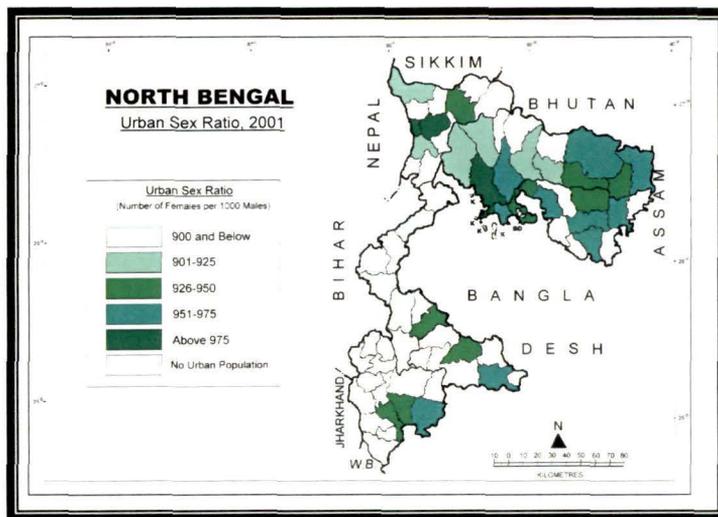
Map 7.16: - Urban Sex Ratio by Districts in North Bengal, 2001



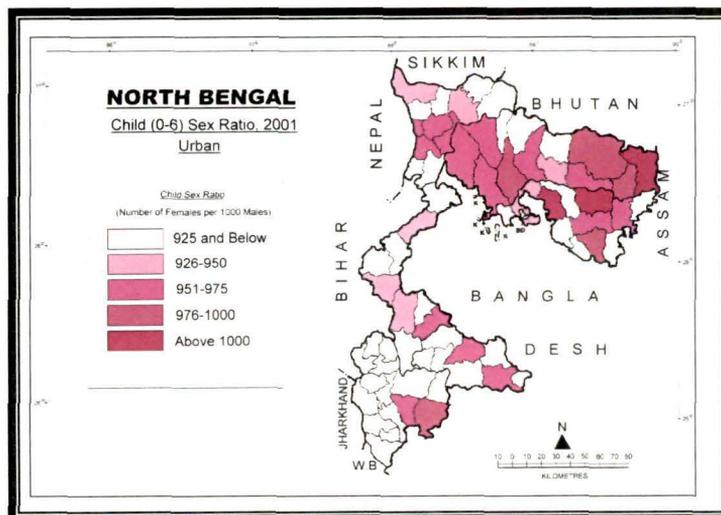
Map 7.17: - Urban Child (0-6) Sex Ratio by Districts in North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.18: - Urban Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



Map 7.19: - Urban Child (0-6) Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



From the above table it is clear that cent percent urban areas of Koch Bihar and Maldah district have recorded their sex ratio of more than North Bengal average urban sex ratio. Next important district is Dakshin Dinajpur of which 75 percent urban units record sex ratio of more than the region's average. Jalpaiguri comes next with 65 percent urban units on the above region's average sex ratio group. Though, two of its urban units have more number of females than males, yet only 56 percent of urban units of Darjiling district have sex ratio more than the region's average. Worse picture can be seen in case of Uttar Dinajpur district, where about 83 percent urban units have sex ratio of less than the region's average urban sex ratio. If we consider the total 51 urban units of North Bengal, then from the (Appendix 7.13), it can be said that, Jalpaiguri constitutes highest percentage of urban units of about 22 percent of whole region's urban areas in the above average group which is followed by Koch Bihar district, which constitutes 20 percent of total North Bengal's Urban units in the above average group of urban sex ratio. Though 100 percent urban units of Maldah and Koch Bihar are having sex ratio more than the region's average but these constitute only 20 percent and 10 percent among whole North Bengal's urban units respectively.

7.3.2 SEX RATIO FOR CHILD (0-6 Ages) POPULATION

The number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group 0-6 is much more than the number of women per 1000 men in total population in all districts of North Bengal as well as, the region as a whole, while only 930 females are recorded in total population of whole region per 1000 males, the number in case of children of 0-6 age is 954 girls per 1000 boys. That means, number of females decrease with the increase of age in urban areas of the region. In case of all districts, except Maldah, this decreasing trend is maintained. Only in Maldah, there is slight increase in sex ratio in urban areas of the district in case of total population than the child sex ratio. Table 7.11 shows that among all of six districts of North Bengal, though Koch Bihar records maximum number of females per 1000 males in total population as well as among child (0-6) population with about 971 girl child per 1000 boy child during the censuses 2001. On the other hand, lowest number of females per 1000 males is found in Uttar Dinajpur for both total population as well as child population in urban areas and the sex ratios are 893 and 936 respectively. However, Jalpaiguri and Dakshin Dinajpur follow the maximum urban child sex ratio recording district, i.e., Koch Bihar with 971 and 961 girls per 1000 boys respectively. Thus, these

three districts record child sex ratio for urban areas more than that of the region's average of 954 girls per 1000 boys. Remaining three districts recorded urban child sex ratio of below 945 females per 1000 males. Table 7.1 reveals that in urban areas of all districts, there is gap between the child sex ratio and the sex ratio of total population. In the whole region, there are 28 females more per 1000 females in 0-6 ages than total population. This difference is the maximum in Darjiling and Uttar Dinajpur districts, where there are 43 females per 1000 males more in child sex ratio than total sex ratio in both areas. These are followed by Jalpaiguri with 37 females per 1000 males more in urban child sex ratio. But in Koch Bihar and Dakshin Dinajpur, child sex ratio is less than 8 points higher than that of the total sex ratio in urban areas. In Maldah only, the sex ratio for 0-6 age group is low than that of the total population by 4 females per 1000 males in urban areas.

The block wise variation of urban child sex ratio ranges from 1016 girls per 1000 boys both in Kumargram and Mathabhanga-I to minimum of 856 girls per 1000 boys in Haldibari. Out of total 69 blocks, 32 blocks have urban population and out of these, three blocks record child sex ratio more than 1000. These three blocks constitutes about 9 percent of blocks having urban population of North Bengal region. One of these three blocks is located in Jalpaiguri, while remaining two are in Koch Bihar.

However, maximum concentration of blocks (Table 7.17) can be observed in the sex ratio group of 951-975. In other words, about 47 percent blocks out of total 32 blocks in North Bengal record child sex ratio in urban population between 951 and 975 females per 1000 males. In this category, Jalpaiguri shares about 38 percent of its blocks, while 33 percent of all blocks of Darjiling, 17 percent of Koch Bihar, 25 percent of Dakshin Dinajpur, 11 percent of Uttar Dinajpur and 7 percent of Maldah record this type of sex ratio among urban children. There are 7 blocks, where urban children's sex ratio ranges from 926 to 950 girls per 1000 boys. These blocks constitute about 22 percent of blocks having urban population. These seven blocks include three blocks of Uttar Dinajpur namely, Islampur, Karandighi and Raiganj; two blocks of Darjiling namely, Darjiling-Pulbazar and Kalimpong-I; one from Koch Bihar namely Mekliganj and one of Jalpaiguri i.e., Falakata. About 16 percent of total urban blocks record child sex ratio between 976 and 1000 females per 1000 males. These five include Maynaguri, Kalchini and Alipurduar-II of Jalpaiguri; Dinhata-I of Koch Bihar and Habibpur of Maldah. There

are another five blocks constituting about 16 percent combinely on the highest and the lowest range of above 1001 and below 925 females per 1000 males. There are three blocks on the higher part and these are Cooch Behar-II, Mathabhanga-I and Kumargram with child sex ratio of 1002, 1016 and 1016 females per 1000 males respectively. Haldibari and English Bazar record very low sex ratio among urban children. There are only 856 and 924 girls respectively for every 1000 boys. Thus, Haldibari is the only block in whole North Bengal region with child sex ratio in urban areas is lower than 900 females per 1000 males.

**Table 7.17: - Child (0-6) Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Blocks**

Class of Urban Child (0-6) Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
925 and Below	02	6.25
926-950	07	21.88
951-975	15	46.88
976-1000	05	15.63
1001 and Above	03	9.38
Total Urban Blocks	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

**Table 7.18: - Child (0-6 Ages) Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Centres**

Class of Urban Child Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
900 and Below	04	7.84
901-925	04	7.84
926-950	10	19.61
951-975	17	33.33
976-1000	08	15.59
1001 and Above	08	15.59
Total Urban Blocks	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

The Map 7.19 shows that, there are three small pockets of very high child sex ratio of more than 1001 girls per 1000 boys. These are located on the northeastern corner of the region. There are four small patches of high urban child sex ratio of 976-1000 females per 1000 males and three of them are scattered over northeastern and northern portion, while one is in the extreme southern part of the region. Thus, majority of high and very high urban child sex ratio recording blocks are located in the northern half of the study region. This fact is more pronounced from the distribution of blocks having urban child sex ratio 951-975 girls per 1000 boys. All the blocks of North Bengal having child sex ratio of this type in urban areas may be classified into two major and four minor zones. Both the major zones are located in northern part of the region. The larger one covers middle part of northwestern portion of the region while another major group is located in the northeastern portion of the region. All the four minor zones spread over southern half of the region covering southeastern and southern part of the North Bengal region. However, there are six small pockets recording urban child sex ratio between 926-950 females per 1000 males and all of them are scattered over the extreme northwestern, north central and the central part of the region. Very low sex ratio among urban children is recorded in two very small patches. One is in the extreme south and the other is in the southern part of the north central part of the region.

There are total 51 urban centres in North Bengal including 21 municipality, 28 census towns, 1 Notified area and 2 out growths. Table 7.18 shows that out of total 51 urban centres, about 16 percent record child sex ratio more than 1001. In other words, about 8 urban centres including 1 municipality, 6 census towns and one out growth have more number of girls than the number of boys in the age of 0-6. The only municipality area is the Mathabhanga, which is located in Koch Bihar district.

In case of census towns, there are six census towns of the region, which have child sex ratio more than 1001 girls per 1000 boys. Among these six, except Kendua, all five are located in the northern districts of the region, while the Kendua having second highest child sex ratio among all urban centres of North Bengal is located in Maldah district. Kendua have recorded 1062 girls per 1000 boys in the age of 0-6. Among total 14 census towns in Jalpaiguri, two constituting about 14 percent have more girl child than boys in the age of 0-6. These two are Uttar Kamakhyaguri and Paschim Jitpur with child sex ratio of 1016 and 1005 respectively. Two census towns, namely Bhangri Pratham

Khanda and Khagrabari of Koch Bihar district record child sex ratio of more than 1001 and their respective values are 1008 and 1002 females per 1000 males. Another census town namely, Pattabong Tea Estate of Darjiling district with 1047 females per 1000 males also records child sex ratio of more than 1001. One out growth, namely, Chakbhrigu of Dakshin Dinajpur district records maximum child sex ratio (with 1170 girls per 1000 boys) among all of 51 urban units of the whole region. Among all municipalities of North Bengal, only Mathabhanga with 1016 girls per 1000 boys records child sex ratio of very high group. However, Table 7.18 shows that, about 16 percent of urban centres of whole North Bengal record child sex ratio between 976-1000. This category includes two municipalities and 6 census towns. Two municipalities are the Cooch Behar and the Dinhata Municipality of Koch Bihar district. On the other hand, among total 6 census towns recording high sex ratio of 976-1000 females per 1000 males, five are located in Jalpaiguri district, while remaining one namely Kachu Pukur is in Maldah district. Therefore out of total 14 census towns of Jalpaiguri, about 36 percent record child sex ratio between 976 and 1000 per 1000 boys. The five census towns of Jalpaiguri are Jaygaon, Shobhaganj, Maynaguri, Uttar Latabari and Alipurduar Rly. Inc.

Maximum concentration of urban centers are in the medium sex ratio group of 951-975 females per 1000 males, where about 33 percent of all urban centers of the region register their names. Among these total 17 urban centers, there are nine municipality areas including Kurseong of Darjiling district; Mal, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri of Jalpaiguri district; Tufanganj and Kaliaganj of Koch Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur district; Gangarampur and Balurghat of Dakshin Dinajpur and Old Maldah of Maldah district. This group of child sex ratio also consists of part of Siliguri Municipal Corporation of Jalpaiguri district. Only one Notified Area of the North Bengal region namely Mirik also record sex ratio of this group. Remaining six of this group are census towns.

However, according to the table 7.18, about 20 percent of total urban centres record child sex ratio 926-950. There are four municipalities; five census towns and part of Siliguri Municipal Corporation of Darjiling district are in this group. Four municipality areas of this range are Kalimpong, Mekhliganj, Islampur and Raiganj.

Figure 7.15: - Distribution of Child (0-6 Ages) Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

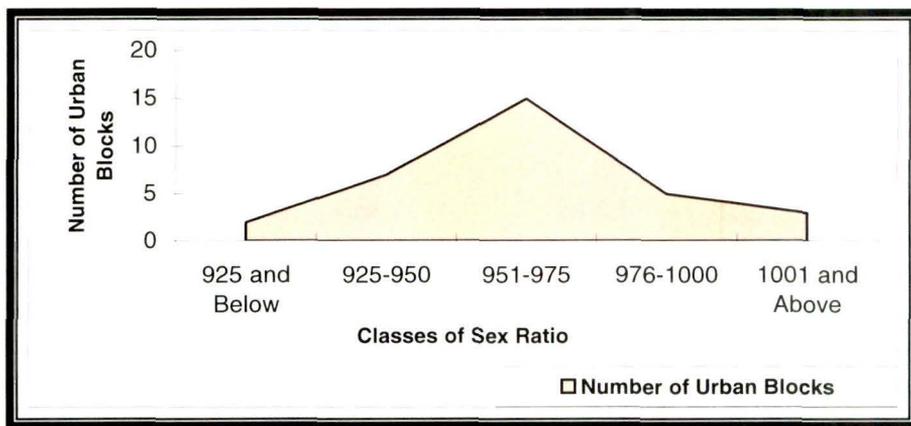
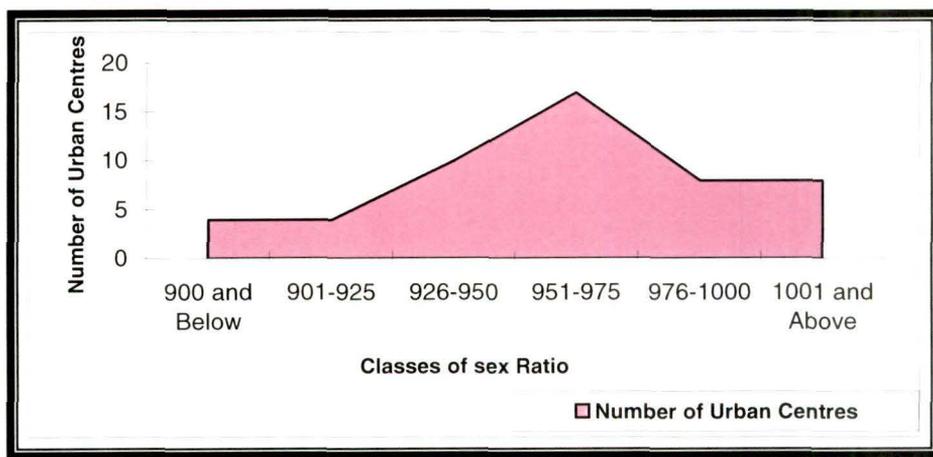


Figure 7.16: - Distribution of Child (0-6 Ages) Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



Among all of 51 urban centres of whole North Bengal, four urban centers including two municipalities namely Darjiling and English Bazar and two census towns namely Dhupguri and Bholar Dabri combinely constituting about 8 percent have child sex ratio between 901 and 925 females per 1000 males in 0-6 age group.

Very low child sex ratio is found in about 8 percent urban units of North Bengal region. These include one municipality namely Haldibari and two census towns i.e., Kasba and Kharimala Khagrabari and one out growth namely Baidhyanathpara. Though among all of 51 urban units, maximum child sex ratio is found in Chakhbrigu out growth with 1170 girls per 1000 boys, but among all of 20 municipalities, maximum child sex ratio can be observed in Mathabhanga with 1016 girls per 1000 boys in the age of 0-6. On the contrary, minimum child sex ratio among all urban centres is found in Baidhyanathpara

with only 730 girls per 1000 boys. In case of municipality towns minimum child sex ratio is found in Haldibari with 856 girls per 1000 boys.

7.3.3 SEX RATIO AMONG LITERATES

About 817 female literates have recorded against each and every 1000 male literate in urban areas in whole North Bengal whereas in whole state, the number of female literates is 781 per 1000 male literates. Therefore, sex ratio among urban literates is more in the former than the whole state. Among all of six districts, maximum number of female literates per 1000 male literates is found in Dakshin Dinajpur and here it is 921, which is followed by Koch Bihar with 851 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, the lowest sex ratio is recorded in Uttar Dinajpur with only 777 female literate per 1000 male literates. Three remaining districts varies between 802 to 829 females per 1000 males (Table 7.11). This means only Uttar Dinajpur having urban literate's sex ratio below 800 females per 1000 males and the Dakshin Dinajpur district is the only with literates sex ratio of more than 900 females per 1000 males in urban areas (Map 7.21).

Among total four municipality towns, one notified area and four census towns, sex ratio among urban literates ranges between maximum of 876 females per 1000 males in Kurseong municipal town to minimum of 752 in part of Siliguri Municipal Corporation. If we consider the blocks of this district, then the sex ratio varies from maximum in Kurseong (864) to minimum in Naxalbari (763). However, Kurseong town in Kurseong block have the highest sex ratio among urban literates, which is followed by Darjiling and Kalimpong municipality towns and a census town namely Cart Road. These four urban centers record literates sex ratio of more than 800 females per 1000 males. Block wise distribution reveals that, Kurseong, Darjeeling-Pulbazar and Kalimpong recorded urban literates sex ratio of more than 800 females per 1000 males with their respective values of 864, 839 and 814 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, Mirik, Matigara and Naxalbari-these three blocks are on the below 800 females per 1000 males group with sex ratio 789, 773 and 763 females per 1000 males respectively.

There are total 10 blocks out of 13 Jalpaiguri district with urban population within these blocks and only Matiali, Nagrakata and Madarihat have no urban population. If we consider these 10 blocks then the sex ratio among urban literates of these blocks reveal

that it ranges from 897 to 711 females per 1000 males, i.e., maximum in Jalpaiguri and minimum in Kalchini. There are five blocks where sex ratio is more than 800 females per 1000 males and these are Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar-I, Kumargram, Maynaguri and Falakata. The sex ratio of remaining five blocks varies between 700 and 800 females per 1000 males. There are four municipality towns are in this district and maximum sex ratio can be seen in Jalpaiguri with 897 females per 1000 males, which is followed by Alipurduar with 862 females per 1000 males. These two urban centers in the district record sex ratio among literates of more than 851 females per 1000 males. There are six urban centers in the range of literates sex ratio of 801-850 females per 1000 males. All of these are census towns and these are Alipurduar Rly Inc., Uttar Kamakhyaguri, Maynaguri, Bholar Dabri, Paschim Jitpur and Falakata. Jaygaon with 671 females per 1000 males record the minimum sex ratio for literates in the Jalpaiguri district. It is also the only urban center with literates sex ratio of less than 700. Another urban center namely Banarhat Tea Garden with sex ratio of 703 records sex ratio among literates between 701 and 750 females per 1000 males. However, remaining six urban centers including Mal Municipality and five census towns have recorded literates sex ratio between 751 and 800 females per 1000 males

In Koch Bihar district, where the district's average sex ratio is 851 females per 1000 males and it varies among blocks from maximum of 867 females per 1000 males in Cooch Behar-I to minimum of 727 females per 1000 males in Mekhliganj. Out of total 12 blocks, 7 blocks have urban population. Among them, Cooch Behar-I, Tufanganj-I and Dinhat-I have sex ratio more than 851 females per 1000 males. These three along with Mathabhanga-I, Haldibari and Cooch Behar-II form the literates sex ratio group of more than 801 females per 1000 males. Mekhliganj is the only block with sex ratio below 750. Therefore, no block of this district records literates sex ratio between 751 and 800 females per 1000 males. There are total 6 municipality areas and four census towns in this district. Among these municipalities, maximum sex ratio can be recorded in Cooch Behar and minimum in Mekhliganj, i.e., 875 and 727 females per 1000 males respectively. Whereas among census towns highest literate's sex ratio has been recorded in Kharimala Khagrabari with 885 females per 1000 males and lowest in Bhangri Pratham Khanda with 781 females per 1000 males.

**Table 7.19: - Sex Ratio among Literates in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Blocks**

Class of Urban Literates Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
700 and Below	01	3.13
701-750	03	9.38
751-800	12	37.50
801-850	09	28.13
851 and Above	07	21.88
Total Urban Blocks	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

**Table 7.20: - Sex Ratio among Literates in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Centres**

Class of Urban Literates Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
700 and Below	02	3.92
701-750	06	11.76
751-800	19	37.25
801-850	14	27.45
851 and Above	10	19.61
Total Urban Blocks	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

Uttar Dinajpur district has sex ratio among literates as 777 females per 1000 males, which is the lowest among all districts of North Bengal region and it varies among all of its blocks from highest of 792 females per 1000 males in Kaliaganj to lowest in 683 females per 1000 males in Karandighi. Therefore, no block has recorded literates sex ratio of more than 800 females per 1000 males. There are three municipality towns, namely, Raiganj, Kaliaganj and Islampur and three census towns in the district. Among

them, maximum literates sex ratio has been recorded in Raiganj Municipality with 796 females per 1000 males, while the minimum literates sex ratio is recorded in Dalkhola census town with 683 females per 1000 males. Except these two extremities, all of remaining four urban centers vary between 701 and 750 females per 1000 males.

Figure 7.17: - Distribution of Literates Sex Ratio among

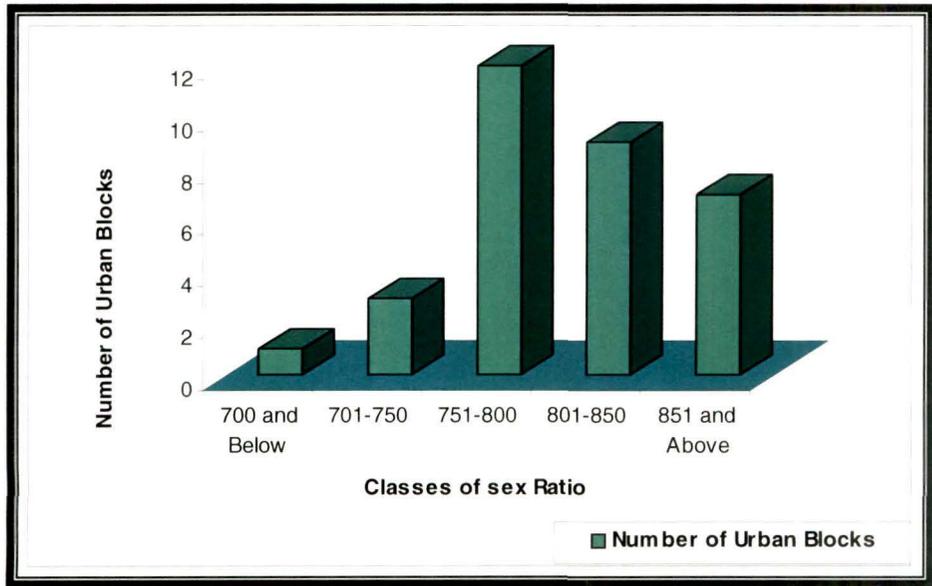
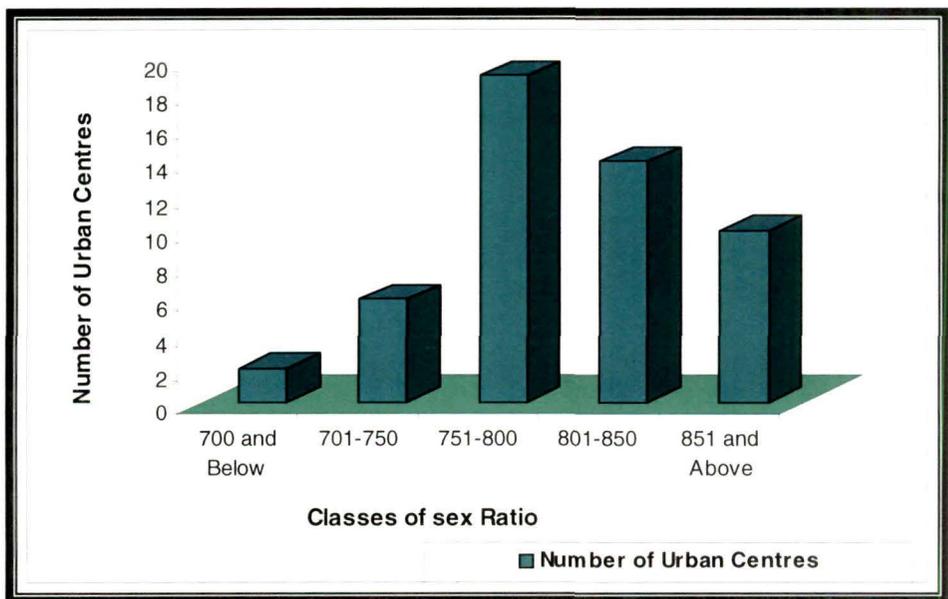
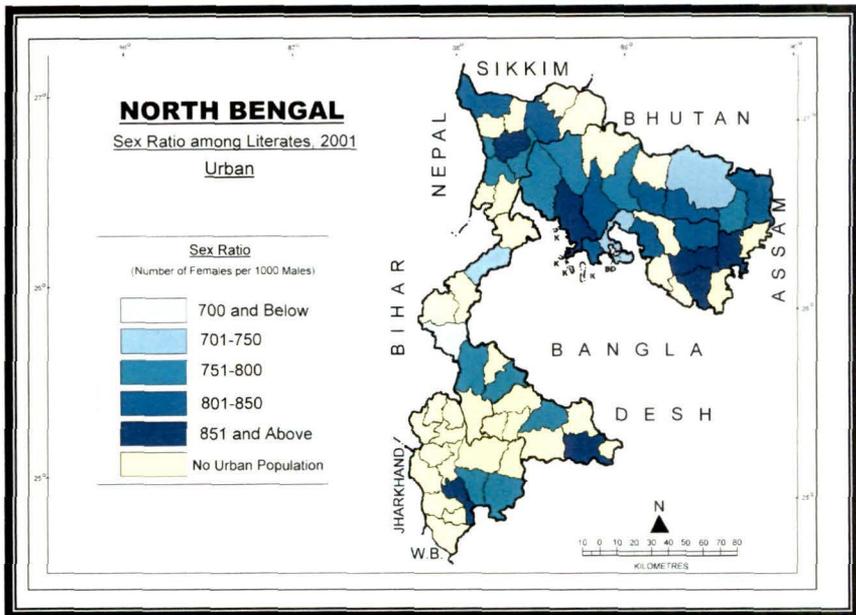


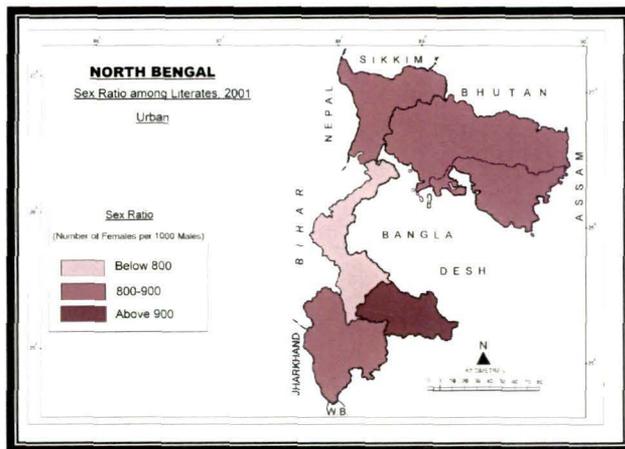
Figure 7.18: - Distribution of Literates Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



**Map 7.20: - Urban Literates Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
Block Level Variation**



**Map 7.21: - Urban Literates Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
District Level Variation**



There are about 921 female literates per 1000 male literates in Dakshin Dinajpur district, which is the district wise maximum in whole region. Out of total eight blocks, only two have urban population. These are Balurghat and Gangarampur with literates sex ratio of 885 and 773 females per 1000 males. Out of four urban centers in this district, two namely Balurghat and Gangarampur are municipalities and remaining two are out growths. Among these four, Balurghat municipality town records the maximum literates sex ratio of 889 females per 1000 males, while the minimum sex ratio is recorded in the

Gangarampur municipality town with 773 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, two outgrowths, namely Chakbhrigu and Baidhyanathpara have sex ratio of 808 and 799 females per 1000 males respectively.

In Maldah district, the sex ratio among literates is 829 females per 1000 males. Out of total 15 blocks only three blocks have urban population and these are English Bazar, Habibpur and Old Maldah, where the sex ratio has been recorded as 857, 787 and 756 females per 1000 males respectively. English Bazar and Old Maldah are two municipalities and Aiho, Kachu Pukur and Kendua are three census towns of this district. Among these five urban centers, literates sex ratio ranges from maximum of 860 females per 1000 males in Aiho census town followed by English Bazar municipality with 857 females per 1000 males. More than 800 female literates per 1000 male literates can be found only in these two urban centers. The minimum sex ratio is recorded in Kendua i.e. 712 females per 1000 males in 2001 census. Remaining three urban centres record literates sex ratio between 751 and 800 females per 1000 males (Map 7.20).

7.3.4 SEX RATIO AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION

About 943 females per 1000 males have been recorded among Scheduled Castes population in urban areas of North Bengal region. It varies from maximum of 988 females per 1000 males in Koch Bihar district to minimum of 897 females per 1000 males in Uttar Dinajpur district (Table 7.11). Only the latter is the district with sex ratio for scheduled castes population of below 900 females per 1000 males. On the other hand, the Koch Bihar along with Maldah record sex ratio for scheduled castes population of more than 951 females per 1000 males. Thus remaining three districts, namely Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur and Darjiling have recorded sex ratio between 901 and 950 females per 1000 males (Map 7.22).

Block wise distribution shows that, the sex ratio among scheduled castes population varies from the highest of 1024 in Kurseong to minimum of 842 females per 1000 males in Islampur. Appendix 7.15 reveals that Islampur and Karandighi- two blocks of Uttar Dinajpur district have recorded sex ratio for scheduled castes population of below 900 females per 1000 males. On the contrary, Kurseong of Darjiling district and Cooch Behar-I of Koch Bihar district form the category of very high sex ratio of more than

1001 females per 1000 males. In other words, there are about 6.25 percent blocks in each extremities of the distribution of scheduled castes sex ratio in North Bengal region. However, maximum concentration of urban blocks of about 31 percent has recorded sex ratio among scheduled castes population between 951 and 975 females per 1000 males (Map 7.23). These blocks include two from Darjiling district, five from Jalpaiguri, one each from Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah. Next important concentration of urban blocks is in the range of 976-1000, where about 22 percent of all urban blocks register their names. Among them, four are from Koch Bihar district, while one each is from Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Maldah district. About 19 percent and 16 percent urban blocks are recorded scheduled castes sex ratio in the classes of 926-950 and 901-925 females per 1000 males respectively (Table 7.21).

The sex ratio among scheduled caste population of urban centers in North Bengal varies from the maximum of 1044 females per 1000 males in Koch Bihar Municipality town to the minimum of 842 females per 1000 males in the Islampur Municipality town. There are six urban centers in the whole region where the scheduled castes sex ratio is more than 1001 females per 1000 males. These include two municipalities namely, Cooch Behar and Kurseong; one out growth namely, Chak Bhrigu and three census towns namely, Chechakhata, Kachu Pukur and Kendua. Therefore, about 12 percent of all urban centers of North Bengal region record very high sex ratio for scheduled castes population of more than 1001 females per 1000 males. The high sex ratio group for scheduled castes population is recorded by about 14 percent urban centers with the sex ratio between 976 and 1000.

It includes four municipality towns namely, Darjeeling, Mathabhanga, Tufanganj and Dinhata and three census towns namely Cart Road, Alipurduar Rly Jnc. and Khagrabari. About 35 percent urban centers of the region have recorded sex ratio for scheduled castes population between 951 and 975 females per 1000 males. In other words, maximum concentration of urban centers is found in the moderate sex ratio group. These include seven municipality areas, one Notified area and ten census towns.

About 16 percent urban centers including three municipalities namely, Mekhliganj, Gangarampur and Old Maldah; one out growth namely Baidhyanathpara and four census towns namely Jaygaon, Shobhaganj, Dhupguri and Guriahati record scheduled castes sex

ratio between 926 and 950 females per 1000 males. Another 14 percent urban centers of the region record sex ratio for scheduled castes population of the range of 901-925 females per 1000 males. In this very low sex ratio group there are two municipality towns, i.e., Raiganj and Kaliaganj; both the parts of Siliguri Municipality Corporations of Darjiling and Jalpaiguri district and three census towns. About 10 percent urban centers record very very low scheduled castes sex ratio of below 900 females per 1000 males. These extreme low sex ratio recording urban centers are Islampur municipality town along with four census towns namely, Bairatal, Bholar Dabri, Dalkhola and Kasba (Table 7.22).

**Table 7.21: - Sex Ratio among Scheduled Caste Population in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Blocks**

Class of Urban SC Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
900 and Below	02	6.25
901-952	05	15.63
926-950	06	18.75
951-975	10	31.25
976-1000	07	21.86
1001 and Above	02	6.25
Total	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

**Table 7.22: - Sex Ratio among Scheduled Caste Population in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Centres**

Class of Urban SC Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
900 and Below	05	9.80
901-952	07	13.73
926-950	08	15.69
951-975	18	35.29
976-1000	07	13.73
1001 and Above	06	11.76
Total	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

Figure 7.19: - Distribution of Scheduled Castes Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

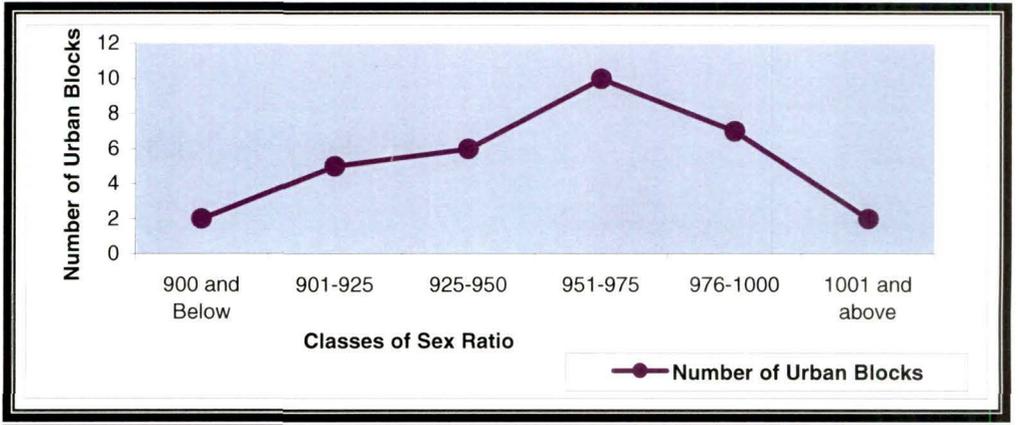
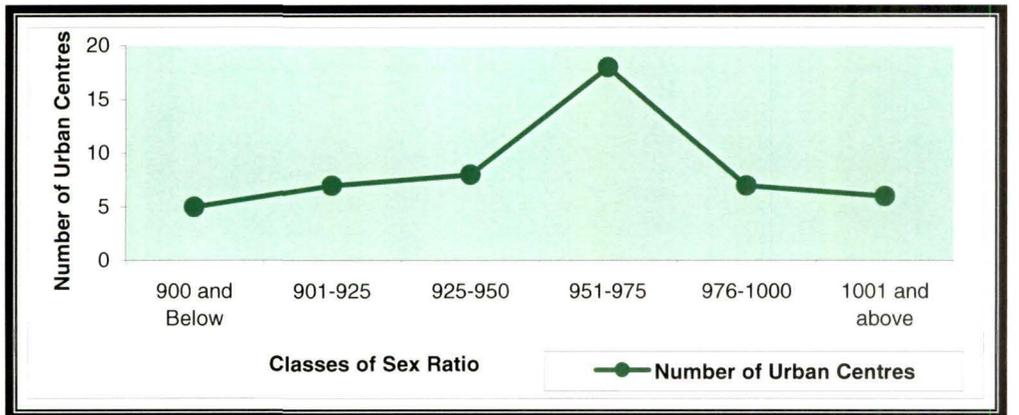
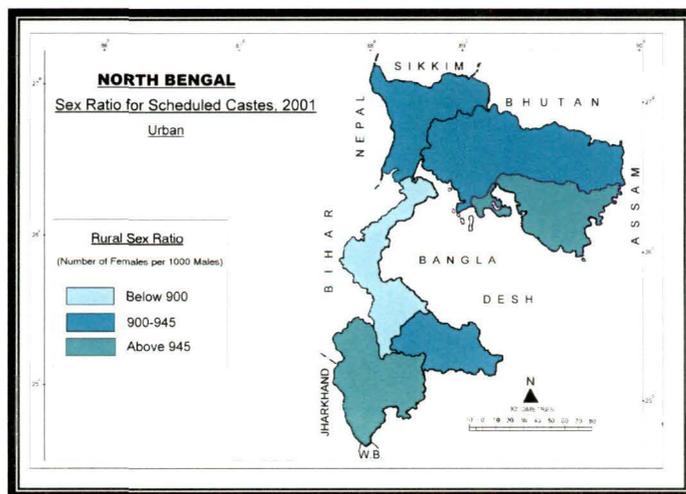


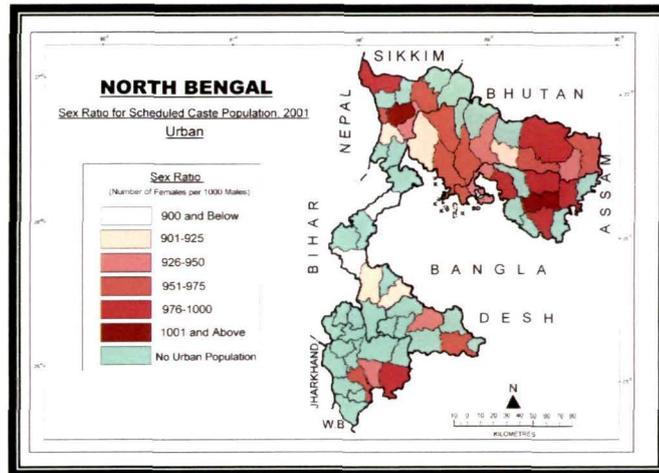
Figure 7.20: - Distribution of Scheduled Castes Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



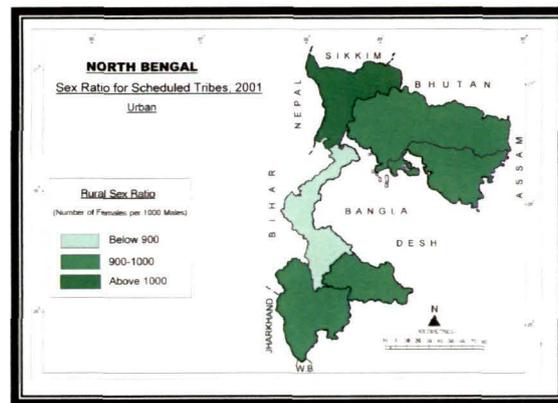
Map 7.22: - Urban Scheduled Castes Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- District Level Variation



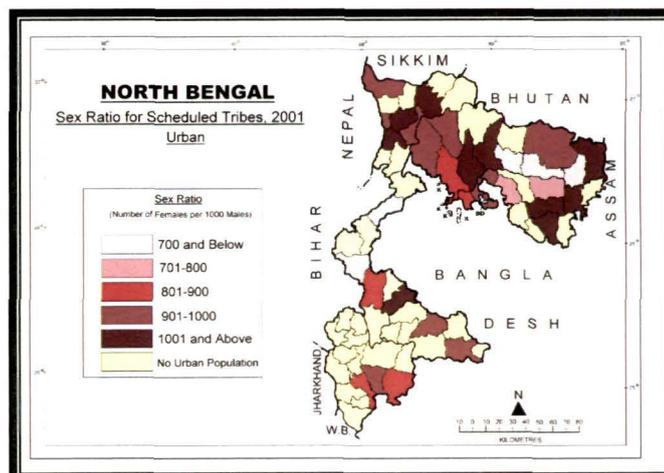
**Map 7.23: - Urban Scheduled Castes Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
Block Level Variation**



**Map 7.24: - Urban Scheduled Tribes Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
District Level Variation**



Map 7.25: - Urban Scheduled Tribes Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



7.3.5 SEX RATIO AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBES POPULATION

About 869 females are there per every 1000 males among scheduled tribes population in whole North Bengal region. The district wise variation reveals the fact that, it ranges from the maximum of 1016 females per 1000 males in Darjiling to the minimum of 817 females per 1000 males in Uttar Dinajpur district. Table 7.11 that the last mentioned district is the only one having urban tribal sex ratio of less than 900 females per 1000 males. On the contrary, the first mentioned is the only one having sex ratio of more than 1001 females per 1000 males. Remaining four districts varies between 900 and 1000 females per 1000 males in terms of their urban tribal sex ratio (Map 7.24).

Block wise variation shows that, the tribal sex ratio in urban areas of 32 blocks of North Bengal varies from the maximum of 1185 females per 1000 males in the Tufanganj-I to the minimum of 609 in Islampur block. Out of total 32 urban blocks of the region, ten consisting of about 31 percent record more females than males among tribal population in their urban areas.

In other words, in these 31 percent blocks, the urban tribal sex ratio is very high i.e., more than 1001. These include three blocks each from Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar, while one from Uttar Dinajpur district. That means, in the northern part of North Bengal region, females are outnumbered than males among tribal people in most of its urban areas. Another 31 percent blocks of the region, record tribal sex ratio of urban areas of between 901 and 1000 females per 1000 males. These blocks include three each from Darjiling and Jalpaiguri, two from Dakshin Dinajpur and one each from Koch Bihar and Maldah. Five blocks consisting about 16 percent of all urban blocks of the region form the group of 801-900 females per 1000 males. Two blocks namely, Mathabhanga-I and Koch Bihar-II have recorded sex ratio for tribal people in urban areas of between 701 and 800 females per 1000 males. Remaining four blocks namely Falakata, Karandighi, Alipurduar-I and Islampur have recorded very low sex ratio for scheduled tribes in urban areas of less than 700 females per 1000 males. Only in case of Alipurduar-II, as there is no female population among tribal population in its urban areas, hence the sex ratio is zero (Map 7.25).

**Table 7.23: - Sex Ratio among Scheduled Tribes Population in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Blocks**

Class of Urban ST Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
700 and Below	05	15.63
701-800	02	6.25
801-900	05	15.63
901-1000	10	31.25
1001 and Above	10	31.25
Total	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

**Table 7.24: - Sex Ratio among Scheduled Tribes Population in North Bengal, 2001-
Among Urban Centres**

Class of Urban ST Sex Ratio	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
700 and Below	10	19.61
701-800	04	7.84
801-900	06	11.76
901-1000	18	35.29
1001 and Above	13	25.49
Total	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

The distribution of tribal sex ratio among total 51 urban centers of North Bengal region shows that, it ranges from the maximum of 1185 females per 1000 males in Tufanganj to the minimum of 162 females per 1000 males in Chechakhata. According to the Table 7.11, there are total 13 urban centers constituting about 25 percent of all urban centers of the region record tribal sex ratio of more than 1001. These include six municipalities namely, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Alipurduar, Koch Bihar, Tufanganj and Kaliaganj. Remaining six are census towns namely, Cart Road, Bairatisal, Uttar Kamakhyaguri, Banarhar Tea Garden, Maynaguri and Kharimala Khagrabari.

Figure 7.21: - Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

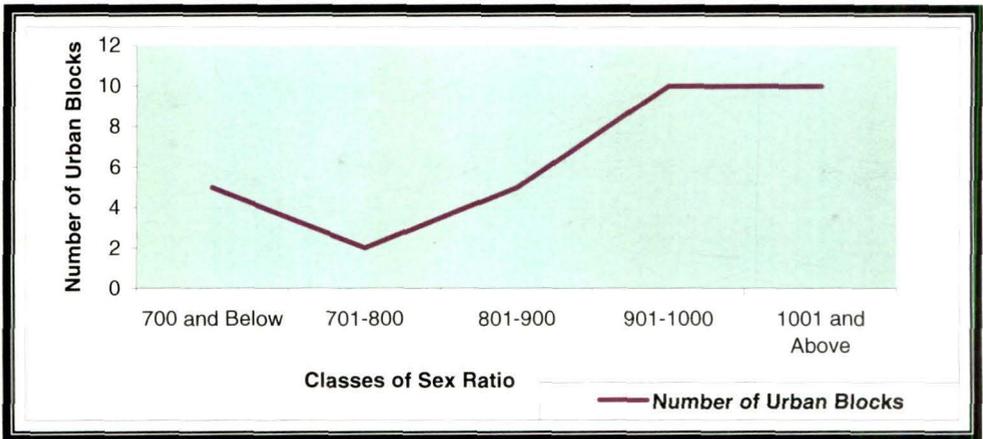
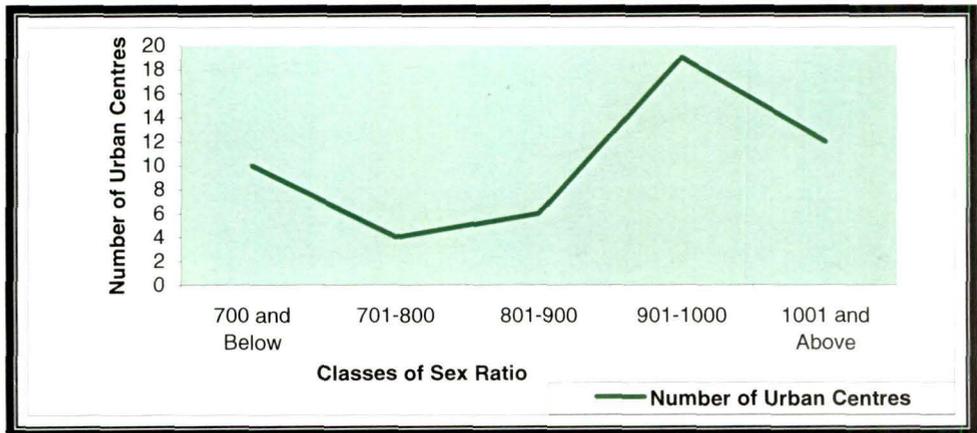


Figure 7.22: - Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



Maximum concentration of urban centers is in the range of sex ratio of 901-1000 females per 1000 males. Table 7.24 shows that, about 35 percent urban centers have recorded tribal sex ratio of this group. It includes eight municipalities, one notified area, i.e., Mirik, both the parts of the Siliguri Municipality Corporation and eight census towns. About 20 percent urban centers record tribal sex ratio of less than 700 females per 1000 males. Among these, four do not have any tribal population. These four urban centers are Shobhaganj, Bhangri Pratham Khanda, Baidhyanathpara and Aiho. However, remaining 20 percent urban centers record tribal sex ratio between 701 and 900 females per 1000 males.

7.3.6.1 SEX RATIO AMONG TOTAL WORKERS

About 183 females are engaged per 1000 males in whole state as total workers. The figure is 213 in case of the North Bengal region. Table 2.13 shows the distribution of urban sex ratio in different districts of North Bengal among total workers. Maximum sex ratio is found in urban areas of Dakshin Dinajpur, where about 272 females work as total workers against every 1000 males. Darjiling follows it with about 220 female workers per 1000 male workers. However next important are two districts with 216 and 213 females per 1000 males in Maldah and Koch Bihar respectively. These four mentioned districts have number of female workers per 1000 male workers more than that of whole North Bengal region. Remaining two districts, namely Uttar Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri record sex ratio less than 200 in urban areas with 198 and 196 females per 1000 males respectively.

The block wise distribution of sex ratio varies from maximum of 857 females per 1000 males in English Bazar to minimum of 81 in Karandighi. Out of total 69 blocks of whole region about 32 have urban population and among these sex ratio for total workers ranges between 81 and 857 females per 1000 males. Thus these blocks may be classified into several groups like Below 200, 201-400, 401-600 and Above 601 females per 1000 males.

Table 7.25: - Sex Ratio among Total Workers in North Bengal, 2001- Among Urban Blocks

Class of Urban Sex Ratio for Total Workers	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
200 and Below	13	40.63
201-400	17	53.13
401-600	01	3.13
601 and Above	01	3.13
Total	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

Only Karandighi block records sex ratio among total workers below 100 females per 1000 males, while only English Bazar records above 801. Therefore, remaining 29 blocks record urban worker's sex ratio between 101 and 800 females per 1000 males.

According to table 7.25, 13 blocks constitutes about 41 percent of urban populated blocks of the region record urban total worker's sex ratio of less than 200 females per 1000 males. Out of these 13 blocks, about 54 percent are located in Jalpaiguri; while about 16 percent each in Koch Bihar, Darjiling and Uttar Dinajpur. No block of Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah record sex ratio of this kind. As mentioned earlier, among these urban blocks, only Karandighi of Uttar Dinajpur district records less than 100 female workers per every 1000 males workers as total workers.

Table 7.26: - Sex Ratio among Total Workers in North Bengal, 2001- Among Urban Centres

Class of Urban Sex Ratio for Total Workers	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
200 and Below	21	41.18
201-400	27	52.94
401-600	02	3.92
601 and Above	01	1.96
Total	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

Therefore among all blocks of North Bengal recording urban total worker's sex ratio of below 200, about 85 percent blocks are located in three northern districts namely, Jalpaiguri, Darjiling and Koch Bihar. But among all blocks of the region recording urban total worker's sex ratio between 201 and 400 females per 1000 males, about 65 percent are located in these three northern districts. Out of total 17 blocks recording sex ratio between 201 and 400 females per 1000 males, about 29 percent are located in Koch Bihar, while 18 percent each are in Darjiling and Jalpaiguri; and about 12 percent each in Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah. All of urban populated blocks of Dakshin Dinajpur record total worker's sex ratio in this group.

About 3 percent of region's urban populated blocks each have sex ratio between 401-600 and above 601 and these blocks are Mirik and English Bazar with 534 and 857 female workers per 1000 male workers respectively. Therefore, though the maximum and minimum sex ratio found among all blocks of North Bengal are 857 and 81 females per

1000 males respectively, but about 94 percent of urban populated blocks record total worker's sex ratio between 81 and 400 females per 1000 males.

**Map 7.26: - Urban Total Workers Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
District Level Variation**

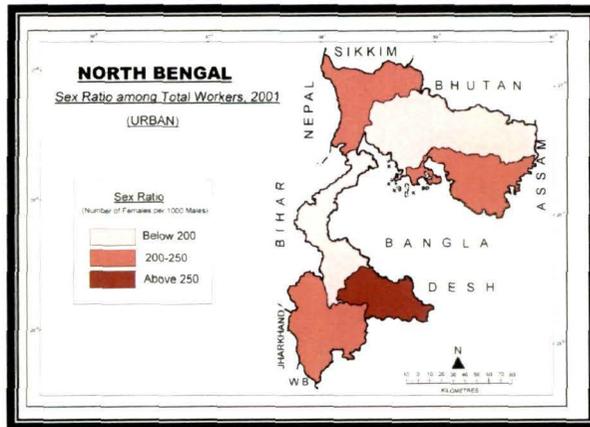


Figure 7.23: - Distribution of Total Workers Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

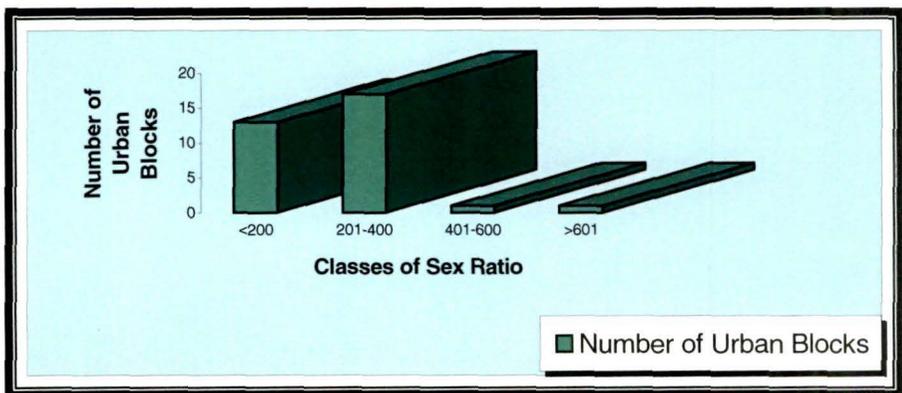
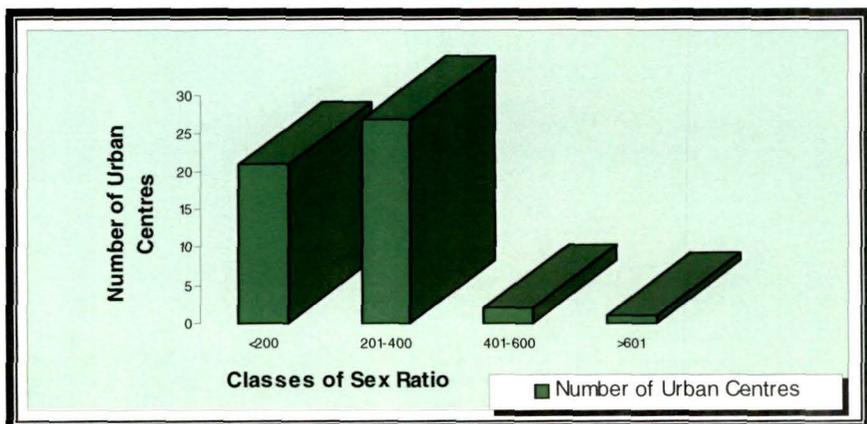
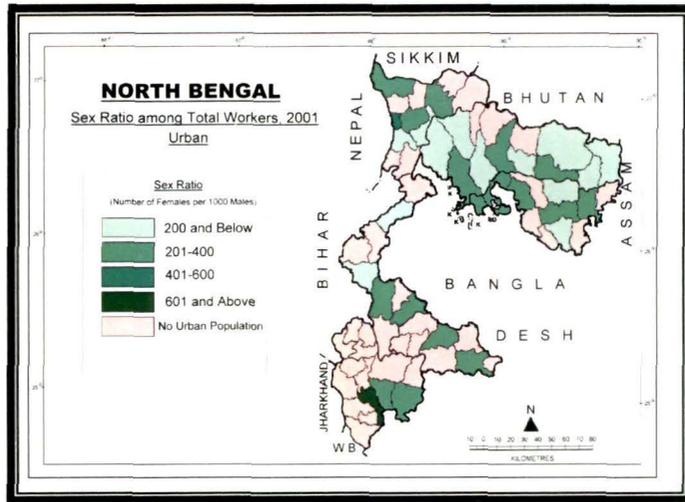


Figure 7.24: - Distribution of Total Workers Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001

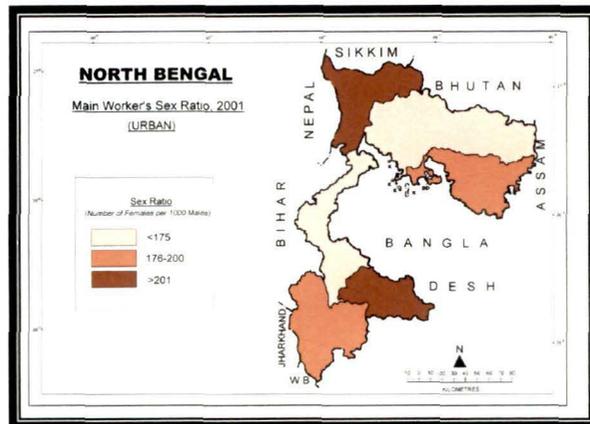


In case of urban centres, in North Bengal, maximum and minimum sex ratio is observed in Pattabong Tea Garden Census Town and Dalkhola Census Town with 747 and 81 females per 1000 males respectively. This gap may be classified into five groups of sex ratio like Below 200, 201-400, 401-600 and Above 601. Among 21 municipalities, six record sex ratio of below 200 and these are Mal, two parts of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Islampur, English Bazar and Dinhata. That means, about 29 percent of all Municipality areas of North Bengal record sex ratio of below 200 females per 1000 males, while about 43 percent record 201-300 female workers per 1000 male workers in urban areas and remaining about 10 percent record sex ratio between 301-400 females per 1000 males. Thus, among all of 21 municipalities of the North Bengal region, maximum number of female workers per 1000 male workers is found in Kurseong and minimum in Mal with 347 and 148 females per 1000 males respectively. Kurseong along with Darjeeling record sex ratio more than 300 females per 1000 males. However, among 27 census towns, about 52 percent record sex ratio of below 200 females per 1000 males. Next concentration of census towns are found in the group of 201-400 where about 37 percent of the region lies. These two are major concentrations. Out of remaining census towns, Dalkhola records lowest in the whole region while Pattabong Tea Garden have the highest number of females per 1000 males in the whole region. The lowest value has recorded as 81, while the maximum is 747 females per 1000 males. The later is only urban centre of the region with sex ratio above 600 females per 1000 males. Aiho Census Town along with Mirik, the only one Notified Area has sex ratio between 500 and 600 with 552 and 534 females per 1000 males respectively. Out of two Out Growths, Chakbhrigu records 188 females while Baidhyanathpara have 231 females per 1000 males in workers.

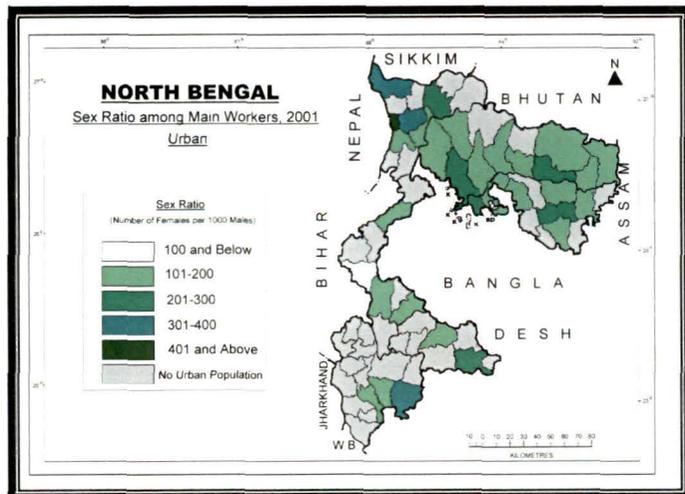
Map 7.27: - Urban Total Workers Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



Map 7.28: - Urban Main Workers Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- District Level Variation



Map 7.29: - Urban Main Workers Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



7.3.6.2 SEX RATIO AMONG TOTAL MAIN WORKERS

Though 183 female workers are there per 1000 male workers in whole urban West Bengal, but in case of main workers, the figure is 156 females per 1000 males. In North Bengal also, the sex ratio among main workers is low than that of the total workers and it has recorded about 184 females per 1000 males (Appendix 7.13).

Table 7.27: - Sex Ratio among Main Workers in North Bengal, 2001- Among Urban Blocks

Class of Urban Sex Ratio for Main Workers	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
100 and Below	01	3.13
101-200	21	65.63
201-300	06	18.75
301-400	03	9.38
401 and Above	01	3.13
Total	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

Table 7.28: - Sex Ratio among Main Workers in North Bengal, 2001- Among Urban Centres

Class of Urban Sex Ratio for Main Workers	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
100 and Below	01	1.96
101-200	31	60.78
201-300	14	27.45
301-400	02	3.92
401 and Above	03	5.88
Total	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

The district wise variation ranges from maximum of 223 females per 1000 males in Dakshin Dinajpur to minimum of 163 in Uttar Dinajpur. Dakshin Dinajpur along with Darjiling have recorded sex ratio more than of less than 200 females per 1000 males and remaining all of four districts have recorded sex ratio between 150-200. Except Maldah,

Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur, all three have sex ratio among main workers more than the region's average of 184 females per 1000 males. However, the maximum sex ratio recording district is followed by Darjiling with 203 and Koch Bihar with 191 females per 1000 males. Maldah follows Koch Bihar having about 181 female workers per 1000 male workers in urban areas. Remaining two, i.e. Uttar Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri have sex ratio below 170 females per 1000 males (Table 7.28).

The block wise distribution of sex ratio among urban main workers varies from maximum of 526 females per 1000 males in Mirik to minimum of 66 females per 1000 males in Karandighi. We can classify this gap into some classes like Below 100, 101-200, 201-300, 301-400 and above 401. Out of total 69 blocks of whole North Bengal, only 32 have urban population and about 69 percent of these urban populated blocks record main worker's sex ratio between 101 and 200 females per 1000 males. These 69 percent include blocks from all districts. In other words, 22 urban populated blocks of North Bengal constituting 66 percent of all urban populated blocks include 2 from Darjiling, 8 from Jalpaiguri, 5 from Koch Bihar, 3 from Uttar Dinajpur, 1 from Dakshin Dinajpur and 2 from Maldah. That means among these 21 blocks, about 71 percent are concentrated in the northern three districts while 38 percent are found in Jalpaiguri. Among remaining three districts, Uttar Dinajpur's share is large with three blocks namely Islampur, Kaliaganj and Raiganj, where the sex ratio varies between 125-185 females per 1000 males. Out of total 6 urban populated blocks, Darjiling records sex ratio of this group among main workers in two blocks namely Naxabari and Matigara. It is interesting to note that both the blocks are located in the southern part of the district. On the other hand, about 80 percent of urban populated blocks in Jalpaiguri and about 71 percent of urban populated blocks of Koch Bihar record main worker's sex ratio of 101-200 females per 1000 males. Not only that 75 percent of Uttar Dinajpur and 50 percent of Dakshin Dinajpur and 67 percent of Maldah also record sex ratio of this group. Therefore, majority of blocks of all districts having urban population record 101-200 female main workers per 1000 male main workers in urban areas. However, about 19 percent of all urban populated blocks of North Bengal record main worker's sex ratio between 201-300 females per 1000 males. These 6 blocks (constituting 19 percent) includes one, namely Kalimpong-I from Darjiling; two namely, Alipurduar-I and Jalpaiguri from Jalpaiguri; two, namely Haldibari and Cooch Behar-I from Koch Bihar; and Balurghat from Dakshin Dinajpur. No block of Uttar Dinajpur and Maldah records

this kind of sex ratio. Three blocks, two from northernmost district, i.e., Darjiling and one from the southern most district namely, Maldah constituting about 9 percent of all urban populated blocks of the region. These include Habibpur with 304, Kurseong with 313 and Darjiling-Pulbazar with 320 females per 1000 males. Only Mirik have recorded main workers sex ratio of more than 401 females per 1000 males. Very very low female participation have records in urban main workers in Karandighi which is the only urban populated block having main workers sex ratio less than 100 females per 1000 males (Map 7.29).

Figure 7.25: - Distribution of Main Workers Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

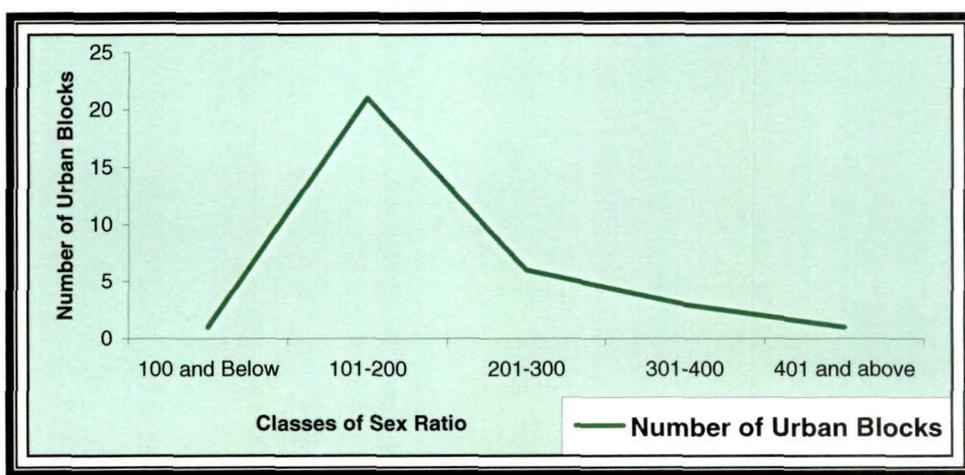
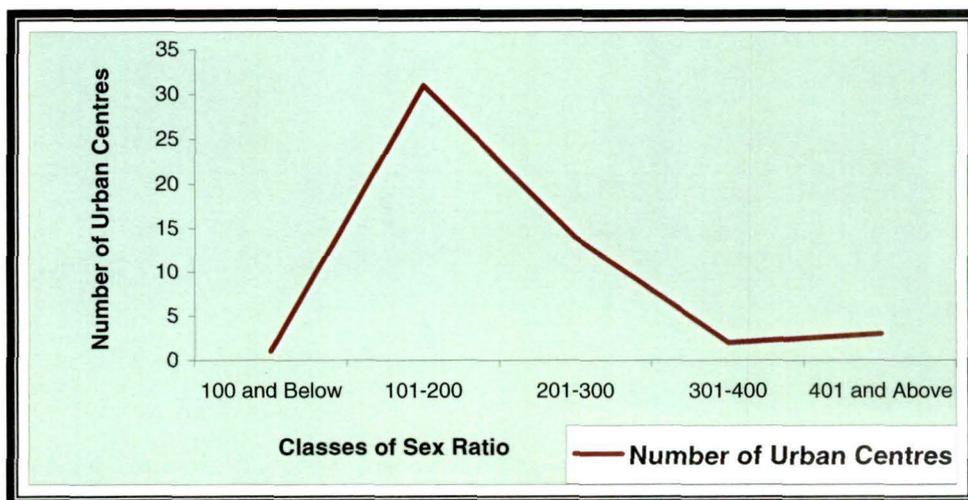


Figure 7.26: - Distribution of Main Workers Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



Among all of total 51 urban centres of the whole region, one census town namely Dalkhola records very very low sex ratio for main workers with 66 females per 1000 males in the census year 2001. On the other hand, another census town of the region namely Pattabong Tea Garden records maximum main worker's sex ratio in the whole region where about 803 females work against every 1000 male workers.

Therefore, all of remaining 49 urban centres including 21 municipalities, 26 census towns, 2 out growths and one notified area record main worker's sex ratio between these two extremes of sex ratio of Dalkhola as minimum and Pattabong Tea Garden as maximum. If we classify all of 51 urban units into 5 classes of sex ratio, then according to the table 7.28, major concentration of urban centres are in the sex ratio class of 101-200. In other words, out of total 51 urban units of the whole region, 31 constituting about 61 percent record main worker's sex ratio between 101 and 200 females per 1000 males. Out of total 21 municipalities, about 62 percent fall in this category while 59 percent of census towns and cent percent of out growths fall in this group. Among all municipalities, two record sex ratio for main workers between 101 and 150, while nine record sex ratio between 151 and 200 females per 1000 males. Two parts of Siliguri municipal corporation- both of Darjiling and Jalpaiguri, have recorded about 149 and 140 females per 1000 males respectively. However, about 18 census towns record main worker's sex ratio between 101 and 200. These constitute about 64 percent of all census towns of the region. Two outgrowths, i.e., Chakbhrigu and Baidyanathpara also record main worker's sex ratio between 101 and 200. However six municipalities, namely Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Haldibari, Cooch Behar and Balurghat record urban sex ratio among main workers between 201 and 300 females per 1000 males. These six constitute about 29 percent of all municipalities of the region. Eight census towns record sex ratio between 201 and 300. In the above 301 group of sex ratio total five urban units lie. Among them, Kurseong and Darjeeling form the group of 301-400 females per 1000 males with sex ratio for main workers of 313 and 329 females per 1000 males respectively. Remaining three record sex ratio more than 401 females per 1000 males. Aiho is one census town having main worker's ratio between 400 and 500 with recording 490 females per 1000 males. In the group of 501 and 600, no municipality or census town lies. Only one Notified Area of the region, i.e., Mirik records about 526 female

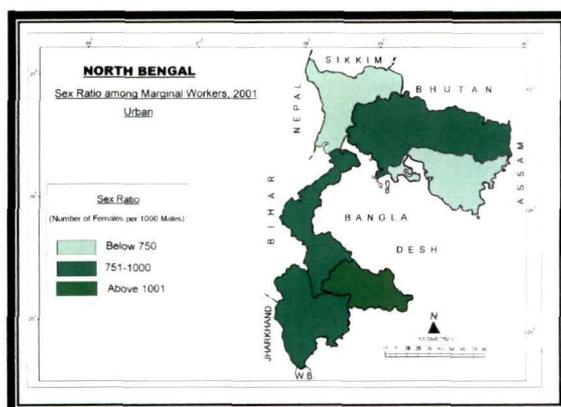
workers per 1000 male workers in main work force of the urban unit. With about 803 females per 1000 males, Patabong Tea Garden records maximum sex ratio among urban main workers.

7.3.6.3 SEX RATIO AMONG MARGINAL WORKERS

About 596 females work as marginal worker per 1000 males in urban areas of whole West Bengal, which is 758 females per 1000 males in the urban areas of North Bengal. Appendix 7.13 shows that the district wise variation of sex ratio among urban marginal workers varies from maximum of 1225 in Dakshin Dinajpur to minimum of 525 females per 1000 males in Darjiling. In only Dakshin Dinajpur district, number of female marginal workers is more than the number of male marginal workers in urban areas of the district. It is followed by Maldah with 941 females per 1000 males. It is followed by Uttar Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri with 799 and 768 respectively. Koch Bihar comes next with 666 female marginal workers per 1000 male marginal workers in urban areas of the district. The remaining northernmost district, i.e., Darjiling, records sex ratio of 525 females per 1000 males. Therefore all of three southern districts record marginal worker's sex ratio in urban areas more than the regions average of 758 females per 1000 males, while except Darjiling, all five districts record above state's average sex ratio for urban marginal workers.

The block wise sex ratio varies from maximum of 2407 females per 1000 males in Gangarampur to minimum of 302 females per 1000 males in Karandighi. There are total nine blocks in the whole North Bengal, where the urban marginal worker's sex ratio is more than 1000. That means, in these nine blocks, number of females are more than the number of males in urban marginal workers. These nine blocks are Alipurduar-II, Tufanganj-I, Mathabhanga-I, Falakata, Habibpur, Old Malda, Dhupguri and Gangarampur. The last one has female marginal workers more than double the number of males in urban areas.

**Map 7.30: - Urban Marginal Workers Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001-
District Level Variation**



**Table 7.29: - Sex Ratio among Marginal Workers in North Bengal, 2001- Among
Urban Blocks**

Class of Urban Sex Ratio for Marginal Workers	Number of Urban Blocks in each Class	Percentage of Urban Blocks to total in North Bengal
500 and Below	07	21.88
501-1000	17	53.13
1001-1500	06	18.75
1501 and Above	02	6.25
Total	32	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

**Table 7.30: - Sex Ratio among Marginal Workers in North Bengal, 2001- Among
Urban Centres**

Class of Urban Sex Ratio for Marginal Workers	Number of Urban Centres in each Class	Percentage of Urban Centres to total in North Bengal
500 and Below	10	19.61
501-1000	27	52.94
1001-1500	11	21.57
1501 and Above	03	5.88
Total	51	100.00

Source: -Calculated from PCA, 2001

Figure 7.27: - Distribution of Marginal Workers Sex Ratio among Urban Blocks in North Bengal, 2001

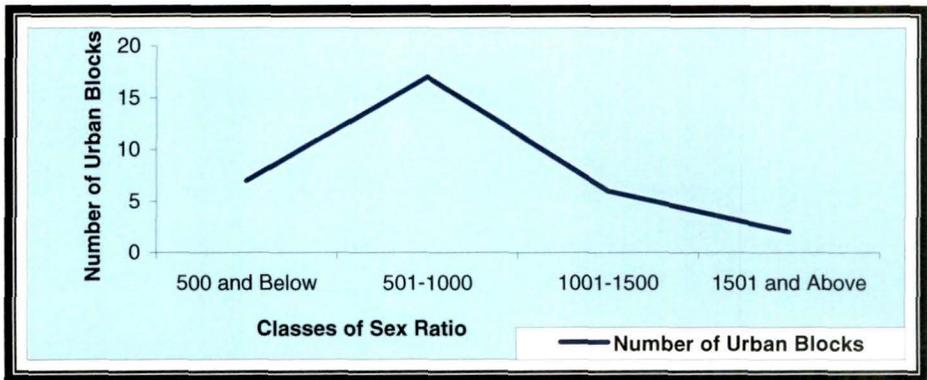
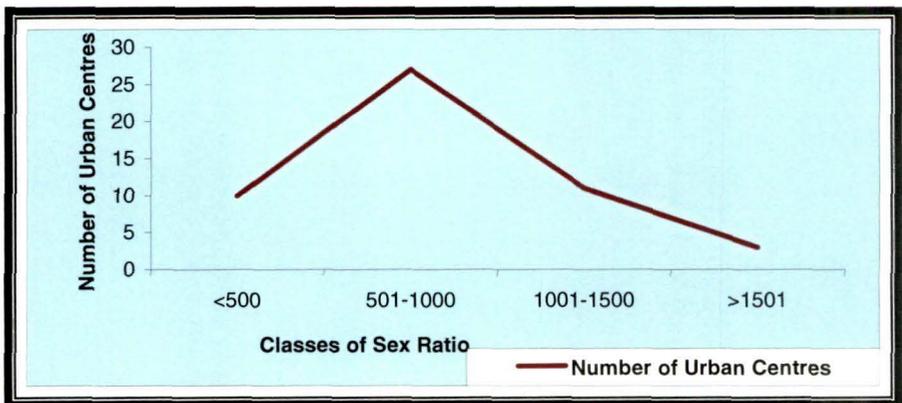
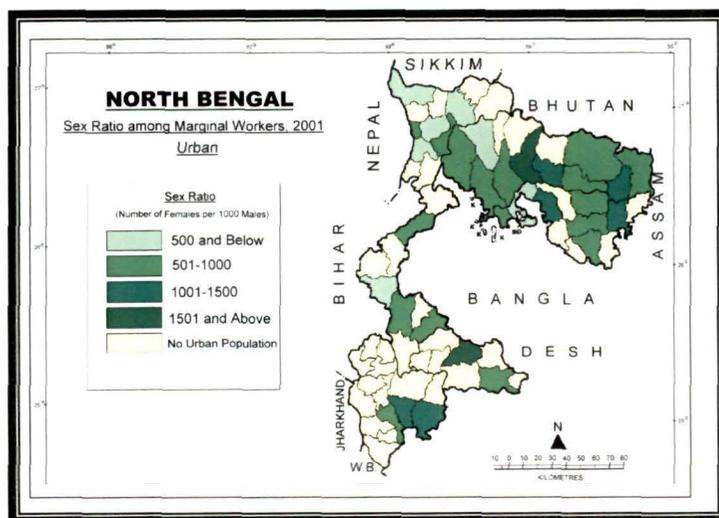


Figure 7.28: - Distribution of Marginal Workers Sex Ratio among Urban Centres in North Bengal, 2001



Map 7.31: - Urban Marginal Workers Sex Ratio in North Bengal, 2001- Block Level Variation



There are only three blocks, namely Maynaguri, Alipurduar-I and Kaliaganj, where the sex ratio ranging between 900 and 1000 females per 1000 males and in these three blocks, the respective sex ratios are 922, 944 and 948 females per 1000 males. No block is there in the whole region, where the marginal worker's sex ratio in urban areas ranges between 800 and 900 females per 1000 males. Three blocks, i.e., Islampur, Cooch Behar-II and Raiganj record sex ratio between 700 and 800 females per 1000 males. Seven blocks have recorded sex ratio between 600 and 700 and these are Rajganj, Mirik, Matigara, Haldibari, Dinhata-I, English Bazar and Balurghat. However, about 78 percent of whole North Bengal's urban populated blocks record marginal worker's sex ratio more than 501 females per 1000 males. About 66 percent of whole region's blocks with urban population have sex ratio among marginal workers more than the state's average of 596, while about 44 percent record more than the region's average of 758 females per 1000 males. Only Karandighi and Mal have sex ratio between 301 and 400 while five blocks including four, namely Kalimpong-I, Darjeeling-Pulbazar, Naxalbari and Kurseong from Darjiling; and one namely Mekhliganj from Koch Bihar record sex ratio between 401 and 500 females per 1000 males. Karandighi is only one block with less than 350 females per 1000 males in urban marginal workers.

In case of urban centres, the sex ratio among marginal workers varies from maximum of 2407 females per 1000 males in Gangarampur municipality to minimum of 133 females per 1000 males in Pattabong Tea Eastate census town. Table 7.29 shows the classification of this range of sex ratio between 133 and 2407 females per 1000 males into several classes. Three urban centres namely, Gangarampur municipality town, Dhupguri census town and Kendua census town record marginal workers sex ratio of more than 1501 females per 1000 males with the first two as more than 2001. Apart from these three, other eleven urban centres record sex ratio between 1001-1501 females per 1000 males. It includes five municipalities namely Kurseong, Alipurduar, Mathabhanga, Tufanganj and Old Maldah; five census towns namely, Shobhaganj, Falakata, Banarhat Tea Garden, Nachhratpur Katabari and Aiho and one out growth namely Chak Bhriгу. On the contrary, about 12 percent of urban centres of North Bengal record very low sex ratio among marginal workers of below 400 females per 1000 males. However, 12 urban units constituting about 24 percent of all urban units have number of females between 401 and 600 against every 1000 males.

7.4 CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it may be concluded that there are uneven distribution of sex ratio both in rural and urban areas among all the socio-economic indicators. In most of the cases there are deficiency of females. This low sex ratio affect the development of the region. Generally, a host of factors are responsible for such variations. These are demographic, social, cultural, economic, and political. All these factors are responsible for the differentiation among sex structures sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. Fertility an important demographic determinant of structure of a population and signifies the actual incidence of live births in a population. Mortality is another inexorable force for change in population structure. The age and sex specific incidence of death has a great effect on the overall structure of a population. Migration is the third important process, which may change the composition of a population. Behind all these demographic factors work some socio-cultural factors. Among all other factors education plays a vital role. It changes the attitudes towards the women in the family as well as in the society. Employment structure of the family also affects the decision making regarding the reproductive character of the couple. This general picture of sex ratio have some deviations in rural and also in urban areas. Due to change in socio-economic character of rural and urban areas, there are variations in these two areas in terms of sex ratio. Policy makers are trying to find out the exact and most dominant factors behind these changes in male female ratio and also by using these in proper way overall development can be done in the whole study region.