

Chapter 1

Introduction

The portion of West Bengal from the Ganges on the south and the Himalayas on the north is called North Bengal. It consists of the districts Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar, West Dinajpur and Malda, all under the political jurisdiction of Jalpaiguri division.

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There cannot be had a history of the inhabitation or the peoples used to live in the present day North Bengal which was a part of Varendra region of ancient times in a long past. However the ancient texts Smritishastras, inscriptions to some extent are still giving witness of the demographic picture even of the earliest time of human civilization in the region though in a very tiny level. The oldest sources on population habitation of the region are Aitereya Aranyak and Manusamhita.² Besides Mahabharata and Jaina religious text Acharanga Sutra throw light over the living of people in Varendra-Pundra region. The famous Gramarian Panini's 'Mahabhashy', 'Kamsutra' of Batsayan, 'Arthasastra' of Kautilya, Buddhist text 'Boudhayan Dharmasutra', 'Arya Manjusree- mulkalpa' and in Buddhist 'Doha Charyagitika reflect some of references of life and living of people in this region. The texts of historical period such as 'Ramcharitam' of Sandhyuakar Nandi of tenth century, 'Rajtarangini' of Kalhan of eleventh century, 'Tabakat-i-Nasiri' of Minhas-us-Siraj of thirteenth century and 'Ine-i-Akbari' of Abul Fazal of sixteenth century supply information regarding demography of the region in ancient times and later on. During the British period for the administrative purpose like the other places of India a very expansive anthropomorphic and racial investigation was made also in the region of our study. In this context the report of Colonel Dalton, Haden, Risley, Hutton, O'Malley, W.W. Hunter, Grierson, Huchinson, Gait, Sunders, Milligan, Macartney, Malbourn, Grunning, Buchanon-Hamilton, Hodson etc. are referred as very important. However, the most important is the census operations which began with an extensive investigation of information regarding population scenario of the region.

The earliest official returns regarding Bengal was endeavored in 1801 during the administration of Marquis of Wellesley. Mr. Adam in his report on Vernacular Education in 1835 wrote that "They were deemed to have been made with too implicit a dependence upon unchecked native authorities, and it would appear from the results of subsequent and more minute investigation that the public functionaries from whatever cause greatly within the real amount".³ The Court of Directors in 1807 appointed Dr. Francis Buchanon "to (have more trustworthy information regarding its rich possessions in Bengal) carry out a statistical survey of the Presidency". However, the most important is giving trace over collection information of the number and condition of the inhabitants of the region concerned. In this investigation only the

Northern part of Bengal and a portion of Bihar were surveyed. As the Survey was supervised by Mr. Montgomery Martin the report was published under the title 'Martin's Eastern India'⁴. The volumes of the official survey of 'Historical Documents of Eastern India' include the Zillahs or districts of Behar and Patna, Shahabad, Bhagalpur, Gorakhpur, Dinajpur, Purniya, Rangpur and Assam.⁵ Regarding the importance of the survey it was said in the Report on Census of Bengal, 1872 that "This work is still one of the most valuable authorities we possess regarding the condition of these parts of the country which Dr. Buchanan visited ... and form the basis of all that is known on these subjects of the present day."⁶ The maps of Buchanan's description show that in Northern part of Bengal he surveyed the region of Dinajpore, Rungpore, Julpigoree, Maldah with the exception of thannahs Gomastapore and Nawabgunge, Thannahs of Panchbeebee, Khetlal and Budulgachee of Bogra and Dewangunge of Mymensing.⁷ Buchanan was directed that "The Governor General in Council is of opinion, that these inquiries should commence in the district of Rungpur, and that from thence you should proceed to the westward through each district on the north side of the Ganges, until you reach the western boundary of the Honourable Company's provinces"⁸ However, it was in 1847 that direct was provided "that the number of houses, distinguishing Hindus from Muhammadan households should be carefully ascertained" and those directions were carried out in surveying districts later on.⁹

During the nineteenth century India witnessed massive development and transition in every nook and corner of the civilization in its society, economy, culture and politics. Among these changes the massive mobility of people also was experienced by India. This mobility happened in internal and overseas in both natures.¹⁰ Likewise North Bengal, the region of my discussion, was also experienced by the great flow of migration. This process got pace highly with British intrusion in the districts of North Bengal. However, the process of migration was mainly comprised by the one way immigration into the region. Emigration, the other part of the phenomenon of migration was insignificant in nineteenth century North Bengal. Honorable Richard Temple reported that even during the time of famine of 1874 in Bengal there was no incident of emigration from the region of North Bengal.¹¹ Amlan Datta, a sociologist, opined that migration situation in Northern part of Bengal was more intricate as the region experienced and had been experiencing the steady and ceaseless inflow of immigrants both internal and external in nature.¹² In fact, the region of North Bengal had a long tradition of experiencing immigration, though in slow process, with its geo-physiographical nature. This was accelerated by the colonial and post-colonial and even post Bangladesh liberation periodic internal and external developments.¹³

This phenomenon of migration has been noticed as the backbone of the study of demography in North Bengal region from the scholars of various disciplines academic and non-academic both in nature. But there are few scholars from history for the study of demography or

demography historians. For this reason it is said that migration analysis, which is an important area of demographic study, in India have been ahistorical to date and the concern of the Indian historians on the role of migration in Indian history is questioned.¹⁴ However, recently number of historians have been and are being engaged in the study of migration from historical perspective taking it as a historical phenomenon. However, if we make a survey of literature on historical researches on the history of North Bengal it will be found that in most of the works the central focus had been and has been given on the structure, evolution, composition and transition of demographic ingredients such as society, economy, politics and culture in macro level and caste, ethnicity, trade, agriculture, land settlement, politics, political movements, language, literature and cultural practices in micro level. Since the last decade of the last century up to the present decade of the present century historical investigation on North Bengal got a great pace and has become enriched. In this enrichment the University of North Bengal the scholars produced by it had a good and progressive impact.

In the monumental work of Suniti Kumar Chatterjee in 'Kirata Jana Kriti'¹⁵ we do have some idea of the North Bengal demography since the earliest time. But it was Charu Chandra Sanyal the eminent scholar of North Bengal who institutionalized the research of history of post – colonial North Bengal.¹⁶ Very interestingly two of his monumental works were on the investigations of the people of North Bengal, specially of the aboriginals one was on the Rajbansis¹⁷ and the other one was on the Meches and the Totos¹⁸ of this North Bengal region. However, both of his works were on sociological model and these throw light over the partial demography of North Bengal. In this context the Mahduparnis of Speciall issues on each district of North Bengal including its Uttarbanga issue also was the effort from the people of this region to focus on the history of different parts and different aspects of North Bengal. It should be mentioned here that historical writings in North Bengal has been running in two parallel line one by the non-aboriginal migrants and the other by the aboriginals. In these writings naturally the demography of North Bengal and its transition frequently comes. However, rapid increase in writing on North Bengal many of the time it produces large proportion of ahistorical investigation without any historicism in them, especially when demography becomes concerned with it. This kind of ahistoric and un-historic study results in misguiding of people in different issues. It may be dangerous in the region like North Bengal where ethno-cultural movements are in existence from both in liberal and radical form. So a proper scrutiny of North Bengal Demography in its transitional profile is not only academic necessity but it also is necessary for the security of this region, of the State , of the country and over all for the interest of the people of this region who have been living century after century together in spite of their multi-lineal diversities.

W. Scheidel in the essay 'Progress and Problems in Roman Demography'¹⁹ thought of the study of the size, structure and development of human populations as demography. Hauser and

Duncan²⁰ regarded demography as the study of population in size, territorial distribution, composition, changes and ingredients of the changes. Here lies the origin of formal demography comprising fertility, morality, age-structure and spatial distribution of human population and the population Studies concerning changes and composition from disciplinary point of view. This originated since the time of Thomas Malthus. Formal demographic study is generally based on mathematical analysis of populations and population studies take data from other social sciences. Overall demography is regarded as the empirical foundation of other social sciences. In this context it may be said that the study of demography from historical attitude is the analysis of data from various disciplines as per the population studies. The discipline of history makes study over population with sociological and economic perspectives.²¹ If history is taken as 'gradual evolution of civilization' then the people, the central point of civilization is naturally studied in history.

But demography as phenomenon of study always remained the terrain of the disciplines of Sociology, Anthropology, Economics and Geography. However, in pragmatic analysis it is found that in all the changes of civilization demography plays the centrifugal role in making changes and being changed. So in different fields demography is taken differently and thus the study of cultural demography, social demography, economic demography, political demography, religious demography and so on. The discipline of history is free to go in discussion of all the above said demographic spheres. Thus the study of demography in history also become from multi-disciplinary perspective and multidisciplinary way making the historical study of demography functional. North Bengal as with its diverse geo-physiographic nature contained diverse demographic communities based on religion, caste, creed, ethnography and over all culture. So to study North Bengal demography one has to maintain multi-disciplinary attitude, multi-disciplinary methodology and multi-disciplinary data and information to proper investigation of the phenomenon. Though there are large number of scholastic work and researches on North Bengal of Indian part there is no pure and sole demographic study from historical outline and point of view. So a proper academic analysis of North Bengal demography is of a great necessity.

During the post-second world period a world-wide development due to the phenomenon of decolonization and emergence of subaltern consciousness a problem arose regarding the concept of Nation-State as the apparatus of governance and on the basis of this new socio-political climate another phenomenon of demands of the different segments of the populations of nations for fulfillment of their aspirations emerged.²² Thus the conceptual phenomenon of 'imagined nationalism' turned into new development of 'sub-nationalism', 'proto-nationalism' or 'infra-nationalism' as the scholars of this field conceptualized. So a new trend of discussion began in the last quarter of the last century with new theoretical form of 'infra-nationalism' or 'supra-nationalism' with pragmatism in contrary to the concept of presence of so called 'Nation-State'. In this line of study the trait of research in the paradigm or conceptual frame of

'ethnicity, regionalism, nationalism and integration' has developed. In this context the region of North Bengal is of a great importance. Professor Sarit K. Bhowmic in an essay on plantation workers of Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling belt has objectively examined the handicaps in the way of integration based on ethnic differences.²³ Professor Tanka Bahadur Subba in his 'Limbu Nationalism and Integration' hinted another ethno-national issue of this trend of usurpation of eagerness of the Limbus of East Nepal, West Sikkim and the hill areas of Darjeeling district for a 're-delineation of their national boundary.'²⁴ in other places Prof. Subba propounded the 'thesis of Negative Solidarity 'in relation to 'Inter-ethnic-Relationship in North-East India'.²⁵ The theory of 're-delineation of national boundary' is also true in the eagerness of the Lepchas in Darjeeling-Sikkim belt and also of the Rajbansis in Goalpara-Cooch Behar-Jalpaiguri-Rangpur belt. In this new trend of sub-nationalism or supra-nationalism a good number of ethnic organizations and ethnic movements have emerged in different parts of North Bengal. So to understand the root of the problem and follow the governmental policy as per the demographic profile of North Bengal with its transition ought to be examined very seriously from a heavy academic stature from historical objectivity. So I have taken this heavy weighted issue of demographic profile of North Bengal solely in my doctoral thesis.

In the line of the above said academic analysis it also should be noticed that on the basis of that ethno-cultural supra-sub nationalism different demands and counter demands, moves from organizational level, both the socio-cultural and political, and intellectual level have been reflecting. Thus in the form of socio-cultural and political organizational level UKD, UTJAS, KRI, BKRP, KPP, AASU, G.L., GNLFF, TASO, LGA, NBKA, BRKS emerged. Thorough these the people of North Bengal concerned with those organizations have been trying to revive, reserve and develop their culture and heritage. On the other politically they have been moving to have constitutional, administrative and political privileges and rights. On the other hand in the intellectual level the marginalization of the concerned community has been raised. Even the agonies of the intellectuals for their own communities also are reflected in their writings. For example in 'Uttarer Galpo', Dinesh Daku²⁶ portrayed the agony of Rajbansi Jotdars and A.R. Fonning's²⁷ realization of the Lepcha People's marginalization in his 'Lepcha: My Vanishing Tribe' have been reflected. So to investigate the root of all these developments and justify the demands and counter-demands the true picture of demographic profile of North Bengal is the dire need of the time.

With this objective I have selected the phenomenon of demographic profile in the area of our present day North Bengal in the State of West Bengal, India as the area of my study comprising the post-independent periodic five districts of Malda, West Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar within the period between 1871 and 1991, the one hundred and twenty years of transition of that demography. It began with the year of 1871 as the activities of surveying the population data from the end of the government of Bengal for the Census of Bengal, 1872 in that year and records being since the year.²⁸ The study will end in 1991 taking the last decadal

census of the twentieth century and year preceding to the year of division of the district of West Dinajpur. This will also help us to confine our discussion within the two (Nineteenth and Twentieth) centuries. Thus this long lineal period of study will also help us in examining the transition of the composition, structure and nature of demography of North Bengal in different stages and different phases of the period such as Colonial period (1871-1947), Post-Colonial Period (1947-1971) and Post-Bangladesh Liberation period (1971-1991). Because the dividing lines of the periods are the milestones not only in the Indian history but also in the history of Bengal as well as North Bengal.

The first dividing line of the year of 1947 was the greatest earmarked in the history of Indian, Bengal and North Bengal not only partitioning territory but also partitioning the demography of the land. Considering its importance it is discussed as partition history and also as partition in South Asia.²⁹ On the other the other dividing line of 1971 was another important year for the history of South Asia as the year of Bangladesh Liberation War mostly affecting demography of State of West Bengal as well as the Northern part of the State. As a whole I have divided the work under eight chapters among which the third, fourth and fifth chapters are the epicenter of my study. As the investigation has been carried on the profile of demography of North Bengal so five pillars of the demographic profile such as numerical strength and size, phenomenon of migration affecting the strength, religious composition of the demography, caste and ethnic composition of the demography and linguistic distribution of the demography have been given larger space dividing into two chapters and providing large number of pages. In other chapters comparatively much less space and pages have been given as the associative chapters of major study of those two chapters. However, the following is the brief introduction of the chapters discussed in followings.

In the first chapter, in which this discussion is going on, I have tried to introduce with the theme and the area of my study. After giving a general introduction of the theme 'demography', I have discussed the essentiality of the study of demography from historical perspective in Indian context in general and North Bengal in particular. The chapter also carried the details of the discussion of the whole of the study in brief. The justification of the title of the theme and the period taken for study has also been elaborated here. The chapter also says about the process and methodology of the whole of the work collecting and selecting data mainly based on Government records such as Census Reports and Government reports. Thus the introduction beginning with nineteenth century development passed through out the twentieth century which we are discussing being in twenty first century.

The second chapter may be taken as the background of the major study of demography of the region of North Bengal of Indian part discussed in the proceeding chapters. This is the discussion of the Geo-historical profile of North Bengal within the period. It has been discussed

in three sectional divisions of the chapter. In first section I have given the general introduction of development of North Bengal taxonomically and geo-administratively since the earliest time. Here I have used mainly the secondary sources available for the study of the region. In the second section of the chapter the development of the districts of North Bengal under my discussion has been recorded collecting information from various government records. It elaborates the emergence of the four districts and the State of Cooch Behar under discussion as the modern geo-administrative units. This also discusses the modernization of the four districts of Malda, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and the State of Cooch Behar under the British domination leading to the emergence of modern North Bengal in Indian part. It elaborates the development up to the independence and partition of India.

In the third section of this chapter I have mentioned the post-partition organization and re-organization of the districts under discussion with territorial distribution and redistribution of the districts of West Dinajpur and Darjeeling up to 1956 and the inner administrative organizations and reorganizations of the districts till 1991. This reveals the impact of the geo-administrative development on the demographic scenario of North Bengal in a greater extent. In fact the geo-historical formation and the geo-physiographical location of North Bengal turned it migrant prone zone extracting and attracting the peoples of different parts of Bengal, India and neighboring territories made the region an ethnological museum.

As the third, fourth and fifth chapters of this study are regarded as the epicenter of the study, the third chapter and fourth may be considered more centrifugal of the study. In this chapter the boney figure of the demography numerically with statistics of migrations with simultaneous linguistic interpretation. Mainly based on Government Records such as the Census Report and administrative Reports a large number of tables have been compiled on the profile picture of demographic data of North Bengal in this chapter for the whole period of discussion between 1871 and 1991. In third chapter I have discussed the Colonial Period (1871-1947) and in the fourth Post-colonial period (1947-1971) and post-Bangladesh liberation period (1971-1991). The first section of Colonial period again has been divided into three subsections of 1871-1901, 1901-1941 and 1941-1947 periods. Each of the first two sections has been again divided into more sub-subsections. Here it should be made clear though chapter has been entitled as 'pattern of migration and demographic changes' I have discussed first the demographic profile in each of the first subsections of the sections and then discussed the factor and actor effecting and affecting the demographic profile of the region. In the fifth section of this chapter the profile and migration have been discussed simultaneously for the period of 1941-47. Likewise the post-colonial period (1947-1971) has also been divided into two sections discussing in the same way the demographic profile first and the phenomenon of migration latter. The final section of the fourth chapter of 1971-1991 also contains the demographic profile in first section and phenomenon of migration in the second section for the same period. The Chapters contain

all the data collected mainly from each of the census for each of the decade for both the demography and migration. Thus the chapter discloses the demographic scenario of North Bengal for the contemporary period with contemporary sources. It indicates the increases and decreases, growth and decline of the population in each of the districts of North Bengal comparing each with others and also with the State. It also focuses on the changing nature of migrations into North Bengal districts from induced, invited or forced migration to forced or displaced or evacuee immigration to illegal immigration or infiltration into the districts of North Bengal effecting and affecting the demography of North Bengal.

The fifth Chapter of this discussion entitled as 'economic changes' highlights over the impact of changing profile of demography on the economic scenario of North Bengal. In discussing this chapter it has been seen that as the economic factors led to the changes in demography of the region bringing and attracting large number of people into the North Bengal districts, the new demography again with their new economic activities led to the changes the economic picture of the region and the changes is being witnessed by the region since the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It also has been seen in the discussion of this chapter that the 'so called' outsiders or the immigrants gradually became the carrier of the economic transition of the region. This change was witnessed both in rural and urban areas but mostly in the urban areas leading to the towns of North Bengal basically settlers' towns. Besides, the changing demographic profile with emerging functional groups also affected the economy of the region. This transition became more apparent in the post-colonial period with large volume of refugee immigration into North Bengal districts making Siliguri a prosperous town for example. However, as my effort is to show mainly the changing demographic profile so I have not gone much deeper into the discussion of economic changes brought by the demographic changes which may become in the form of another dissertation. Here the chapter has been divided into four sections indicating changes in agrarian economy, industrial economy and trade and commercial economy and finally in fourth section showing the economic composition of the demography in the region.

The sixth chapter of my discussion is the second, possibly the largest in size, important chapter of this study. In the chapter in name of 'Cultural Changes' three important ingredients of demography such as religion, caste and language have been taken to highlight changes in composition of the demographic profile North Bengal. As the continuation of the third and fourth chapter here formation of the profile of demography has been analyzed informatively based on caste, religion and language. However, much importance as well as space has been given to religion and caste. Investigation of the religion and caste and ethnic profile of the population of North Bengal has been done very objectively collecting information from each of the decadal census and government reports for each of the decade. For proper scrutiny of the cast, religion and ethnic and linguistic profile the chapter has been divided into seven sections. In the first three sections the changing profile of religious demography of North Bengal for

three phases of Colonial period (1871-1947), Post-Colonial Period (1947-1971) and Post-Bangladesh Liberation period (1971-1991) periods has been examined. In the succeeding fifth to sixth sections the caste demographic profile of North Bengal has been surveyed for the said three phases. In the seventh section of the discussion language has been taken as the parameter to investigate and corroborated the changes happened in the demographic profile of North Bengal. In all cases large numbers of tables have been compiled from the government data to statistically analyze the profile of North Bengal demography in transitional form within the three phases of our discussion.

In the Seventh chapter, another important aspect of study, 'political changes,' has been discussed dividing it into two sections. In the first section the emergence of political awareness among the people of North Bengal with the changing profile of demography has been examined. The political orientation of the people of different physiographic location of North Bengal which had been formed by the different caste, ethnic and religious demography also has been investigated. In the second section the participation of the people in electoral politics has been investigated. In this section the political orientation of the refugees also has been highlighted with the changing occurrences in Bengal as well as in North Bengal. Most importantly the transition of political orientation of the people of this region with the transition of demographic scenario has been scrutinized from historical point of view in this chapter. Over all the communalization of politics, caste mobilization of politics also are tried to be examined in this chapter.

The last portion of my discussion, the vital section as the observations and findings included in it, has been incorporated in the eighth, the last chapter of my work that is in the concluding portion. In this ending chapter of the work the observations gathered throughout the work have been elaborated and analyzed from historical perspective indicating the difference with the perspectives of other disciplines in demographic study. After the whole of the discussion in long linear process to be helped to identify the changes in proper way both the evolutionary and revolutionary changes in caste demography, religious demography, linguistic demography, cultural demography, economic demography and also in political demography. In fact, the geo-physiographic-historical formulation of North Bengal culminating with its variety of economic possibility led and made it inhabitation of the people belonged to different parts of India, Bengal and also from the adjacent sovereign lands. So the statistical analysis of the so called 'Pandaav-barjita' North Bengal during the period between 1872 and 1991 inferring the growing nature of the region from demographical point of view has been concluded in this last chapter. Here the evolution for the period of discussion as a whole in all respect of demography has been depicted. In this the graphical presentation has been done. The structural, de-structural and re-structural evolution of the demography of North Bengal with balancing, de-balancing and re-balancing it from caste, religion and linguistic point of view also have been inferred here in this concluding chapter.

Methodology: The study of demography as we have seen varied in nature from discipline to discipline. In most of the social sciences the study mainly based on sociological data collected from survey of a particular given area and the sample survey is taken in sociological, economic

and geographical investigation of demography. Demography, being itself a discipline basically based on statistical data. However with this the formal study of demographics and population study evolved. Here in my study of demography I have followed more the method of population study in a long linear method taking a long period of 120 years for my study. In this context the methodology of other social sciences such as the ingredients of demographics and field survey also has been followed. But most importantly following the line of discipline it has become more a statistical study.

In this statistical analysis the study has, naturally, become documentary with quantitative documentation. So I have collected and used sources containing the numerical data of demographics on primary basis. In this the most important is the Government document of census though primary but published source beginning from 1872 onwards. These governmental demographic records developed in an evolutionary process being more and more accurate with the time and being more voluminous having demographic data. Even with the passing of time different data of population for a particular region were recorded in different volumes. It also evolved from provincial level to state level and state level to district level and even village level record of demographic data. So the census records have been made the basis of this study. To corroborate the census data the various administrative records of Government of Bengal and the Reports of Survey and Settlement have been consulted. However, most of the survey records used the data on demography collecting from the census records. Prior to that Buchanon, Hooker, Hodson had been quoted. For these reports and records the National Library, Kolkata, the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, the Library of Gouhati University, the Reference Section of North Bengal University Library, the North Bengal State Library, Cooch Behar, The Uttarpara Library, Hoogli, The Census Bhawan, Kolkata greatly helped. On the other for the unpublished sources concerning demographic records were collected from the most of the above said library archives and most importantly from the West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata. Here numbers of I.B. records have been consulted concerning North Bengal, the region of my study. It should be mentioned here that I have tried to use the contemporary data of the period taken under discussion. For example for investigation of the periods of 1870s I have mostly consulted the Report on The Census of Bengal, 1872 and the series of Statistical Accounts of Bengal of W.W. Hunter for each of the district under my study.

Besides those Census records, administrative records various other governmental publications such as Bengal District Gazetteers, Eastern Bengal and Assam District Gazetteers, West Bengal District Gazetteers, Election Records, the administrative records of the Cooch Behar State etc. also provided huge information on the study of demography of North Bengal districts. The news papers concerned with the contemporary periods also have been used largely in this study. Thus the Anadabazar Patrika, Dainik Basumati, The Statesman, Hindustan Standard, Amrita

Bazar Patrika and many others have been used referring information relating demography of North Bengal directly or indirectly.

As the study is under the researchical frame of 'regional history' or 'local history', though in macro level it contained information from various North Bengal based little magazines, news papers, periodicals, weeklies, leaflets in published form have been used with an aim of using local sources containing information of locally local level and also of reaction and responses of the people witnessing the changing demography of the region. The local publications also reflect the every nook and corner of the socio-cultural-economic-political life the given region. Besides, the publications of different political-social-cultural organizations also have been used in examining the cultural, economic and political changes relating with demography of region under my study. Another aspect of the source the oral tradition such as different proverbs, folk literatures has been used in the study. Most importantly a large volume of survey in the form of interviews with the people of different stature and from different parts of North Bengal has been done. It resulted in having large volume of information concerning construction, de-construction and reconstruction of the demographic profile of North Bengal.

A vast survey of literatures from national level to local level and from English language to Vernacular has been done to from various theoretical concept concerning the demographic profile or composition with its transition effecting and affecting the economy, culture and political balance of North Bengal for its transitional period of hundred twenty years of my discussion. The secondary sources created by the intellectuals of this region also helped in getting ideas psych of the people of this region on the transition of demography from colonial to post-colonial to post-Bangladesh liberation period with number of various associative impacts.

With all these sources I have made my study into two ways of statistical analysis and theoretical discussion. For the demographic analysis of the region for the given period elementary measures like numerical strength of the districts, their proportion to the total strength of North Bengal, growth from decade to decade, rate of growth or the increase or decrease in the growth in compare to the previous decade have been compiled and computed from the Government Records concerned. Even district wise distribution of demography based on caste, religion and language and data of migration also have been compiled and for the lack of spaces in most cases the district level compilations have been given in the appendix of the concerned chapters. The mathematical measures also have been taken into account in this context.

Finally to make understand this vast statistical information of demography and to have visual analysis of the demographic data graphical presentations have been used in this study. Numbers of graphs, linear Pie chart and histograms have been figured in concluding chapter to form the overall conception of the demographic changes in North Bengal of my study during

the period between 1872 and 1991. With this maps of different times also have examined to form the apparent ideas of demographic changes with the administrative organizations and re-organizations. Some of the maps have been given in the appendix. A few documents related with demography of this region directly or indirectly also have been given in the appendix portion of this study. Last but not the least important is that in terms and terminologies the spellings of government records have been used in compilation of the tables though in other places the usual spelling have been used. Thus the spelling Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Cooch Behar have been used in some of the tables as Jalpaigooree, Dinagpoore and Kuch Bihar.

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