

CHAPTER IV:

*THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROFILE OF THE
RESPONDENTS OF THE STUDY
AREA AND THEIR STATUS &
ROLE IN FAMILY, SOCIETY
AND WORK PLACES*

PART - A:

The Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents of the Study Area

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PART- A:

The Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents of the Study Area

4.A.1 INTRODUCTION: Social complexion and economic stratum imparts proper perspective to any socio-geographical inquiry. The socio-economic framework instills a deep imprint upon the personality of a person. His thought process, livelihood pattern, behavioral pattern, work efficiency and above all the philosophy of life get shaped by his socio-economic experiences. In other words, this also acts as motivating and restraining factors especially at times of crisis.

The socio-economic background of the respondents therefore plays an important role in developing the sense of responsibility and perception to life and living so as to build up their social-self. Moreover, the social backgrounds of the respondents also help to know whether the sample drawn for the study is skewed or normally distributed.

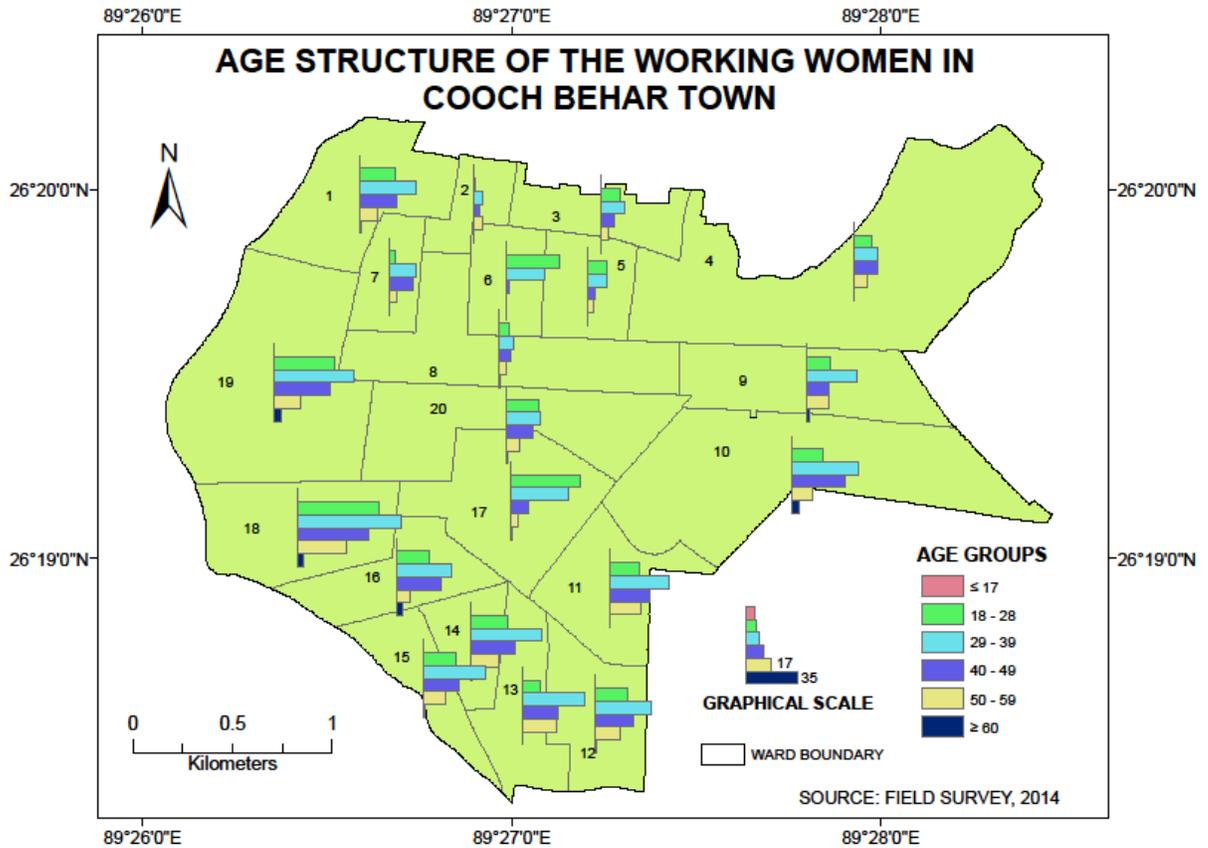
4.A.2 AGE STRUCTURE: Age is one of the analytical criteria for any study as it is indicative of experiences of an individual. One's preferences, tastes, pragmatism gets reflected through his chronology of experiences. Society recognizes human beings into children, adults and aged on the basis of their age. Age composition of the respondents reveal whether the sample pertains to the youth, matured or aged groups reflecting their experiences and perception to life. The present study has involved a sample of 1777 working women inhabiting the CBT area representing 32% of the universe. The sample is found to have five categories of age-groups, viz. 18-28, 29-39, 40-49, 50-59 and ≥ 60 years. The following table (Table: 4.1) shows their representation by percent values.

Table: 4.1 Age Composition of the Respondents of CBT

Sl. No.	Age- Groups (Years)	Frequency	%	Assigned Group Categories
1.	18-28	435	25	Young
2.	29-39	656	37	Matured
3.	40-49	414	23	
4.	50-59	245	14	Aged
5.	≥60	27	1	
Total		1777	100	

Source: Field Survey,2014

A comparative young group of respondents i.e. of 18-28 years represents 25% of the sample, the experienced group referred to as the Matured category (29-39 & 40-49 years) represents the highest proportion of the sample i.e. 60%, the rest 15% of the respondents representing the Aged category belongs to 50-59 and ≥60 years. It therefore replicates a normal sample distribution.



Map No. 4.1

A ward wise representation in Map no.4.1 has been prepared which reveals that the Young Working Women is mostly found concentrated in wards of 17, 18 and 19; it is moderate in ward nos. 1, 6, 10-12, 14, 15, 16 and 20; it is low in ward nos. 2-5, 7-9 and 13. Respondents belonging to the Matured Age Group are found highly concentrated in ward nos. 10, 13-16, 18 & 19; it is moderately adhered in ward nos. 1, 9, 11, 12, 17 & 20; while it is least concentrated in the wards of 2-8. Aged category of respondents are classified in high concentration in the wards of 11, 13, 18 and 19; moderate concentration is noticed in the ward nos. 1, 9, 10, 12 & 14; while least adherence can be seen in the wards of 2-8, 16, 17 and 20 respectively.

4.A.3 MARITAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS: Marriage is an important event in life of an individual in general and more particularly to the Indian women. The institution of marriage gives shape to the basic social unit i.e. the family and re-defines a woman's role in the family and at the same time in the society at large. Marriage in Indian social structure is still thought to be a permanent bonding and philosophized as a divine ordained relationship which goes beyond one's life (the changes in such ideology is discussed in Chapter VI). Therefore, it reflects one's desire for family and kin relation; it also imparts the sense of responsibility as well.

The data collected for the study showcases the presence of variegated marital groups. Marital status of the working women of the study area indicates both the ease and complication to their life experiences. This also becomes a help to the investigator to study the problems and prospects of the working women. Table 4.2 shows that majority of the respondents (72.93%) are married Women while 16.38% of the sample is constituted by unmarried women. An insignificant proportion of 2.70% are widows while a negligible proportion of 0.51% is represented by divorced women. However, there remains a presence of 7.48% of the sample who were single.

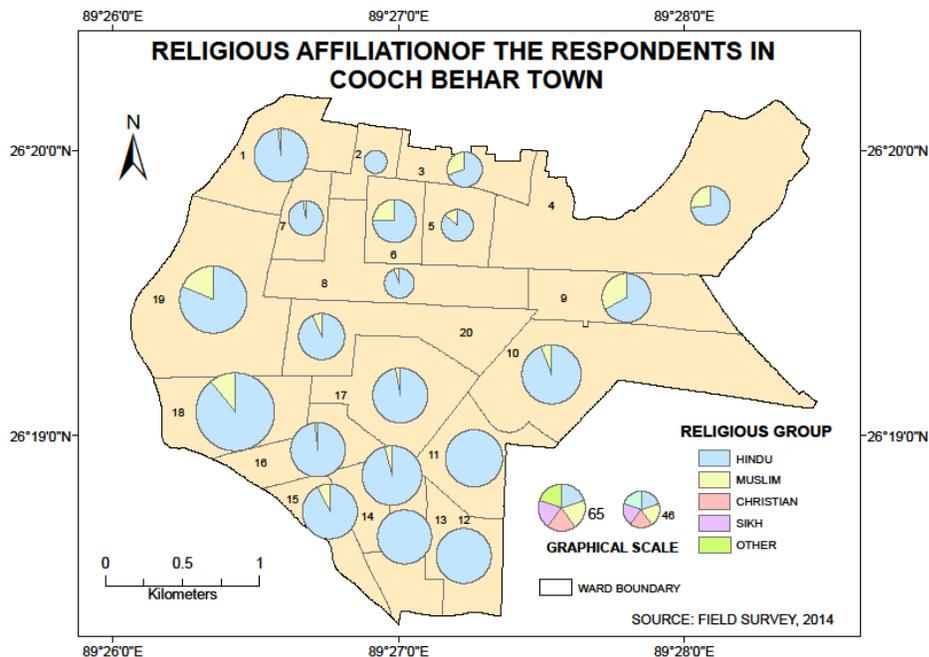
Table: 4.2 Respondents by Marital Status

Sl. No.	Marital Status	Frequency	%
1	Married	1296	72.93
2	Unmarried	291	16.38
3	Widow	48	2.70
4	Divorced	09	0.51
5	Single	133	7.48
Total		1777	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014

4.A.4 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Religious affiliation is an important aspect of Indian society. It reflects certain cultural traits and practices which remain conspicuous to any particular religious group. Variegated religious composition is indicative of cosmopolitan character in an urban unit. As far as the religious composition is concerned in the study area, the picture is less diverse than it was thought of. Most of the working women in the sample (90.66%) are Hindus; about 9.17% of the respondents are Muslims; an insignificant proportion is represented by the Christians (0.11%) and a meager representation is found by the Sikhs (0.06%). The predominance of the Hindu working women show that the Muslims, Christians and the Sikhs has little access to employment, whatever may be the actual reason.

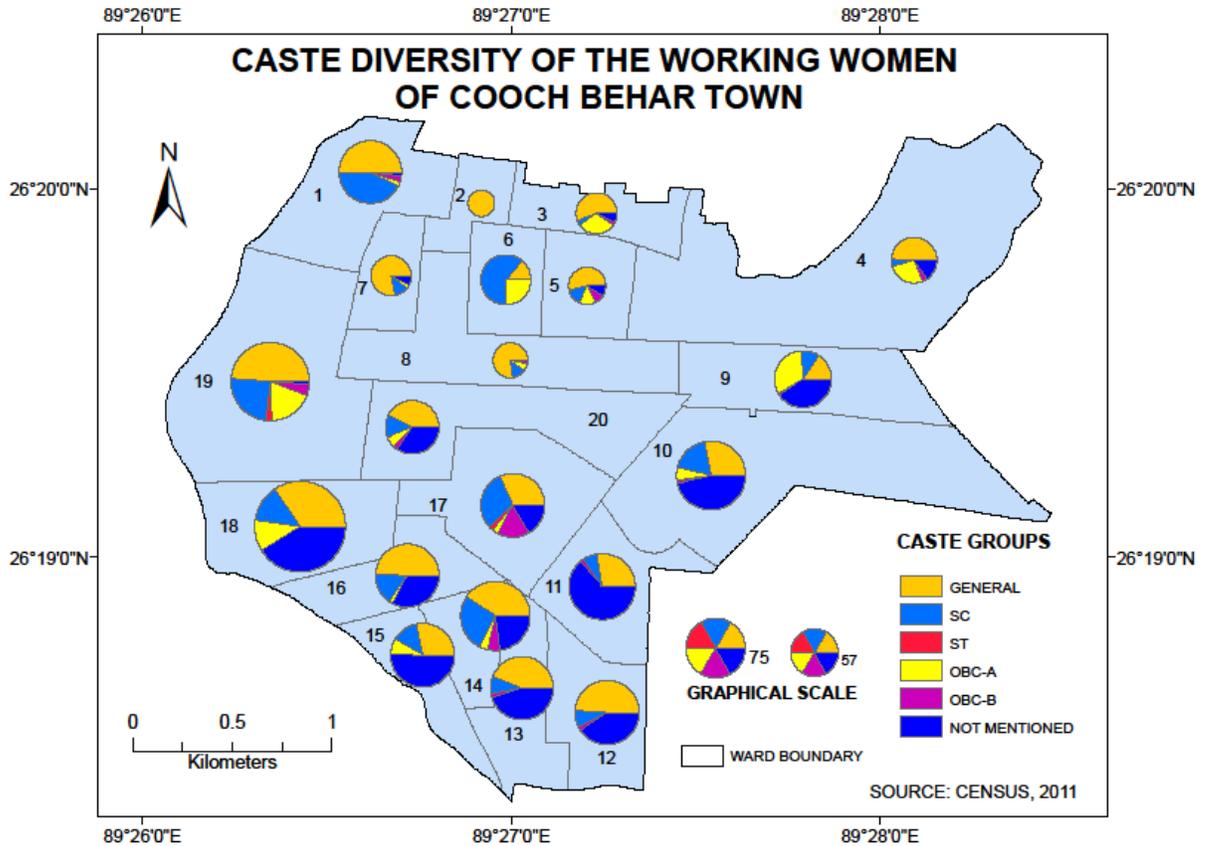
The religious composition of the respondents has been cartographically represented in a map (Map no.4.2). The ward wise scenario almost has the same reflectance as that of the total representation. The Hindus remain prolific almost in every ward. Cent percent of the Hindus are found occupy the wards of 2, 11 and 12. Significant concentration of the Muslims can seen in ward no. 9 (32.93%), 3 (30.23%), 4 (26.42%) and 6 (25%). Other than this, the Muslim respondents are scant in ward nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13- 20.



Map No. 4.2

While referring to the Christian respondents, they are negligibly found (< 1 %) in ward no. 17 and 18 only. Only one Sikh respondent stays in ward no. 10.

4.A.5 CASTE DIVERSITY: Caste denotes an important ascribed status especially in a country like ours which holds historical antecedence in this regard. The modern version of ‘Varna’ system finds



Map No. 4.3

expression in the Caste system in the contemporary social framework. Previously, one’s occupation/ work used to decide his caste and it was not a rigid and inflexible norm. Gradually, through time it has attained irreversibility and stiff connotation. Although some associate economic status to caste structure, but sometimes their connection is found coincidental in many cases.

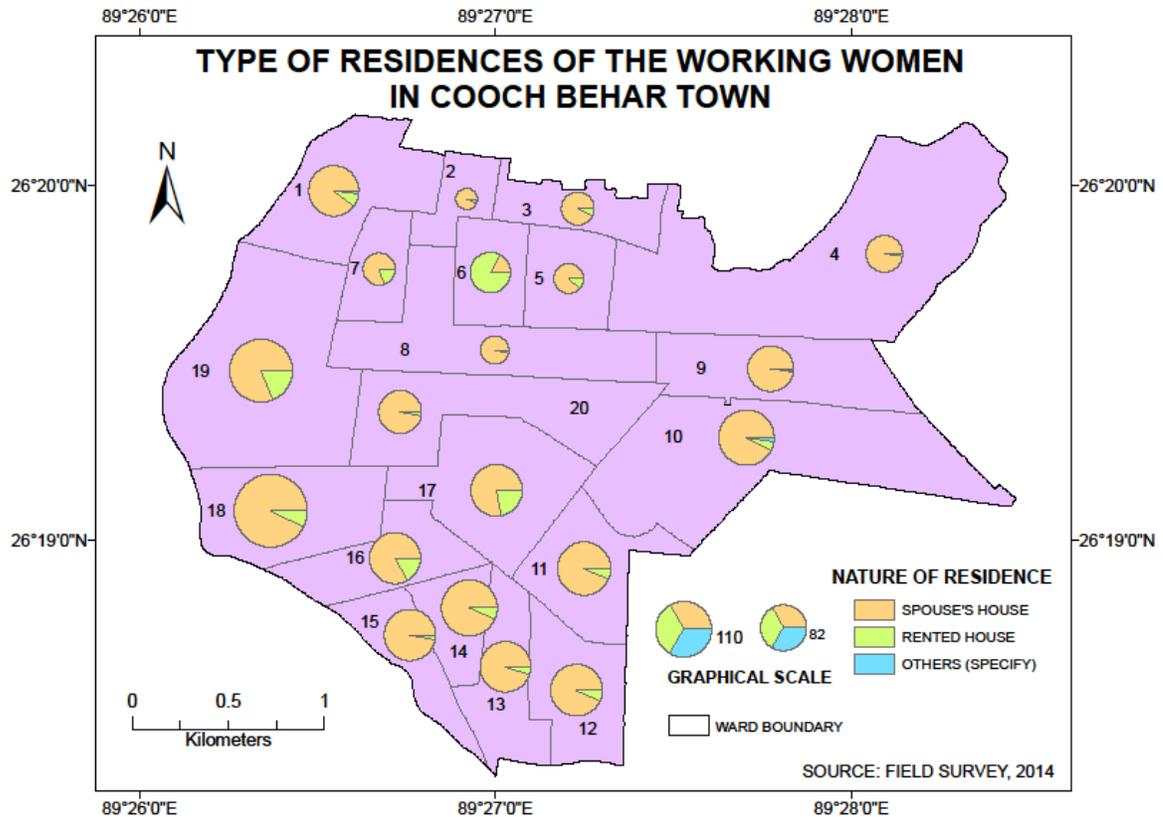
Koch Bihar has 50% of Scheduled Caste (SC) population at the district level. However, this trend is not reflected in the present sample. Most of the respondents belong to the General category (40.29%), it is followed by the Scheduled Castes (18.35%), 9.17% of the respondents belong to the OBC-A category, while 3.10% is represented by the OBC-B category. The Scheduled Tribes (ST) are least represented by a share of only 0.51%. However, 28.58% of the respondents did not disclose their caste identity and thus have been categorized as the Not Mentioned group.

Commenting on the ward wise situation (Map no.4.3), 100% of the respondents belong to the General category in ward no. 2, >75% of the population in ward no 7 and 8 also belong to the General castes, few wards like 1, 3, 5, 12, 16 and 19 show >45% of General caste population. The rest of the wards have the concentration of the general category population ranging between 44 and 14 %. The least concentration is found in ward no. 6 (14%). The SC respondents are highest in ward no. 6 (60%), it is moderate i.e. 25-45% in ward nos.1, 14, 17 and 19. It is least in ward no. 3(4.35%) and absent in ward no.2. The STs are insignificant in their representation as a whole. Only 2.5% of ST respondents adhere to ward no. 19; ward no. 1, 17 and 18 has only about 1% of their concentration; while most of the wards are devoid of them. OBC-A is highest in ward no. 9 (32.93%); it is moderate in ward nos. 3, 4 and 6 ranging between 25-30%; it is low in ward nos. 5, 18 and 19 (10-18%); and least in ward no. 16 (1%). It is absent in ward nos. 2, 11 and 12. Ward no. 17 has the highest concentration of OBC-B (16.34%), it is least in ward no. 18 (0.48%); other wards have insignificant percent values denoting the OBC-B category of respondents.

4.A.6 NATURE OF RESIDENCE: Residential place is once again an important factor which binds together its inmates, their needs and aspirations are addressed and nurtured. Family life especially for the brides is all about adjustments and cooperation a most conspicuous characteristic feature of the Indian society. The bride performs mostly all the caring-nurturing activities ('generative role') and also steps out to extend her helping hand for her 'productive role' to enhance the financial condition of the family. So, the nature of residence and family composition becomes utmost important.

The survey in the present study area resulted in congruency with the expectation that majority of the respondents since married reside at their Spouse's house (88.24 %). The rest 11.26 % of the respondents live in rented houses. An insignificant proportion of 0.51% are categorized as

‘Others’ since they have stated that they stay with the relatives, maternal place or in their own property. The ward wise situation has been presented in Map no. 4.4 which portrays exact finding as that of the total study area.



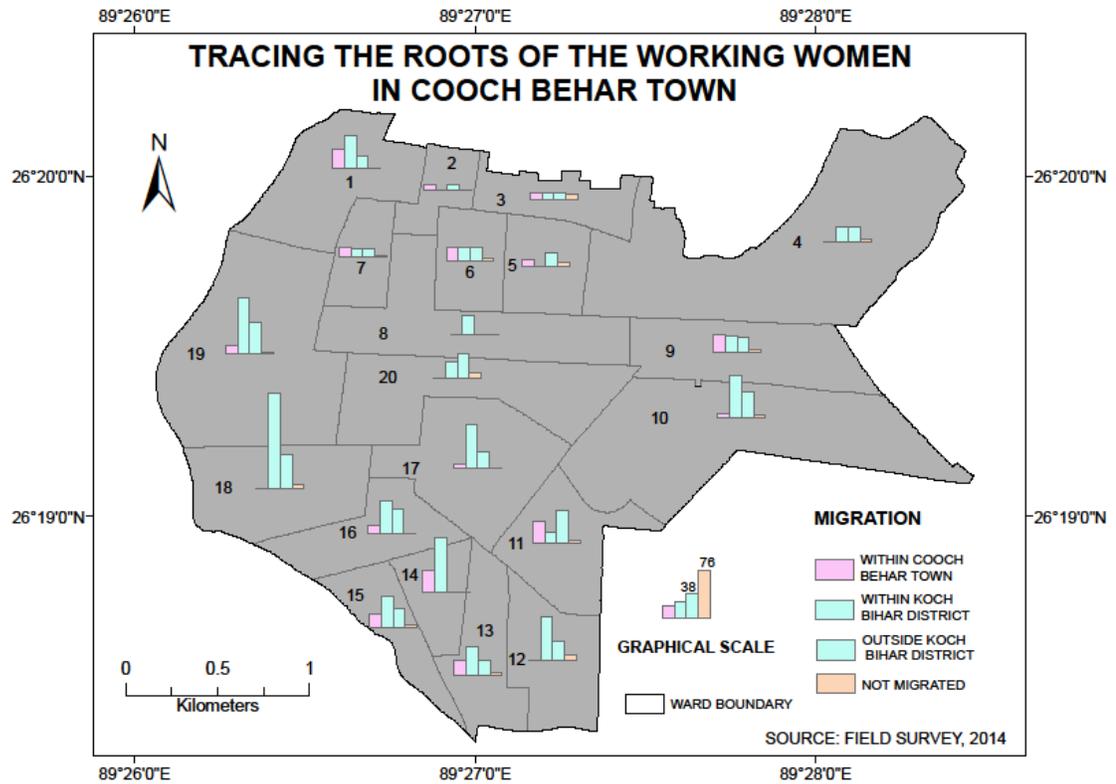
Map No. 4.4

4.A.7 TRACING THE RURAL-URBAN BACKGROUNDS OF THE RESPONDENTS:

The rural-urban background plays a profound role in determining one’s life chances and life styles. When a person spends his childhood and teen age in an urban setting, he develops certain preconditions for a metro-life. He becomes habituated in cosmopolitan culture and has exposure to modern education, employment opportunities and social mobility. On the whole the entire state of being is been nurtured for a city life. On the way round, a rural setup give rise to limited access to opportunities and modern way of life.

About 80.36% of the respondents have in-migrated from outside the town area (either elsewhere from the district or outside the district). Of this proportion, 50.76% have come elsewhere from the district of Koch Bihar. A small proportion of 29.60% have come outside the district mostly

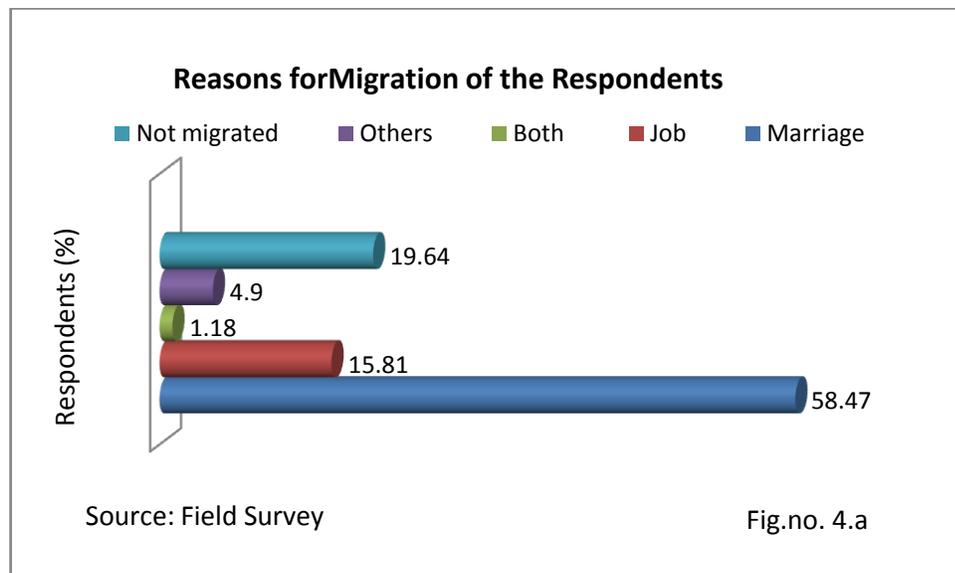
from the districts of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri; few from Darjeeling, Assam even from Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur. Very few have come from Kolkata, Rajasthan, U.P., Bihar and Gujarat also. Some of the respondents (15.70%) who were born in the CBT area have experienced intra-urban marriage consequent shifting between the wards. Therefore, it can be summarized that majority of the working women have non-urban social background and they have been destined to live within the urban landscape of Cooch Behar Town.



Map No. 4.5

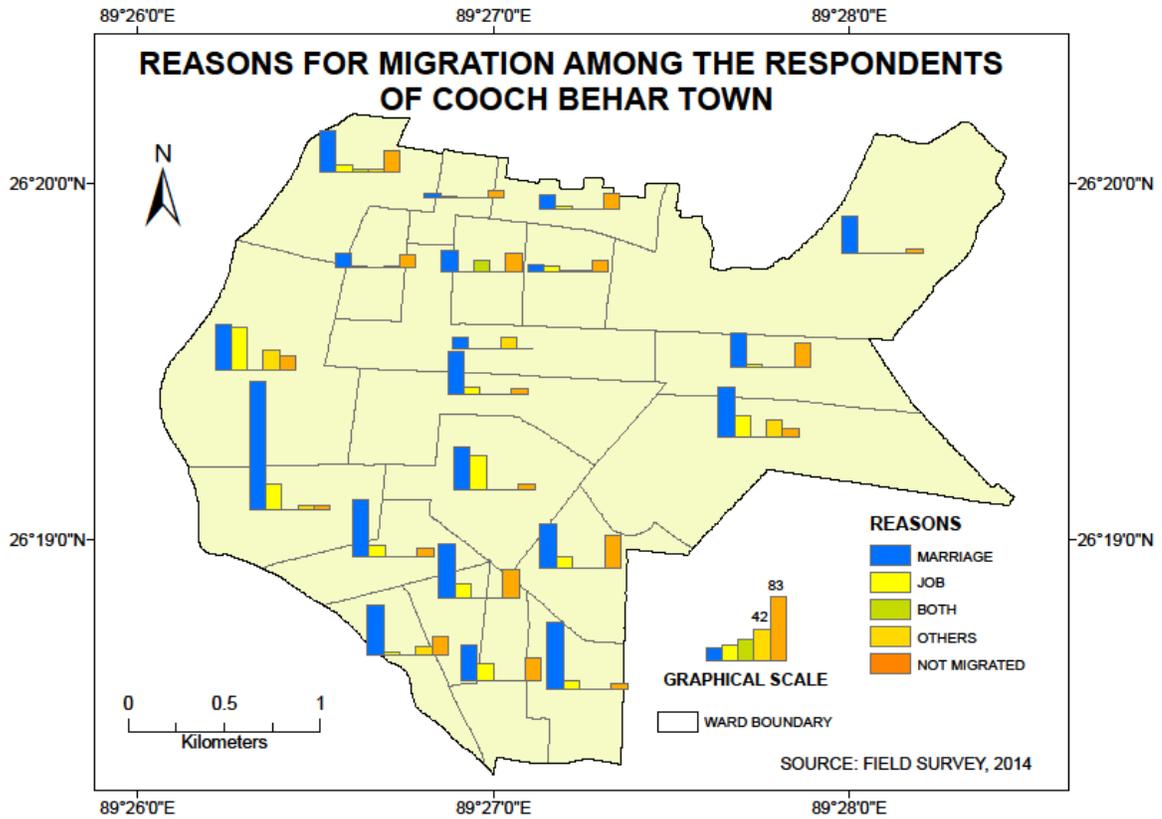
A distribution of the respondents in this regard (shown in Map no.4.5) might help one to find out their ward wise adherence. Respondents experiencing intra-urban movement are mostly found in ward nos. 2, 3, 7 and 9. The respondents emigrated elsewhere from the district of Koch Bihar have settled themselves in the wards of 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-19. The rest of the respondents coming from outside the district are found in the ward nos. 2, 4, 5, 11 and 20. The ward wise distribution of the emigrated population is coincidental.

4.A.7.1 REASONS FOR MIGRATION: In the present study, as the respondents are women, it goes without saying that, the Indian social set-up has compelled them to become migrants as the respondents have moved to their in-laws place after marriage. 72.93% of the respondents are married women so it is expected to have a higher degree of shuffle as a consequence. Most appropriately, it is found in fig. no. 4.a that 58.47 % of the respondents have experienced a change in their residences owing to the institution of Marriage. 15.81 % of the working women started to live in the CBT area so as to facilitate their journey to their work places. So here jobs have acted as the re-locating factor. A tiny proportion of the respondents (1.18 %) have migrated because of both marriage and work place location.



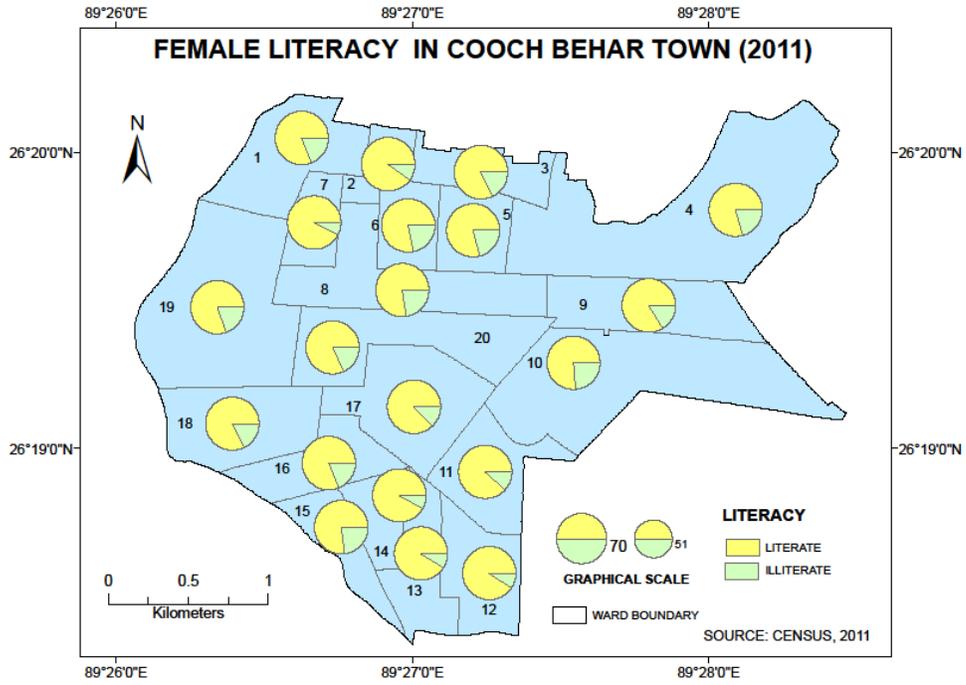
4.9 % of the respondents have shifted owing to some different reasons, which might either to take care of the property, to take care of the family members, for the nearness to child’s education etc. However, 15.70 % of the respondents did not migrate from their places as they might have got married in the area or at the vicinity of their maternal place; or they are unmarried (16.38% of the respondents are unmarried) so there is no question of marriage induced migration in this regard. 3.94 % of the respondents did not share their opinion. Map no. 4.6 displays the ward wise picture of the reasons for the migration among the working women and similar cause related to marriage has been found as the chief factor. So, marriage may be

regarded as the chief factor for the migration of the respondents which is a common social set up in patriarchy of which our country is no exception.

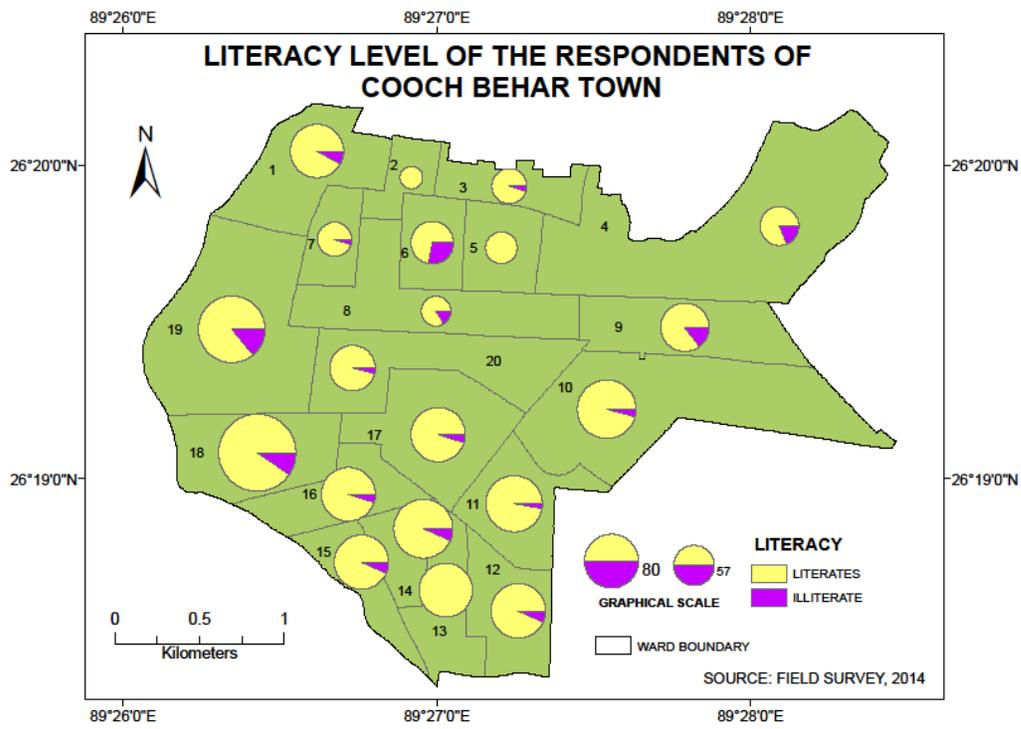


Map No. 4.6

4.A.8 LITERACY AMONG THE WORKING WOMEN: The total literate persons in CBT are 66,404 persons and it portrays a Literacy Rate of 85.20% according to 2011 Census. Of these literate persons, 34,054 are male literates (51.28%) and 32,350 (48.72%) are female literates. While considering the number of Female Literates (32,350 women) and Total Population (77,935 persons) the proportion represented thus shows 41.51%. Out of the Total Female Population (38,921 women) of the CBT, the number of Female Literates are 32,350; representing 83.12%.



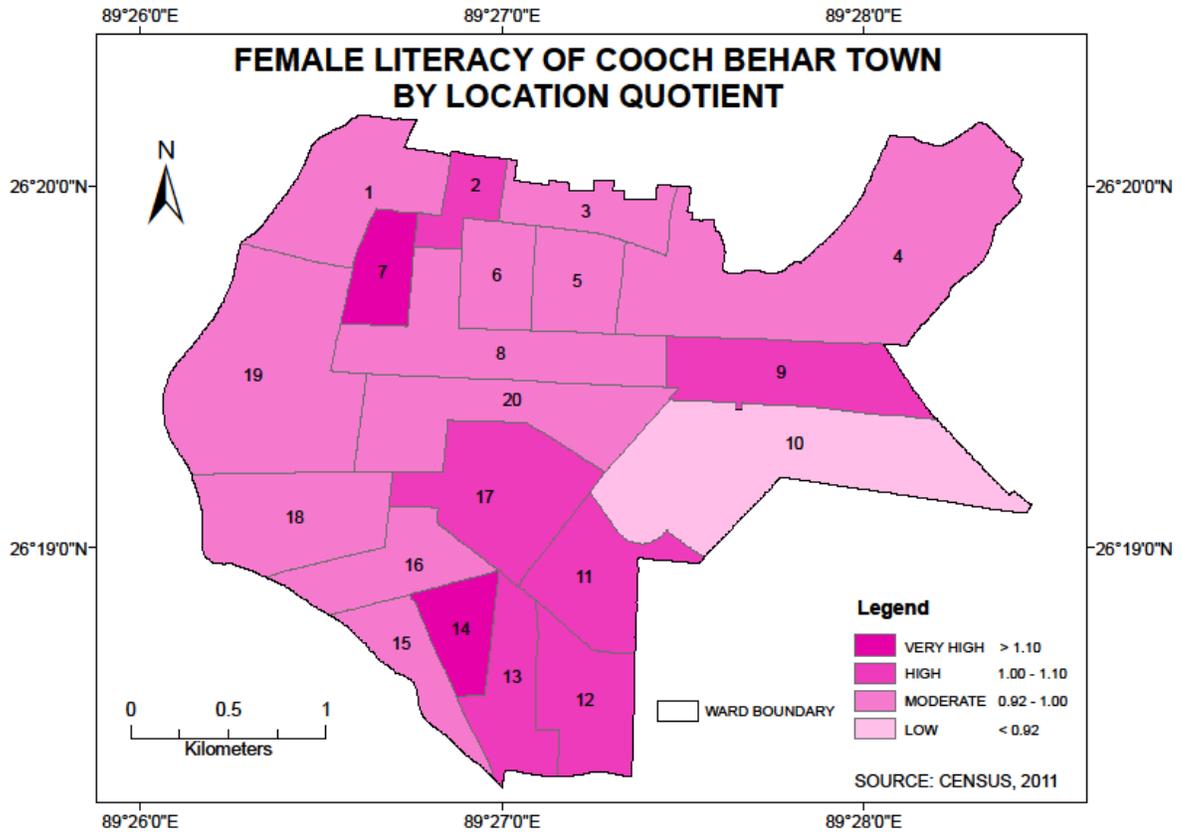
Map No. 4.7



Map No. 4.8

Literacy Scenario of the study area can be explained vividly with the secondary and primary data sources. A cartographic representation of the female literates and illiterates (Map no. 4.7) has been done following the Census data of 2011, which shows the relative proportion of both the categories just mentioned. The data reveals that Female Literacy is highest (92.64%) in ward no. 7, it is high in ward nos. 2, 12, 13 and 14 wherein all the values are >90%. The proportion of female literates is least in ward no. 10 (76.28%). Rest of the wards has values ranging between 77-89%. Likewise, the proportion of illiterate females are highest in ward no 10. (23.72%) and least in ward no. 7(7.36%). So, literacy considering the female population of the study area is impressive in the sense it is well above the state average (76.26%) as well as the national average (74.04%) as per the Census data of 2011.

A similar picture is also reflected by the respondents of the study area in Map no. 4.8, wherein Cent Percent of literacy among the working women is found in ward nos. 2, 5 and 13. A high percentage of female literates ranging between 90 - 97.32% are found in ward nos. 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14-18 and 20 which obviously has low female illiteracy (2-10%). Least proportion of literates among the working women (71.88%) is found concentrated in ward no. 6 which simultaneously has the maximum concentration of illiterates (28.12%) among the stratified category. The rest of the wards has female literacy rate ranging between 80-90% and 14-18% of illiteracy among the female working women.



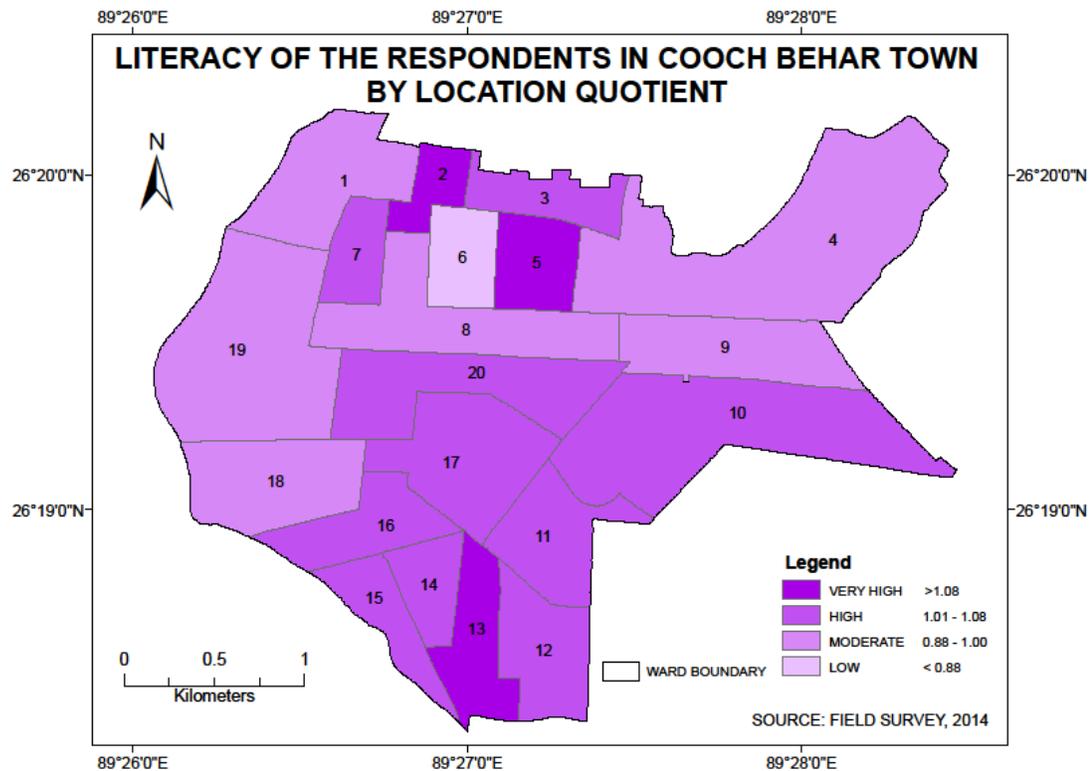
Map No. 4.9

A statistical analysis of the Female Literacy based on the basis of 2011 census data has been represented by **Location Quotient (LQi)** in Map no. 4.9. ‘When the proportion of any characteristic in an area is studied in relation to its proportion in the region, the ratio used is known as the Location Quotient’ (Mahmood, 1993: 104). The use of this technique is significant for an area of small spatial extent like that of the present study area, wherein the concentration of female literates may be considered as a higher concentration when compared to its counterparts in a larger spatial unit. Symbolically, it may be defined as follows:

$$LQi = \frac{\left(\frac{fli}{fpi}\right)}{\left(\frac{FL}{FP}\right)}$$

Where, fli= number of female literates in each ward, fpi= number of female population in each ward, FL= Total number of Female Literates in the CBT and FP= Total number of Female Population in the CBT.

While interpreting, it is found that the value of the LQ for ward nos. 2, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17 is equal to unity. This may be understood that the share of female literacy in those wards is same as that of the CBT area. Ward no. 7 (highest LQ value of 1.11) and 14 has LQ value >1 , which indicates that the concentration of the Female literates are more than that of the CBT area. Similarly, ward nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 represents a relatively low concentration (LQ value ranging between 0.92 – 0.98) when compared to the two earlier mentioned categories. Ward no. 10 has least LQ value (i.e.0.91).

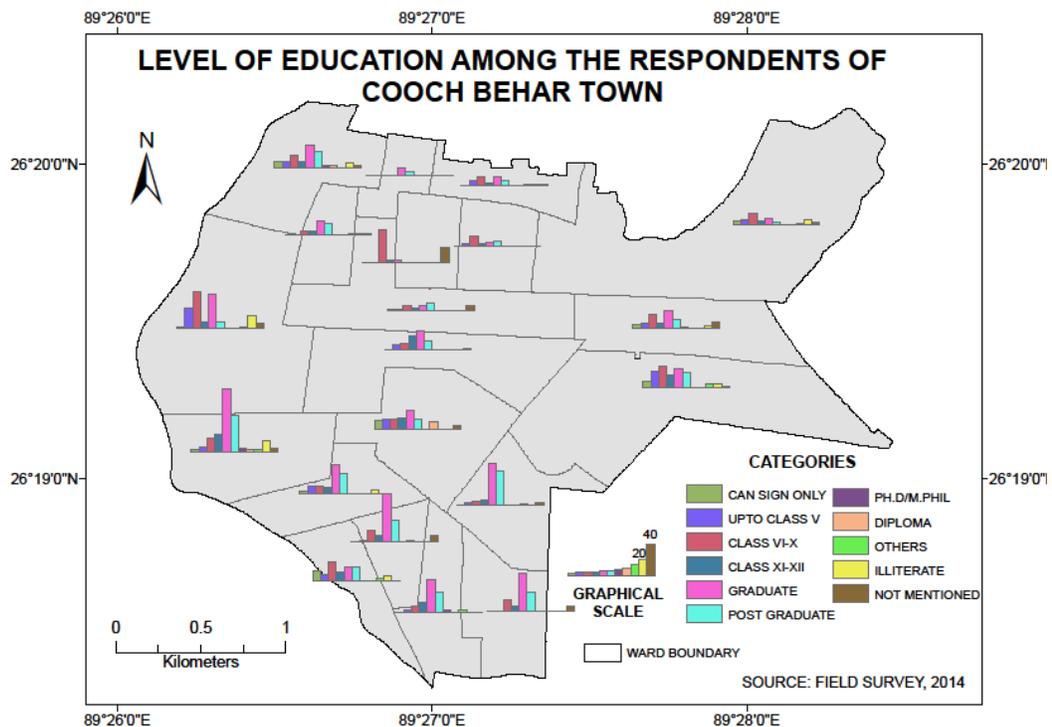


Map No. 4.10

Location Quotient for the literacy among the working women of the study area (surveyed population) has also been calculated and may be compared with the results of that of the census data (2011) based calculations in Map no. 4.10. Highest LQ value of >1 (i.e. 1.09) is found in ward nos. 2, 5 and 13. High LQ value equal to unity is seen in ward nos. 3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 20. Ward no.10 has the least concentration (0.78) of literate respondents in the study area. While the rest (i.e. in ward nos. 4, 8, 9, 18 and 19) has LQ values ranging between 0.88 - 0.98 which may be categorized as low compared to the two formerly mentioned categories.

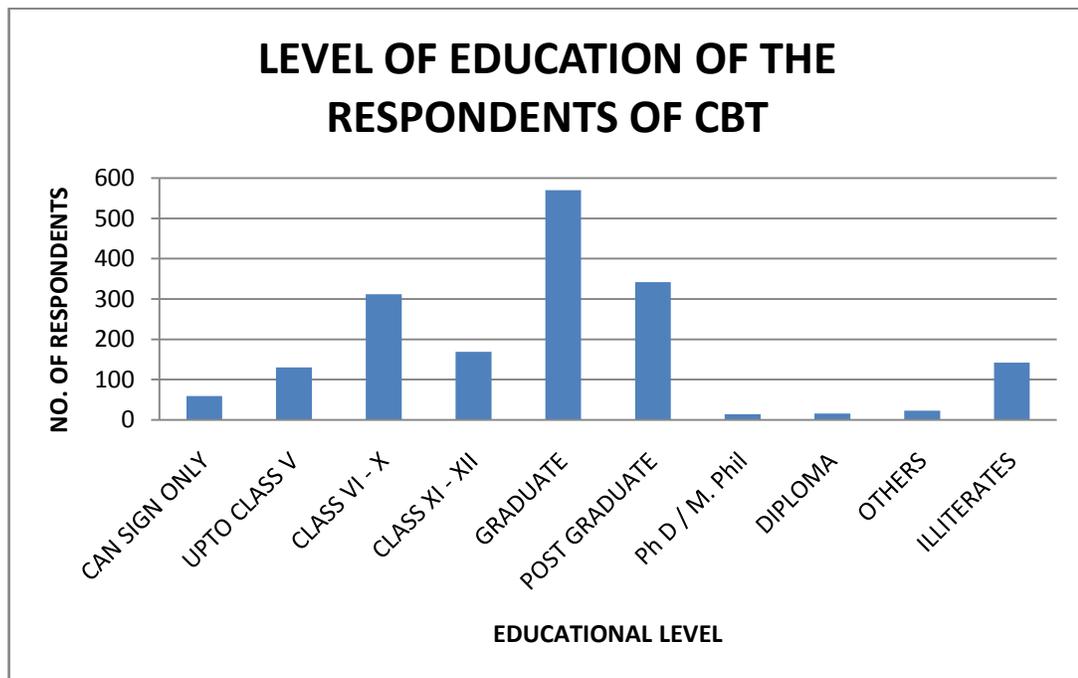
Therefore, careful observation of the Map nos. 4.9 & 4.10 reveal that the areas of concentration are common in certain wards in both the figures. For instance, the zones having equity value for both the figures are commonly found in ward nos. 11, 12 and 17. While that of <1 is found in ward nos. 4, 8, 18 and 19. In both the figures the least concentration of literate population is found in ward no 10. So, the census data and the sample corroborates with each other in the aforementioned spatial units pertaining to the study area.

4.A.8.1 LEVEL OF EDUCATION: Level of Education of the working women of the study area (surveyed group) has been represented by a simple pie diagram (Fig. No.4.b), wherein the proportion of each level of education are depicted by different colours. The figure displays that almost one-third of the surveyed working women (32%) are Graduates and 19% of the sample have Post-Graduate degrees. 18% of the respondents just crossed the threshold of schools (at Xth Standard) while 10% limited their studies upto the High School level (i.e. XII th Standard). Primary educated respondents cover up 7% of the sample. Only 3% of the respondents can sign their names only. On the other hand, a meager proportion is represented by those having Diploma, trainings or still higher educational degrees like M. Phil and Ph.D.



Map No. 4.11

So far, this was the scenario as a whole; the ward wise situation has been depicted by a cartographic technique and represented spatially in Map no. 4.11. To start with: higher education at Post-Graduate level is mostly sought after by the respondents residing in ward nos. 18, 11, 14, 13, 16, 15, 10 and 1(in the order of importance). It is low in ward nos. 9, 4, 2, 3, 7, 19, 20, 17 and 8. Graduates adhere mostly in the wards of 18, 16, 11, 12, 13 and 14. The High School educated respondents occupy mostly the ward nos. 1, 9, 18, 20, 10, 11-17. School educated respondents are prolific in the ward nos. 6, 19, 9, 10, 15, 12, 18, 11, 14, 16, 17, 1, 3, 4 and 5. Primary level education is a common qualification of the respondents of ward no. 19, 10, 16, 9, 10, 17, 1, 3, 4, 15 and 18. While respondents can only sign their names are found largely in ward nos. 1, 4, 9, 10, 15-



Source: Field Survey, 2014

While traversing throughout the entire field area during the field study, the researcher could recognize a strong relationship existing between education and economic profile of the respondents. The south western part of the CBT area, covered by the wards of 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18 have been settled by relatively high income group of people (to be discussed later) thus can afford higher education. On the other hand, the portions of the CBT especially at the north and eastern parts (in ward nos. 10, 4, 3, 2, 1 and 19) are inhabited by the respondents belonging

to middle and lower middle economic classes. People living adjacent to the embankment all along the River Torsa (on the left side of the study area) and those placed juxtaposed at rural boundaries generally belong to this group. These portions show incidence of school level education mainly among the respondents.

4.A.9 ECONOMIC COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS: The study of the economic composition of the sample is inevitable in this inquiry. As the researcher is trying to study the different factors and conditions to which the working women of the study area are exposed to; the behavioral pattern they develop; the qualities they have and they nurture; the service they extend to their families and the society at large so on and so forth, the material state of affairs is of utmost importance to them. Occupation in terms of gainful employment is a fundamental factor in deciding their role and their status in the family and in the society as well.

4.A.9.1 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE: Occupation of an individual is indicative of his trade, profession, type of work in which he is involved. While traversing throughout the entire field area a host of job types were found wherein the respondents were engaged to. The occupational types were so varied that it was very difficult to categorize them into broad groups. On the first hand as much as 227 kind of jobs were recorded and then they were sorted into 16 groups which are as follows in Table 4.3:

Table: 4.3 Occupation Categories of the Respondents (elaborated)

Categories	Job Types	Frequencies	%
1	Domestic Helpers	268	15.08
2	Advocates & Judges	9	0.51
3	Service Holders	56	3.15
4	Self Employed and Part-time workers	246	13.84
5	Anganwari workers	28	1.58
6	Health workers (ICDS, Nurses in Hospital and Nursing Homes) & Homeopath practitioners	186	10.47
7	Professors, Assistant Professors & Librarian in Colleges and Universities	21	1.18
8	Bank employees and Financial advisors	32	1.80
9	Government Service Holders	85	4.78
10	Bidi Binders	49	2.76
11	Sex Workers	45	2.53
12	Group D Staffs and Upper Division Clerks	35	1.97
13	Police officers and Constables	74	4.16

Categories	Job Types	Frequencies	%
14	Doctors, Engineers, Journalists and WBCS Officers	14	0.79
15	Principals or Head Mistress and School Teachers	496	27.92
16	Workers engaged in miscellaneous activities	50	2.81
17	Others	83	4.67
	Total	1777	100

Source: Field Survey

The Job Types in Table no. 4.3 were further regrouped into 6 types for proper elucidation. They are shown in table no. 4.4. The table is self explanatory, as it shows the occupational structure as well as the occupational status assigned to the job categories of the study area.

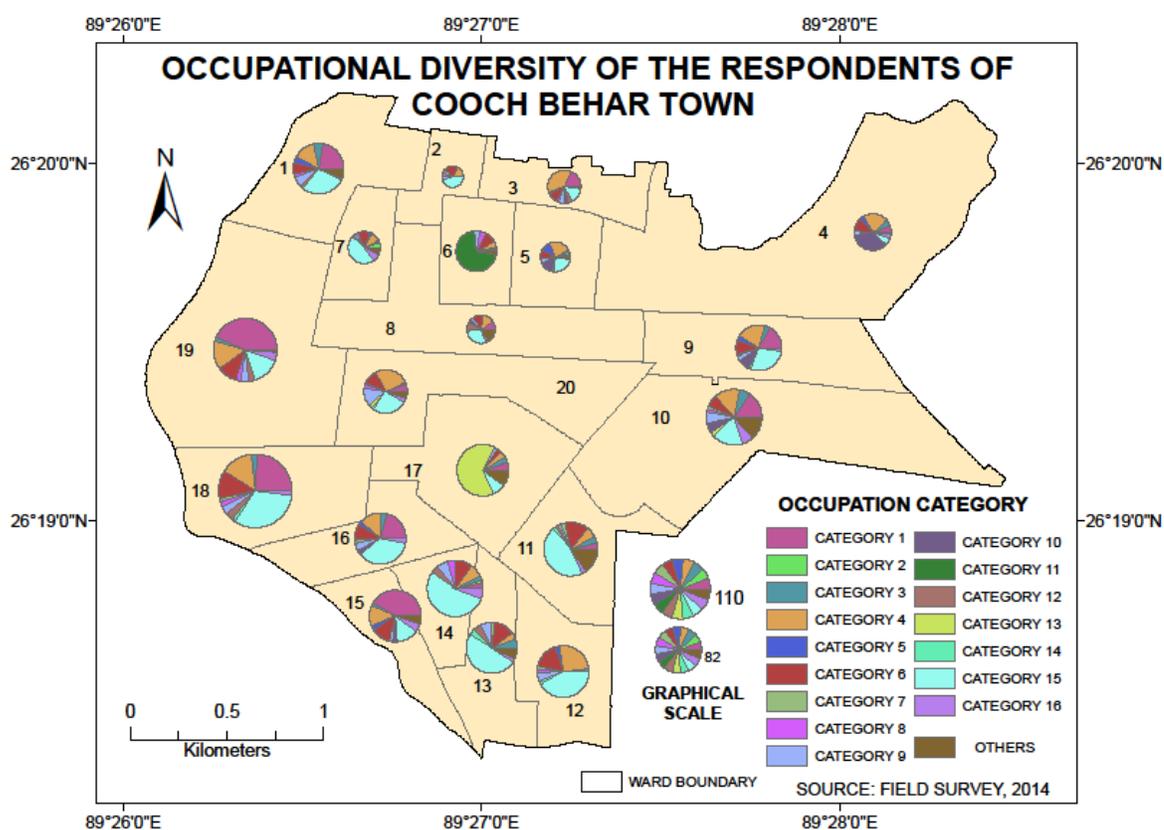
Table: 4.4 Occupational Structure and Occupational Status of the Respondents

Sl No.	Job Types	Frequencies	%	Occupational Status
1	Domestic helpers & Bidi binders	319	17.84	Low
2	Advocates, Judges, Professors, Doctors etc. Bank employees, Govt. Servicemen, Police officers, School Teachers etc.	731	41.14	High
3	Service Holders, Self Employed and Part-time workers	302	17	Moderate
4	Anganwari workers, Health workers & Clerks	249	14.01	Moderate
5	Sex Workers	45	2.53	Low
6	Workers engaged in miscellaneous activities	50	2.81	Moderate
7	Others	83	4.67	NA
	Total	1777	100	

Source: Field Survey

At a glance, it is noticed that the majority of the respondents (41.14 %) belong to the second type of occupational group i.e. they may be Advocates and Judges; they may be Professors, Assistant Professors & Librarian in Colleges and Universities; or Bank employees and Financial advisors; or Government Service Holders; or Police officers and Constables; Doctors, Engineers, Journalists and WBCS Officers or even Principals or Head Mistress and School Teachers. The next group of working women is Domestic helpers (who work as attendants to the aged persons, maids, cooks or baby sitters) & Bidi binders. They represent 17.84 % of the respondents of CBT. The Service holders, Self Employed (Boutique owner, Business person, Canteen owner, Tailor, Distributor, Dance Teacher, Music Teacher, Home delivery Service (of lunch/ food), Potter,

Ration dealer, Sericulture worker, Shop owner etc.) and Part-time workers (Beautician, Cosmetics seller, Book Binders, Seamstress, Tailor, Computer Trainer, Typist, Anchor in local Television shows and public functions, Art Teacher, Hotel owner, Nursery Teacher, Ration Shop worker, shop worker, supplier of various goods, tea supplier, thermocol artifact makers etc.) together contributes to 17 % of the respondents. *Anganwari* workers, Health workers, Group D Staffs and Upper Division Clerks belong to the next category of workers and they represent 14.01% of the surveyed workers. Workers engaged in diversified occupations come next though very little in representation (2.81%), they are found working in Mobile phone shops, Jewellery shops, Medical Representatives, Medical firms, NGOs, Training Centres, Self Help Groups, Vocational Training centres etc ; every society needs to vent out its tribulations, Cooch Behar is no exception to this. It is settled by Sex Workers in the Kalabagan area of Ward no.6 and they represent 2.53% of the sample.



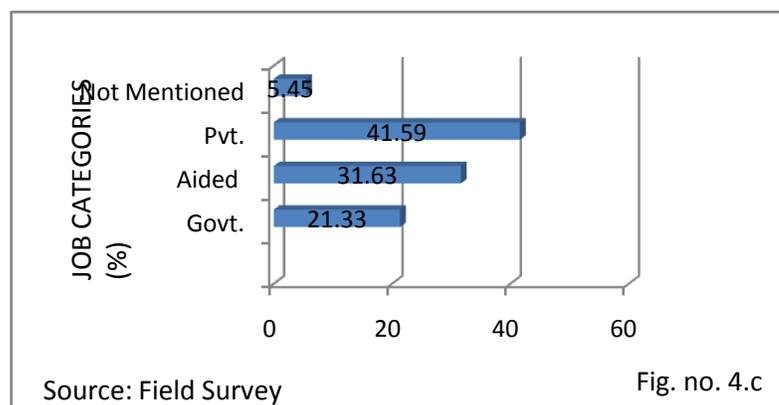
Map No. 4.12

The Occupational Diversity for each ward has been represented in proportional divided circles in Map no. 4.12. The figure clearly shows proliferation of certain categories of occupation. The

most prominent of all being represented by the School Teachers and Head Masters/Mistresses occupying 27.91% of the sample (seen in Table 4.3) are found maximum concentrated in ward nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18; other than this it is also significant in ward no. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7-10, 19 and 20. The next major groups of working women are Domestic Helpers found to occupy ward no. 18 and 19 mostly; apart from this, they are also found in ward nos. 1, 9, 10, 15 and 16. Respondents engaged in Part-time services and self employment are the major occupational group found in ward nos. 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 18, 19 and 20. A considerable number of the respondents are found to be associated with health related occupation like Nurses in Hospitals and Nursing Homes and ICDS workers. They are mostly seen at ward nos. 11, 12, 13, 15 and 18. Police Line is situated in ward no. 17 and thus most of the working women who have taken up jobs related to it are found concentrated only in ward no. 17. Most strikingly a small concentration (2.53%) of Sex Workers is found localized in ward no 6.

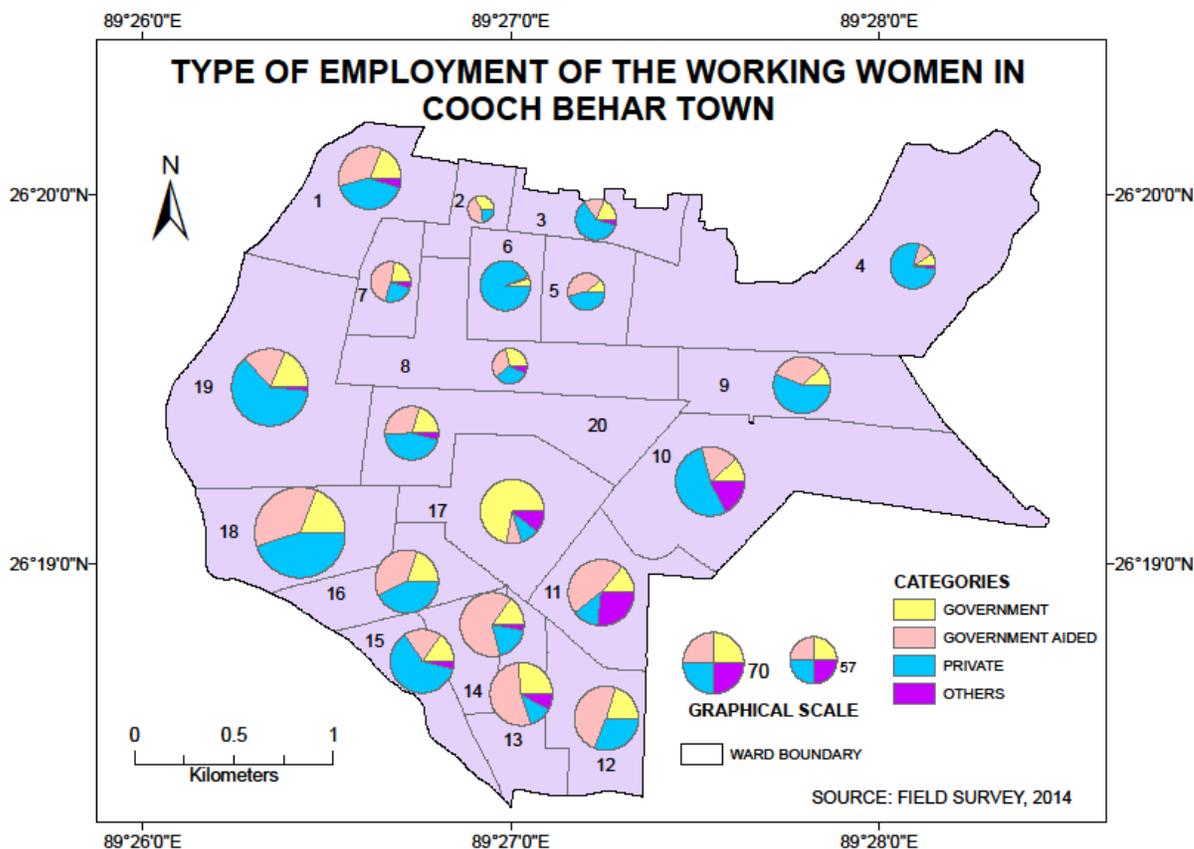
4.A.9.2 JOB CATEGORIES: The distribution of job categories according to the type of organization is shown by a cartographic representation in fig. no.4.c. The diagram shows that most of the respondents (41.59%) of the surveyed area are engaged to jobs related to Private concerns. The next most popular category is represented by the Government Aided services in which about 31.63% of

Respondents in Different Job Categories



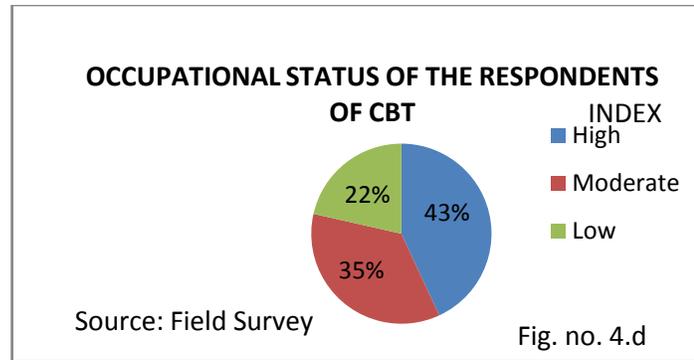
the working women of the study area are affianced. On the contrary, about 21.33% of the working women do Government Services representing a reduced share in the total picture. A distribution of the respondents in different job categories has also been attempted for all the

wards of CBT in Map no.4.13. The representation displays a similar kind of picture as that of fig. no. 4.c. Most of the respondents in wards no. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 adhere to the Private concerns; it is moderate in ward no. 8 and 12. Services to the Government Aided jobs are the next abundant group found in ward no. 2, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and it is moderately found in ward no. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 18. Respondents absorbed in Government Services are found in ward no. 11 and 17; while it is moderately found in ward no.11, 13, 14 and 19.



Map No. 4.13

4.A.9.3 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS: Fig. no. 4.d displays the relative proportion of the Occupational Status of the respondents of the study area. All the job categories shown in the earlier mentioned table (table no. 4.5) have been assigned 3 broad status classes, namely; High Status Jobs, Moderate Status Jobs and Low Status Jobs. It is evident from the table 4.5 that High Status Jobs predominate the scenario although the percentage value is not so high (43 %).

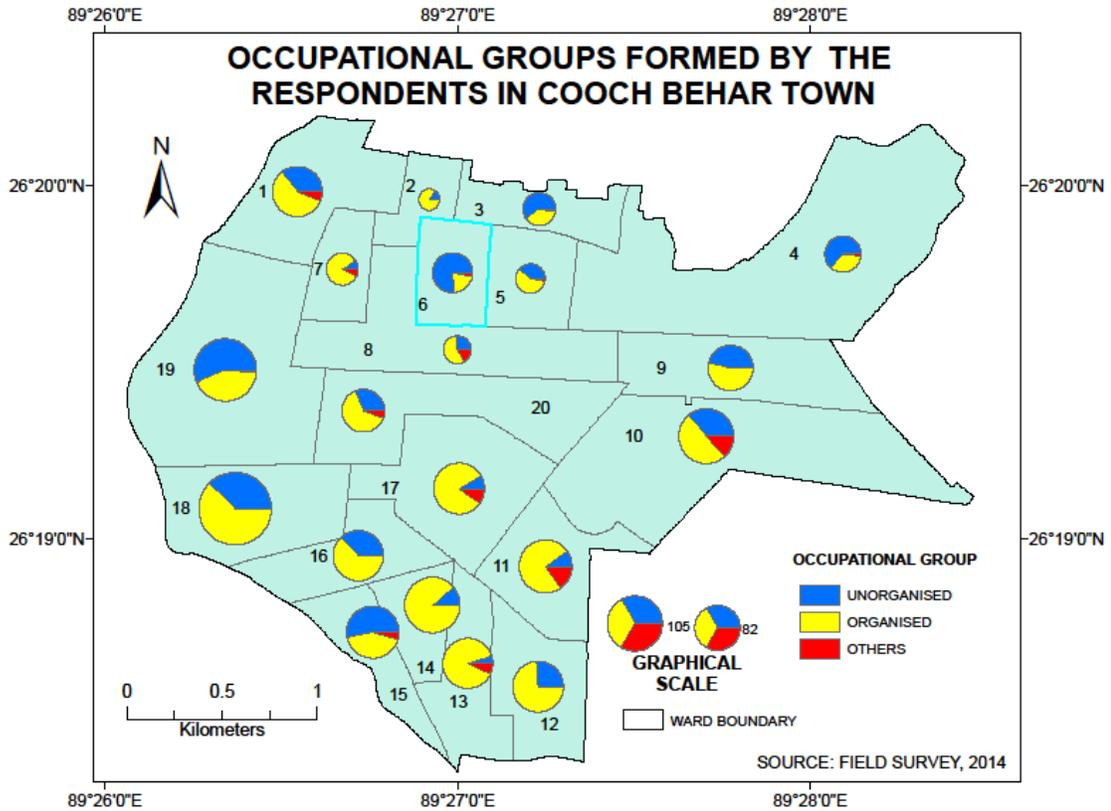


Respondents belonging to this category are either Advocates and Judges; or they may be Professors, Assistant Professors & Librarian in Colleges and Universities; or Bank employees and Financial advisors; or Government Service Holders; or Police officers and Constables; Doctors, Engineers, Journalists and WBCS Officers or even Principals or Head Mistress and School Teachers. The Moderate Status Jobs occupy about 35% of the total working force. They include jobs in different Services, Self Employment, Part-time jobs, Anganwari jobs, Health Care Services, Upper Division Clerks and other miscellaneous activities. Only 22% of the respondents did jobs of Low Status and they include mainly service to other domestic units (either maintenance of the house or cooking and babysitting) in lieu of money or wages, Biri rolling and even Sex working.

4.A.9.4 OCCUPATIONAL SECTORS: Generally, women remain largely engaged in household activities which are not considered as economically ‘productive’ and thus remain unlisted as workers under the conventional measures of employment. Her activities revolve round the pivot of her family as she provides goods and services for the use of her household. So, her work remains subsidiary, ‘non-productive’ and almost taken for granted. This was so far the accepted circumstances in the Indian society. Modern urban society however differs from this set-up. ‘..Majority of educated women try to get gainful employment immediately after completing their education. Nowadays, more and more women with higher education are trying to get paid employment’ (Singhal, 2003: 25).

Therefore, as of now two sectors of employment might go hand-in-hand complementing each other to augment female work participation. The sectors of employment may be parted into two, namely: the Organized and the Un-organized groups. By referring to the ‘Organized’ sector, it is

meant that those women who are engaged in salaried services. On the contrary, the ‘Un-organized’ sector refers to that section of the respondents who have engaged themselves in non-salaried economic activities.

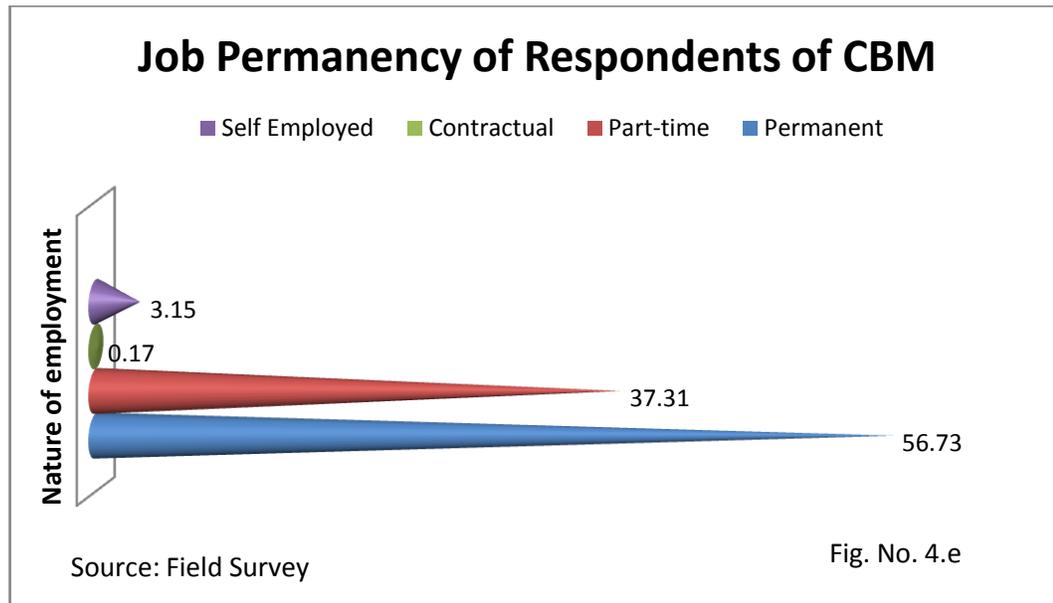


Map No. 4.14

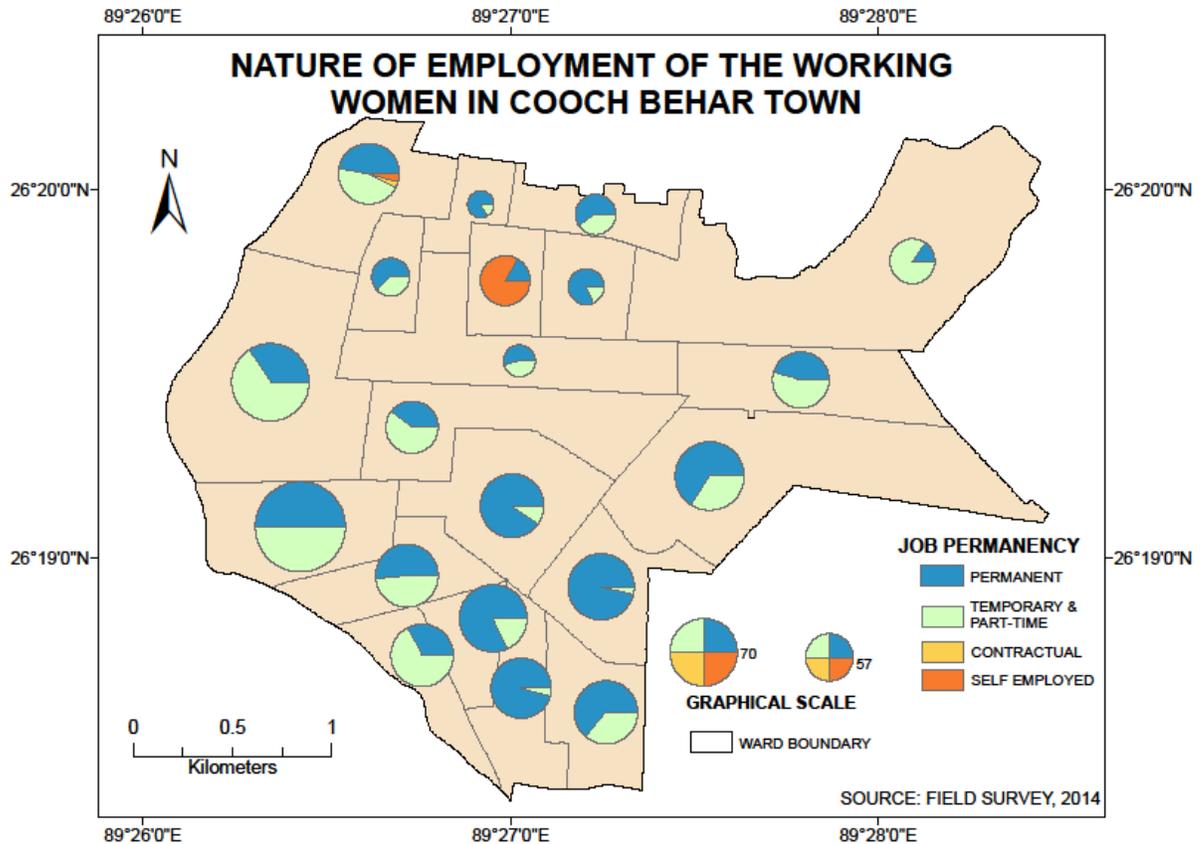
The study area is characterized by the presence of both the groups. The Domestic helpers, Bidi binders, Self-employed & Part-time workers and the Sex workers may be designated as the Un-organized work force. While the rest of the jobs may be referred to as the Organized work force. The Organized working women has the dominant share (61.11%) in the sample. The Un-organized group represents 38.89% of the respondents. The distribution of Organized and Un-organized group of employed respondents have been represented by pie-graphs and spatially represented in Map no. 4.14. It shows the abundance of Organized Group found in the ward nos. 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 – 18 and 20. The rest four wards of 3, 4, 6 and 19 shows the profusion of Un-organized employment. So, Dr. Singhal’s observation of urban women getting into the organized sector of employment might be applicable to the present study area. Enhancement in the

organized sector of female employment in the urban area might be the current drift in the job market; whereby CBT being one of the urban pockets with small extent has reflected the country's trend.

4.A.9.5 JOB PERMANENCY: Permanency in job indicates incumbents' experience, promotion, salary and stability in services. It is very significant for the inquiry as it has a bearing to the psyche of the respondents. Permanent nature of jobs point to stability of the source of income and it imparts financial confidence to the employee. This in turn enhances the purchasing power and the decision making ability of the employee. These factors have a great bearing to the role and status of an individual in the social milieu so far as the working women of the study area are concerned.



The above figure (fig. no. 4.e) shows that a little more than one-half of the respondents (56.73%) are permanent in their service. An insignificant proportion of them are Self employed (3.15%) and Contractual workers (0.17%). 2.59 % of the respondents were unable to state their status of job and hence they are referred to as the 'not mentioned' group. The rest 37.31% of the working women pertaining to the study area are engaged to Temporary and Part-time jobs.



Map No. 4.15

To comment on the wardwise situation, permanent job holders adhere in large numbers in ward no. 1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10-14 and 16-18. Temporary and Part-time workers are found considerably in ward no. 1,4, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 20. Contractual workers are few in number and are solely seen in ward no. 3 while Self Employed group is noticeable in ward no. 6 (Map no. 4.15).

4.A.9.6 INCOME LEVELS: The money that a person earns is very intimately linked to his standard of living. Salary is the determinant of one’s affordability and livability conditions. In the following table (Table no.4.5) the distribution of the respondents according to the different Income Groups has been presented. In the present study, 5 income levels among the respondents have been recognized. The high income group dominates the arena with 36.52% of respondents having monthly income of Rupees 20,001 – 50,000. The ‘Very Low’ income group has ≤5,000 Rupees as monthly income and has 35.68% share in the sample and occupies the second position in the order of importance. This is followed by the Moderate Income Group having Rupees

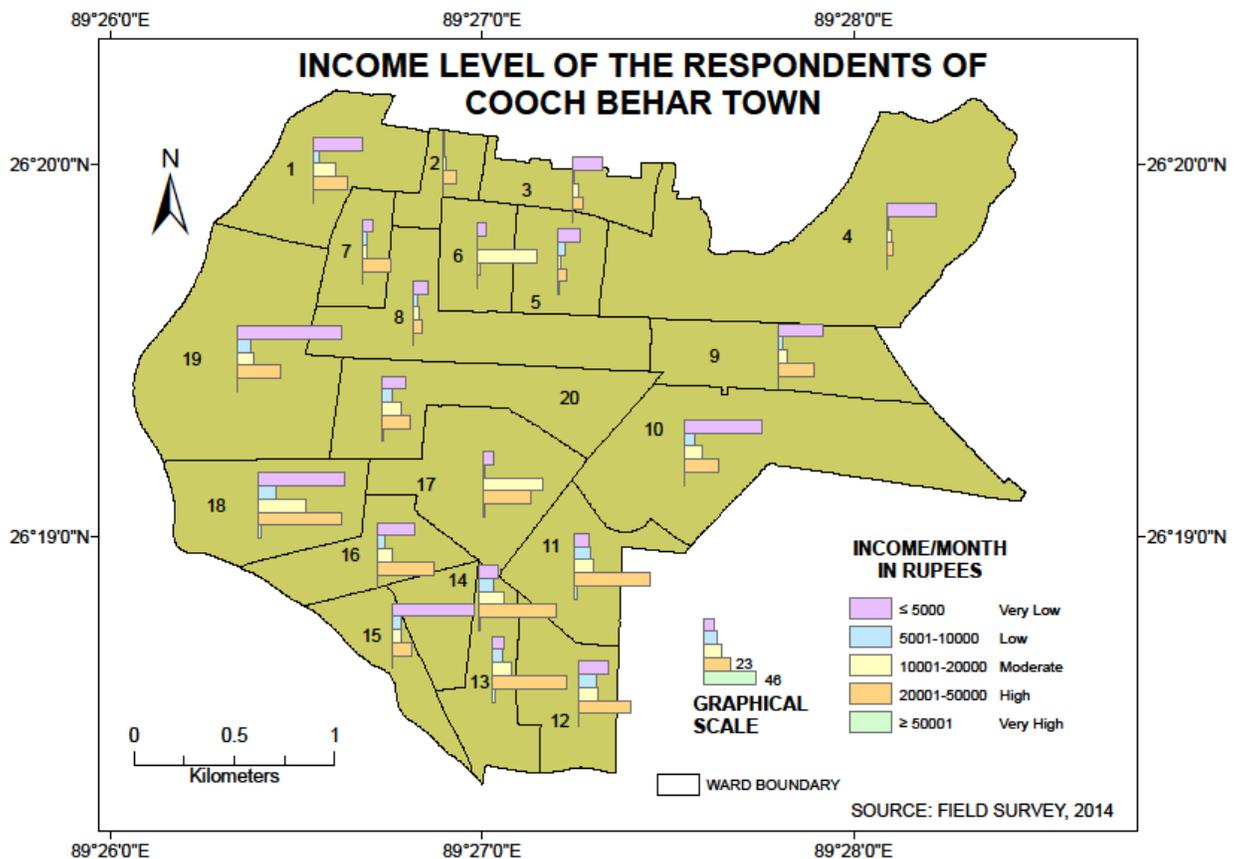
10,001 – 20,000 as monthly income and contributing 19.08% of the respondents. The next group is represented by the Low income group

Table: 4.5 Income Levels of the Respondents

Sl. No.	Income Groups	Monthly Income (Rs.)	Frequencies	%
1	Very Low	≤5,000	634	35.68
2	Low	5,001 – 10,000	142	7.99
3	Moderate	10,001 – 20,000	339	19.08
4	High	20,001 – 50,000	649	36.52
5	Very High	≥50,001	13	0.73
	Total		1777	100

Source: Field Survey

whose monthly income ranges from Rupees 5,001 – 10,000 and contributes to 7.99% of the sample. The smallest proportion (0.73%) of the sample is represented by the Very High income group having highest affordability, whose monthly income is ≥50,001 Rupees.



Map No. 4.16

High Income level is noticeable in ward nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18 as per Field Survey depicted in Map no. 4.16. Besides this, it can also be found in small concentration in ward nos 1, 7, 9, 10, 17 and 19. However, traces of Very High Income level is seen in ward nos. 13, 14 and 18. Moderate Income level is mostly seen in ward no. 6, 17 and 18; while low concentration of the same is observed in ward nos. 1, 10-14 and 20. Very Low Income level is detected maximum in ward nos. 10, 15, 18 and 19; while little occurrence is viewed in ward nos. 1, 4 and 9. However, Low Income level is significant among the working women pertaining to the study area.

This picture corroborates to that of the employment status also wherein, the largest proportion have been represented by the high order of service. According to Dr. Singhal, in urban society, the economically lower and middle income families do not remain satisfied to fulfill the needs of the family. The aspiration of achieving enhanced living standard that too in the present-day price rise situation forces the married women from these families to step out into the job market to supplement their family income (Ibid: 25). The situation in the present study also reveals similar findings to that of Dr. Singhal; the share of respondents in the Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Groups taken together is highest i.e.62.75%. This reflects that the women from these families are most eager to alter their living standards. Thus, it has successfully increased the pool of women workers pertaining to the aforementioned economic groups in urban areas of CBT in gainful employment.

4.A.10 LITERACY AND WORK PARTICIPATION: Literacy rate and Level of Education influence the workers' participation in any region. In the present study area the work participation among the Females is low than that of the Males. This is a common reflection of any Indian urban unit as females get into work more in the fields at the countryside. So, it was no surprise to have found out low female work participation in the study area. There are about 5,567 working women according to Census 2011 representing 7.14% of the total population of CBT. On the other hand, it is 27.75% for their counterparts. While relating the number of female workers and the number of total workers of the CBT for 2011 data, the females have 20.32% share in comparison to the males who represents 78.93%.

With regard to Literacy and Work participation, it shows that female literacy with regard to female population is as high as 83.12%; female literacy to total population amounts to 41.51% and female literacy to total literate population is 48.72%. On the whole, the average of these three figures amounts to 57.78% which might be considered as a progressive figure. The female work participation values for the two cases (no. of female workers to total population and no. of female workers to total workers) are essentially low. This may be well explained by Dr. Chandna's opinion as he says "levels of literacy and education influence significantly the participation rates. There is a negative correlation between the two.....because acquisition of literacy and education delays the entry of people into working force" (2001: 244).

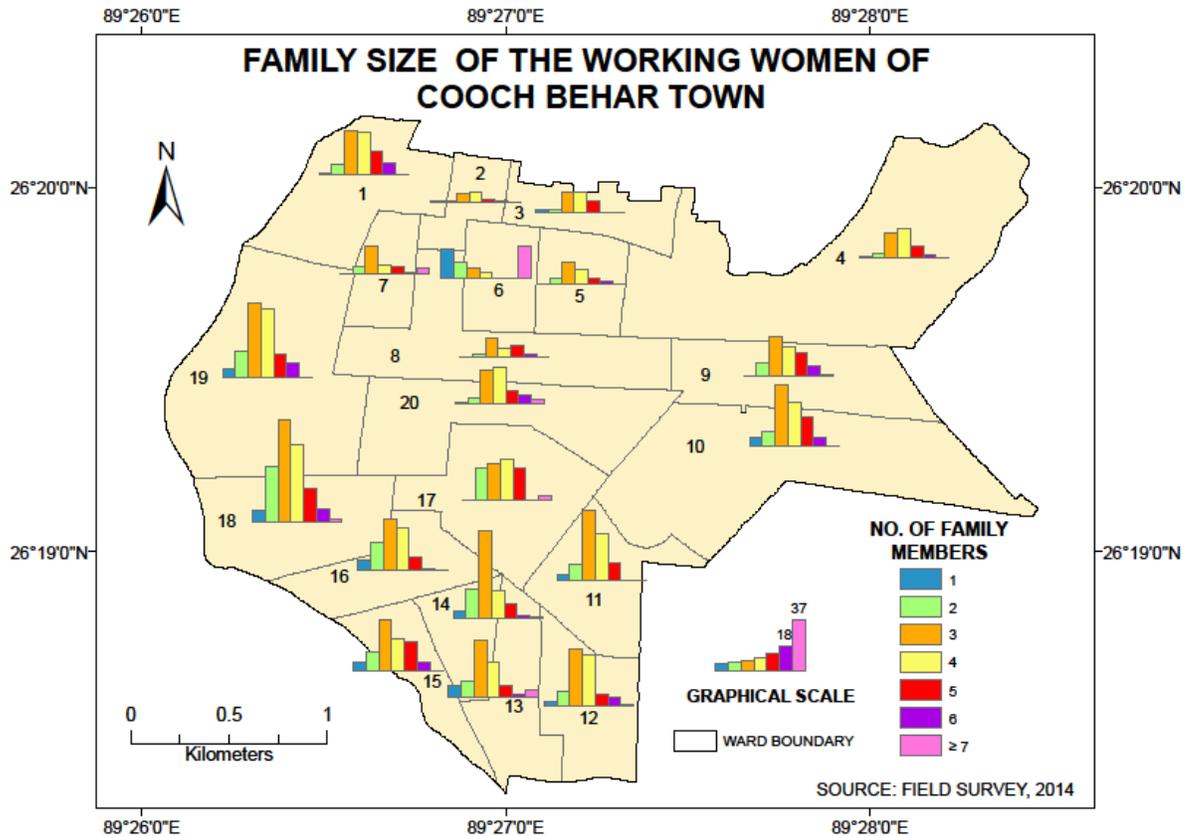
4.A.11 FAMILY SIZE: Family size is a very important factor while dealing with the working women's activities in broader sense on one hand; the reason of getting employed, the extent of household responsibilities and the work load in particular on the other hand. As Dr. R.C. Chandna (2001: 243) remarks that 'the average size of the family also produces its impact upon the incidence of participation in economic activities', following Clarke, he also comments that the situation is congenial for the working women in the developed nations to get into jobs as there remains no inhibition for female employment. Likewise, it was observed that women from small-sized families go for employment in the developed countries. 'On the contrary, in case of the less developed realm, the economic exigencies, which the large-sized families generate, make it necessary for every member of the family to participate in the economic struggle' (Ibid: 243). Thus, it is the determinant of the economic and social status as well. Moreover, in urban studies, the number of single family dwellings under female occupancy has been regarded as one of the important indicator of social progress. So, households with female earners as the head of the family and households where the working women

Table: 4.6 Family Size of the Respondents

Sl. No.	No. of Family Members	Frequency	%
1	Single Family Dwelling	81	4.56
2	2	228	12.83
3	3	641	36.07
4	4	478	26.90
5	5	232	13.06
6	6	74	4.16
7	≥7	43	2.42
Total		1777	100

Source: Field Survey

reside singly at her own discretion is commendable in the patriarchal social setting as that of ours, where the mindset of commoners are attached with the legal guardianship of the males to their counterparts. Therefore, family size is of great significance to the present study.



Map No. 4.17

Focusing on the study area (Table no. 4.6), it is seen that most of the respondents (36.07% + 26.90%= 62.97%) have 3-4 persons in their family, which might be nucleated family. About 13.06 % of the working women reside in joint families having 5 persons as family members, while 4.16 % of the respondents have 6 persons in their family and 2.42% of the families have 7 or more persons as family members. 4.56 % of the working women stay singly in the study area. Thus, it may be said that the working women of the study area reside mostly in nucleated families which is a very common picture in any urban area. A small proportion of the sample is found to remain under single occupancy of the working women. This reflects that though a handful yet some of the working women in the study area do have the determination of taking

their own responsibility. The ward wise scenario has been represented in Map no. 4.17 where similar trend has been found.

4.A.11.1 FAMILY STRUCTURE IDENTIFIED: Family structure refers to a ‘formal pattern of rights, duties and living arrangements and its defined statuses of age, sex and Kinship’ (Green, 1952: 370). From the structuralist approach, family is seen in terms of pattern of interrelated statuses and roles at a particular time and as an organized pattern of interrelated rights and obligations of its members (Ahuja, 2013: 22). From the two definitions it can be inferred that structure of the family means the pattern yielded- role of each individual for different statuses in the family.

The study area is quite far flung from the hustle-bustle of metropolises; this seclusion might have led the researcher to presuppose the predominance of the Joint Families. A Joint Family is the one where a group of people (related by birth and / kin) generally live under the same roof, eat food from the same kitchen, hold property in common and participate in any family occasion. In fact, such large family was absent in the study area. On the other hand, Nuclear Families, which are ‘composed of two generations, usually one or both parents with children’ (Singhal, 2003: 48), were more prevalent. But during the survey it was noticed that apart from the well known typology of the Joint and the Nuclear Families, there exist another type named as Neo-Joint Family (Ibid: 47) which is gaining popularity than the former two types in the study area. A Neo-Joint Family is composed of husband, wife, their children along with their parents and some other relative(s). This is a family which is commonly found in urban areas and whose special function is to give relief to the woman from the household responsibilities. The parents or the relatives(s) come to stay leaving behind their own family elsewhere; or they do not have any places to live. The study area is no exception to this trend, as the proportion of the respondents staying in the neo-joint families are more (explained in detail in Chapter VI) than that of the other two varieties.

4.A.12 THE RESPONDENTS’ HUSBAND’S OCCUPATION: The survey of the working women of the study area included an enquiry about the occupation of their husbands also. The researcher was very eager to know the answer to the most thought of question that: at what occasion did the women in the study area has stepped out for earning? The answers to this question will definitely be illuminating the economic status of the working women of the study

area. In order to answer the question, one may look at Table no. 4.7 which states the occupational structure and the occupational statuses of the respondents' husbands. It is revealed that the husbands of the respondents are mostly engaged to Self employment, Private services and Part-time jobs (44.07%) of moderate status. The next most popular occupation (34.55%) in which the husbands are engaged to are Advocates and Judges; they may be Professors, Assistant Professors & Librarian in Colleges and Universities; or Bank employees and Financial advisors considered as the occupation with high status; a proportion of 10.02% of the husbands remain engaged to miscellaneous activities of moderate status. Only 2.81 % of them are found associated with health services and also as Group Ds or UDCs (moderate status). A negligible proportion of 0.84% either practice agriculture or work as Bidi Rollers of low status.

Table: 4.7 Occupational Structure and Occupational Status of Respondents' Husbands

Sl No.	Job Types	Frequencies	%	Occupational Status
1	Bidi binders , Agricultural labourers	15	0.84	Low
2	Advocates, Judges, Professors, Doctors etc. Bank employees, Govt. Servicemen, Police officers, School Teachers etc.	614	34.55	High
3	Service Holders, Self Employed and Part-time workers	783	44.07	Moderate
4	Health workers, Group D Staffs and Upper Division Clerks	50	2.81	Moderate
5	Workers engaged in miscellaneous activities	178	10.02	Moderate
6	Others	137	7.71	NA
	Total	1777	100	

Source: Field Survey

A comparison in the Occupational Structures between the respondents and their better halves would best explain the financial condition of the sample. Comparing the contents of table nos. 4.3 and 4.6 it can be easily summarized that:

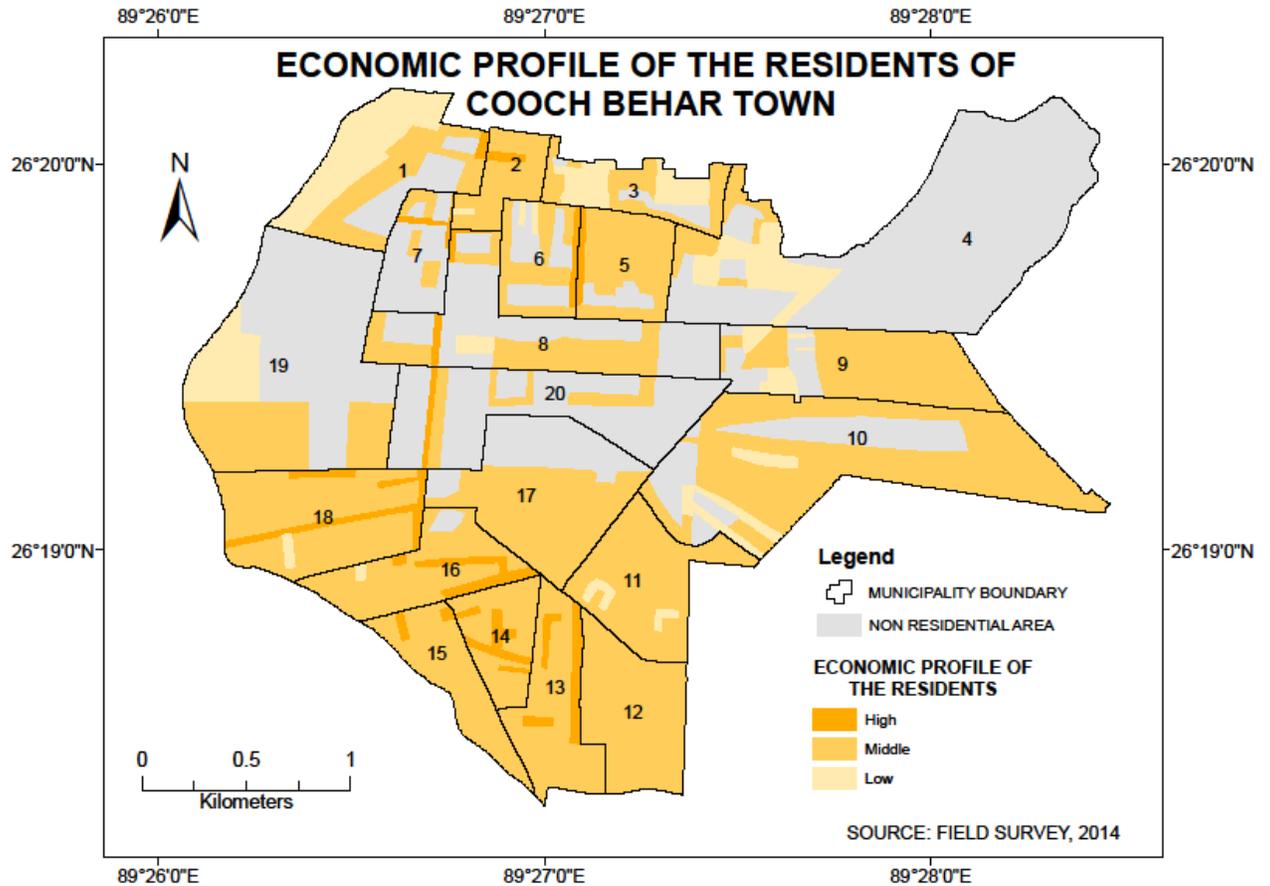
- The proportion of workers in white collar jobs of high occupational status among the respondents outnumbered that of their counterparts in the same sector.
- The females are found to adhere to jobs which suits them well for instance; they are found in large proportion as School Teachers, Professors of Colleges and Universities, Doctors, Bank employees, Advocates and the like on one hand, while they are also

engaged as *Anganwari* workers, health workers and as Domestic help as well. So, 'stereotyping' of jobs according to gender do not remain uncommon to the study area.

- In order to get jobs of high occupational status, the working women are definitely to possess requisite educational qualification.
- As it is evident that the husbands remain associated with moderate income status jobs, so this might have compelled the women of the study area to go for employment in order to supplement the family income.

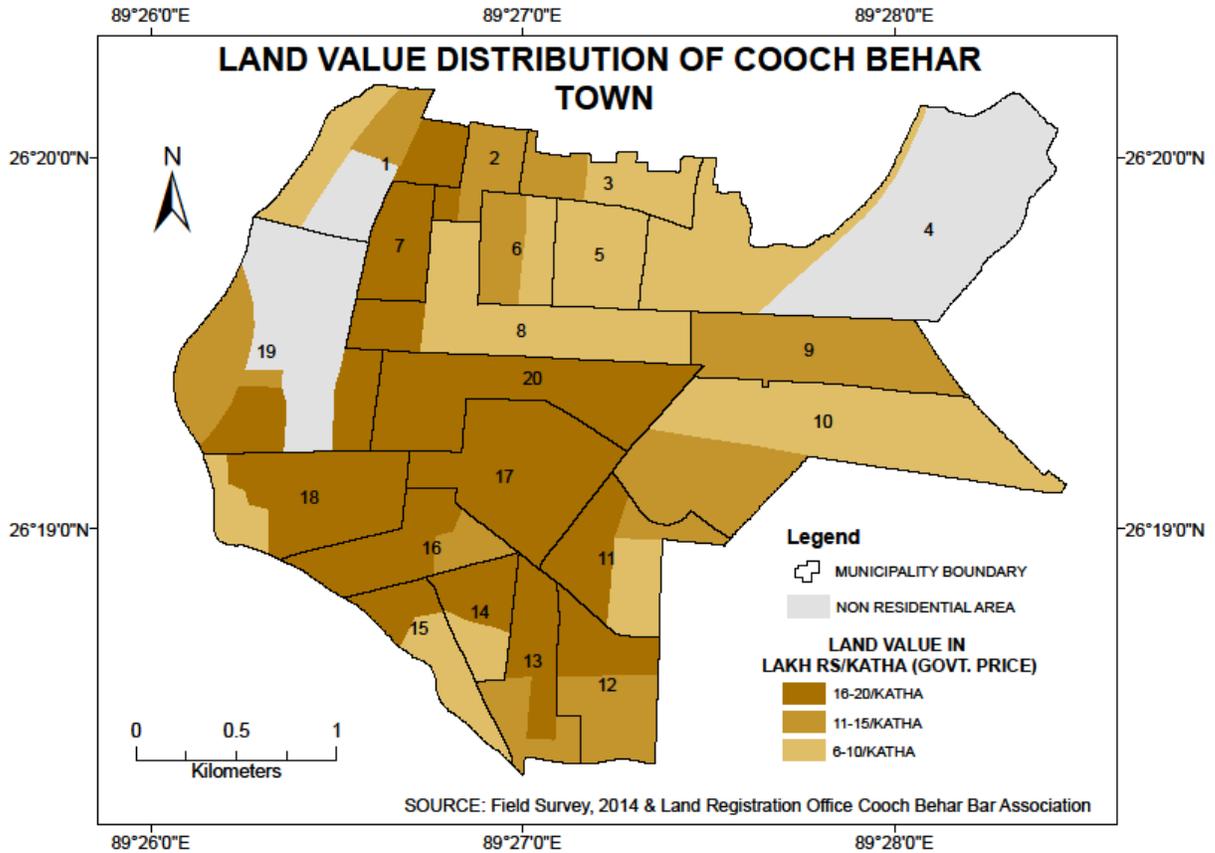
4.A.13 THE ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE CBT & THE LEVEL OF FAMILY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS:

4.A.13.1. THE ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE CBT: While traversing through the study area the researcher has prepared an economic profile of the study area based on nature and general characteristics of the houses (such as building material, flooring material, presence of garage in the house premises, area occupied by the house, vertical extent, general appearance of the house etc.). It has been mapped on the basis of the Ward Map of the CBT area. The economic profile of the residences of CBT has been categorized into three groups which are displayed in Map no. 4.18. After careful observation of the map, it can be revealed that the Higher Income Group of residents adhered in ward no. 2, 7, 12-16 and 18 - 20. In ward nos. 1, 3, 4, 8-12, 15



Map No. 4.18

Low Income Group residences could be found. The portion of ward nos. 1, 19, 18, 13 and 15 which have been occupied by the low class residentials essentially includes the embankment along the Torsa River, populated by the non-creamy economic layer. The rest of the wards belong to the Middle Income Group of residences. After analyzing the overall economic profile of residents of CBT, it can be said the Middle Income Group of people have dominated over entire town area. Apart from this, certain Non-residential areas are also noted in ward nos. 4 (Airport region), 8 (*Bhawaniganj Bazar* i.e. the Main Market area of the CBT), 17 (almost entirely covered by Schools, Colleges, *Rashmela* ground, Cinema Hall, Auditorium, Cooch Behar Police Line etc.), 19 (The CBD region of Koch Bihar, the Koch Bihar Palace, the Bus Stand area etc.) and 20 (the commercial establishments all along the Sunity Road which is the main arterial road of the town, the *M.J.N* Hospital, the *Madan Mohan* Temple, the *Bairagi Dighi* etc.) respectively.



Map No. 4.19

A Land Value distribution map (Map no 4.19) has also been prepared on the basis of the data acquired from the Land Registration Office, Cooch Behar Bar Association and Primary Survey. This map shows the variation of the land pricing by the Government on the basis of the frontage of the plot of land concerned. It is found that Highest Land Value of Rs. 18-20 Lakh per Katha (Government pricing rate) is attributed to the areas of highest demand and better sites. These include ward no. 7, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20 and portions of ward nos. 1, 2, 11, 12, 14 and 15. Moderate Value of Rs. 11-15 Lakh per Katha (Government pricing rate) is attached to the plots of land situated in ward nos. 1, 2, 6, 9-13 and 19. Least amount of Land Value of Rs. 6-10 Lakh per Katha (Government pricing rate) is accredited to ward nos. 1, 5 and 8; while portions of ward nos. 1, 14, 15, 18 (along embankment), 3 (Burial Ground), 4 (Aerodrome area), 6 (Red Light area), 10 and 11 (cremation ground and peripheral portion of the CBT) respectively.

4.A.13.2. THE LEVEL OF FAMILY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS: The qualitative assertion on the basis of one's earnings may be referred to as Income Level. The economic stratum thus evolved is the determinant of the living standards and the livability conditions of the members of one's family. So, the income of the families of the respondents is classified into different economic slabs to understand the implication of earning on living. 5 economic strata have been identified and a qualitative description to each one has also been assigned. The Table no. 4.8 illustrates the aforementioned intension of the researcher. The high (40.24%) and very high (20.77%) income groups occupy the first and the second positions in terms of their proportional representation respectively. Juxtaposed to this, comes the very low income group with 15.36% share in the sample. The low and the moderate income groups are of equal value in representation (i.e 11.82% each).

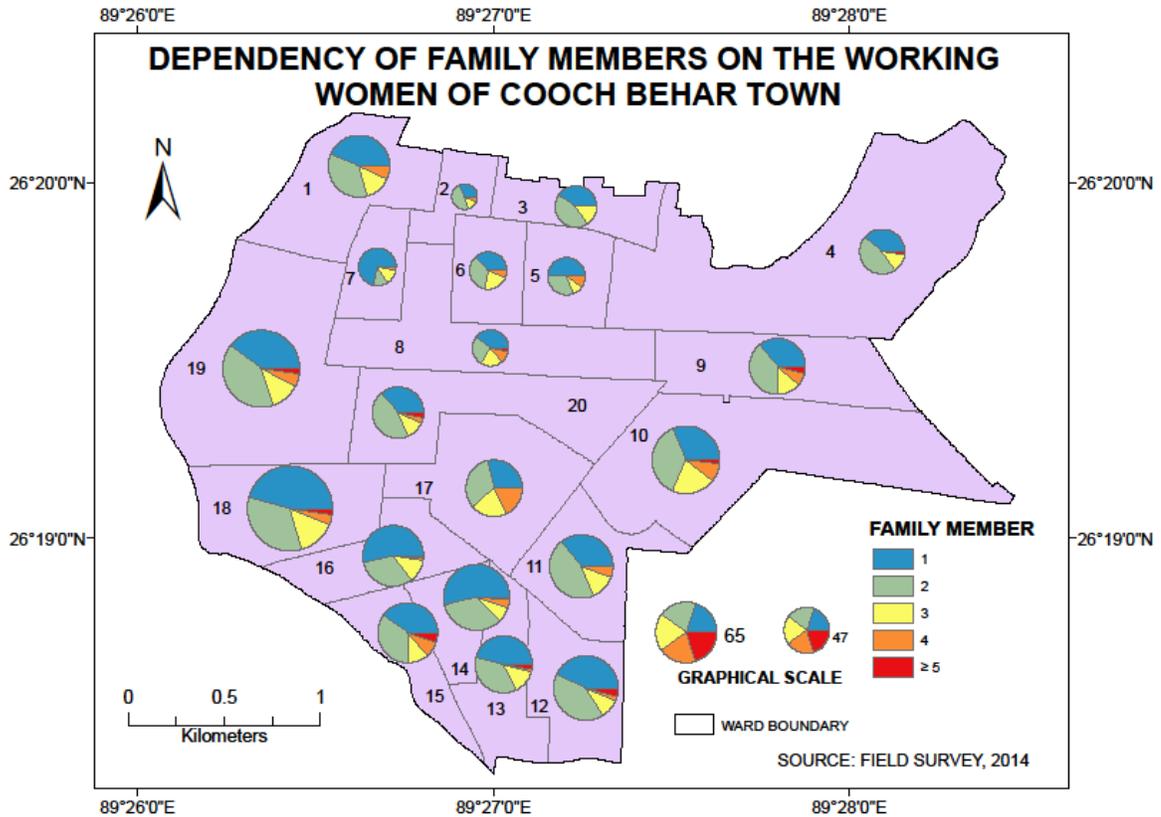
Table: 4.8 Income Levels of the Respondents' Family

Sl. No.	Income Groups	Monthly Income (Rs.)	Frequencies	%
1	Very Low	≤5,000	273	15.36
2	Low	5,001 – 10,000	210	11.82
3	Moderate	10,001 – 20,000	210	11.82
4	High	20,001 – 50,000	715	40.24
5	Very High	≥50,001	369	20.77
	Total		1777	100

Source: Field Survey

Therefore, it may be inferred from the findings that the respondents have successfully augmented their family income as they have been largely found associated with the very high and high income groups. In connection to this, one must keep in mind that the family income the respondents have portrayed during the interview included their income also. Hence, the picture of being into a well to do material stratum covers their contribution also and thus there remains no confusion about the working women of the study area in getting employed.

4.A.14 DEPENDENCY ON WORKING WOMEN: Dependency in Demographic studies may be defined as 'the ratio between the adults on one hand and young plus aged on the other hand. It is an index of age produced drain on a country's man power potential' (Chandna, 2001: 232). This percentage remains high for countries with less economic development as they have large



Map No. 4.20

proportion of the youths. The respondents were asked to report about the number of dependents on them in their family. The results are quite impressive. About 64.50% of the respondents have 1-2 persons dependents and about 17.11% have 3-5 and >5 persons dependents. 11.99% are self dependents while 6.42% did not share their information. Thus, it is observed that majority of the working women has less number of dependents on them.

The incidence of dependency of upto 2 persons is particularly seen in high concentration in the wards numbers of 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19. Ward no. 10, 17, 18 and 19 shows the prevalence of dependents of 3-5 and >5 persons. Ward nos.13, 14, 18 and 19 displays the occurrence of no dependency (as evident in Map no. 4.20).

4.A.15 HEALTH STATUS: The issues related to women’s health have been the most neglected and little talked about subject so far as our country is concerned especially during independence. During that time, the focus of concern was on maternal deaths and infant mortality rates which were on the rise. After independence, gradually maternal and child health were taken up as major

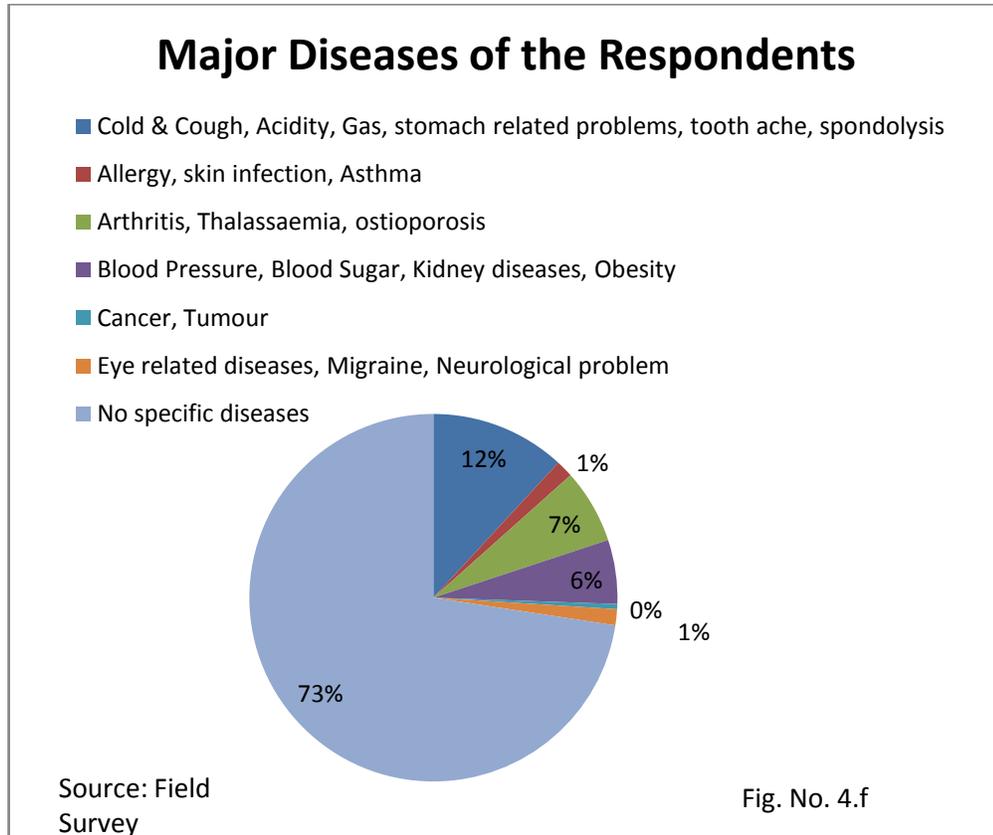
issues. It was thought that concepts regarding child care, hygiene system and information to birth control would ensure safe motherhood. The inclusion of vaccination during the child bearing period and after child birth was incorporated in the developmental programmes. But the seriousness of the women's health issues were realized until the findings of the Committee on Status of Women in India (1974) revealed the declining sex ratio since 1901 (Desai & Thakkar, 2001: 175-176). Slowly, the aspects like life expectancy of the women, access to health services, nutritional status got attention of the planners.

This was not the fault for a developing nation like ours to have neglected the health issues of women after the post- Industrial Revolution days. No doubt it expedited production but at the same time it marginalized women labour (as technology was denied to them) in the job market. Consequently, misconceptions piled up against women work force and they stepped into the vicious cycle of underestimation, low wage rate and degraded working conditions. This legacy still continues in the developing and the less developed realms.

One of the most important areas of concern is health status of the women workers. It not only concerns the physical condition of the working women but also her mental state. Work efficiency is directly proportional to the health condition of the working women. As Menon (2008: 219) follows Dixon's contemplation, 'Today a common feature of many western definitions of the status of women is concerned with equality in the sphere of sexual relations and with women's control over reproduction and their own bodies'; thus child bearing could no longer be an oppressive venture for those who think 'reproduction' to be the only essential function of womanhood. Therefore, understanding the inevitability of the situation some aspects of the health condition have been analyzed herewith which in turn has a bearing on to the work efficiency, mental make-up and above all quality of life of the respondents of the study area.

4.A.15.1 MAJOR DISEASES: Climatically, the area belongs to the monsoonal regime with far off distance from the sea (Bay of Bengal). Situated all along the foot hills and that too in the eastern portion of the country, this area receives ample rain fall almost recording next to Cherapunji. So, humidity in atmosphere almost throughout the year is a unique feature. Pleasant summers and cool winters complement the seasonal calendar. Exposure to such climate ushers in certain health problems in the study area. The people are mainly affected by seasonal cold and cough, allergy and fungal infections. Some areas are affected with fluoride contamination and

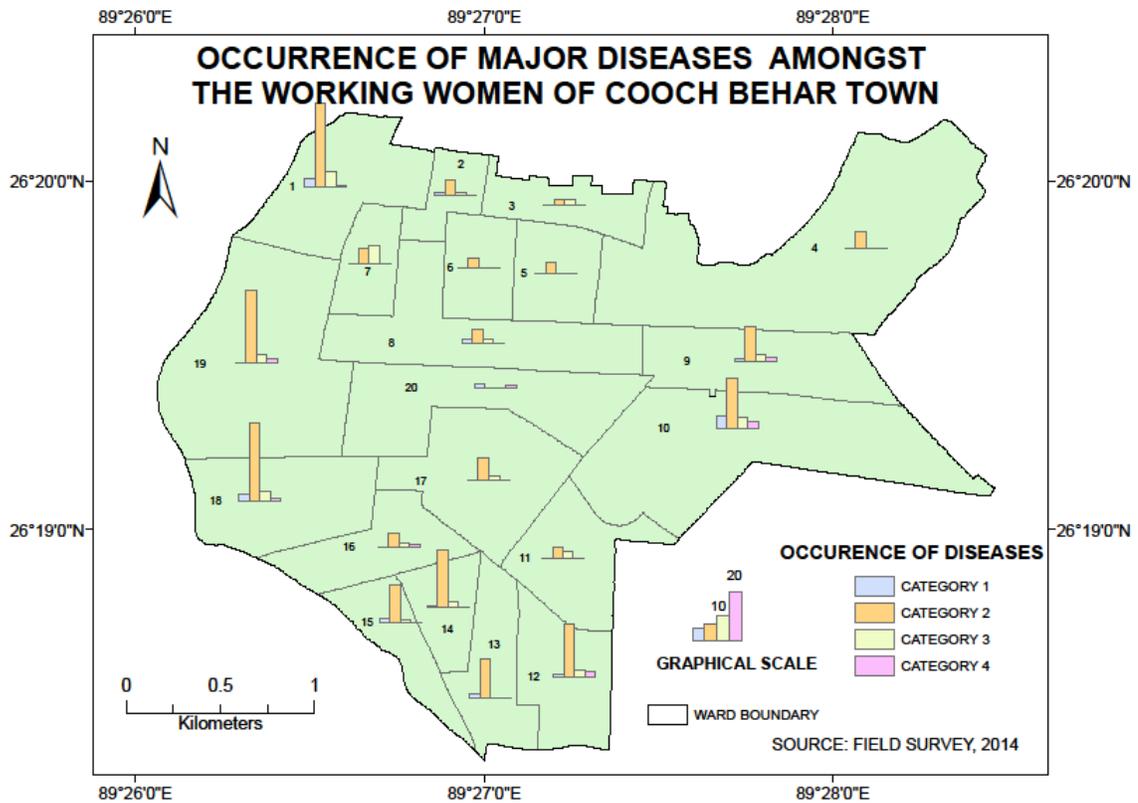
hence, tooth problems are not uncommon here. The region becomes humid and suffocating especially during the rains and dampness also prevails in the cold months, this may cause Arthritis and body ache.



The fig. no. 4.f shows that the majority of the respondents (73%) suffer from no specific diseases. About 12% suffers from Cold & Cough, Acidity, Gas, stomach related problems, tooth ache, Spondylolysis etc. Arthritis, Thalassemia, Osteoporosis are found to affect only 7% of the respondents. Only 6% of the respondents have developed Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, Kidney diseases and Obesity. This might be due to the urban mode of living and the stress and strain as the resultant effect. Allergy, Fungal infection on skins, Asthma, Eye problems, Migraine and Neurological problems are faced by 2 % of the respondents.

The following Table (Table no. 4.9) shows the different categories of diseases that affect the respondents under study. It shows a host of diseases from which the working women of the CBT suffers. Of all the types, the incidence of the second category of diseases occur the most and it is

displayed in Map no.4.21. These include all the illnesses that are resultant of the urban lifestyle oriented problems, such as Blood Sugar & Pressure, Thyroid, Osteoporosis, Skin disease, Joint Pain, Cholesterol, Eye Sight Problem, Fever, General illness, Headache, Tooth Problem, Cold-cough, Allergy and Thyroid. Category 1 (including Kidney Stone, Kidney Problem, Lever Problem, Asthma)



Map No. 4.21

is found in traces in ward nos. 1, 10 and 18. Moreover, categories 3 and 4 (including Skin disease, Arthritis, Respiratory, Paralysis, Bronchial, Spondylitis, Blood Sugar, Osteoporosis, Constipation, Thalassemia, Orthopedics and Cancer, Tumour, TB, Blood Cancer, Waterborne Disease, Mental Problem, Gynecological Problems) are found in very little proportion in ward nos. 1, 7, 8 and 10.

Table: 4.9 Category of Diseases bothering the Respondents

Sl. No.	Category Types	Category of Diseases in Details
1	Category 1	Kidney Stone, Kidney Problem, Lever Problem, Asthma
2	Category 2	Blood Sugar & Pressure, Thyroid, Osteoporosis, Skin disease, Joint Pain, Cholesterol, Eye Sight Problem, Fever, General illness, Headache, Tooth Problem, Cold-cough, Allergy, Thyroid
3	Category 3	Skin disease, Arthritis, Respiratory, Paralysis, Bronchial, Spondolysis, Blood Sugar, Osteoporosis, Constipation, Thalassemia, Orthopedics
4	Category 4	Cancer, Tumour, TB, Blood Cancer, Waterborne Disease, Mental Problem, Gynecological Problem

Source: Field Survey

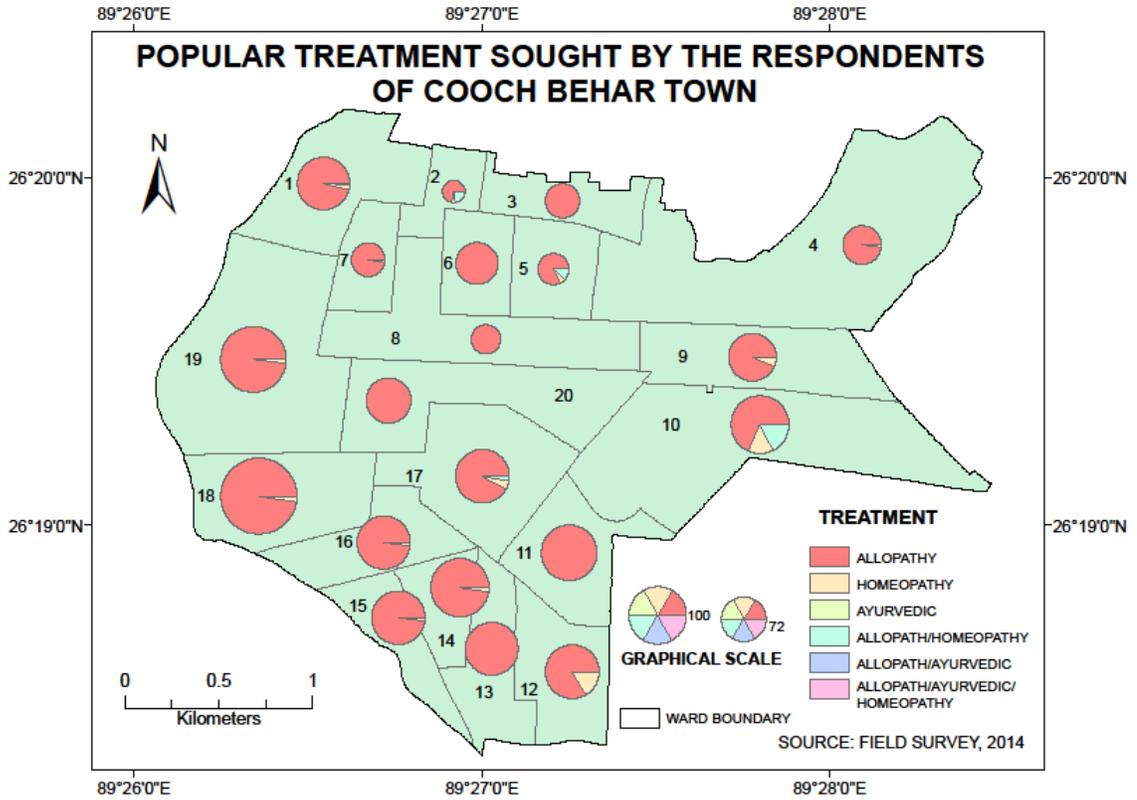
It was presupposed that the jobs to which the respondents are associated might have an imprint upon their health. But actually it was found that certain diseases like Blood pressure, Blood sugar, hypertension, Cholesterol etc. occur due to fast life at urban environment. The stress and strain through which the working women pass might have caused the incidence of such illnesses. So, on the whole occurrence of no major diseases may be noted as a positive indicator for the respondents.

4.A.15.2 POPULAR TREATMENT SOUGHT: As a resident of the vicinity of the study area, the researcher has observed that medical treatment is a complicated procedure in Koch Bihar. The district's only one Government Hospital (M.J.N. Hospital) is located at the heart of the town. It receives a huge number of patients from all over the district. Assam being the next door neighbour sends people in large number, who tries to facilitate from the medical infrastructure of Koch Bihar. But people of Cooch Behar Town tries to avail the South Indian Hospitals mostly.

The respondents go for a host of treatment measures to remain healthy. Most of them (94.15%) go for Allopathy treatment; a small proportion of 3.83% have faith on Homeopath medicines; both Allopathy & Homeopathy treatments are jointly sought after by 1.86% while 0.056% of the respondents rely on Allopathy and Ayurvedic medicines.

A ward wise representation of this in Map no. 4.22 shows that almost every ward shows dependency on Allopathy treatment. Other types of treatment apart from Allopathy are absent in ward no.3, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 20. Homeopathy remains as the sole reliant treatment method for respondents residing in ward no. 9, 10, 12, 17 and 18. Small proportion of Homeopathy

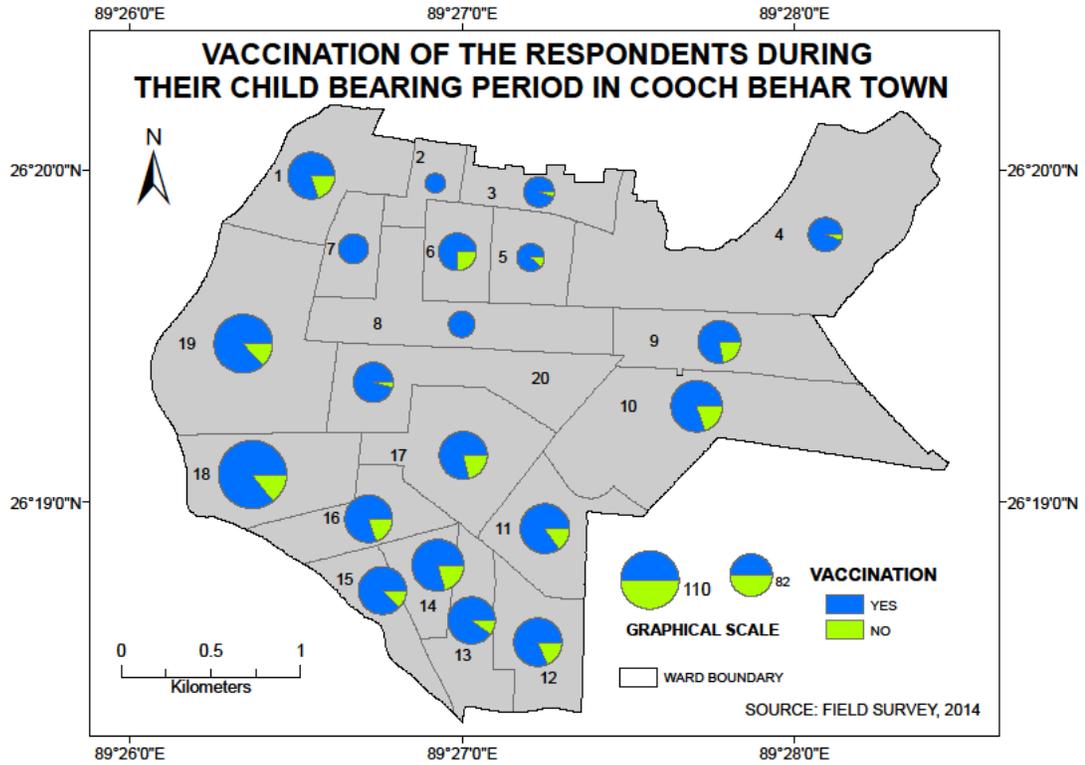
treatment is followed by respondents of ward no. 1, 2, 5, 7, 14, 15, 16 and 19. The respondents of ward no. 2, 5, 10 and 17 depends both on Allopathy and Homeopathy treatments jointly.



Map no. 4.22

4.A.15.3 VACCINATION OF THE RESPONDENTS DURING PREGNANCY:

Consciousness regarding immunization has delved deep into the respondents of the CBT. As a result of which, 85.03% of them have taken all the requisite vaccines during the child bearing period. The rest 14.97 % did not undertake any vaccination for the said purpose. Ward nos. 2, 7 and 8 have 100% of vaccinated respondents (in Map no 4.23). The occurrence of the vaccinated respondents is maximum in ward nos. 3, 4, 13 and 20. Maximum concentration of respondents who did not take vaccines during pregnancy period adheres in ward nos. 1, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16-19. Least number of non-vaccinated respondents is seen in ward nos. 3, 4 and 20.



Map No. 4.23

4.A.15.4 VACCINATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE RESPONDENTS: It seems from the data collected through the survey that the respondents have well understood the necessity of immunization for their Children as almost 100% of all the wards of the CBT show their affirmative opinion regarding this.