

## CHAPTER 2

### THE REGION AND THE DISTRICT

The Midnapur District, situated in the South Western part of West Bengal bordering Bihar and Orissa, is the largest district of West Bengal covering 13,724 sq. kms. which is 15.62 per cent of the state. Of the total district 13,524.1 sq. kms. area is rural and only 199.9 sq. kms. come under urban area. In population the district ranks second constituting 12.43 per cent of the total population of West Bengal. Out of the population of 5,509,247 persons, 5,089,091 (92.37 per cent) live in rural areas and only 4,20,156 (7.63 per cent) individuals stay in urban areas. There are 10,380 inhabited villages and 16 towns under five subdivisions in the district, namely Jhargram, Sader, Chatal, Tamuluk, and Contai. This study was conducted in Jhargram subdivision which is located in the north western part of the district bordering Orissa and Bihar.

The total area of Jhargram sub-division is 3,071.98 sq. kms. of which 3,054.8 sq. kms. are rural area and only 17 sq. kms. belong to urban areas. The density of population Jhargram is only 214 per sq. kms. whereas it is 401 in case of Midnapur District. There are 2,498 villages and only one town which clearly indicate its rural character. In this sub-division, there are three Police Station, Binapur, Jamboni and Jhargram and the study was conducted in Jamboni Police Station which is completely rural. Some basic information about the district, sub-division Jhargram and Jamboni Police Station is given in the Table 1.

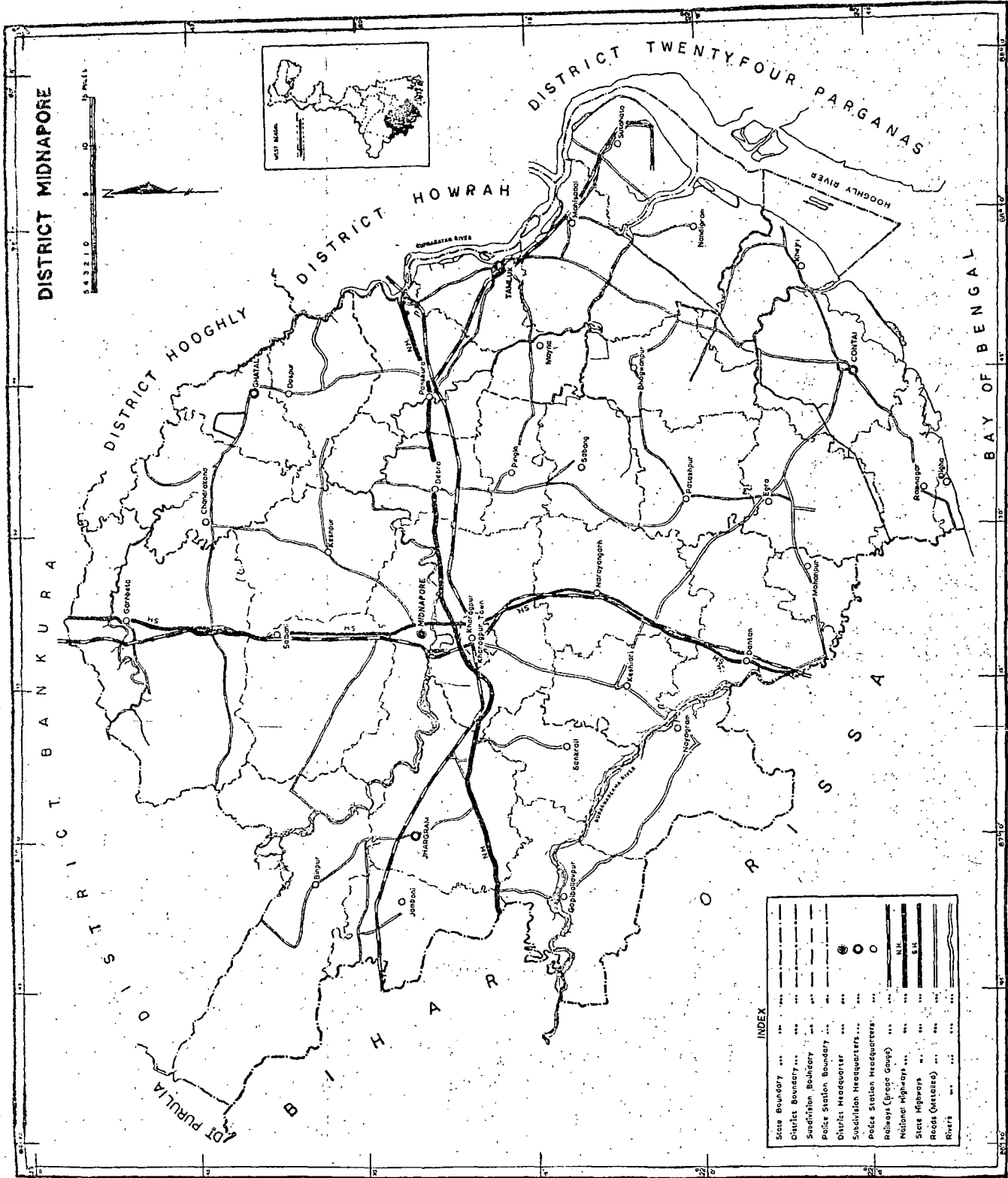
In the district, where 7.63 per cent of the population live in urban areas, it is far lower i.e., 2.24 per cent in case of Jhargram sub-division, whereas the whole area of Jamboni Police Station is rural. The percentage of scheduled caste population is 13.57 per cent for Midnapur District, 12.41 per cent for Jhargram sub-division, and 8.62 per cent for Jamboni Police Station. Though the percentage of scheduled caste is less in both Jhargram and Jamboni when compared to the district percentage, in the case of tribal population it is higher : 8.04 per cent for Midnapur district, 29.21 for Jhargram sub-division, and 30.33 per cent for Jamboni Police Station. There are 32.87 per cent literates in Midnapur District, 25.2 per cent in Jhargram and 5.21 per cent in Jamboni Police Station. A vast majority of the population depend on agriculture and allied jobs for their subsistence in all the three cases. Thus out of total population 80.41 per cent depend on agriculture and allied jobs in Midnapur district, 86.49 per cent in Jhargram subdivision, and 82.44 per cent in Jamboni Police Station. The females account for 9.16 per cent of the

working population at the district level, 21.14 per cent in Jhargram subdivision, and 21.26 per cent in Jamboni Police Station. The relatively higher percentage of female working population in Jhargram and Jamboni may be due to the presence of a larger tribal population. In case of the tribals both males and females work out side and earn which is rarely favoured in a caste Hindu Society. Again, the percentage of non-workers is also more in Midnapur District as a whole than Jhargram and Jamboni : it is 73.3 per cent for Midnapur district, 66.79 per cent for Jhargram, and 66.63 per cent for Jamboni.

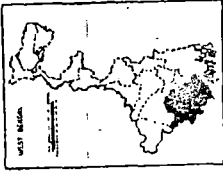
The above discussion clearly indicates the predominantly rural character of the studied area where quite naturally the population largely depend on agriculture, i.e. cultivation. As such, land obviously plays a crucial role in the regional economy and the landless people are forced to depend on the land owners for more subsistence as only a few other alternatives are available.

A brief discussion about the population their economy etc. have been made here in order to understand the population properly because it is strongly felt that the voting decision is not taken or in isolation and the socio-economic considerations contribute a lot in the process. Accordingly, in the next the chapters a somewhat detailed discussions have been made about the local castes and communities, socio-political processes and agrarian class structure.

For a pretty long time, a number of tribal communities have been found to migrate from chota Nagpur plateau covered at places with thick Jungles and others with plain cultivable fields covering the Western and North-Western tracts of Midnapur in West Bengal, which merge with the Singbhum and Manbhum Districts of Bihar and thus physically can be said to be a continuation of the Plateau itself. The North and North Western tracts of Midnapur show the eastern fringes of the Chota Nagpur plateau and bear a close resemblance to it. Here one may notice positions of the sylvan surroundings cleared by a number of tribal communities. Besides the migration of the tribals due to the physical proximity with Orissa, a large number of families have migrated from Orissa to this part of West Bengal and have been living here for quite a long time. Thus in this border region of West Bengal, one may find a number of castes and communities and an interesting area of cultural assimilation.



DISTRICT MIDNAPORE



DISTRICT TWENTYFOUR PARGANAS

HOWRAH

DISTRICT HOOGHLY

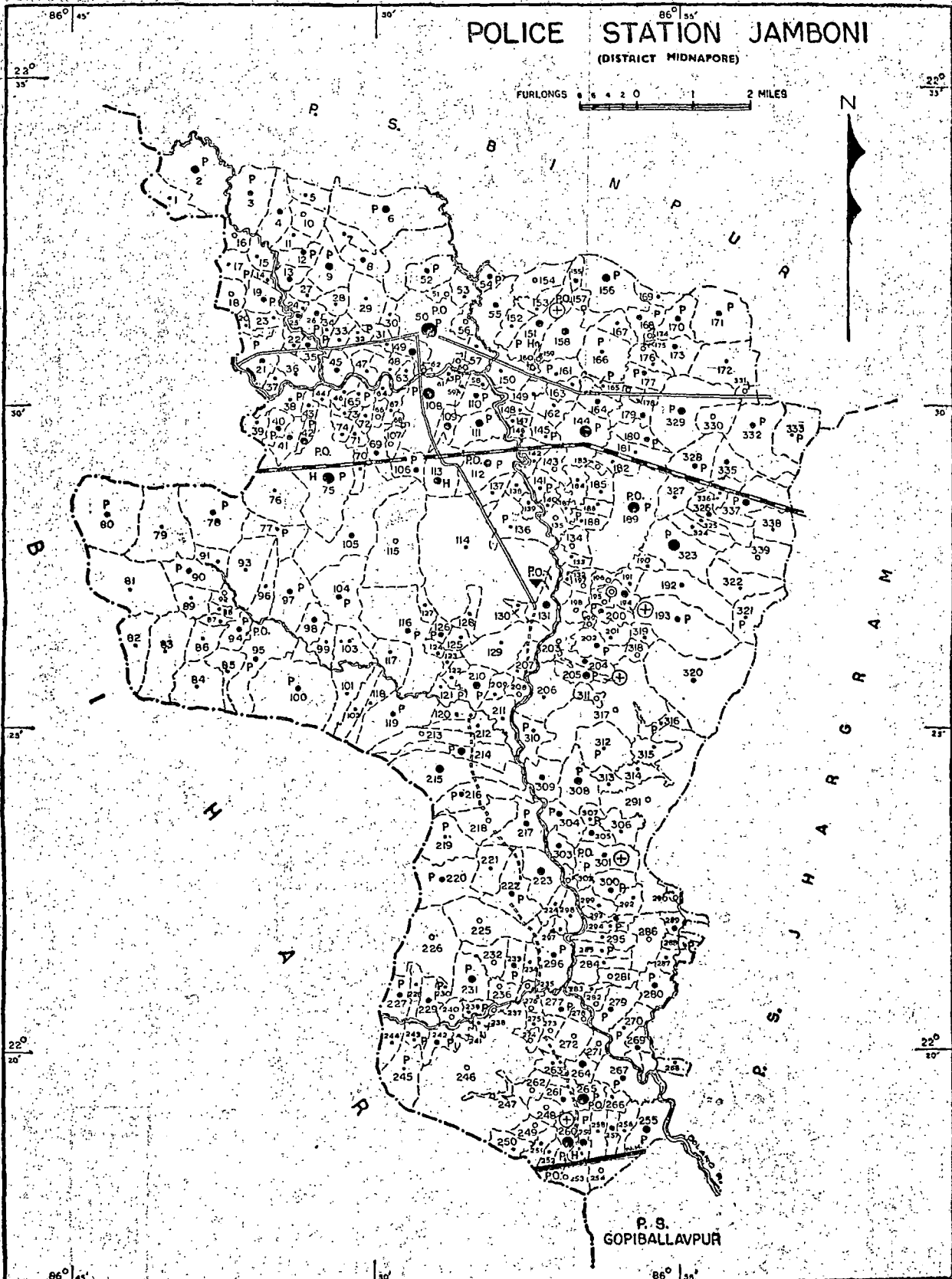
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# POLICE STATION JAMBONI

(DISTRICT MIDNAPORE)

FURLONGS 0 1 2 0 1 2 MILES



Division/District Subdivision/Police Station.	Total		Area in Km.	Occupied Residential Houses	No. of House- holds
	Rural	Urban			
1	2		3	4	5
Midnapur District	T		13,724.0	9,26,047	9,84,252
	R		13,524.1	8,49,259	9,03,519
	A	U	199.9	80,733	4,20,156
Jhargram Subdivision	T		3,071.8	1,13,339	1,20,425
	R		3,054.8	1,10,401	1,16,722
	B	U	17.0	3,438	19,237
Jamboni	T		326.6	12,765	13,650
	R		326.0	12,765	13,650
	C	U	-	-	-

Total Population (including Institutional and Houseless Population)

Scheduled Castes

Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
6	7	8	9	10	11
55,09,247	28,31,863	26,77,384	7,47,497	3,83,097	3,64,400
50,09,091	26,06,610	24,82,481	7,11,374	3,64,170	3,47,204
4,20,156	2,25,253	1,94,903	36,123	18,927	17,196
6,58,105	3,55,311	3,22,794	81,665	41,369	40,296
6,38,868	3,24,958	3,13,910	80,466	40,746	39,720
19,237	10,353	8,834	1,199	623	576
68,886	35,162	33,724	6,007	3,070	2,937
68,886	35,162	33,724	6,007	3,070	2,937
-	-	-	-	-	-

Scheduled Tribes

Literate and Educated Persons

Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
12	13	14	15	16	17
4,42,963	2,24,748	2,18,215	18,11,128	12,91,169	5,19,959
4,36,025	2,20,844	2,15,181	15,92,567	11,52,809	4,40,758
6,938	3,904	3,034	2,17,561	1,38,360	79,201
20,891	10,647	10,244	17,364	13,102	4,262
20,891	10,647	10,244	17,364	13,102	4,262
-	-	-	-	-	-

Total Workers ( i x ix)			Cultivators		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
18	19	20	21	22	23
14,70,732	13,36,062	1,34,670	6,76,290	6,60,117	16,173
13,66,335	12,38,551	1,27,784	6,67,727	6,51,779	15,948
1,04,397	97,511	6,886	8,563	8,338	225
2,18,538	1,72,337	46,201	84,980	80,286	4,694
1,23,639	1,67,979	45,660	84,842	80,165	4,677
4,899	4,358	541	138	121	17
22,984	18,098	4,886	8,400	7,653	747
22,984	18,098	4,886	8,400	7,653	747
-	-	-	-	-	-
Agricultural Labourers			Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Plantations Orchards allied activities		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
24	25	26	27	28	29
5,06,363	4,10,909	95,454	11,600	10,783	867
4,93,024	3,98,979	94,045	A. 10,778	9,930	848
13,339	11,930	1,409	822	803	19
1,04,037	65,678	38,859	2,162	1,962	200
1,03,663	65,392	38,271	B. 2,069	1,870	199
374	286	88	98	92	1
10,549	6,762	3,787	95	75	20
10,549	6,762	3,787	C. 95	75	20
-	-	6	-	-	-

Mining and Quarrying

(a) Household Industries  
Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairs

Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
30	31	32	33	34	35
154	153	1	33,879	27,993	5,886
141	140	1	31,644	25,877	5,767
13	13	-	2,235	2,116	119
17	17	-	5,440	4,355	1,085
16	16	-	5,319	4,241	1,078
1	1	-	121	114	7
2	2	-	727	620	107
2	2	-	727	620	107
-	-	-	-	-	-

Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairs (b) other than Household Industries			Construction		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
36	37	38	39	40	41
43,180	39,193	3,987	8,993	8,753	240
31,216	27,682	3,534	6,744	6,554	190
11,964	11,511	453	2,249	2,199	50
2,736	2,493	243	789	641	148
2,299	2,066	233	601	455	146
437	427	10	188	186	2
289	270	19	87	58	29
289	270	19	87	58	29
-	-	-	-	-	-



Trade and Commerce

Transport, Storage and Communication

	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	42	43	44	45	46	47
	35,486	34,584	902	40,368	39,479	889
A.	20,583	19,972	611	14,498	14,336	162
	14,903	14,612	291	25,870	25,143	727
	3,595	3,491	104	2,588	2,588	30
B.	2,405	2,321	84	2,117	2,090	27
	1,190	1,170	20	471	468	3
	542	522	20	703	688	15
	542	522	20	703	688	15
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other Services

Non works

	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	48	49	50	51	52	53
	1,14,419	1,04,148	10,271	40,38,515	14,95,801	25,42,714
	89,980	83,302	6,678	37,22,756	13,68,059	23,54,697
	24,439	20,846	3,593	3,15,759	1,27,742	1,88,017
	12,194	10,856	1,338	4,39,567	1,62,974	2,76,593
	10,308	9,363	945	4,25,229	1,56,979	2,68,250
	1,886	1,493	393	14,338	5,995	8,343
	1,590	1,448	142	45,902	17,064	28,838
	1,590	1,448	142	45,902	17,064	28,838
	-	-	-	-	-	-