

CHAPTER - THREE

POPULATION & THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

INTRODUCTION

Population studies have been measured by the rate & trends of various population characteristics, such as, distribution, growth density, composition etc. It is a practical value in measuring population growth enable to plan for satisfying man's need throughout life like food, clothing, shelter and any other necessity. The growth of market centres and population growth is intimately related and homologous in nature. Any comprehensive geographical analysis of a region should take into account the differential growth of population. According to the Trewartha, number, density, distributions, and activities of the population provide the essential background for all geography (Trewartha-1992). Population is the central element around which all other elements revolve. Thus, the study of population is the most important approach to geography and one in which the regional concept has its broadest application (Ghosh - 1985).

This chapter discusses the population characteristics of the district and also population character of market centres in different police stations. Now, this, chapter has been divided into eight parts, in the 1st part, the general distribution of population of the district has been analysed. Second & third parts of the chapter are engaged to discuss the density and growth of population (it shows different tables & diagrams). Sex ratio, literacy, family size and occupational pattern have been discussed continually. Lastly, the occupational structure has been analysed for different police stations of the study area.

3.1 GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

People have their individual as well as group perceptions and manners which influence on their distribution and activities. Depending upon the nature of livelihood people are spaced variously over the earth's surface. This spacing refers to the distribution of population. It has been observed that the distribution of population on the earth surface was by no means uniform in the beginning nor it is so at present condition. In recent years studies on distribution of population hold a great significance in the

midst of population geographers. Population distribution may acts as a key to the analysis of entire demographic character in an area. An analysis of various ratios or proportions of population (e.g. density percentage of population to the total etc.) and the area (e.g. percentage of the area to the total, etc. occupied by a certain group) may highlight the stage of population growth or even the nature of demographic explosion in a certain region or an area.

The interpretation of population distribution in terms of area and population quality etc. gives an idea about the pattern of people's regional contrast and disparities including the degree on concentration in different areas. It has been estimated that about 80 percent of world's total population is concentrated only over 20 percent of world's total land area. Thus, not only the social and economic systems but also the behaviour system are, to a certain extent found to be the product of the pattern of distribution of various components of both static and dynamic nature.

The Bagerhat district is a micro unit characterised by its distinctive physio-socio-economic pattern and process. The distribution of population in the region is overwhelmingly a rural one. The region consists at present of nine police stations with different socio-economic groups of more or less similar cultural habits.

According to the population census, 1991, the total number of households was 210,785 which was 1.4% of total households in the country. The total population of the district, according to the same source, was 1,431,332 which was about 1.4% of total population of the country. The density of population per km² is 362 as against the national figure of 605 per km². Out of sixty four districts in the country Bagerhat ranks 33rd in respect of population. Males share 51.1% and females share 48.99% of the total population. Out of the total population, 94.7% population are living in non-municipal (rural) area and the rest 5.3% in minicipal(urban) areas.

Among nine police stations, Kachua had the lowest population of about 93,249 persons. The lowest density of population per km² is 94 in Mongla as against the district figure of 362 per km². On the other hand Bagerhat has the highest density of 865 persons per km². The district Headquarters which is also a municipal area of Bagerhat has about 44,501 persons.

According to 1991 Census, Bagerhat is the second largest police station in Bagerhat

district in respect of population. It was recognised as a police station in 1872. This police station occupies an area of 272.73 km². This P.S. consists of one municipality, 9 unions, 145 mauzas, 22 mahallahs and 167 villages. The average population of an union, a mauza, and a village are 26,205, 1627 and 1412 respectively. This Police Station has a population of 235,848 of which 120,805 are male and 115,043 are females. The original inhabitants of this P.S. might be an admixture of the non-Aryan, the Dravidian and the Mongolian races. This P.S. holds 69 percent of total mauza in the size class 0 - 200 ha. and lowest percentage of size class of 801 - 1000 ha of which 0.70 percent. The distribution of population and area by size class is shown in the table 3.1 & Fig. 3.1.

Table 3.1 percentage of area by the size class of mauza in different police stations.

Class-size (hector)	Bagerhat	Chitalmari	Fakirhat	Kachua	Mollahat	Mongla	Morrelgonj	Rampal	Sarankhola	District total
0 - 200	69.0	59.0	53.8	77.0	52.6	12.4	47.8	53.0	-	56.4
201 - 400	22.2	14.0	30.0	10.8	21.8	34.5	22.5	34.0	-	23.4
401 - 600	5.4	14.0	9.0	9.4	9.0	21.7	4.9	6.2	-	7.8
601 - 800	2.7	05.0	5.6	1.4	5.6	6.4	7.4	3.8	-	4.3
801 - 1000	0.7	-	1.6	-	1.8	6.4	5.7	1.5	27.4	2.4
1001 - 1200	-	-	-	1.4	7.4	9.3	7.5	-	9.0	2.6
1200 above	-	08.0	-	-	1.8	9.3	4.2	1.5	63.6	3.1
Total	100.0									

From the table 3.1 that the highest percentage of mauza in the district in size-class is below ha and lowest percentage in size-class is 1200 ha and above. Most of the mauzas are found in the lower range. It is also found that highest percentage of mauza in this class is in Kachua Police Station, and that of lowest percentage is in Bagerhat Police Station. It is noteworthy that very few number of mauzas are found in the high range of area (Fig - 3.2).

Chitalmari is the most recent Police Station of the district recognised in 1987 and has a total area of 192.00 km.² The Police Station is located at the north eastern side of the district. It consists of 7 unions, 58 mauzas and 121 villages. The average population of each union, mauza and village are 18,218, 2199 and 1,054 respectively. The Police Station has a population of 127524. Of which 64,757 are males and 62,767 are females, similar to other police of stations of the district, the inhabitants of this police station might be an admixture of the non-Aryan, the Dravidian and the Mongolian race. The highest percentage of mauzas (59%) by area are found in 0-200 ha in size-class. The

DISTRIBUTION OF AREA BY SIZE-CLASS OF MOUZAS 1991

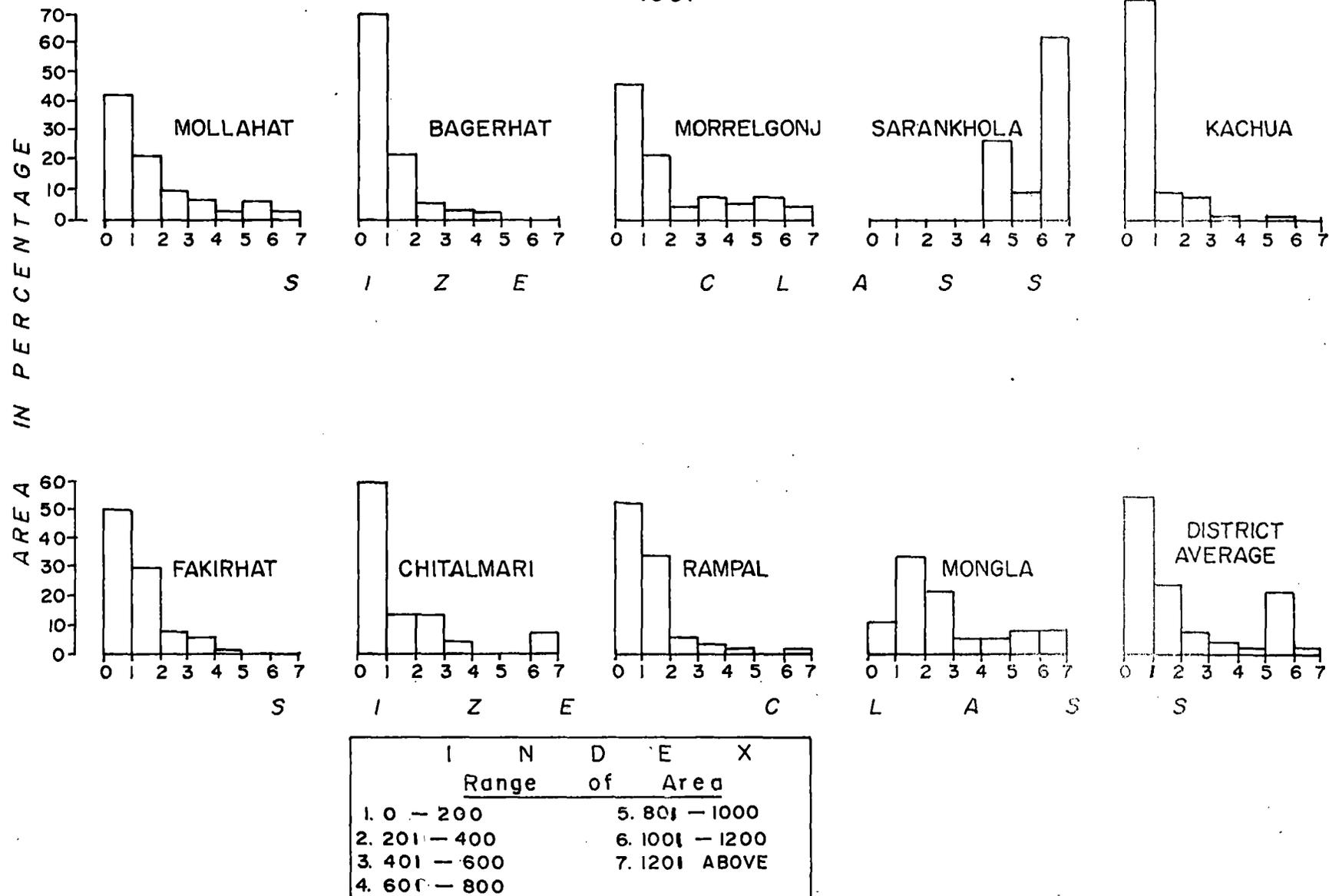


Fig. 3-1

lowest percentage is 5.0 in the size class 6.01 to 800 (Fig - 3.1)

Fakirhat P.S. has a population of 123,956. Of which 63,367 are males and 60,589 are females. Sex-ratio of this P.S. is 105 males per 100 females. It is the second smallest Police Station in respect of area. Fakirhat Police Station recognised in the 7th June 1869. It occupies an area of 160.68 km². The police station consists of 8 union, 67 mauzas and 87 villages. The average population of each union, mauza and village are 15,495, 1,850 and 1,425 respectively. The Headquarters of Fakirhat Police Station is situated at Attaki mauza which is the highest density of population per km² (1747 person) among the mauzas. The highest percentage of mauzas in the size class 0 - 200 is 53.8 and lowest is 1.6 percent, (Table - 3.1).

Kachua is the smallest Police Station of the district in respect of both area and population. It recognised as a police station in 1885. This Police Station is located in the eastern side of the district. This police station consists of 7 unions, 78 mauzas and 96 villages. The population of each union, mauza & village are 13,321 , 1,196 & 971 respectively. The police station occupies a total area of 161.62 km² and has 93,249 population. Of which 46,959 are males and 46,290 are females. Sex ratio is 100 females 101 males. The highest percentage of mauzas in the size-class is 0 - 200ha and lowest is in 1001 - 1200. Mollahat is the norther police station of the district. It was recognised as a police station in 1867. The police stations consists of 7 unions. 58 mauzas and 102 villages. The average population of each union, mauza and village are 16,676, 2,013 and 1,144 respectively. The total population of the police station is 116,729. Of which 58,974 are males and 57,755 are females. This police stations having 42 percent of total mauzas is in the size class 0 - 200 and lowest percentage (1.8) is in the size-class of 1200ha and above. The only high density of populated area is found in the headquarters in Garfa mauza.

Mongla is the biggest police station of the the district in respect of area (including forest). The Police Station was recognised in 19th September 1976. It occupies an area of 1,461.22 km². Of which 1,274.33 km² are forest area. This police station consists of one municipality, 6 unions. 28 mauzas, 8 mahallahs & 76 villages. This population of each mauza & village. are 22,759 and 1,797 respectively. The total population of the district is 137,947. Of which 75,496 are males and 62,451 are females. Mongla the 2nd sea port of Bangladesh is situated in this police station and it is located in the frings of

the Bay of Bengal and coast of the Sipsha river This Police Station occupies 26.3 percent villages in the size class of 501 - 100 ha and 34.5 percent mauza in the size class of 201 - 400 ha. The distribution of villages by size-class of population is shown in table 3.2 & Fig 3.2.

Table 3.2 percentage of villages by size class of population

Class-size (Population)	Bagerhat	Chitalmarl	Faklrhat	Kachua	Mollahat	Mongla	Morrelgonj	Rampal	Sarankhola	District total
0 - 500	4.5	28.3	24.4	33.0	30.8	28.9	38.4	20.2	20.2	25.3
501 - 1000	11.3	42.7	22.8	30.5	27.5	26.3	25.9	27.6	21.2	26.2
1001 - 1500	27.2	12.5	13.7	16.5	15.4	21.3	14.8	21.2	17.9	17.8
15001 - 2000	4.5	5.2	13.7	9.3	10.1	9.2	5.7	15.4	14.1	9.8
2001 - 2500	18.5	7.2	10.3	3.3	7.3	5.2	4.8	6.9	8.2	7.9
2501 - 3000	6.8	3.1	5.7	3.3	21.2	5.2	2.8	2.3	5.9	4.2
3000 above	27.2	1.0	9.4	4.1	6.7	3.9	7.6	6.4	12.5	8.8
Total	100.0									

It can be revealed from table 3.2 that the highest percentage (26.2) of village in the size-class is in 501 to 1000 ha and lowest percentage (4.2) is in 2501 to 3000 ha. It is also found that the second highest percentage is 25.3. Majority of villages are exhibit in the low ranges. It is noticed that among nine police stations, the highest percentage (42.7) of villages is in Chitalmari and lowest percentage (2.3) is in Rampal Police Station. (Fig 3.2).

Morrelgonj Police Station is the densely populated area of Bagerhat district. It was recognised as a police station in 1849. This police station located on the bank of the Pangchi river which is a branch of the Horingata river. This police station occupies an area of 460.91 km² and has 3,21,153 population. The police station consists of 16 unions, 121 mauzas and 184 villages. The average population of each union, mauza and village are. 20,072, 32,654 and 1,745 respectively. The distribution of mazuas by size-class of the area is shown in table 3 :1. The highest percentage (47.9) of mauzas is found in the size class of 0 - 200 ha and the lowest (4.1 percent) in size-class is in 1200 and above. Rampal became as police station in 1892. It consists of 11 unions, 139 mauzas and 149 villages. The average population of each union, mauza and village are 15,188, 1,202 and 1,121 respectively. Distribution of village by size classes of population is highest (27.6 percent) and lowest (2.6 percent) in this police station.

DISTRIBUTION OF VILLAGES BY SIZE CLASS OF POPULATION 1991

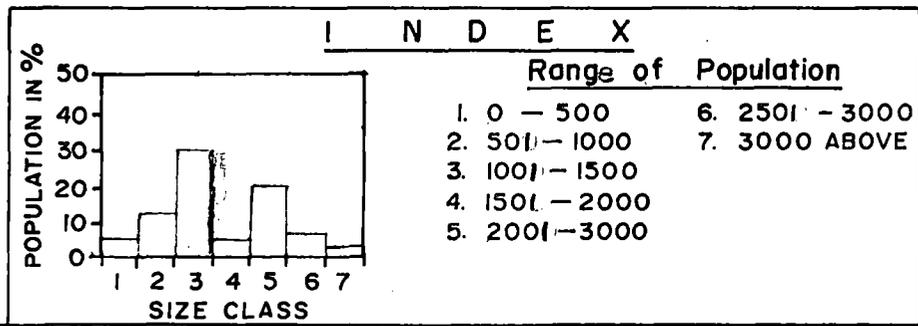
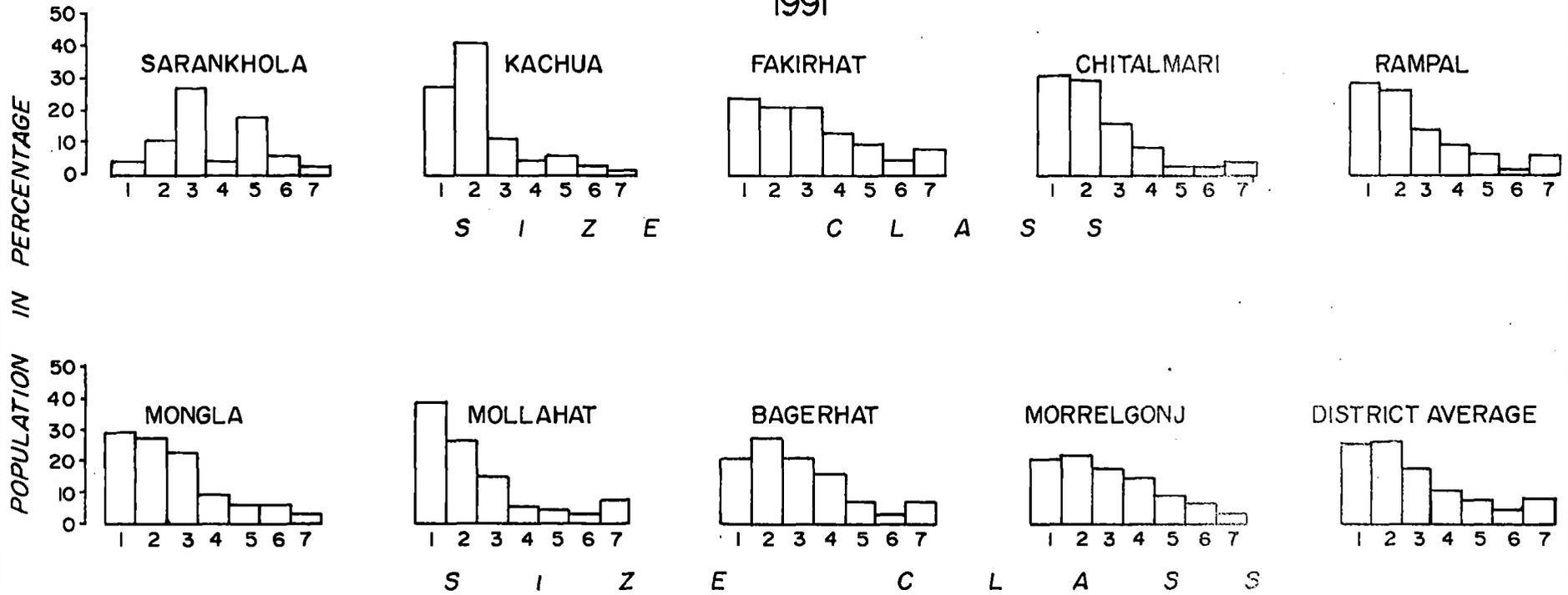


Fig. 3.2

Sarankhola recognised as a police station in 1907. The police station occupies a total area of 162.03 km² excluding forest area. It consists only of 4 Unions 11 mauzas and 45 villages. The average population of each Union, mauza and village are 26,964, 9,805 and 2397 respectively. The distribution of mauza by size-class of area (1200>ha) is highest (63.6) and lowest (1.8 percent). (Table - 3.1).

It is observed that the distribution of population of Bagerhat district is almost uniform Lorenze curves (Fig. 3.3) has been drawn with the help of cumulative percentages of area and population of mauza in different Police Stations (Appendix 1) of showing the degree of concentration. According to Berry (1972) the degree of concentration of population in an area can be computed with the following formula.

$$\text{Degree of concentration} = \frac{\text{Area covered by the curve}}{\text{Area covered by the lines of } 45^{\circ}}$$

From diagram (Fig - 3.3) the degree of concentration of population is 83.92 for the district. The density of population per km² of the district in the mauza is low. So, the diagram shows a rural character of the area.

3.2 DENSITY OF POPULATION

The density of population is concerned with the analysed of some kinds of manland ratio. It has always a historical perspective and depends partly on topographic condition and partly on economic resources and the stages of their growth. Density measures the degree of concentration of population in an area. Different types of density are having a varying degree of utility at different situations.

According to 1991 census, the density of population in the Bagerhat district was 362 persons per km² compared to the national average of 605 persons per km². The types of density is called the arithmetic density. Of course, density cannot reveal actual measurement of population pressure on land. It simply gives a quantitative relation between man and land. Physiological density means the number of population per unite area of cultivated land. This types of density acts as a better measurement of population, when the pressure on land is considered. The agriculture density of population indicates the pressure of population engaged in agriculture land. It is an index of number of agricultural population engaged in an unit area of cultivated land. The area of the

HYPOTHETICAL LORENZ CURVE FOR THE
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION POTENTIAL IN
BAGERHAT DISTRICT (1991)

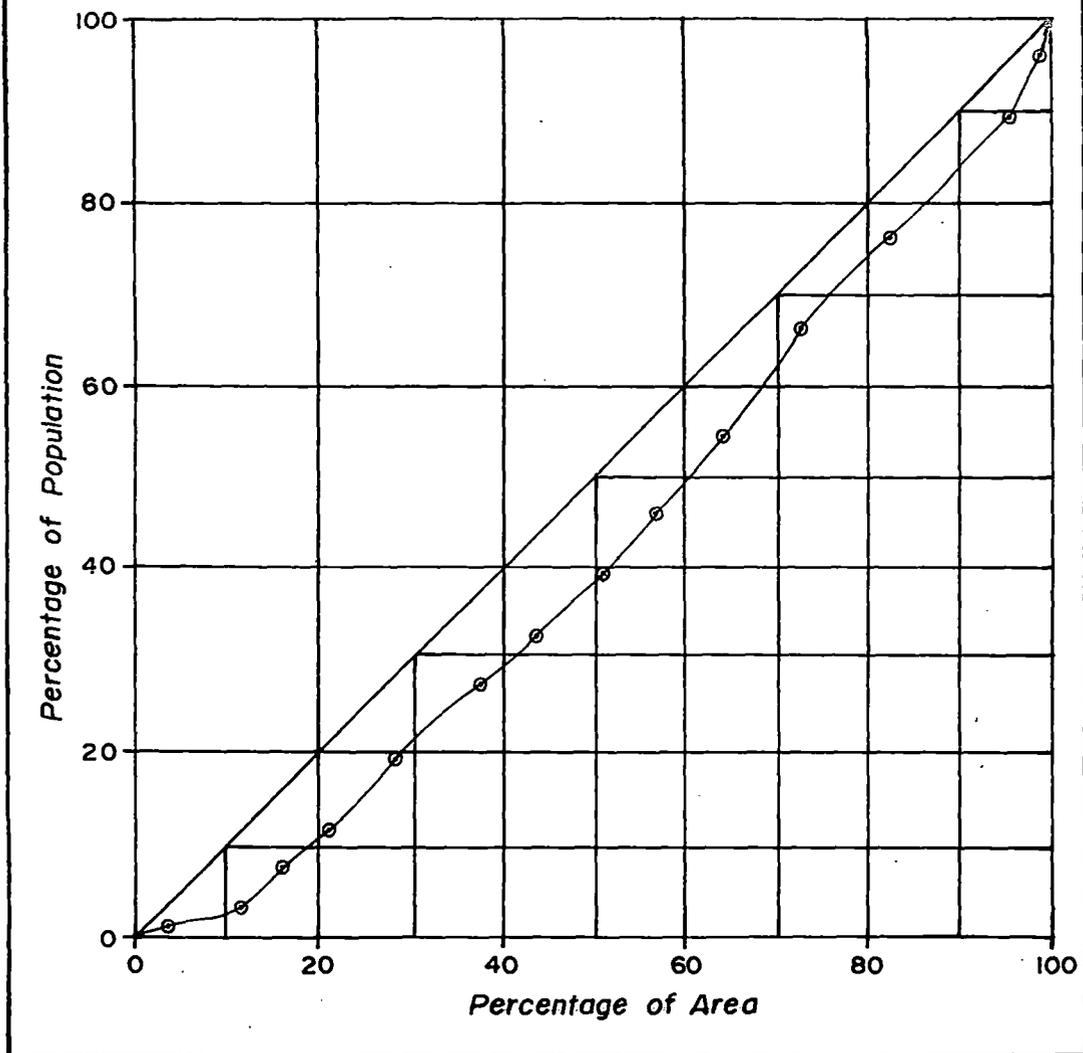


Fig. 3-3

district is 2.7 percent (including river) compare to the total area of the country. The density of different police stations has been varied from police station to police station. The population distribution pattern of the district in nine police stations has been discussed below.

Bagerhat Police Station has a moderate density (865 km²) of population. High density of road network, in this police station has caused a high pressure of population on the agricultural land scape. It is the Headquarters of police station and has so many number of institutions like. school, college, vocational institutions and important district level offices. The distributions of mauza by size class of population shown in table 3.4. The highest percentage is 54.5 (% to total P.S.) in Sarankhola Police Station. Majority of densely mauza are in 601 - 900 range of Rampal has the highest number of mauza (149) and Bagerhat Police Station is the second highest number of mauzas (Table 3.3). Most of the people practised agriculture during the rainy and winter seasons. So the people concentrate in the fertile zones. The highest number of mauzas (41) are in 301 - 600 size-class. The density is 644 km² and the growth rate is 1.77% in Bagerhat Police Station.

Fakirhat Police Station located in the north-western part of the district, near the divisional town of Khulna is moderate density area.(177/km²). This police station is developed in respect of communications, such as Dhaka capital city road and Bagerhat Khulna divisional connecting road & railways. This road has also an important impact in carrying passerners, goods and others commodities. For these reasons high population density in the marshy land areas is observed There are 26 mauzas having moderate density in size class i.e. 601 - 900 persons is observed. The population density of Kachua Police Station is 708/km². It is the smallest police station of the district in respect of area and population Mollahat & Mońgla Police Station are far from the district headquarters and their density are 621 & 121/km² respectively. Sarankhola, Morrelgonj & Rampal Police Stations are backward and rural. Their density of population are 143,697 and 463 per km² respectively. The number of mouzas with of population, has been shown in table3.3.

Table 3.3 Distribution of mauzas in different population sizes

Name of the P.S.	Total Area in km ²	Total Population	Total inhabited mauza	Numner of the Mauza with Population					
				< 300	301 - 600	601 - 900	901 - 1200	1201 - 1500	1500 above
Bagerhat	272.73	235848	145	11	41	38	18	17	20
Chitalmari	292.00	127524	51	3	9	23	2	4	10
Fakirhat	160.68	123956	67	3	12	26	11	5	10
Kachua	161.62	93249	74	7	17	25	12	6	7
Mollahat	187.88	116729	55	8	13	15	9	6	4
Mongla	186.89	137947	28	2	14	11	1	0	0
Morrelgonj	460.91	321153	121	6	30	51	23	6	5
Rampal	335.46	167070	149	34	55	25	24	5	6
Sarankhola	162.03	107856	11	0	4	6	0	0	1
District Total	20289.20	431332	701	74	195	220	100	49	63

It can be revealed from table 3.3 that most of the mauza are in size-classes of 301 - 600 and 601 - 900. The lowest number of mauza have been in size-class of 1201-1500. The density of mauza population have concentrated only two ranges. The percentage of mauza of each police station of different size-class have been shown the table No. 3.4. The density of population per km² has been increased from 111 km² in 1901 to 362km² in 1991. The south-western part of the district has low density. This area is inhabited by some fishermen and woodcutters (local name 'baoaly'). The people are living in the road-side and bank of the canal or river, because they use water from the canal. The trend of population density can be visualised from table 3.4 and Fig - 3.2. It indicates that the density of population is increasing towards north and north-western part and decreasing towards southern part of the district. The highest density of population is in Fakirhat police stations. It is due to availability of differernt types of facilities like communications, fresh-water, high yield of crops etc. The low density of population in the Southern Police Station Sarankhola, Mongla and Rampal is due to poor communication, salinity of water, lower rate of production and natural calamities. Analysing the demographic character of different police stations, their are 1364 & 2080 person live in per unite area of village & mauza of the district. The highest percentage of mauza is observed in size class 601 to 900. The percentage of mauza population are shown in the table 3.4.

Table 3.4. Percentage of mauza in population different sizes in the police stations.

(Percentage to total of each P.S.)										
Class-size (Population)	Bagerhat	Chitalmari	Fakirhat	Kachua	Mollahat	Mongla	Morrelgonj	Rampal	Sarankhola	District total
below 300	7.6	5.9	4.5	9.5	14.6	7.2	4.9	22.8	-	10.7
301 - 600	28.3	17.7	17.9	22.9	23.6	50.0	24.8	36.9	36.3	25.7
601 - 900	26.3	45.0	38.8	33.8	27.2	39.2	42.2	16.8	54.6	32.4
901 - 1200	12.4	3.9	16.9	16.2	16.4	3.6	19.0	16.1	-	14.7
1201 - 1500	11.7	7.8	7.5	8.1	10.9	-	4.9	3.4	-	7.2
1500 above	13.7	19.7	14.9	9.5	7.3	-	4.2	4.0	9.1	9.3
Total	100.0									

It can be revealed from table 3.4 that the highest (32.4) and lowest percentage (7.2) in the district of the mauzas are in size-classes of 601-900 and 1201-1500 respectively. The second highest percentage (25.7) of mauza is in the size-class of 301 to 600. It is noticed that Sarankhola police station has the highest percentage (54.6) of mauza in 601-900 size-class and Rampal police station has the lowest (3.4) percentage of mauza in size-class of 1500 and above among nine police stations of the district.

3.3 GROWTH OF POPULATION

The total population of Bagerhat district is 1,431,113 (1991). According to the 1951 census, population of the district was 659,889. At that time, there were seven police stations in the district namely - Sarankhola, Kachua, Fakirhat, Rampal, Mollahat, Morrelgonj and Bagerhat. Due to the high growth of population and administrative purposes, the Government has increased the number of police stations from seven to nine. New police stations like Chitalmari & Mongla were formed in 1985. The trend of growth was very slow in all the police stations during last two decades. The high growth (2.12%) was observed in Morrelgonj P.S. while the low growth (1.0%) was observed in Sarankhola P.S. during 1951 - 91. This trend was noticed in Fakirhat (2.8%), Bagerhat (2.09%), Mongla (1.14%), Rampal (1.29%), Kachua (1.34%), Mollahat (1.14%) and Chitalmari (1.19%) police stations in the district. The decadal growth of population in Sarankhola was very high and Rampal police station was very low during the period (Table 3.5). The population declined due to the cyclone →

→ & epidemic, during 1961 - 61 and serious widespread calamity affected the normal growth of population during this decade. But the population of the district had increased, as a

result of each successive Census. During pre-1951 period, there had been a much larger increase of population i.e. 14.3 percent in 1931 to 19.3 percent in 1941 Censuses. (Fig - 3.4).

Nature had interfered the growth of population during the decade 1941 - 1951 in more than one ways. First, in the World War II with the fall of Myanmar (Burma) in 1942 and Imphal erstwhile in 1943 hostilities came to the borders of Bangladesh (Former East Pakistan) and people were evacuated from many rural areas and small-pox took a huge toll of lives. The famine was preceded by cyclone. It caused a great havoc. People left their homes at that time. Families and children were died enormously. The sign of famine was visible in July 1942, and its affects in the form of epidemics were continued untill December 1944. Thirdly, the high prices of food-stuffs and consumer goods not only caused illnourishment, but also delayed in marriages and gave fewer births. Finally, a large movement of people occurred on a communal riot as a result of partition of India in 1947. Many Muslims from India were migrated to the district, While many Hindus left for India. during the next decade. There had been a much larger increase of population. The decadal growth of population from 1951 - 1991 has been shown in table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Decadal growth of population (1951 - 1991)

Name of P.S.	Population in 1951	(Growth rates in percentage)				
		1951 - 61	1961 - 74*	1974 - 81	1981 - 91	Running mean
Bagerhat	235,848	18.0	31.6	08.1	13.3	17.7
Chitalmari	127,524	18.0	31.7	16.9	19.2	21.4
Fakirhat	123,956	18.0	36.3	16.1	23.0	16.6
Kachua	93,249	18.0	21.9	09.1	20.1	17.2
Mollahat	116,729	18.0	25.2	18.6	13.5	18.8
Mongla	137,947	18.0	28.8	03.3	41.6	22.9
Morrelgonj	321,153	18.0	31.6	17.0	18.0	21.1
Rampal	167,070	18.0	19.6	03.3	15.2	14.2
Sarankhola	107,856	34.3	36.3	34.3	16.3	30.2

* 1971 Census held in 1974, cause of independence war in Bangladesh.

The overall growth of population in Bagerhat district during 1951-61 was estimated at greater than the national growth. The decadal variations in the district were heterogeneous.

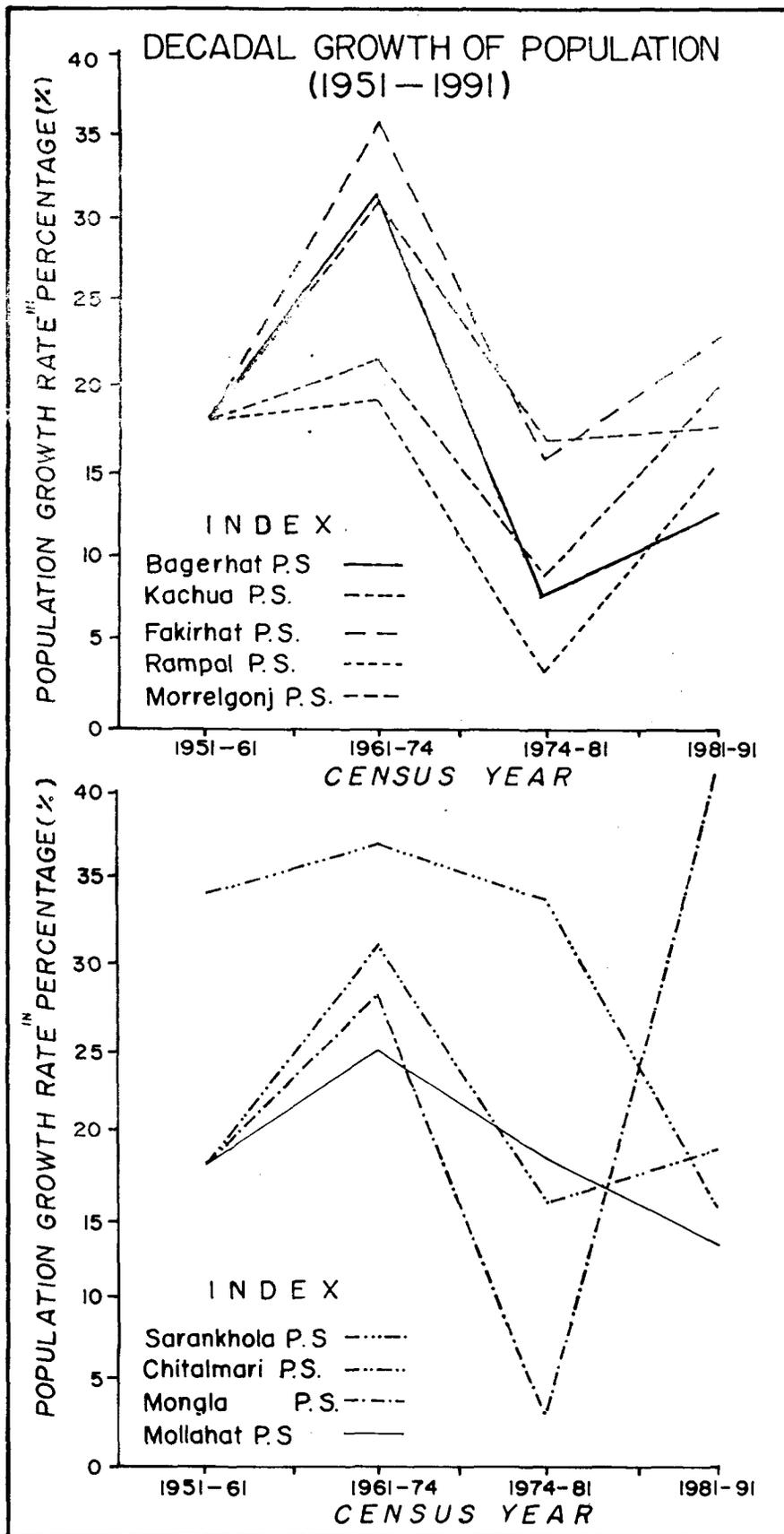


Fig. 3.4

During the decade of 1951 - 81, the growth of population was at a comparatively higher rate. This growth rate may be attributed to the decrease of death rate, as a result of better medical facilities given to the people after the independence of Bangladesh. The Bagerhat district is marked by differences in the spatial growth pattern of the country. It is observed that during the last 40 years, the population growth in different police stations was at different rates. Table 3.5 shows the decadal growth and Table 3.6 observed the index of growth of population during the period of 1951 - 1991. (Fig. 3.5). The growth rate in Rampal Police Station is 14 percent. The growth of population was very high in Sarankhola police station (30.28%) because many people migrated here from the other districts. The growth rate in remaining police stations was not significant. Mongla, a sea port has the second highest growth rate (22.9 percent). Workers came to this police station from other places for employment. Growth rate of population in Fakirhat, Kachua and Bagerhat police stations are 16.6, 17.2 and 17.7 respectively. Analysing the index of growth of population, it is observed that the highest growth of population is found in Morrelgonj Police Station, and lowest growth is revealed in Sarankhola Police Station (Table 5.6). It is noteworthy that Chitalmari and Mongla Police Stations were formed in 1985.

Table 3.6 index of population growth in 1951 - 1991

Name of P.S.	(Percentages to base Years)				
	1951	1961	1974	1981	1991
Bagerhat	100	126.7	166.9	201.4	204.4
Chitalmari	-	-	-	100.0	119.6
Fakirhat	100	107.0	145.9	169.0	208.4
Kachua	100	112.2	136.7	161.3	134.9
Mollahat	100	116.3	143.3	169.8	114.1
Mongla	-	-	-	100.0	141.6
Morrelgonj	100	116.7	156.0	180.5	212.0
Rampal	100	121.7	156.7	188.2	129.0
Sarankhola	100	052.7	071.9	086.6	109.0

3.4 LITERACY AND ITS GROWTH

In population geography, literacy is considered as a reliable index of socio-cultural and economic advancement. Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental

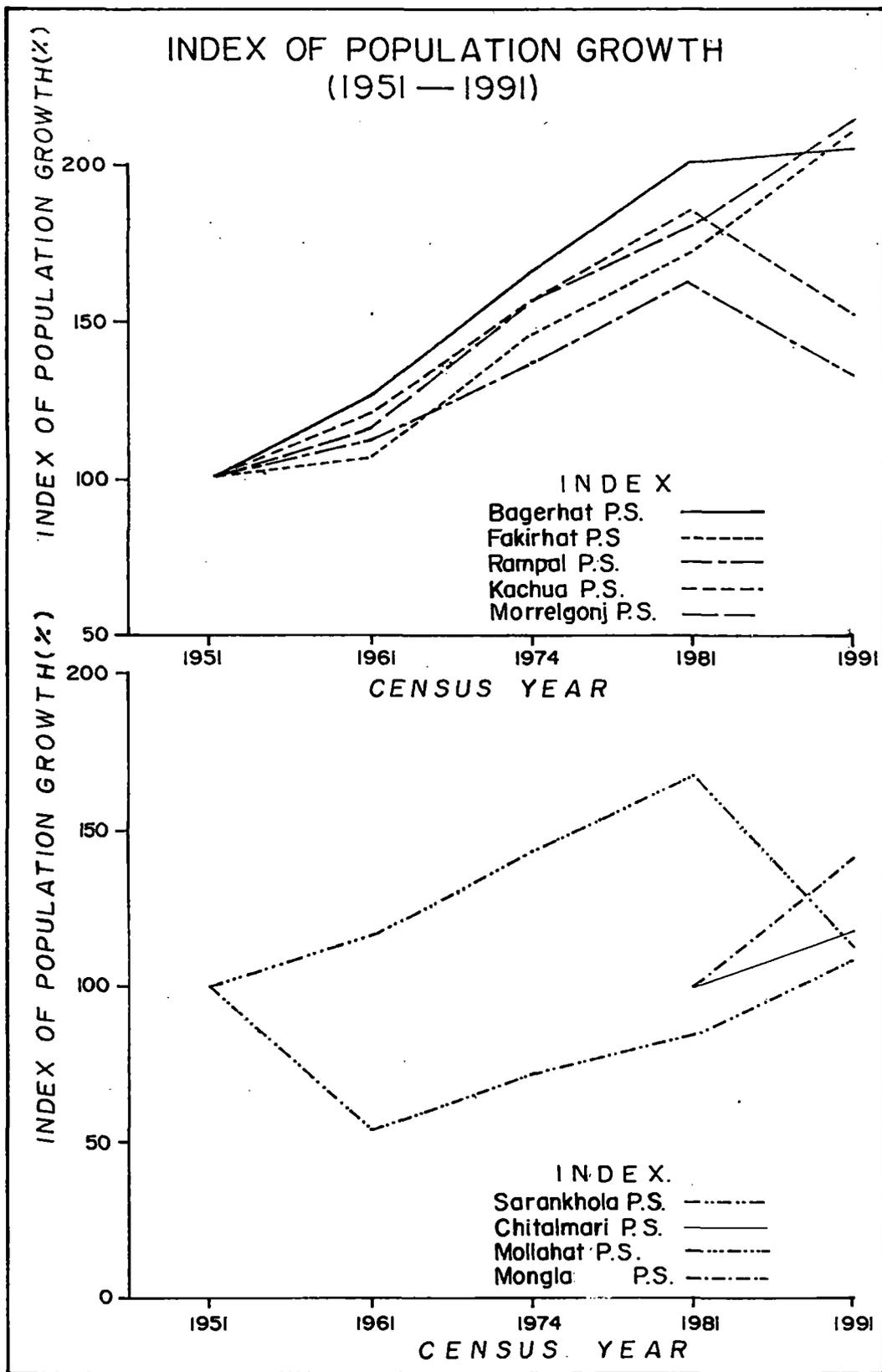


Fig. 3.5

isolation for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic process (Chandra & Sidhu,'80). The trend of literacy is the index of socio-economic development of a society. Literacy differentials exist not only amongst religious groups but also amongst social and occupational groups. Generally these differences of literacy reveal the socio-economic back-ground of these groups. Literacy concept is not the same in all the countries. It varies from country to country. According to population commission constituted by the United Nations, a person who has the ability both to read and write and understanding is called a literate (Bari,78).

The principal language of Bagerhat district is Bengali. The percentage of people speaking Bengali 99.08, Urdu 0.86 & others (English, Arabic) are 0.06 in 1974 Census. Bengali is the mother tongue of the people. The percentage of literacy recorded in the 1961 & 1951 Censuses were 22.40 & 23.90 respectively to the total population. According to the statistics of Education Department, there was altogether 752 schools in 1881. They were 6.7 percent males and 0.1 percent females of the district who can read and write.

According to Census '91, the Bagerhat district recorded 44.33 percent literacy (excluding children of below the 7 years age). In the same Census the national percentage of literacy was 24.23. The literacy of males is 49.54 percent while the females literacy was 38.86 percent of the population in the district. The female literacy is far below the male literacy. Too much engagement in the household works in addition to early marriage and negligency by the guardians to the female children, literacy rate amongst the females is low not only in the Bagerhat district but also in other parts of Bangladesh. Poverty in the rural areas has also contributed a lot to the poor figure of literacy among the women folks. Police Station wise literacy rate in Bagerhat district has been shown in table 3.7.

Table 3.7 Percentage of Literacy in different police stations

Year	1 Bagerhat			2 Chitalmari			3 Fakirhat			4 Kachua			5 Mollahat		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1981	44.5	52.2	36.3	27.8	35.4	20.0	40.6	48.8	31.9	42.2	49.3	34.9	26.7	33.9	19.4
1991	49.9	55.3	44.2	37.0	42.2	31.7	43.0	49.0	36.7	42.5	47.5	37.3	31.6	36.8	26.2
Growth	12.1	5.9	21.7	33.1	19.2	38.5	5.9	0.4	14.8	0.8	3.9	6.9	18.1	8.7	34.9

Year	6 Mongla			7 Morrelgonj			8 Rampal			9 Sarankhola			10 Dist. Total		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1981	38.9	47.5	28.1	42.1	48.9	35.3	39.2	47.2	30.6	38.8	43.9	33.5	39.1	46.5	31.2
1991	42.8	49.6	34.2	49.5	53.9	45.0	45.4	51.5	39.2	41.8	44.4	39.1	44.3	49.5	38.8
Growth	10.0	04.4	21.7	17.6	10.2	27.5	16.1	09.1	28.1	7.8	01.0	16.8	13.4	6.5	24.4

Table 3.7 shows that the highest growth rate of literacy is found in Chitalmari among nine police stations. On the other hand, Kahua recorded insignificant growth in literacy during last decades. The percentages of mauza in different ratios have been shown in table 3.8.

Table 3.8 Percentage of mauza by the size class of literacy rate

Literacy (percentage)	Percentage to Total									
	Bagerhat	Chitalmari	Fakirhat	Kachua	Mollahat	Mongla	Morrelgonj	Rampal	Sarankhola	District total
0 - 3	5.5	15.7	7.6	13.5	40.7	32.1	3.4	15.5	—	12.9
31 - 40	16.6	43.3	28.3	32.5	30.5	25.0	19.8	17.8	36.4	24.1
41 - 50	34.5	17.4	37.3	31.0	22.0	35.7	32.2	27.9	63.6	30.9
51 - 60	33.8	11.8	17.9	14.9	5.1	7.2	28.2	21.7	—	22.1
60 <	9.6	11.8	8.9	8.1	1.7	0.0	16.4	17.1	—	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

From table 3.8 it is found that highest percentage of mauzas are in the category 41 - 50% of literacy among nine police stations of the district. Bagerhat has recorded

low literacy rate in size class below 60%. It is further observed from table 3.8 that the second highest percentage of mauzas are in range of 31 - 40%. A few number of mauzas are found in the range of 60 and above percent. The district is economically and socially backward, so the literacy growth in rural areas was very slow, compared to that of urban areas in the last decade. The trend of literacy growth is higher among female folks than males. The decadal growth of the female literacy is 24.43 percent, whereas that of male is only 6.4 percent in the study area. It has been possible due to better educational facility provided by the Government for the females.

3.5 NATURE OF SEX-RATIO

The two sexes males as well as females play partly constructing and partly complementary role in the economy and society of a region. The study of sex composition assumes and added significance for Geographer. Franklin (1956) rightly observes that sex-ratio is an index of economy prevailing in an area and is a useful tool for regional analysis. Generally, sex-composition of population is measured in various ways in different countries. In Bangladesh sex-ratio is measured in reference to the number of males per thousand females. Sex-ratio plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country. The Bagerhat district covering mostly the built up plains and comparatively rich people bears a great significance respect of the sex-ratio.

According to 1991 Census, there were 953 females per thousand males in the Bagerhat district. This figure is little below the national average (965) of Bangladesh. The police station wise sex-ratio is represented in table 3.19 by size-classes.

Table 3.9 Distribution of mauza by size class of sex-ratio

(Percentage to total mauza)										
Size-Class	Bagerhat	Chitalmari	Fakirhat	Kachua	Mollahat	Mongla	Morrelgonj	Rampal	Sarankhola	District total
(% of Sex ratio)										
>800	1.4	3.9	3.0	2.7	5.5	—	4.2	8.5	—	3.7
801 - 900	13.8	1.8	11.9	12.7	12.7	13.8	10.7	19.4	9.1	13.4
901 - 1000	53.8	66.7	64.2	39.6	52.7	55.2	45.5	37.9	—	48.9
1001 - 1100	27.6	19.6	16.4	35.5	22.5	24.1	33.0	28.7	90.9	28.8
1101 <	3.4	2.0	4.5	9.5	6.6	6.9	6.6	5.5	—	5.2
Total	100.0									

Table 3.9 shows the mauza-wise distribution. The highest percentage of mauza of the district (48.9%) is found in 901 - 1000 size-class. The second highest mauzas (28.8%) is observed in the range of 1001-1100. The lowest percentage (3.7%) of mauzas is noticed in the size-class of below 800. There is synchronization of percentages of the sex-ratio in all police stations of the district. Among nine police stations, Sarankhola Police Station has the lowest (11) number of mauza and Rampal has the highest (14) number of mauzas of the district. It is also found that in Sarankhola the highest (90.9%) percentage of mauza is in size class of 1001 - 1100. And Bagerhat has the lowest (4.2%) percentage of mauza in the size-class >1300 of sex-ratio in the study area.

3.6 FAMILY SIZE OF THE POPULATION

Family size plays an important role in the rural economy of a region. It is related with the total population as well as the total households. In Bagerhat district there are 685 populated mauzas and nine police stations. Most of the family consist of 5 or 6 members. The distribution of family size is uneven and there are spatial variations within the police station. The percentage of mauzas having the family size of 4,5,6 & 6 and above, are 28.9, 64.9, 5.5 and 0.7 respectively. Chitalmari Police Station has 51 mauzas having family size 4-5. Their percentages are 25.5 & 72.5 respectively. Almost uniform family size is found in Fakirhat Police Station. The percentage of family members of each police stations having size classes of 3,4,5,6 and above 6 are low. The highest percentage (62.3) is found in size-class of 5 and lowest percentage (1.3) is in size class 3 in the district. Distribution of family size and their percentage of population are shown in table 3.10.

Table 3.10 Percentage of family size in the mauza of different police stations of Bagerhat district

(Percentage to total number of mauza)										
Size-Class	Bagerhat	Chitalmari	Fakirhat	Kachua	Mollahat	Mongla	Morrelgonj	Rampal	Sarankhola	District total
(family members)										
Less than 3	—	—	1.5	4.0	—	—	—	3.9	—	1.3
4	28.9	25.5	34.3	47.4	1.8	32.2	21.6	43.4	9.1	30.2
5	64.9	72.5	61.2	45.9	78.2	60.7	70.2	48.8	90.9	62.3
6	5.5	02.0	1.5	2.7	18.2	7.1	4.1	2.3	—	4.7
Above 6	0.7	—	1.5	—	1.8	—	4.1	1.6	—	1.5
Total	100.0									

From table 3.10 it is revealed that Sarankhola Police Station has only two categories of size class i.e. 4 & 5. Their respective percentages are 9.1 & 90.9. Six police stations cannot found below 3 persons family member. Remaining family size are 4,5 and 6. District wise average percentage of family size and their classes are almost the same. It is also revealed that a few number of mauza are in the range of above 6 persons in the district.

3.7 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF HOUSEHOLD

Occupation is the unitary relationship pattern of the three occupational components- primary, secondary & tertiary working poulation of an area. Occupation of the people in Bagerhat district is divided into following categories : (i) Cultivators (ii) Livestocks (iii) Agriculture (iv) non-agricultural labour (v) handloom (vi) Business (vii) Construction (viii) Transport (ix) Employee and (x) others, as per agriculture census of 1983. The number of households in each occupations for 1983 is given in the table 3.11.

Table 3.11 Percentages of different household occupations in the district

Name of P. S.	Cultivator	Livestock	Agriculture Labour	Non.agri. Labour	Handloom	Business	Const-ruktion	Transport	Employee	Others	Total
Bagerhat	29.6	03.2	14.0	8.0	0.01	15.9	0.87	5.6	10.4	12.2	100
Chitalmari	52.8	02.1	24.1	1.7	0.00	8.5	0.50	0.9	5.2	4.2	100
Fakirhat	38.2	03.9	16.9	6.0	0.01	14.3	0.60	3.0	8.3	8.0	100
Kachua	39.0	02.7	21.9	5.9	0.00	13.05	1.00	2.6	5.9	7.2	100
Mollahat	53.6	02.1	22.1	2.0	0.00	5.9	0.30	1.2	6.2	6.4	100
Mongla	21.4	07.1	12.4	13.4	0.00	15.0	0.96	1.9	16.3	11.4	100
Morrelgonj	35.5	04.7	20.7	6.8	0.07	11.9	1.10	1.4	5.6	12.3	100
Rampal	33.5	5.7	20.1	6.9	0.01	14.0	1.10	1.3	4.9	12.3	100
Sarankhola	32.9	13.6	12.0	7.3	0.00	14.1	1.20	0.8	5.8	12.3	100

The percentages of the different occupations have been calculated and represented in table 3.11. From table, it is found that 29.6 percent of households are cultivators in 'Sadar' Police Station, i.e. Bagerhat P.S. About 14 percent of total workers are in agricultural labourers. A very few number of households are engaged in handlooms. Among nine police stations, the cultivators are highest in Mollahat P.S (53.6%) and is lowest in Mongla Police Station. (21.4%). It is also found that both the police stations have highest percentage in business men (15.9 & 15.0). Chitalmari (24.1%) and Mollahat (22.1%) Police Stations recorded the highest and second highest percentage of households engaged in agriculture labour. Construction and handlooms are insignificant in each police station. The dominant occupation in the district has been shown in the table 3.12.

Table 3.12 Level of occupational pattern and dominant function

Name of P.S.	(Number of occupational activities)		Dominant functions
	Higher than average	Lower than average	
Bagerhat	7	3	C ₁ AL ₂ O ₃
Chitalmari	2	8	C ₁ AL ₂ B ₃
Fakirhat	4	6	C ₁ AL ₂ B ₃
Kachua	4	6	C ₁ AL ₂ B ₃
Mollahat	2	8	C ₁ AL ₂ O ₃
Mongla	6	4	C ₁ E ₂ B ₃
Morrelgonj	5	5	C ₁ AL ₂ O ₃
Rampal	7	3	C ₁ AL ₂ B ₃
Sarankhola	5	5	C ₁ B ₂ L ₃

C₁ = Cultivators, AL₂ = Agriculture labour, B₂ = Business, O₃ = Others, E₂ = Employee, L₃ = Livestock

Table 3.12 shows that the main occupation is agriculture in all the Police Stations. In the district. Agriculture labour is the second rank in occupation in 7 Police Stations. Trade and business is the third occupation in 6 police stations. It is also found that only employment is one of the dominant occupations in Mongla Police Station. A very few number of households are engaged in livestock, handloom, transport and constructions works. (Appendix Table - VI).

Agriculture plays an important role in rural economy. It is obvious that the percentage of households in agricultural activities in the district is extremely high compared to other occupational activities. The percentage of households in other occupations also very low, because of lack of resources and poor economic conditions of the region. A small percentage of people are engaged in transport & constructions. But their percentages are continuously increasing with the development of communication and infrastructure. The level of occupations are shown in table 3.13.

Table 3.13 Level of dominant occupational pattern in the police stations of the district

	(No. of P.S. in each occupation)									
	Cultivator	Livestock	Agriculture Labour	Non.agri. Labour	Handloom	Business	Const -ruction	Transport	Employee	Others
Higher than average	4	3	5	5	3	6	6	2	3	5
Lower than average	5	6	4	4	6	3	3	7	6	4
Total P.S.	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

From table 3.13 it is found that the level of occupational pattern of nine Police Stations in the district are not satisfactory. Number of police stations in higher than the average of total households in business, agriculture & agriculture labourer high. Contrarily, the lower than the average of occupational pattern in nine police stations are very meagre in transport, livestock & handloom. Finally, it can be stated that five categories of occupational activities are mainly found in the study area.

3.8 DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN IN THE DISTRICT

The Bagerhat district exhibited nondynamism in the occupational structure of the people. The highest number of people are working in households occupation in the district. The percentages of different kinds of occupations are visualised from table 3.14.

Table 3.14 Name of p.s. in different category of household workers

Percentage	Category	Number of P.S.	Name of the P.S.
36 - 37	Very low	5 (56%)	Bagerhat, Fakirhat, Chitalmari, Mollahat, Mongla
38 - 39	Low	2 (22%)	Kachua, Rampal
40 - 41	Moderate	1 (11%)	Morrelgonj'
42 - 43	High	1 (11%)	Sarankhola.

Analysing the study of occupations most of the working people are involved in household occupation. In Bangladesh, the oldest man of the family is the head of the household and he maintains the respective household with the help and co-operation of other family members. It reveals from table 3.8 that 5 police stations of the district is comprising 56% of the total are in very low category (11), working in the household occupations. Sarankhola police station comprising a few number of mauzas are in high category of household workers. Kachua & Rampal Police Stations are in low category of household workers. The percentage of agricultural occupation are shown in table 3.15.

Table 3.15 Name & percentage of police stations of agricultural occupation

Percentage	Category	Number of P.S. & its %	Name of the P.S.
Below 12	Very low	5 (11%)	Mongla
13 - 16	Low	2 (22%)	Bagerhat, Sarankhola
17 - 20	Moderate	3(34%)	Fakirhat, Rampal Morrelgonj
21 - 24	High	1(11%)	Kachua
25 - 28	Very high	1(11%)	Mollahat
28 above	Extraordinary	1(11%)	Chitalmari

Agriculture is the main source of income of people in the study area. Most of the people are indirectly dependent on agriculture. From table 3.15, it is observed that

Chitalmari & Mollahat police stations are the highest & extra-ordinary categories in agricultural occupation (11%). Mongla Police Station has the lowest category of agriculture. Analysing the occupational patterns, about 80% of working force of the district are engaged in agriculture cum agriculture labourer (Appendix table). It is also observed from table 3.15 that the moderate percentage of agricultural occupation shows in three Police Stations of the district.

Table 3.16 Number of police stations in different category of business

Percentage business	Category	Number of P.S. with percentage	Name of the P.S.
2 - 3	Very low	22% (2)	Chitalmari, Mollahat
4 - 5	Low	11% (1)	Morrelgonj
6 - 7	Moderate	56%(5)	Bagerhat, Fakirhat, Kachua Sarankhola, Rampal
above 8	High	11%(1)	Mongla

From the study of occupational structures of the district, there are 6.2 percent of the total working people of the study area of the total working people of the study area are involved in business (Appendix Table VI). From table 3.16, Chitalmari & Mollahat police stations have very low percentages of business works and Mongla police station has the highest percentage of workers in the same occupation. Bagerhat, Fakirhat, Kachua, Sarankhola and Rampal P.S have moderate category of business occupations.

Table 3.17 Percentage of services & others occupation in the district

Percentage	Category	Number of P.S. with percentage	Name of the P.S.
4 - 5	Low	33% (3)	Chitalmari, Mollahat, Kachua
7 - 9	Moderate	11% (1)	Sarankhola
10 - 12	High	22% (2)	Morrelgonj, Fakirhat
above 13	Very High	34% (3)	Mongla, Bagerhat, Rampal.

Among the categories of occupational structures, the services occupy the 4th rank of the total occupational pattern of the district. Out of nine Police Stations, Mongla is in the highest position and Chitalmari is in the lowest position in the district. (Appendix table VI). The percentage and number of services are very high in 3 police stations (Mongla, Bagerhat & Rampal). Sarankhola is a in moderate category in the district. (Table 3.17) Remaining P.S. (Morrelgonj & Fakirhat) are having highest (22%) category in the services & others occupation.

Table 3.18 Number and percentage of different categories of transport & communications.

Percentage	Category	Number of P.S. with percentage	Name of the P.S.
0.6 - 0.9	Very Low	22 % (2)	Chitalmari, Mollahat
1.0 - 1.3	Low	45 % (4)	Fakirhat, Morrelgonj, Sarankhola, Rampal
1.4 - 1.7	Moderate	11% (1)	Kachua
1.8 above	High	22 % (2)	Mongla, Bagerhat

From analysing occupational pattern, transport & communication is the 6th position in number of households having employment. They are involved in 1.3% in comparison to total occupational pattern. Bagerhat Police Station has the highest percent of households in transport & communication (25%) and Mollahat P.S. has the lowest percentage (0.6%) (Appendix table VI). It is observed from table 3.18 that Fakirhat, Morrelgonj, Sarankhola & Rampal are in lowest category of households and Kachua Police Station is in moderate category in transport & constructions. Bagerhat is the junction of road link, waterways & railways. So the highest percentage of households are employed in transport & communications. Fakirhat is also the junction of railways, and road routes. The percentage of transport & communication is also high in the areas because these are located in good road linkage.

Table 3.19 name of the police stations in different categories of non-workers

Percentage	Category	Percentage Number of P.S.	Name of the P.S.
17 - 19	Very Low	11% (1)	Mongla
20 - 22	Low	11% (1)	Sarankhola
23 - 24	Moderate	45% (4)	Chitalmari, Fakirhat, Morrelgonj, Rampal
25 above	High	33 % (3)	Bagerhat, Kachua, Mollahat

It is observed from table 3.19 that two Police Stations i.e. Mongla & Sarankhola have very low & have the lowest percentage of non-working people. Mongla is a sea port area and Sarankhola is a fertile zone of the region and also trade centre of forest products. Chitalmari, Fakirhat, Rampal & Morrelgonj P.S. have moderate type of non-working people and 3 police stations are in highest category of the district.

CONCLUSION

In the light of analysis it reveals that the demographic character has not evoked any significant rate of development during the last decades. The trend of growth in the last five decades was geometrically related. In the 1960's the higher growth rate in the district is due to high birth rate of population in the region. After 1970's the emigration of people & liberation war in 1971 were responsible for the lower growth rate. The overall population density in the district was 362 km² in 1991. It was corresponded the decadal population density trend. It is revealed that the density has been gradually increasing. But the rate of change was uneven e.g. the highest increase was recorded in 1951. Density is still low as compared to the other districts of the country. The trend of population density is lower during the last two decades. The total number of literate persons in the district was 70,555 in 1991. The percentage of literacy was 38.8. Of which, the male literacy was 49.3% & the female literacy was 44 percent. There was a wide gap between the male and female literacy but female literacy growth rate was higher than male. The trend of literacy has been increasing but the rates are uneven in different police stations. Among nine police stations, Morrelgonj leads others both in area & population. Other police stations contain nearly one lakh or more population. By comparing the sex ratio in the district, it is observed that females are less in number than males. Due to the low rate of literacy and high growth of population, employment opportunity shrinks. Agriculture is the main occupation of majority of people and as a result, most of the workers live under the poverty line. Hence, it is essential to identify the level of socio-economic functions in the district as well as in the police stations.