CHAPTER -2

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF PHYSICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE STUDY AREA

2.1 Introduction

Malda district is famous in West Bengal and India. Because in the medieval period the capital of Bengal was Pandua and Gaur (Lambourn 1819). Not only that, presently pandua and gaur in the Malda district are an important historical tourism centre. Malda district is famous for the mango fruits in India. Also, the Kaliachak region of the Malda district is famous for the cultivation of silk (sericulture). The day of independence of India is 15th August 1947. But the Independence Day of Malda district is 17th August 1947 (Mondal 2016). Because the Malda district was under East Pakistan (Bangladesh) from 15th August 1947 to 17th August 1947 (Gosh 2004). Malda district is an important district in West Bengal. Because Malda district is called the gateway of North Bengal. The Physical, cultural and socio-economic conditions of the Malda district are very diverse. So, the following are discussed below about the physical, cultural and socio-economic conditions of the Malda district.

2.2 Origin of the Name of Malda District

There are different opinions about the origin of the name of ‘Malda’ district because different philosophers have expressed different opinions. An opinion is that derived from the Arabic word 'Mal' comes to the word Maldah. The word "Mal" is an Arabic word its means wealth and the origin of the name "Maldah” probably signifies that it was an important centre of trade (Roy 2001). Another opinion is the origin of the word Maldah from the community of the local 'Maladh' name. Also, the name of the Malda is derived from the Bengali word 'Doho', which means the water reservoir (Mondal 2016). Because the name 'doho' has been named for many water bodies here. This means that the name of the Malda district is derived from the word 'Doho'. The main administrative centre of Malda district is the English Bazar. The English Bazar of Malda district was once the main trade centre of the English. It is called the English Bazar to be the main trade centre of English. At the present time, the tendency is to transfer the name of Malda to English Bazar and to called Malda town.

2.3 History of Malda District

Malda district is a central geographical position in West Bengal. Malda district is called the gateway of North Bengal (Ismail & Mustaquim 2013). In the medieval period, the capital of

Bengal was Pandua and Gaur. Gour and Pandua are almost equidistant north and south from English Bazar and on opposite sides of Mahananda, Gour being on the west and pandua on the eastern. Pandua and Gaur in Malda district are an important historical Tourist centre. Malda district is famous for the fruits of mango in India. Maldah was previously known as “English bazaar” and it got its name (English Bazar) from the English factory which was established here in 1771.

This district was formed out of some portions of outlying areas of Purnia, Dinajpur and Rajshahi districts in 1813. At the time of Dr. B. Hamilton (1808 - 09), the presents thanas of Gazole, Malda, Bamongola, and part of Habibpur were included in the district of Dinajpur and the thanas of Harischandrapur, Kharba, Ratua, Manikchak, and Kaliachak were included in the district of Purnia. In 1813, in consequence of the prevalence of serious crimes in the Kaliachak and Sahebganj thanas and also on the rivers, a Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector were appointed at Englishbazar with jurisdiction over a number of police stations cantering that place and taken from the two districts. Thus, the district of Malda was born. The year 1832 saw the establishment of a separate treasury and the year 1859 the posting of a full-fledged Magistrate and collector.

Until 1876, this district was part of the Rajshahi Division and between 1876 and 1905, this district formed part of the Bhagalpur division. In 1905, this district was again transferred to the Rajshahi division and till 1947 Malda district remained in this division (Lambourn 1819).

In August 1947, this district was affected by partition, between the 12th and 15th of August. 1947, the fate of the district as to which side it should go, to Pakistan or to India was undecided because the announcement of the partition award of Sir Radcliffe did not make this point clear. During these few days, the district was under a Magistrate of East Pakistan, when the details of the Radcliffe award were published, the district came over to West Bengal on the 17th of August. 1947. Therefore, the day of independence of the Malda district is 17th August 1947.

Malda has been a long-neglected district since independence of India, but it became a prominent place in West Bengal after the late A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, one of the prominent personalities of eastern India, took steps within his various capacities being minister of different portfolios from state to national ministries of India to develop Malda. Therefore, due to various development works by A. B. A Ghani Khan Chowdhury, the district of Malda has improved a lot today.

2.4 Administrative division

Malda district belongs to the Jalpaiguri division of West Bengal. Table 2.1 shows that there are two administrative divisions in this district (Chandramouli 2011). Namely the Chanchal subdivision and Malda Sadar subdivision. There are 6 blocks in the Chanchal subdivision of Malda district and 9 blocks in Malda Sadar subdivision. Chanchal-I, Chanchal-II, Harishchandrapur-I, Harishchandrapur-II, Ratua-I and Ratua-II blocks are included in the Chanchal subdivision. The Malda Sadar subdivision includes Manikchak, Kaliachak-I, Kaliachak-II, Kaliachak-II, Old Malda, Gazol, Habibpur and Bamongola blocks. English Bazar is the headquarters of the Malda district. According to the Census of India 2011 and Statistical Handbook 2016, there are 1814 Mouzas, 3701 Villages, 2008 Gram Sansads, 147 Gram panchayats, 15 Blocks, 2 Municipalities and 11 Police stations in Malda district. Old Malda municipality has 18 wards and 25 wards in the English Bazar municipality (Mondal K.K 2014). At present, the police stations of Malda district are Harischandrapur, Chanchal (Kharba), Ratua, Gazol, Malda, English Bazar, Manikchak, Bamongola, Habibpur, Kaliachak and Baishnab Nagar.

Table 2.1 Administrative Divisions of Malda District, 2011

Sub Division	Name of Block	Total Area	Gram Panchayat	Gram Sansads	No. of Mouza	No. of Villages
CHANCHAL	Harischandrapur-I	176.59	7	105	114	213
	Harischandrapur-II	223.77	9	120	82	215
	Chanchal-I	167.04	8	121	109	244
	Chanchal-II	211.42	7	108	98	113
	Ratua-I	237.50	10	148	101	194
	Ratua-II	179.19	8	103	58	123
	SIX BLOCKS	**1195.51**	**49**	**705**	**562**	**1102**
MALDA SADAR	Manikchak	331.49	11	154	82	144
	English Bazar	259.12	11	144	122	290
	Old Malda	222.18	6	87	125	242
	Habibpur	408.04	11	143	251	696
	Bamongola	212.13	6	89	152	231
	Gazol	529.17	15	196	298	223
	Kaliachak-I	108.55	14	195	71	123
	Kaliachak-II	229.46	10	108	75	347
	Kaliachak-III	267.98	14	187	76	303
	NINE BLOCKS	**2568.12**	**98**	**1303**	**1252**	**2599**
	RURAL AREA	**3351.63**	**147**	**2008**	**1814**	**3701**
	English Bazar	9.00				25
	Old Malda	13.63				18
	URBAN	**25.37**				**43**
	MALDA DT	**3377.00**				**-**

Source: Census of India, 2011 & District Statistical Handbook, 2016

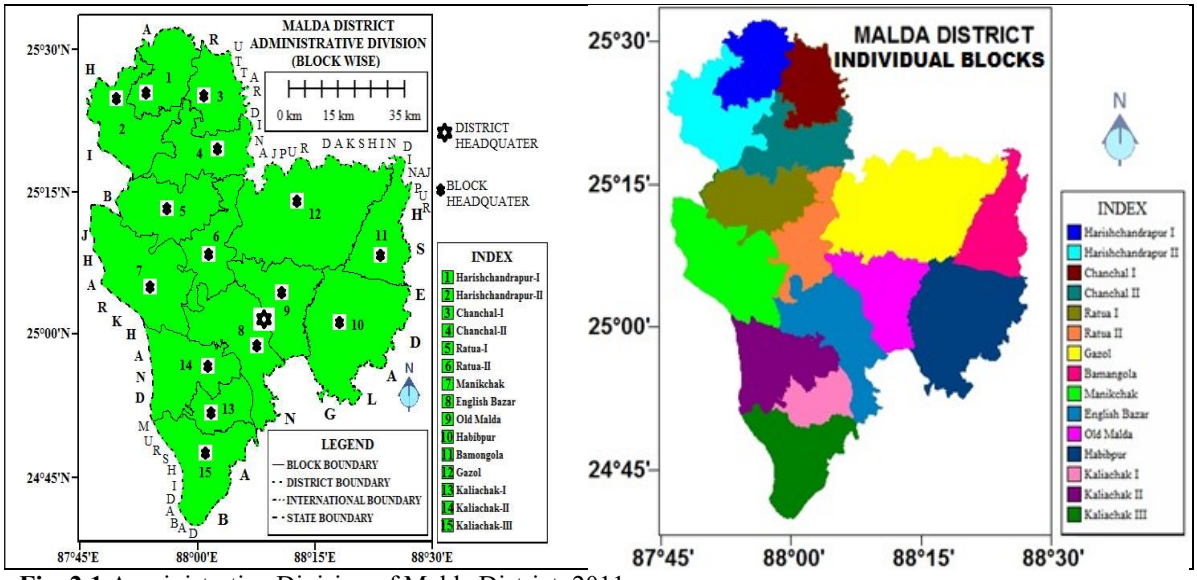

Fig. 2.1 Anministrative Division of Malda District, 2011

2.5 Physical Setup of Malda District

2.5.1 Physiography

The Mahananda River flows from North-West to South-East and divides the Malda district into two parts (Mondal 2016), namely Eastern and Western zones. Again, the Kalindri river divides the western region of the Malda district into two parts, namely the northern and southern parts. The eastern part of the Malda district is comparatively high and barren but the western part is low and fertile. Therefore, the Malda district can be divided into three parts according to the nature of topography and soil (Som 2011). Namely Barind, Tal and Diara (Table 2.2 & Fig. 2.2).

Table: 2.2 Physical divisions of Malda District in the following Blocks, 2011.

Regions	BARIND	DIARA	TAL
BLOCKS	Old Malda Habibpur Bamongola Gazol	Manikchak English Bazar Kaliachak-I Kaliachak-II Kaliachak-III	Harischandrapur-I Harischandrapur-II Chanchal-I Chanchal-II Ratua-I Ratua-II

Source: Bengal District Gazetteers: Malda & Maldah Jelar Itihas

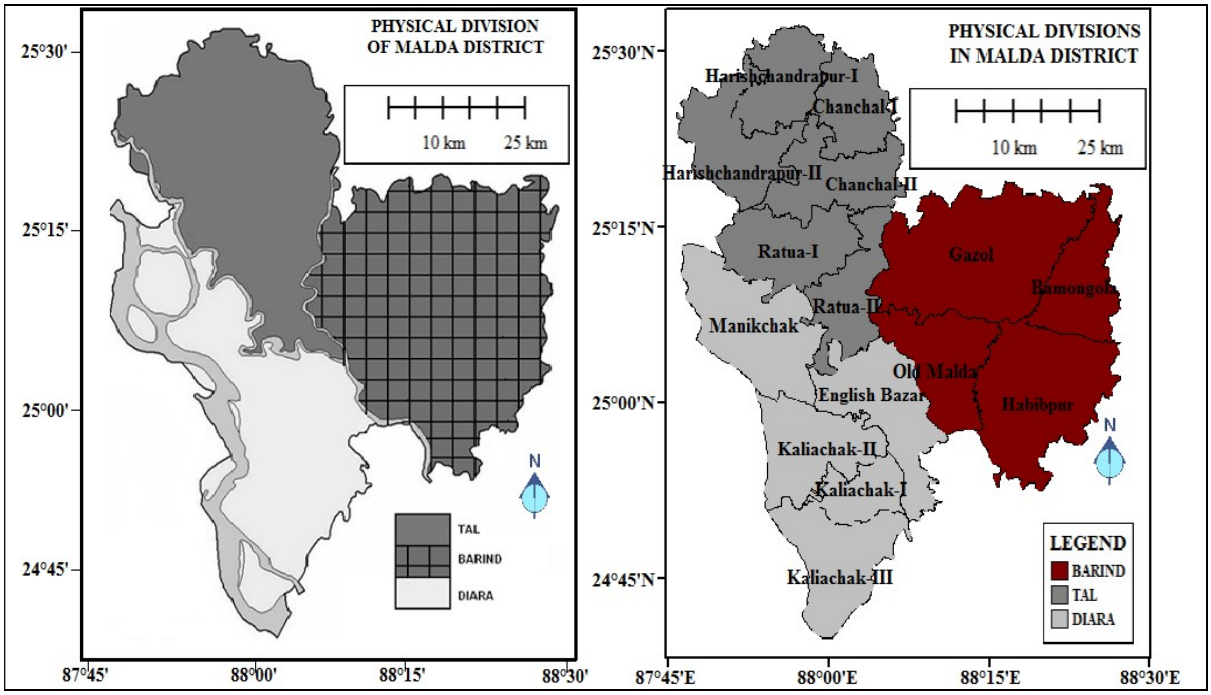

Fig. 2.2 Physical Divisions of Malda District, 2011

2.5.1.1 Barind

The Barind region is situated on the east side of the Mahananda River (Ghosh 2004). This region consists of Gazole, Habibpur, Bamangola and Old Malda blocks. On the east side of the Mahananda river, the region formed by red soil is called Barind. This area is 28 to 32 meters high above sea level. The ground floor of this region is an integral layer of granite stone, which is very difficult to penetrate the tube. Its extended part is Garo and Khasi Hills in the Meghalaya region. The soil in this region is very difficult and inefficient. This region has a higher elevation than other geographical regions of the Malda district.

2.5.1.2 Tal

Located on the west side of the Mahananda river and on the north side of the Kalindi river, the region is called Tal. This region is formed with the block of Harishchandrapur-I, Harishchandrapur-II, Chanchal-I, Chanchal-II, Ratua-I and Ratua-II blocks. The soil colour of this region is black. The cultivation of this region is very good because the soil is fertile. Due to the majority of the area being low, there are floods every year. There are numerous canals and bills here. This region is lower than in the Barind region. The height of this area is 18 to 20 meters above sea level. This region gradually sloping south and west and joins the Diara region.

2.5.1.3 Diara

The Diara region is situated on the south side of the Kalindri river and on the west side of the Mahananda river. This region is formed with the block of Kaliachak-I, Kalichak-II, Kaliachak-III, Manikchak and English Bazar blocks. The height of this region is 18 to 20 meters above sea level. Diara is the most populated area in Malda district. Because the soil of this region is very fertile, so the cultivation here is very good. This section of the Malda district is a new kind of nature. This region is composed of the clay soils of the Ganges.

2.5.2 Drainage

Malda is a river maternity district because many rivers flow through the Malda district. Table 2.3 & Fig. 2.3 shows that there are many rivers flowing through the district of Malda, such as the Ganga, Mahananda, Kalindri, Tangon, Purnabhaba, Bhagirathi and Pagla. Among the rivers of the Malda district, the Ganga and Mahananda rivers are the main (Bhattacharyya 2011). The main rivers of the Malda district are discussed in detail below.

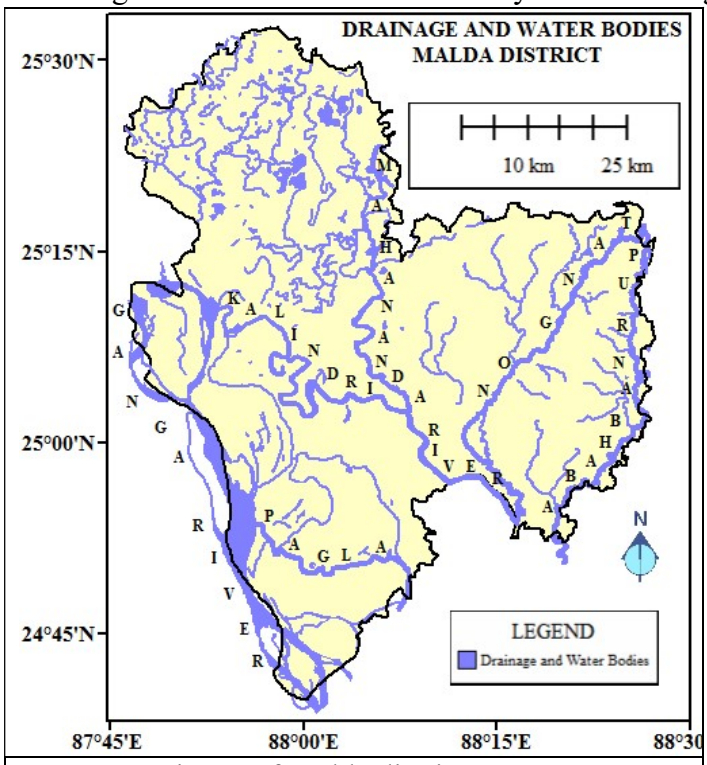

Fig. 2.3 Drainage of Malda district

2.5.2.1 Ganga

The Ganges is the main river of the Malda district. This river, originating from the Gangotri glacier of the Himalayan ranges, flows through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal and falls into the Bay of Bengal. The river Ganges entered through the Manikchak (Bhutni) block of the Malda district. This river flows through the Manikchak, Kaliachak-I and Kaliachak-II blocks on the south-west of Malda district. The main branches of the river Ganges are Fulahar, Bhagirathi and Kalindri. The total length of this river (including its tributaries) in the Malda district is 172 kilometers. Paradenapur of Kaliachak-III block of Malda district is the last point of this river. There are almost every year floods and erosion by the Ganga river in Manikchak and Kaliachak-II blocks of Malda district.

Table 2.3 The Drainage System (Main Rivers) in Malda District, 2011

River	Entry Point	Runs through the blocks	Length in the District*	Branches of Rivers	End Point
Ganga	Gaduri of Bhutnichar (Manikchak)	Kaliachak-III Kaliachak-II Manikchak	172 km.	Fulahar Bhagirathi Kalindri	Pardeonapur (Kaliachak-III)
Mahananda	Junction of Chanchal-I Ratua-II and Gazol	English Bazar Old Malda Habibpur Gazol	88.6 km.	Kalindri Pagla	Aiho (Habibpur)
Punarbhaba	North-Easter portion of Bamangola	Bamangola	64.4 km.	Haria	Eastern boarder of Bamangola
Tangon	Junction of Bamangola and Gazol	Bamangola Old Malda Habibpur Gazol	64.6 km.	Chunakali Khal	Mahananda
Kalindri	Mihaghat (HCP-II)	HCP-II Ratua-I Manikchak English Bazar	53 km	Fulahar	Mahananda at Bachamari (Old Malda)

Note: * Including Tributaries.
Source: Official Records, Office of the Assistant Engineer (Irrigation), Malda, 2011.

2.5.2.2 Mahananda

Mahananda is the second important river in the Malda district (Basak 2018). This river originates from the Paglajhora waterfall of Karshiyang of the Himalaya Mountains. This river flows through the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Bihar and North Dinajpur and enters into the Malda district. And flows through the Malda district to meet Padda river in Bangladesh. This river flows through Chanchal-I, Chanchal-II, Ratua, Gazol, Old Malda and English Bazar blocks of Malda district. The total length of this river in the Malda district is 88.60 kilometers. Its main tributary is Kalindri. This Kalindri river joins the Mahananda River near the Old Malda Police Station (Bachamari).

2.5.2.3 Kalindri

Kalindri river is a tributary of the Mahananda River and the distributary of the Ganges. In fact, the Kalindri river is a branch of Mahananda, which flows through the Purina district of Bihar state in the name of Fulahar. Actually, branches of the Kosi river. This river enters this district through Mihaghat of the Harishchandrapur-II block of the Malda district. This river flows through Harishchandrapur-II, Ratua-I, Manikkak and English Bazar blocks of Malda district. This Kalindri river joins the Mahananda River near the Old Malda Police Station The total length of Kalindri river in Malda district is 53 km.

2.5.2.4 Tangan

The great tributary of the Mahananda river is Tangan. This river flows through Jalpaiguri, Bangladesh and South Dinajpur (W.B) districts and enters the Malda district. This river flows through the Gazole, Bamangola, Old Malda and Habibpur blocks of Malda district and joins the Mahananda River. This Tangan river joins the Mahananda River near Muchia and Ahio. The old way of this river in the old Malda block, known as Chunakhali. In Malda district the junction area of Tangan and Purnabhaba river is low. The low valley of this river is known as Doba in the local language. Tangan and Purnabhaba river valley in the Malda district have triangular shapes in the Barind region. The total length of the Tangan river in the Malda district is 64.60 kilometers. The main feeder of this Tangan river is Chunakhali.

2.5.2.5 Purnabhaba

Purnabhaba river originates from the reservoir of Bramhanpukur in the Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. This river first flows through the Dinajpur district of Bangladesh and later in the South Dinajpur district of West Bengal and entered the Malda district. This river flows through Bamongola and Habibpur blocks on the eastern boundary of the Malda district. This river finally enters the Rajshahi district of Bangladesh and joined the Mahananda River. Two branches of this river are called 'Hariya' in the local language at Mahadevpur (J.L. No-141) and Khutadah (J.L. No-142) Mouza of the Bamangola block (Basak 2018). The total length of this river in the Malda district is 64.40 kilometers. The main branch of this river is Hariya. The names of other rivers in the district of Malda are Phulhar, Pagla and Behula.

2.5.3 Climate

Table 2.4 Climate Condition of Malda District

Name of the month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mean Rainfall	0	15	2	53	72	266	140	317	146	254	0	0
Maximum Temperature	22	28	34	35	34	34	34	33	34	31	29	25
Mean Temperature	16.5	22	27.5	29.5	29.5	30.5	31	30	30.5	27.5	24	20
Minimum Temperature	11	16	21	24	25	27	28	27	27	24	19	15

Source: Malda District Statistical Hand Book, 2016.

Climate of Malda District

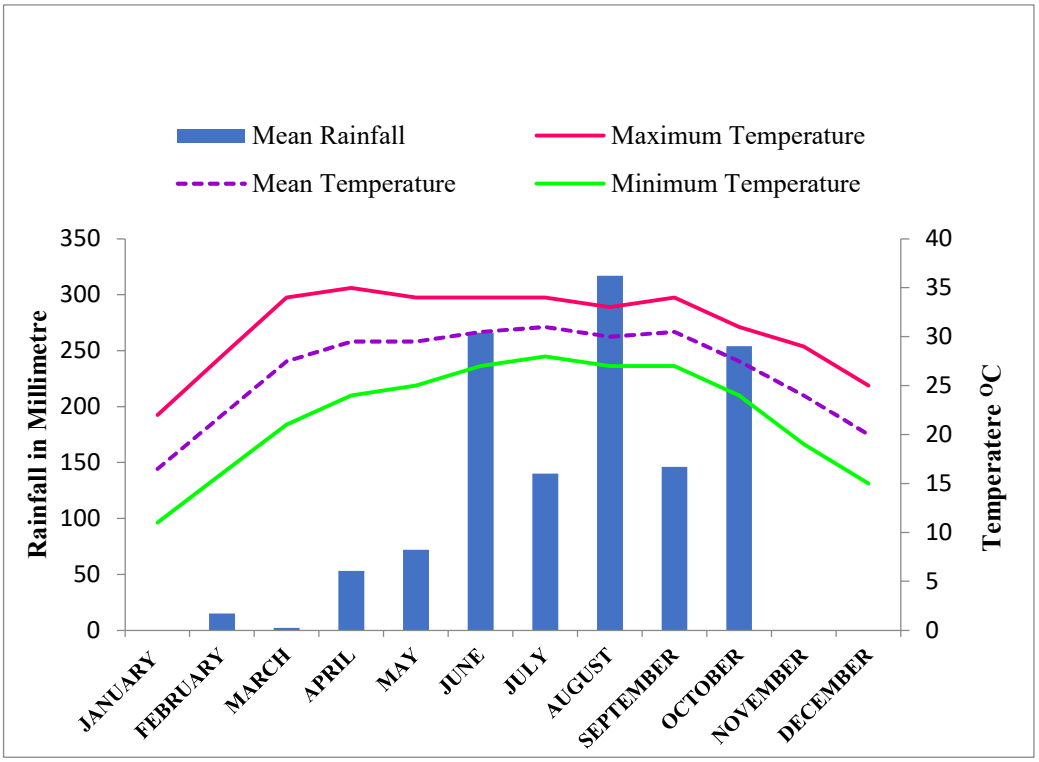

Fig. 2.4 Climate of Malda district, 2016.

Table 2.4 and Fig. 2.4 shows that the climate of the Malda district is the tropical monsoon. The main characteristic of this climate is that the winter season is dry and the summer season is moist (Basak 2018). The Government of India's Meteorological Department, divided the climate of the Malda district into four main seasons, as follows:

i. Winter season
ii. Summer season
iii. Arrival of monsoon season or Rainy season.
iv. Retreating monsoon season or Autumn season

i. **Winter season**

The winter season starts from the last week of November to the end of February. This means that the cold season starts on about the middle of November and continues till the end of February. Rainfall is not due to the absence of air humidity at this time. Malda district generally does not have rainfall in the winter season. However, in some years of rainfall, its amount is very low. During this winter season, the temperature range is between 11° C-29° C, and the average monthly temperature of this season is 20° C. Annual average rainfall in the Malda

district is 106 mm. In the winter season, there are western disturbances in the Malda district. As a result, there is very low rainfall in this winter season.

ii. Summer season

The summer season is from March to May. The temperature of this season starts increasing from the month of March to May. As a result, this season is very hot. During this summer season, the temperature range is between 21° C-34° C, and the average monthly temperature of this season is 29.5° C.

iii. Rainy season.

The period of monsoon starts from June to September. This time the air pressure is very low. As a result, this season the south-west monsoon winds flow. This time there is too much rainfall. The average annual rainfall of this season is 217 mm. However, the average annual rainfall in the Malda district is 106 mm.

iv. Autumn season

Autumn season or the season of returning Monsoon starts after the months of September. This means that the Autumn season is from the months of October to November. In this season, the overhead position of the sun shifts to the Southern Hemisphere and decreases the low pressure of wind over the north-western part of India. As a result, the south-west monsoon winds start moving back towards the south. This is called the retreating of the monsoon winds.

Therefore, the climatic conditions of the Malda district are an extreme condition. Because it is very hot in the summer, it is very cold during the winter and there is plenty of rain in the rainy season.

2.5.4 Soil

There is red and strong soil in Barind area of Malda district, which is not suitable for agriculture. Therefore, there was no improvement in agricultural production in this region. But the Tal and Diara region of Malda district is made up of sediment or alluvial soil, which is very fertile and favourable for agriculture (Bhattacharyya 2011). As a result, agriculture has improved very much in this region.

2.5.5 Natural Vegetation

As per the 2014 statistical handbook of the Malda district, there are 1703.04 hectares of natural vegetation. Most natural vegetation in the Malda district is deciduous. The main natural

vegetation of Malda district is Pipal, Bat, Simul, Pakur, Neem, Jack-fruit, Tetul or Tamarind, Jam, Bamboo and Mango etc. There is a jungle in some places in the Barind area of Malda district. The famous Forrest of Malda district is Adina Forest.

Table 2.5 Forest resource of Malda district

Area by class of forest	Area under forest (Hectares)	
	2005 – 2006 Year	2006 – 2007 Year
Reserve forest	806.50	773.95
Protected forest	378.00	373.04
Unclassed state forest	509.80	556.05
Total	1694.30	1703.04

Source: Divisional forest officer, Malda

Table 2.5 shows that in the district of Malda, Reserves Forrest was 806.50 hectares, Protected Forest 378.00 hectares and unclassed State Forest 509.80 hectares, total 1694.30 hectares in 2005-06. Again, in 2006-07, the Reserved Forrest was 773.95 hectares, Protected Forest 373.04 hectares and Unclassed State Forest 556.05 hectares, total 1703 hectares. Therefore, the amount of reserve and protected forests decreased in 2006-07 compared to 2005-06. This means that deforestation is being done in the Malda district.

2.5.6 Agricultural Practice

According to the 2014 Statistical Handbook, the amount of cultivable land in the Malda district is 259121 hectares. Malda district is an agricultural major area (Mondal 2016). Farming is the important economic field of the Malda district. In Malda district paddy (Aus, Aman and Boro), wheat, maize, jute, potato, oilseed and various kinds of vegetables are cultivated. Mango is the main fruit of this district. Various varieties of mango are cultivated in this district, such as Fazli, Langra, Gopalbhog, Lakhanbhog, Himasagar and Amrapalli, etc. In addition, litchi, guava, banana and pineapple are cultivated in the Malda district. The cultivation of silk (sericulture) is very good in the Kaliachak region of the Malda district.

2.5.7 Industry

Malda district is not very advanced in terms of different kinds of large-scale industry. But some different types of industries have been established in this district. The Narayangpur region of the Old Malda block of Malda district is at the Industrial Growth Center. Because some medium and large-scale industries have been established here, such as bricks, Horlicks, silk

and cement industries, etc. The small and medium-sized industries have been established in Malda district are rice mill, flour mill, oil mill, jelly, wood furniture, iron and steel furniture, paper mill and the printing press, etc. Also, various types of handicrafts such as bamboo furniture, rattan furniture, earthen furniture, mat, leather industry and agricultural machinery manufacturing (construction) industry, etc.

2.6 Cultural Setup of the Malda District

2.6.1 Population

Table: 2.6 Basic Population Data in Malda District

Description (As Per Census)	**2011**
Actual Population	**3,988,845**
Male	2,051,541
Female	1,937,304
Population Growth	**21.22%**
Area Sq. Km	3,733
Density/km2	**1,069**
Proportion to West Bengal Population	**4.37%**
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	**944**
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	950
Average Literacy	**61.73**
Male Literacy	66.24
Female Literacy	56.96
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	**609,040**
Male Population (0-6 Age)	312,340
Female Population (0-6 Age)	296,700
Literates	**2,086,432**
Male Literates	1,152,019
Female Literates	934,413
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	**15.27%**
Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)	15.22%
Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)	15.32%

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table 2.6 shows that according to the census of India 2011, the total population of Malda district is 3,988,845 persons, out of which 2,051,541 persons are males and 1,937,304 persons are females. It is 4.37 percent of the total population of West Bengal. The total area of the Malda district is 3733 sq km. The population density in the Malda district is 1069 persons per square kilometer. The population growth rate in the Malda district is 21.22 percent (from 2001 to 2011). The sex ratio of the Malda district (Per 1000) is 944 Persons. In Malda district, 2086432-person people are literate, out of which 1152019 persons are males and 934413 persons are females. Malda district has an average literacy rate is 61.73 percent, Out of which 66.24 percent of males and 56.96 percent of females. The rate of Child Proportion (0-6 Age) in the Malda District is 15.27 percent.

2.6.2 Distribution of Non-Scheduled & Scheduled Population

Table: 2.7 Distribution of Non-Scheduled & Scheduled Population in Malda district

Social Categories	Persons	Percentage
Non – Scheduled Cast & Scheduled Tribes	2839431	71.19
Scheduled Cast (SC)	835430	20.94
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	313984	7.87

Source: Census of India, 2011

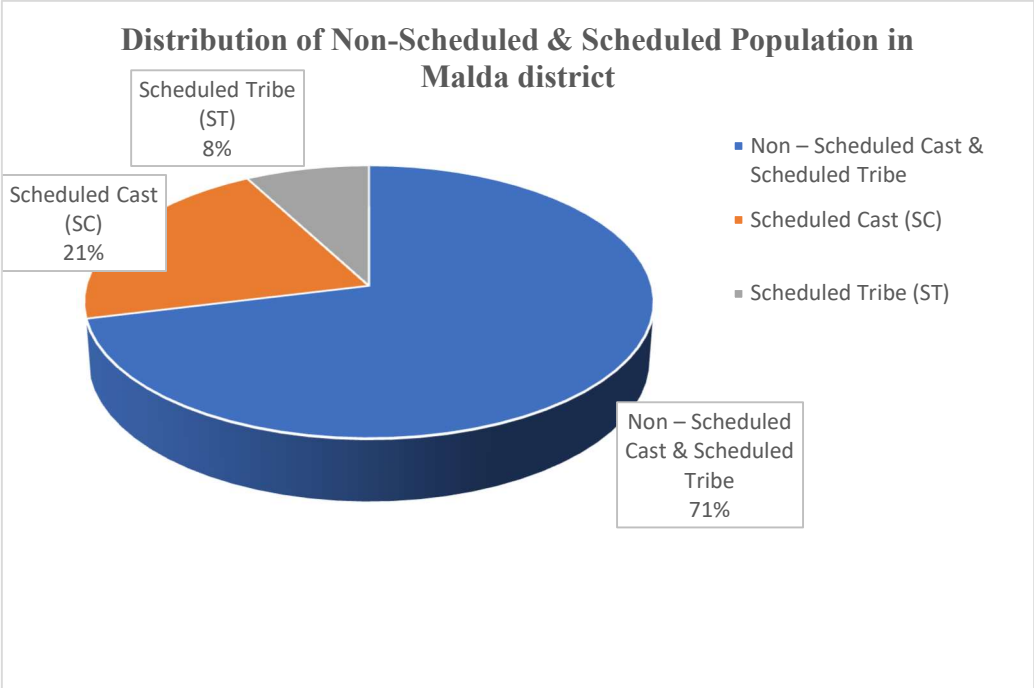

Fig. 2.5 Distribution of Non-Scheduled & Scheduled Population in Malda district, 2011.

Table 2.7 & Fig. 2.5 shows that the according to Census of India 2011, Malda district has a Non-Scheduled cast & Scheduled tribe people 2839431 (71.19 %) persons, Scheduled cast 835430 (20.94%) persons and Scheduled tribes 313984 (7.87%) persons. Therefore, the number of tribal people in the Malda district is very less than the non-tribal people.

2.6.3 Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Population

Table 2.8 Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Population in Malda District

Area	All Population in Malda District	Percentage	Scheduled Tribe Population	Percentage
Rural	3447185	86.42	307625	97.97
Urban	541660	13.58	6359	2.03
Total	3988845	100.00	313984	100.00

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table 2.8 shows that the according to Census of India 2011, the total population of Malda district is 3988845 Persons, out of which 3447185 Persons are live in (86.42 percent) Rural Area and 541660 Persons are live in (13.58 percent) Urban Area. The total tribal population in Malda district is 313984 persons out of which 307625 persons (97.97 percentage) people are live in rural areas and 6359 persons (2.03 percentage) people are live in urban areas. Therefore, the number of tribal people in urban areas is very low compared to rural areas of Malda district.

Table 2.9 Tribal population in Malda district

District	Scheduled Tribe (ST) Population in Malda District			Percentage of Malda ST Population to State (West Bengal) ST Population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Malda	313984	157528	156456	5.92	5.94	5.91

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table 2.9 shows that the total tribal population in the Malda district is 31,394 persons, which is 5.92 percent of the total tribal population in West Bengal. In the Malda district, the total number of the tribal male population is 157528 persons, which is 5.94 percent of the total tribal male population in West Bengal. Also, the total tribal female population in this district is 156456 persons, which is 5.91 percent of the total tribal female population in West Bengal.

2.6.4 Density of total population

Table 2.10 Density of the total population in Malda District (in Per Square KM)

SL. NO.	Name of the Zone	Name of Blocks	Density
1	Low population density zone. (873 Below persons)	Habibpur	531
		Gazol	669
		Old Malda	686
		Bamongola	698
		Manikchak	853
2	Moderate population density zone. (873 to 1747 persons)	Harischandrapur-I	1164
		Harischandrapur-II	1154
		Chanchal-I	1074
		Chanchal-II	1001
		Ratua-I	1223
		English Bazar	1090
		Kaliachak-II	1004
3	High population density zone. (1747 to 2621 persons)	Ratua - II	1995
4	Very high population density zone. (2621 Above persons)	Kaliachak - I	3682
		Kaliachak - III	2819

Source: Census of India 2011. **Note:** Mean = 1310 & Standard Deviation (SD) = 874

According to the Census of India 2011, the density of the population in the Malda district is 1069 Persons per square km. Table 2.10 shows that among the blocks of Malda district, the density of the population is very different. It varies from 531 persons per square km in Habibpur to 3682 persons per square km in the Kaliachak-I block. Based on population density, the Malda district can be divided into four zones, as follows.

i. Low population density zone
ii. Moderate population density zone
iii. High population density zone
iv. Very high population density zone

i. Low population density zone

The number of people lives in less than 873 persons per square km is called a low population density zone. Five blocks under this category are Habibpur (531 persons), Old Malda (686 persons), Gazol (669 persons), Bamongola (698 persons) and Manichak (853 persons).

ii. Moderate population density zone

The number of people lives between 873 – 1747 persons per square km is called a moderate population density zone. It includes the blocks of Chanchal-I (1074 persons), Chanchal-II (1001 persons), Harishchandrapur-I (1164 persons), Harishchandrapur-II (1154 persons), English Bazar (1090 persons), Kaliachak-II (1004 persons) and Ratua-I (1223 persons).

iii. High population density zone

The blocks of the district include in this category wherein the population density is between 1747 – 2621 persons per square km. This category only one block is Ratua-II (1995 persons).

iv. Very high population density zone

This category includes such blocks of the district where the density of population is 2621 persons above per square km. These blocks are Kaliachak-I (3682 persons) and Kaliachak-III (2819 persons).

2.6.5 Density of tribal population

According to the Census of India 2011, the density of the population in the Malda district is 78 Persons per square km. Table 2.11 shows that among the blocks of Malda district, the density of the population is very different. It varies from 04 persons per square k.m in Chanchal-I to 199 persons per square k.m in Kaliachak-III block. Based on population density, Malda district can be divided into four zones (regions), as follows.

i. Low population density zone
ii. Moderate population density zone
iii. High population density zone
iv. Very high population density zone

Table 2.11 Density of the ST population in Malda District (in Per Square KM)

SL. NO.	Name of the Zone	Name of Blocks	Density
1	Low Population Density Zone. (47 Below Persons)	Harischandrapur-I	24
		Harischandrapur-II	33
		Chanchal-I	04
		Ratua - II	19
		English Bazar	21
		Kaliachak - I	14
		Kaliachak - II	23
2	Moderate Population Density Zone. (47 to 109 Persons)	Chanchal-II	72
		Ratua-I	104
		Old Malda	103
3	High Population Density Zone. (109 to 171 Persons)	Manikchak	127
		Habibpur	154
		Bamongola	141
		Gazol	133
4	Very High Population Density Zone. (171 Above Persons)	Kaliachak - III	199

Source: Census of India 2011. **Note:** Mean = 78 & Standard Deviation (SD) = 62

i. Low population density zone

The number of people lives in less than 47 persons per square km is called a low population density zone. This category includes seven blocks, namely Harischandrapur-I (24 persons), Harischandrapur-II (33 persons), Chanchal-I (04 persons), Ratua-II (19 persons), English Bazar (21 persons), Kaliachak-I (14 persons) and Kaliachak-II (23 persons).

ii. Moderate population density zone

The tribal population density in this category between 47 – 109 persons per square km. This category includes three blocks. The names of these blocks are Chanchal-II (72 persons), Ratua-I (104 persons) and Old Malda (103 persons).

iii. High population density zone

The blocks of the district include in this category wherein the population density is between 109 – 172 persons per square km. The four blocks included in this category are Manikchak (127 persons), Habibpur (154 persons), Bamongola (141 persons) and Gazol (133 persons).

iv. Very high population density zone

This category includes such blocks of the district where the density of tribal population is above 171 persons per square km. This category only one block is Kaliachak-III (199 persons).

If tribal population density is compared with the normal population density it will be apparent that in all the cases i. e. from low to very high density the tribal population is significantly low.

2.6.6 Different types of tribal people

Table 2.12 Category Wise Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population in Malda

Sl. No	Tribal category	Persons	Percentage
1	Santal	161062	51.29
2	Oraon	27464	8.75
3	Kharwar	22743	7.24
4	Kora	20337	6.48
5	Munda	19240	6.13
6	Other (Malpaharia, Mahali, Lodha, Chakma & Bhutia)	63138	20.11
7	Total	313984	100

Source: Census of India, 2011

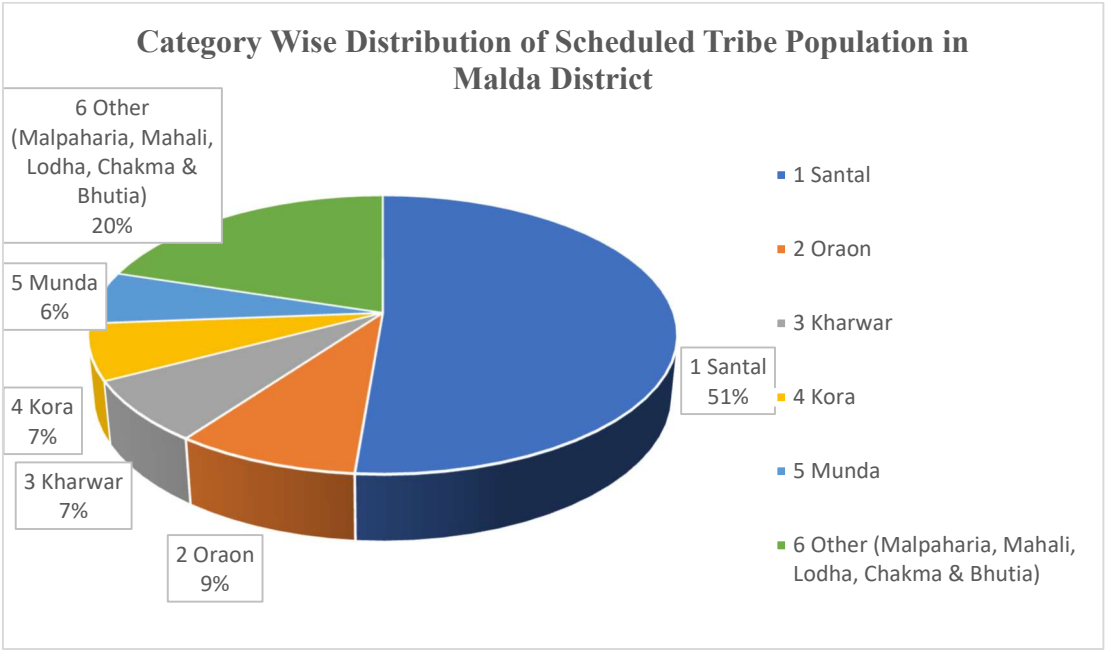

Fig. 2.6 Category Wise Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population in Malda, 2011

Table 2.12 & Fig. 2.6 shows that the according to the Census of India 2011, the total number of tribal populations in Malda district are 313984 persons, out of which Santal has 161062 persons (51.29 percent), Oraon 27464 persons (8.75 percent), Kharwar 22743 persons (7.24 percent), Kora 20337 persons (6.48 percent), Munda 19240 persons (6.13 percent) and other

63138 persons (20.11 percent). The number of Santal tribal people are higher than the other tribal people of Malda district. Among these tribes of the Malda district, most of the tribal people came from Jharkhand (Roy 2005).

2.6.7 Literacy as a whole

Table 2.13 Literacy of Malda District

Literates	Number	Literacy rate in percentage
Persons	2086432	61.73
Males	1152019	66.24
Females	934413	56.96

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table 2.13 shows that according to the Census of India 2011, the total literate persons in Malda district is 2086432, which is the Literacy rate of this district 61.73 percent. Malda district has a male literacy rate is 66.24 percent (1152019 persons) and the female literacy rate is 56.96 percent (934413 persons). Therefore, male literacy rates in the Malda district are higher than female.

2.6.8 Tribal literacy

Table 2.14 Literacy of the Scheduled Tribes in Malda District

	Rural		Urban		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Literates	47.33 (72960)	32.03 (49153)	58.10 (1959)	52.06 (1555)	47.56 (74919)	32.41 (50708)
Total Literates	39.68 (122113)		55.08 (3514)		40.01 (125627)	

Source: Census of India, 2011, **Note:** Figures within bracket indicate the persons of literate.

Table 2.14 reveals that the according to Census of India 2011, The total literacy rate among the scheduled tribe population in the Malda district is 40.01 percent (125627 persons), out of which 47.56 percent (74919 persons) of male and 32.41 percent (50708 persons) of the female. The rural area total literacy rate among the scheduled tribe population is 39.68 percent (122113 persons), which are including male 47.33 percent (72960 persons) and female 32.03 percent (49153 persons) of the study area. And the urban area total literacy rate among the scheduled tribe population is 55.08 percent (3514 persons), which are including 58.10 percent (1959 persons) of males and 52.06 percent (1555 persons) of the female in the Malda district. Therefore, tribal literacy rates in urban areas are higher compared to the rural areas of Malda district. Also, tribal men literacy rates in both rural and urban areas are higher than women.

2.6.9 Education of the Scheduled Tribes

Table 2.15 Different levels of Tribal Education by sex in Malda district (in %)

Level of Education	Total	Male	Female
Pre-Primary (Nursery, KG-I & KG-II)	18.47	17.08	19.86
Primary (I-IV)	36.07	34.07	38.07
Upper Primary (V-VIII)	15.06	14.15	15.97
Secondary (IX-X)	19.46	21.29	17.63
Higher Secondary (XI-XII)	6.43	7.64	5.21
Under Graduate	3.32	4.12	2.52
Post Graduate	1.19	1.65	0.74
Professional & Technical	1.55	2.11	0.86

Source: SSM in Malda, AISHE & GBU in Malda, 2012-16.

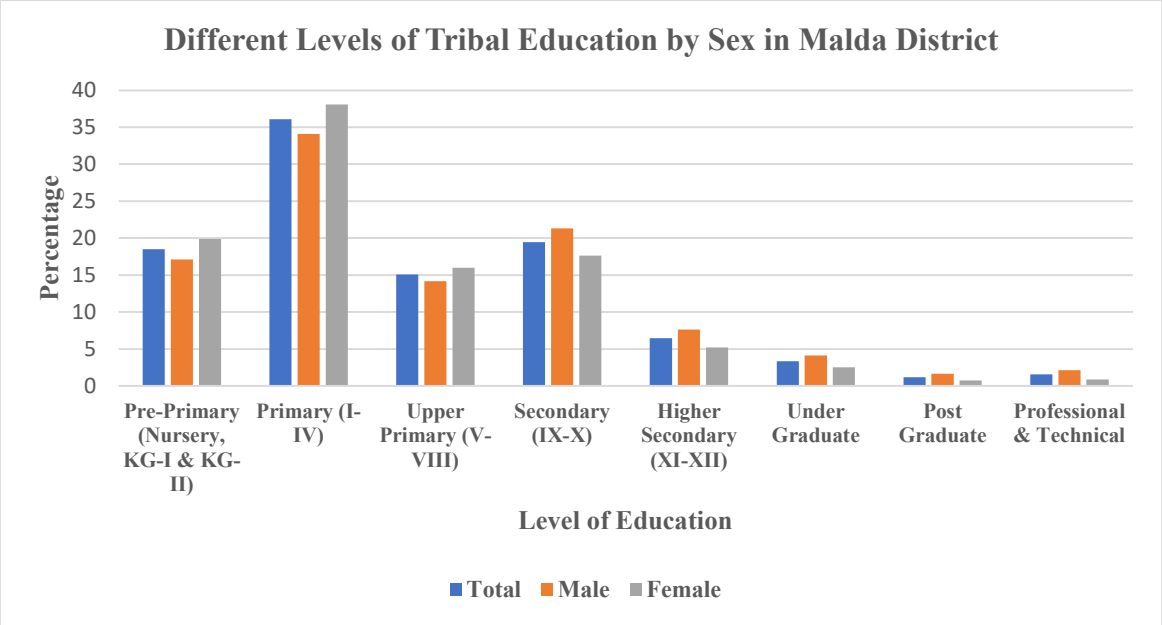

Fig. 2.7 Status of Tribal Education in Malda district, 2012-16.

Table 2.15 and Fig. 2.7 shows that the different levels of tribal education rates in the Malda district are Pre-primary 18.47 percent, Primary 36.07 percent, Upper Primary 15.06 percent, Secondary 19.46 percent, Higher Secondary 6.43 percent, Undergraduate 3.32 percent, Postgraduate 1.19 percent and Professional & Technical 1.55 percent. And the rates of tribal male education in the Malda district are Pre-primary 17.08 percent, Primary 34.07 percent, Upper primary 14.15 percent, Secondary 21.29 percent, Higher Secondary 7.64 percent, Undergraduate 4.12 percent, Postgraduate 1.65 percent and Professional & Technical 2.11 percent. On the other hand, the rates of tribal female education in the Malda district are Pre-primary 19.86 percent, Primary 38.07 percent, Upper primary 15.97 percent, Secondary 17.63

percent, Higher Secondary 5.21 percent, Undergraduate 2.52 percent, Postgraduate 0.74 percent and Professional & Technical 0.86 percent.

All Primary (pre-primary, primary & upper primary) education levels of female students are higher education rates than male students but Secondary, Higher Secondary and Higher education levels of male students are higher education rates compared to female students of the study area.

From the pre-primary education level to the higher education level, according to the percentage of education rate, it is show in sequence that 1st position primary education level (36.07 percent), 2nd secondary (19.46 percent), 3rd pre-primary (18.47 percent), 4th upper primary (15.06 percent), 5th higher secondary (6.43 percent), 6th undergraduate (3.32 percent), 7th professional & technical (1.55 percent) and 8th postgraduate (1.19 percent) education level has occupied place.

After the secondary education (19.46 percent) level, the rate of education suddenly decreased in the level of higher secondary (6.43 percent) education. Because after passing the secondary examination, a large number of students leave their studies. The main reason for this is financial problems, for the lack of money, most tribal students stop studying and go to work in the outside state. There is also a lack of higher educational institutions near the indigenous region.

2.6.10 Work participation rates as a whole

Table 2.16 Work participation rates in Malda district, (in %)

Social category	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Household Based Workers	Other Workers
General	20.83	30.72	15.61	32.84
Scheduled Caste	23.88	38.98	8.30	28.84
Scheduled Tribes	43.04	45.06	1.95	9.95

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Table 2.16 & Fig. 2.8 reveals that the according to Census of India 2011, the work participation rates of the general categories in the Malda district are 20.83 percent of cultivators, 30.72 percent of Agricultural Labourers, 30.72 percent of home-based workers and 15.61 percent of others workers. The work participation rates of the Scheduled Cast population in Malda district, cultivators are 23.88 percent, Agricultural Labourers 38.98 percent, Home-Based Workers 8.30 percent and other workers 28.84 percent. On the other hand, work participation rates of the Scheduled Tribe population in Malda district, cultivators are 43.04 percent, Agricultural

Labourers 45.06 percent, Home-Based Workers 1.95 percent and others workers 9.95 percent. Therefore, most of the tribal people are working as cultivators and agricultural laborers compared to Non-tribal people. But very few tribal people are working as Home-based Workers and Other Workers (Business, Government & Private jobs) compared to Non-tribal people.

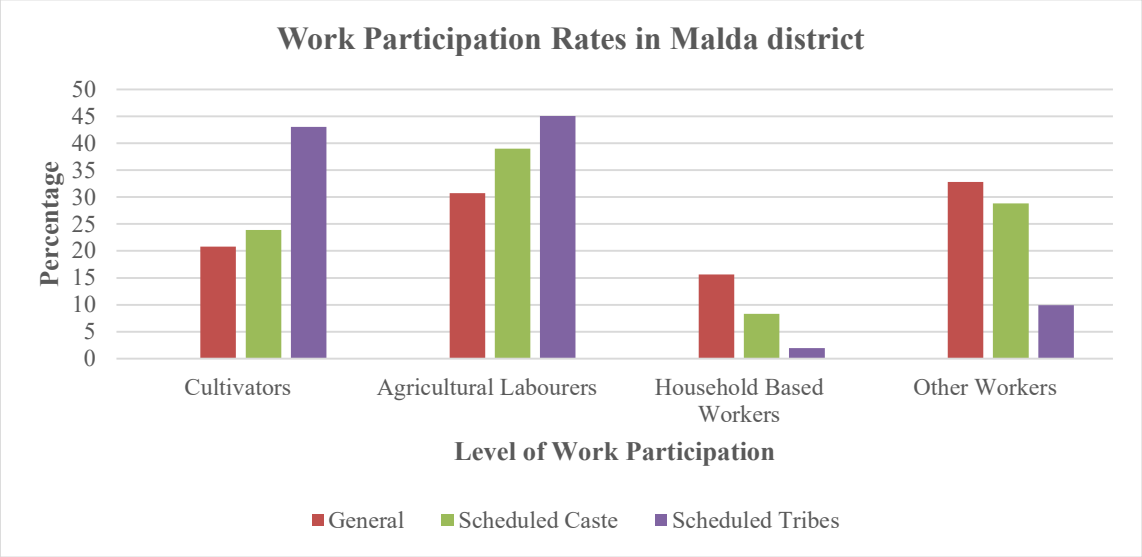

Fig. 2.8 Different types of work participation rates in Malda district, 2011.

2.6.11 Employment of the Scheduled Tribes

Table –2.17 Different levels of Tribal Employment by sex in Malda district (in %)

Level of Education	Total	Male	Female
Cultivation	12.11	20.54	3.69
Agricultural Labours	18.89	14.60	23.11
Non-Agricultural	21.35	20.70	22.10
Business	8.90	14.97	2.84
Home Based Workers	27.49	16.07	38.90
Government Salaried Workers	7.46	9.05	5.83
Private Salaried Workers	3.80	4.07	3.53

Source: Field Survey in Malda District, 2012-16.

Table 2.17 and Fig. 2.9 shows that the different levels of total tribal employment rate in the Malda district are Cultivation 12.16 percent, Agricultural Labours 18.89 percent, Non-Agricultural Labours 21.35 percent, Business 8.90 percent, Home Based Workers 27.49 percent, Government Salaried Workers 7.46 percent and Private Salaried Workers 3.80 percent. The rates of tribal male employment in Malda district are Cultivation 20.54 percent, Agricultural Labours 14.60 percent, Non-Agricultural Labours 20.70 percent, Business 14.97

percent, Home Based Workers 16.07 percent, Government Salaried Workers 9.05 percent and Private Salaried Workers 4.07 percent. On the other hand, the rates of tribal female employment in Malda district are Cultivation 3.69 percent, Agricultural Labours 23.11 percent, Non-Agricultural Labours 22.10 percent, Business 2.84 percent, Home Based Workers 38.90 percent, Government Salaried Workers 5.83 percent and Private Salaried Workers 3.53 percent. Among the tribal communities in the Malda district, 34.95 percent are employed and 65.05 percent are unemployed (100-34.95 = 65.05 percent).

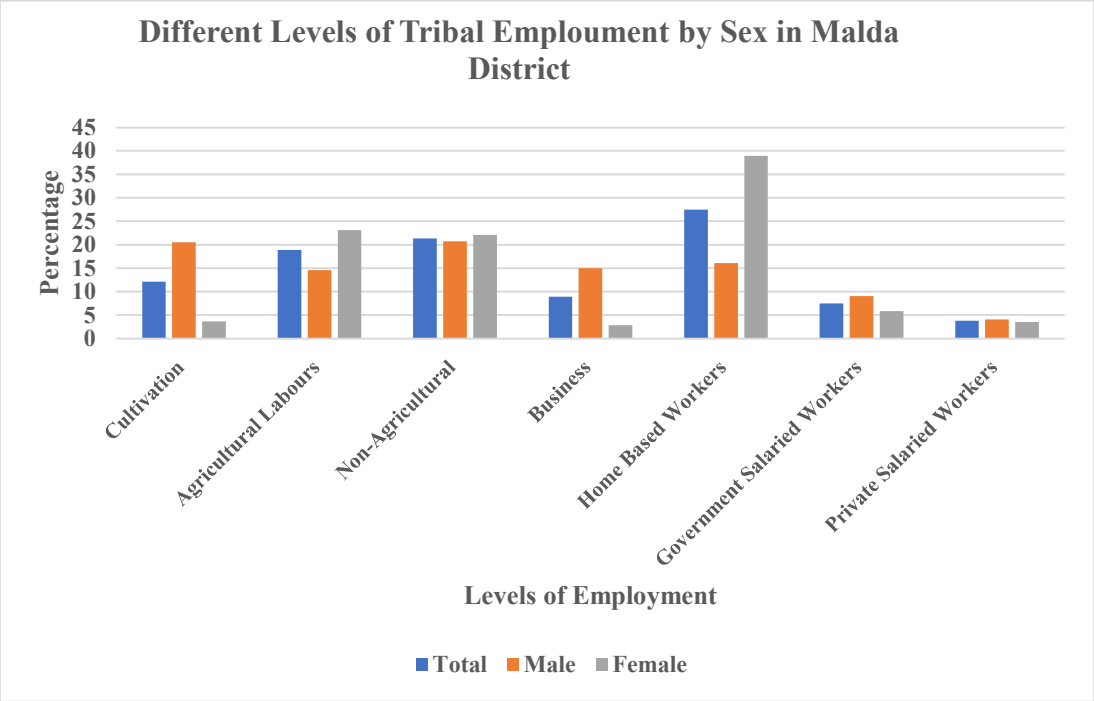

Fig. 2.9 Status of Tribal Employment in Malda district, 2012-16.

According to the percentage of tribal employment rates of Malda district, it is found in sequence that 1st position Home Based Workers employment level (27.49 percent), 2nd Non-Agricultural Labours (21.35 percent), 3rd Agricultural Labours (18.89 percent), 4th Cultivation (12.16 percent), 5th Business (8.90 percent), 6th Government Salaried Workers (7.46 percent) and 7th Private Salaried Workers (3.80 percent) employment level has occupied place.

2.7 Conclusions

Malda district is a central geographical position in West Bengal. The district of Malda is called the gateway of North Bengal. Malda district belongs to the Jalpaiguri division of West Bengal.

There are two administrative divisions in this district. Namely, Chanchal subdivision and Malda Sadar subdivision.

The Mahananda River flows from North-West to South-East and divides the Malda district into two parts, namely Eastern and Western zones. Again, the Kalindri river divides the western region of the Malda district into two parts, namely the northern and southern parts. The eastern part of the Malda district is comparatively high and barren but the western part is low and fertile. Therefore, the Malda district can be divided into three parts according to the nature of topography and soil. Namely Barind, Tal and Diara.

There are many rivers flowing through the district of Malda, such as the Ganga, Mahananda, Kalindri, Tangon, Purnabhaba, Bhagirathi and Pagla. Among the rivers of the Malda district, the Ganga and Mahananda rivers are the main. The climate of the Malda district is the tropical monsoon. The main characteristic of this climate is that the winter season is dry and the summer season is moist. As per the 2014 statistical handbook of the Malda district, there are 1703.04 hectares of natural vegetation. Most natural vegetation in the Malda district is deciduous.

According to the 2014 Statistical Handbook, the amount of cultivable land in the Malda district is 259121 hectares. Malda district is an agricultural major area. Farming is the important economic field of the Malda district. Mango is the main fruit of this district. The cultivation of silk (sericulture) is very good in the Kaliachak region of the Malda district.

According to the census of India 2011, the total population of the Malda district is 3,988,845 persons. It is 4.37 percent of the total population of West Bengal. The total area of the Malda district is 3733 sq. km. The population density in the Malda district is 1069 persons per square km. In Malda district, 2086432-person people are literate. Malda district has an average literacy rate is 61.73 percent.

Malda district has Non-Scheduled cast & Scheduled tribe people 2839431 (71.19 %) persons, Scheduled cast 835430 (20.94%) persons and Scheduled tribes 313984 (7.87%) persons. Therefore, the number of tribal people in the Malda district is very less than the non-tribal people. The total literacy rate among the scheduled tribe population in the Malda district is 40.01 percent (125627 persons).

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