



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES IN ALIPURDUAR MUNICIPALITY, WEST BENGAL

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Abstract

Demographic characteristics and infrastructural facilities tend to evolve over time in any urban centre. In this paper an effort has been made to analyze the changing demographic characteristics and infrastructural facilities in Alipurduar Municipality during 2001 and 2011. The result shows population growth in Alipurduar Municipality has declined significantly during the last twenty years. In terms of infrastructural facilities there is scope for improvement with many facilities remaining stagnant during the last twenty years.

Keywords: Alipurduar, Demographic Characteristics, Infrastructural Facilities.

Introduction

Demographic characteristics refers to the various demographic parameters like population growth, age, sex, male-female distribution, household size, workers category, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, literacy rate etc. Infrastructure is the backbone of any developmental work. Infrastructure is a combination of two words 'infra' and 'structure', which means something that needs to be created before the building up of the structure. Alipurduar Municipality is a Class II town according to Census 2011. However, this does not impede its importance being the only municipal town in the district of Alipurduar. Given a resurgence of urban activities in Alipurduar Municipality in recent times associated with its emergence as district headquarter the demographic and physical infrastructure is witnessing a rapid change.

Since the demographic characteristics and infrastructural facilities are highly dynamic in nature involving a lot of complexity, therefore it has attracted a lot of interest from researchers of diverse discipline. Mohan, R. & Dasgupta, S. (2004) in their roadmap for urban development in India during the twenty first century said the task of improving urban services is constantly more challenging due to the large increase in population. The challenges over the next few years would be immense especially if urban infrastructure has to support economic development and not emerge as the key bottleneck of India's economic ambitions for growth. Kundu, A. (2011) in his study on trends and processes of urbanization in India said given the new dynamics of urban industrial development associated with the strategy of globalization, the small and medium towns, located away from the 'emerging global centres of growth', particularly those in backward regions, have failed to attract substantial private investment. Aijaz, R. (2016) said there is a noticeable imbalance in physical development and in the level of basic infrastructure and services within and between cities in India. Tripathi, S. (2017) studying the relationship between infrastructure and population agglomeration in urban India said infrastructure facilities and public service provision are essential for increasing population agglomerations, which will lead to higher economic growth in India. Bhagat, R.B. (2017) discussing the trend of urbanization in India said for