



A WARD LEVEL STUDY OF BASIC CENSUS DATA FROM ALIPURDUAR MUNICIPALITY

Dr. Arindam Basak

Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal, P.O.NBU.
Dist-Darjeeling. Pin-734013, Email: aribasak@gmail.com

Abstract

In this paper a ward level analysis of basic socio-economic data has been done to figure out the micro level variation within Alipurduar Municipality. Although, Alipurduar Municipality is a Class II town according to census 2011, however its importance is going to increase many fold in near future after its elevation as district headquarter of the newly formed Alipurduar district. The analysis shows there is micro level variation within wards of the municipality with respect to population size, population density, share of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, male-female distribution of population and literacy rate.

Key Words: Socio-economic data, Alipurduar Municipality, Ward level, Variation.

Introduction

Alipurduar Municipality is a Class II town in the newly formed district of Alipurduar in West Bengal. The total population of Alipurduar Municipality in 2011 was 65232 persons. Although there are a number of urban centres in North Bengal with a population size higher than that of Alipurduar town but because of its location it occupies a very important position in this region. Located in the heartland of the tea plantation belt of the *Dooars* as well as its proximity with the neighbouring country of Bhutan and the neighbouring state of Assam has given it a special position of its own. Importance of Alipurduar town has further increased manifold with the formation of Alipurduar district after bifurcation of Jalpaiguri district on 25th June 2014. Alipurduar town became the district headquarter of the newly formed district of Alipurduar. Moreover, this is the only statutory town in the district along with nine census towns.

A lot of research has been done on urban areas based on census data. Shinoda, T. (1996) in his study on India said although the process of urbanization is slow, there is a drastic change in the distribution of urban population by size-class. Nowadays the majority of India's urban population resides in communities with distinct urban facilities. Sundaram, K. & Tendulkar, S.D. (2003) said in the urban context there is also the need to reduce the dichotomy between the formal and the informal sector by the alleviation of labour market inflexibility generated by labour laws that emphasize job security often at the expense of other facets of working conditions. Tumble, C. (2016) noted that India is one of the few countries of the world where urban sex-ratios are relatively more masculine than rural sex-ratios. While most parts of India have female deficits in their aggregate sex-ratios, this deficit is more pronounced in urban areas than rural areas, is widespread across districts and has been a persistent feature for over a century. Sarkar, C.S. & Bar, A.R. (2019) in their study on West Bengal said the total literacy, urban literacy and rural literacy rate of West Bengal is gradually increasing from 1991 to 2011: consequently, the urban-rural literacy difference is decreasing. Shaban, A., Kourtiti, K. & Nijkamp, P. (2020) found India's urban system is top heavy, i.e. a few mega-urban centres accommodate a