

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis entitled "RURAL-URBAN INTERACTION: A CASE STUDY OF SILIGURI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WITH SILIGURI SUB-DIVISION OF DARJEELING DISTRICT" has been prepared by me under the guidance of Dr. Arindam Basak, Associate Professor of Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal. No part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

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This is to certify that Tuhin Dey Roy has prepared the thesis entitled "**Rural-Urban Interaction: A Case Study of Siliguri Municipal Corporation with Siliguri Sub-division of Darjeeling District**" for the award of Ph. D degree in Geography & Applied Geography of University of North Bengal under my guidance. He has carried out the research work at the Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal and the thesis has been prepared based on the extensive field study for collection of primary data and secondary sources of information.

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RURAL-URBAN INTERACTION: A CASE STUDY OF SILIGURI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WITH SILIGURI SUB-DIVISION OF DARJEELING DISTRICT A Thesis submitted to the University of North Bengal For the award of Doctor of Philosophy In Geography & Applied Geography By Tuhin Dey Roy Supervisor Dr. Arindam Basak (Associate Professor) Department of Geography & Applied Geography University of North Bengal Raja Rammohanpur Darjeeling 2022

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION 1.1 Introduction India is witnessing a rapid growth of urban population as well as its share of urban population (17.29 % in 1951 to 31.16 in 2011) due to spread of urbanization, development in trade and commerce, transport, industrialization and allied activities. Moreover, the growth of industrialization and development in trade and transport has given a new dimension to the pattern of urbanization. Thus, the cities are not only changing in their population and area but their influence on the neighbouring areas is also becoming more and more pronounced. Similarly, the areas surrounding the cities are also changing owing to the increased interaction between the city and its neighbouring areas. Moreover, city being a focal point of a wider region, the city and country have a 'symbiotic relationship' in which the city and country are parameters at large (Aahluwalia, 2004) The function of rural area is related with agricultural land and villages mainly operate through primary activities whereas urban area accommodate within it with various industry, shops, offices, warehouses, public building etc. The natural link between this two is provided with development of transport and communication. So, the relationship between rural and urban areas are multidimensional incorporating trade and financial relations, agricultural relations, industrial relations, social and cultural relations, education and health relations, transport and communication relations and finally administrative and political relations (Jhunjhunwala, 1988). Here the urban area depends on its rural counterpart for its need of agricultural and allied materials and rural area depends on specialized function of exchange, manufacture and services on urban areas. Thus the rural-urban interaction is a two-way or mutual process involving social, economic as well as political consideration. The distinction between urban and rural is not at all very sharp across the developing countries, there is still several rural features noticed in urban areas. The main reason behind this is a different process of development witnessed across the developing countries taking place in a totally different historical context compared to already developed world. In pre-independent Bengal, towns flourished for trade and commerce. Even after 70 years of independence these two aspects are still very important for the growth and evolution of towns. It is assumed that initially when a centre of trade and transport forms, a huge inflow of people from surrounding region take place, which ultimately is the beginning of a growth of

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PREFACE

Rural-urban interaction is a unique topic in urban geographical study. It is possible to establish a functional relationship between urban and surrounding rural area from this type of research. In reality, there exists a 'give and take' relationship between a town and its surrounding rural area which actually increase the growth potential of any urban area.

This interaction is a dynamic process. Over time these inflows such as human movement, goods, capital, information and above all resource are changing its direction, rate and speed between rural and urban area. Each of these flows has not only different component, but also different spatial and temporal linkages and effects. Over time it is altering not only the physical landscape but also the economic and social environment of urban and its surrounding area. As a result it would be interesting to investigate, examine and analyze the cumulative effect of rural-urban interaction manifested through various demographic, social and economic activities taking place across the space.

Siliguri is surrounded by a large hinterland of rural population. Moreover, Siliguri is the only municipal corporation in the study area; therefore, the rural population of Siliguri sub-division is heavily dependent on Siliguri Municipal Corporation to avail various good and services. They are also dependent on Siliguri Municipal Corporation for better employment opportunities to earn their livelihood. This study will analyze the rural urban interaction taking place within Siliguri Sub-division which will give an idea of how much the rural population of Siliguri Sub-division is dependent on Siliguri Municipal Corporation

For a systematic study the total work has been dived into seven chapters.

Chapter 1- Introduction: In this chapter an introduction to the topic was made. It includes relevant review of literature, statement of problem, objective, hypothesis, database, methodology, chapteraization etc. In a sense this chapter highlights the proper organization of the study.

Chapter 2 - Background of the study area: This chapter presents the appraisal of regional profile, which encompasses administrative division, physical aspects, and socio economic aspects of the study area. This chapters shows the actual condition of the study area and lead us to understand the situation.

Chapter 3 - Growth of rural and urban settlement within the study area: This chapter focused on growth of rural and urban settlement within the study area.

Chapter 4 - Factors affecting rural-urban interaction and delineation of zones of interaction: This chapter deals with different factors associated with rural-urban interaction and it also discuss the delineation of zones of interaction with predefined methodology.

Chapter 5 - Development of transport network and associated land use and land cover change: This chapter deals with the development of transport network over the study area and this chapter also examines land use and land cover change and relationship between this two aspects.

Chapter 6 - Rural-urban interaction in the study area: This chapter analyzed rural-urban interaction in the study area with predefined boundary with the following themes- economic interaction, agricultural interaction, educational interaction, health interaction, interaction for entertainment and administration and organizational interaction.

Chapter 7- Conclusion: This is the last chapter which comprises with major finding and conclusion of the study. This chapter also give an idea about the scope of the further study as well as forward certain suggestions for improvement and development of the region.

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