

Chapter - IV

Methodology

The present chapter deals with the manner in which the field survey was conducted as the author's main analysis is based on personal investigation, and the limitations and difficulties in obtaining the data .

Utility of the Field Survey.

Personal visits to the existing industries that are functioning now in North Bengal were felt necessary for verifying a number of problems mentioned earlier and also in the following chapters. Moreover, the field study was designed to ascertain the operative conditions of the industries. It will be recalled that the main deficiencies that are confronting the industries in North Bengal are economic and organisational handicaps, retarding their progress and rendering them relatively inefficient. The data collected from spot-investigations therefore were of immense help for assessing the problems encountered by different industrial units and for finding out the remedial measures.

It is well known that the data relating to North Bengal's industrial activity are scanty, and the data available are generally haphazard and uncoordinated in manner. On the one hand no attempt has yet been made to conduct any comprehensive field enquiry to obtain a detailed picture of the industries in the region, on the other hand, such data as are available now a days cannot be regarded as either satisfactory or adequate for the

purposes of any fruitful analysis.

Independent enquiry, therefore, made it imperative to collect necessary data for the present study. However, on account of practical considerations, such as the unorganised nature of these industries, their dispersed location and difficulties of coverage, enterprunures' resistance to part with information, as also the absence of accounting habits and so on, it was found necessary to restrict the field study to manageable block level.

With this end in view, it was decided to contact the five district industrial offices and to select the important industries in different blocks. The reasons which weighed in the selection of blocks for field study are summarised as follows :

1. A more or less developed industry with a relatively neglected area;
2. Operation of the rural industrial project in different blocks for the last ten years;
3. Existence of vast forest area, to serve as an industrial nucleus;
4. Concentration of handloom industry in the rural areas for the ever-increasing population due to migration from East Pakistan (Bangladesh);
5. Availability of raw materials or demands for some specialised and small-scale products in the area.

From the point of view of providing an insight into the general industrial character of the area, and also to provide the basic details for the field survey, it is proposed to enlarge the meaning of the term "relatively neglected area". The most important problem that confronts North Bengal today in its effort to industrialise, is an acute scarcity of capital resources and technical skill and a relative abundance of unskilled and semi-skilled labour. The task is, therefore, to try to make best use of both of these factors. Because of its remote location and partly for the inevitable emphasis implicit in the scheme of development of large scale industries, the very aim of economic development of which industrialisation forms the core remains far from achievement since the work for a judicious combination of scarce capital resources with those of abundant labour resources is completely absent in North Bengal.

An idea about the operational work of the Rural Industrial Project (District Industrial office) can be had from the following Table.

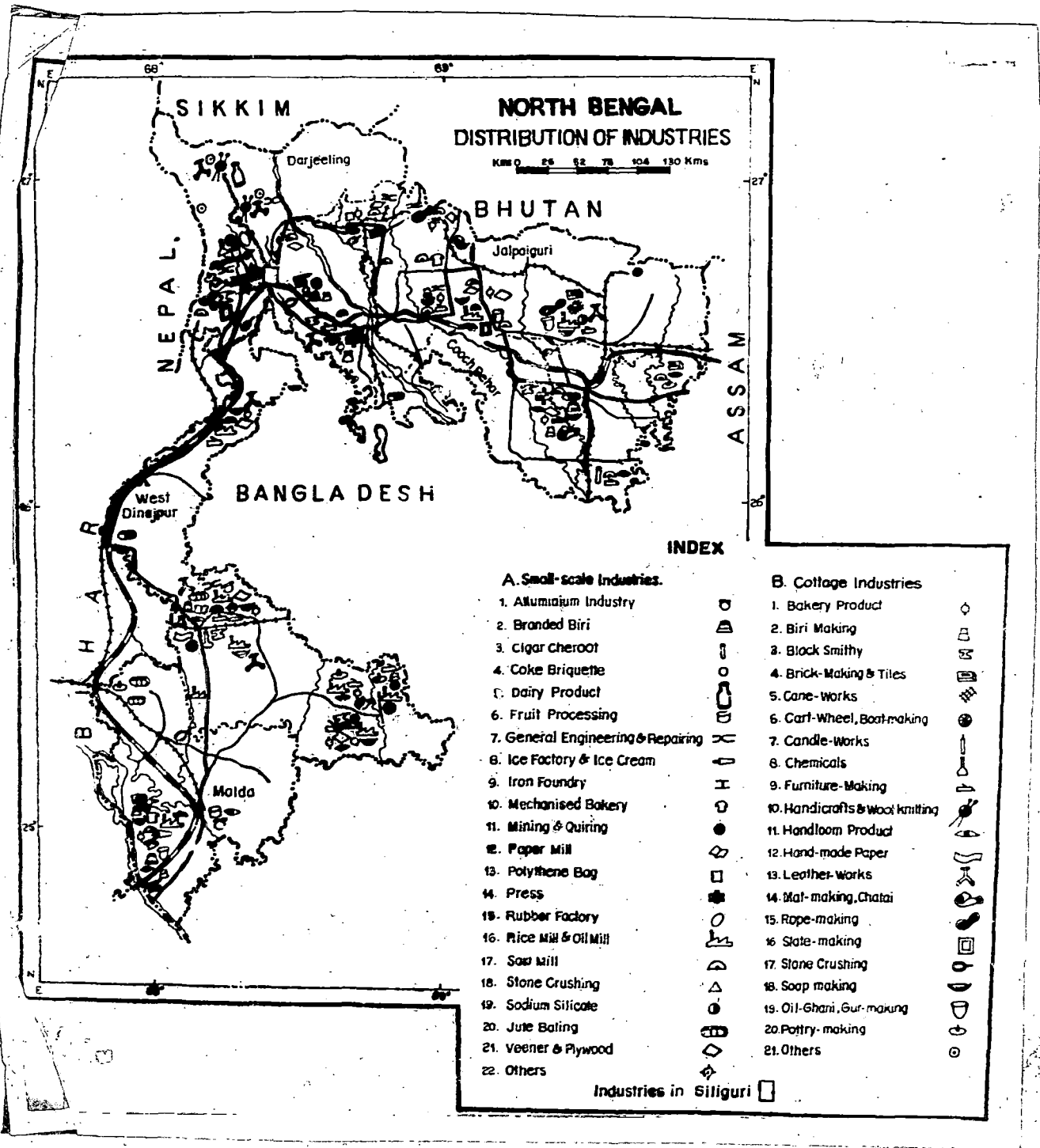
Table -43¹

Number of Units in
Different Districts

Name of the District	No. of Units
Darjeeling	2,177
Jalpaiguri	779
Cooch Behar	1,313
West Dinajpur	1,573

NORTH BENGAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIES

Kms 0 25 52 78 104 130



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3. Cigar cheroot
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5. Dairy Product
6. Fruit Processing
7. General Engineering & Repairing
8. Ice Factory & Ice Cream
9. Iron Foundry
10. Mechanised Bakery
11. Mining & Quiring
12. Paper Mill
13. Polythene Bag
14. Press
15. Rubber Factory
16. Rice Mill & Oil Mill
17. Saw Mill
18. Stone Crushing
19. Sodium Silicate
20. Jute Baling
21. Veneer & Plywood
22. Others

B. Cottage Industries

1. Bakery Product
2. Biri Making
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4. Brick-Making & Tiles
5. Cane-Works
6. Cart-Wheel, Boat-making
7. Candle-Works
8. Chemicals
9. Furniture-Making
10. Handicrafts & Wool knitting
11. Handloom Product
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14. Mat-making, Chatai
15. Rope-making
16. Slate-making
17. Stone Crushing
18. Soap making
19. Oil-Ghani, Gur-making
20. Pottry-making
21. Others

Industries in Siliguri

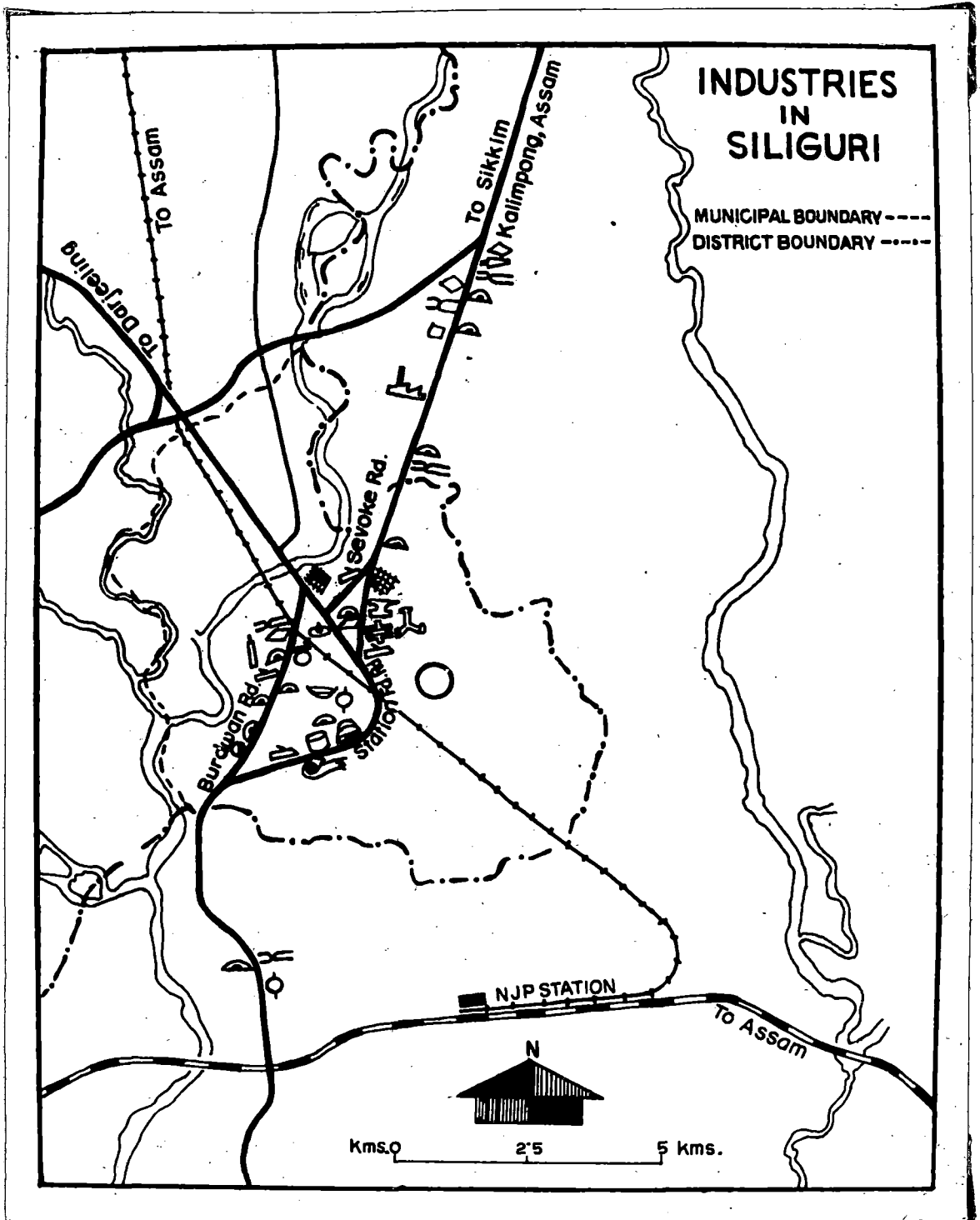


Fig. 14

The bulk of the unregistered units of the area have not been included in the preceding table, but an idea regarding the activities of the District Industrial offices of North Bengal which covers as much as 9 percent of the total registered units for West Bengal may be obtained.

On the basis of the importance of small scale and cottage industry of the area for five districts the following units have been included in this work for detailed study. (Fig. 13.14)

Table-44²

District-wise distribution of sample Units

Name of the Trade	Darjeeling	Jalpaiguri	Cooch Behar	West Dinajpur	Malda
1. Saw mill	7	13	-	3	-
2. Vanner and plywood	2	7	1	2	-
3. General Engineering and repairing	7	5	-	3	-
4. Alluminium Industry	1	-	-	1	1
5. Sodium Silicate	1	1	-	-	-
6. Rice mill and oil mill	1	2	-	5	-
7. Coke Briquette	-	-	-	1	-
8. Dairy product	2	-	-	-	-
9. Fruit processing	2	-	-	-	1
10. Paper mill (Medium scale)	-	-	-	1	-
11. Ice factory and Ice cream	1	1	1	1	1
12. Mechanised Bakery	2	1	-	-	-

Contd.

Table-44

Name of the Trade	Darjeeling	Jalpaiguri	Cooch Behar	West Dinajpur	Malda
13. Iron foundry	1	-	-	-	-
14. Branded Bidi	1	-	1	1	1
15. Cigar Cheroot	-	-	1	-	-
16. Polythene bags	1	1	-	-	-
17. Jute Baling, Jute yarn	-	-	-	2	2
18. Press	2	-	-	-	-
19. Mining and quarrying	-	1	-	-	-
20. Stone Crushing	1	-	-	-	-
21. Rubber factory	1	-	-	-	-
22. Others (Paper bag)	1	-	-	1	-
B. Cottage Industry :					
1. Handloom Industry	1	1	15	6	7
2. Furniture making	1	2	1	-	-
3. Handicrafts and knitting	9	1	-	-	-

Contd.

Table - 44

Name of the Trade	Darjeeling	Jalpaiguri	Cooch Behar	West Dinajpur	Malda
4. Soap making	2	4	1	2	1
5. Oil ghani (mill), Gur making	-	2	-	-	2
6. Bakery product	1	3	1	1	1
7. Bidi making	1	1	1	1	1
8. Hand made paper	-	-	2	1	-
9. Chemical	-	1	-	2	-
10. Cartwheel, boat ^t -making	1	1	-	2	-
11. Mat-making	1	1	1	2	-
12. Pottery-making	1	1	1	2	1
13. Cane-works	1	1	1	1	1
14. Blacksmithy	2	1	1	1	1
15. Leather-works	6	1	1	1	1
16. Rope-making	2	1	-	-	-

Contd.

Table - 44

Name of the Trade	Darjeeling	Jalpaiguri	Cooch Behar	West Dinajpur	Malda
17. Slate-making	1	1	-	-	-
18. Stone crushing	1	-	-	-	-
19. Candle manufacturing	1	1	1	1	1
20. Brick making, Tiles	1	4	1	-	1
21. Others (Silk industry, Madal making, Dhokra etc)	1	1	1	2	3

It may be evident from the above figures that the area under survey enjoys definitely better advantages for industrial development than other areas.

Objectives.

The main object of this survey enquiry is to verify the tentative conclusions arrived at in the earlier discussion. This field study specifically put emphasis on the following aspects :

1. ~~Analysis of~~ assessment of the numerous specific problems encountered by these industries in their day-to-day functioning;
2. Operative condition of the industries;
3. A detailed analysis, as far as possible, of the various factors absence of which is found to inhibit the productive capacity, competitive efficiency and retard the growth of these industries.

It is, however, mentioned here that the conclusions arrived at, on the basis of the data obtained through field work, is subject to the limitations imposed by these shortcomings.

Scope.

The study is restricted only to the (a) the small-scale sector and (b) the cottage-scale sector of the industries functioning in the region.

Industries Surveyed.

Following is the list of the total number of industries surveyed by the author, the number of which has been indicated against the respective industries :

Table -45²

Type of Sample Units Surveyed

A. Small Scale Industry.

Name of the Industry	No. of Units
1. Saw mill	23
2. Veneer and Ply Wood	12
3. General Engineering and repairing works	17
4. Aluminium Industry	3
5. Sodium Silicate	2
6. Rice mill and oil mill	8
7. Coke Briquette	1
8. Dairy product	2
9. Fruit processing	3
10. Paper mill (Medium Scale)	1
11. Ice factory and Ice cream	5
12. Mechanised Bakery	3
13. Iron foundry	1
14. Branded Bidi	3
15. Cigar Cheroot	1
16. Polythene bags	2
17. Jute Baling, jute yarn	3
18. Press	2
19. Mining and quarrying	1
20. Stone crushing	1
21. Rubber factory	1
22. Others (Paper bag)	2

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B. Cottage Industry

Name of the Industry	No. of Units
23. Handloom Industry	30
24. Furniture making	6
25. Handicrafts and knitting	10
26. Soap making	10
27. Oil Ghani (mill), Gur-making	4
28. Bakery product	7
29. Bidi making	5
30. Hand made paper	1
31. Chemicals	3
32. Cart wheel, boat making	6
33. Pottery-making	7
34. Cane works	5
35. Mat making,	4
36. Blacksmithy	6
37. Leather works	10
38. Rope making	3
39. Slate making	2
40. Stone crushing	1
41. Candle manufacturing	5
42. Brick-making, Tiles	7
43. Others (silk industry, Madal making, Dhokra etc.)	8
	<hr/> 140 <hr/>

Out of the 43 types of industries, 22 belonging to the small scale and 21 to the cottage types have been covered under the present study. The total number of units covered is 237 of which 97 are of small scale units and 140 are cottage scale units. These industries are located in the different parts of the five districts of North Bengal.

It may be noted that of the industries selected for study those of the cottage rank higher in number than that of the small scale units. This partly reflects the general character of the industries that are now operating in North Bengal. The focus of this work is therefore, firstly on finding out the functions characteristics of these industries, and secondly, on the various problems that are faced by these industries.

Methods of Surveying.

Discussions with officers at different levels related to the industrial functions formed major part of this survey. The offices who were consulted for this purpose are as follows : the District Industrial Officers (Rural Industrial Project Officers), the Extension officers, of Industries in different blocks, the Superintendents of Sericulture, the Industrial Co-operatives, the Secretary, Weavers' Association, the Handloom Offices, the Secretary, Timber Merchants' Association, the D.F.O. of the Forest Working plan Division, the Secretary of the Khadi Village Co-operative Society, the Small Farmers Development officers.

Following these discussions and after obtaining a tentative list of the registered units working in different districts, personal investigations were made in different blocks and villages sometimes with the help of the Extension officers etc. for obtaining primary data and information on various aspects of the industrial activities. This was based on random sampling.

Sample Size.

In order to ensure a more or less accurate idea about the industrial activities in the area one unit for each industry from each district was covered except where a particular was absent.

The investigation was conducted on the basis of a questionnaire prepared by the author herself with the help of the industrial Co-operatives who had intimate association with their local units.

The categorical division of the industries as 'small scale' Industry and 'cottage' Industry is considered on the basis of distinction as clarified earlier in the introduction.