CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Urbanization is the process through which towns grow and population concentrates in urban areas. As of the 2011 census, 377.10 million people, or 31.16% of the country's population lived in urban areas. The data showed a significant increase in the rate of urbanization in last decade (2001-2011). The number of cities and UAs increased from 5,161 in the 2001 census to 7,935 in the 2011 census. The average annual exponential growth rate of the urban population over the past decade was 2.76% (Census of India, 2011). The growth of the Census Towns makes a remarkable contribution to the process of socio-economic and socio-cultural transition of residents. The separate recognition of Census Towns and Statutory Towns contributed to greater clarity in understanding the pattern of urbanization. In the new era of urban development, increasing urbanization has a direct impact on the demographic and socio-economic situation of statutory and census towns.

The statutory towns are legally notified by the respective government of the state / UT and have Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) such as municipal corporations, municipalities, municipal committees etc. The number of statutory towns in India had increased from 3799 in 2001 to 4041 in 2011.

Census Towns are the towns that are not legally registered areas and administer the area like a city, they are in the rural revenue village, i.e., they are administratively located in the rural area, but whose population has reached urban characteristics (Ramachandran, 2017). The main criteria for identifying the Census Towns according to the Census of India (2011) are (a) a minimum population of 5000 (b) at least 75% of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits (c) a density of population of at least 400 people per square kilometre. The number of Census Towns (CTs) in India had increased during the last two counting periods, from 1362 in 2001 to 3894 in 2011. The most fascinating fact is the maximum increase in Census Towns in the states of West Bengal and Kerala in 2011 (Guin and Das, 2015), (Pradhan, 2013). In West Bengal, a significant amount of employment shares in manufacturing and service sectors which triggered the creation of new CTs in 2011 census year (Chakroborty et al., 2015). The CT scenario is largely depending on the interaction points and nodes of traffic communication.

The role of CTs in the urbanization process in the Sub-Himalayan West Bengal as well as in the Dooars region is very crucial. It not only influences the urbanization rate in this region but also changes in land use and land cover as well as the socio-cultural conditions of the study area. The CTs help in changing the land use pattern of the sub-Himalayan regions of West Bengal. The levels and pace of urbanization have greatly affected the livelihoods and demographic condition of the cities and CTs (Jain. et al., 1992). The growth and expansion of CTs are directly influenced by the proportion of urbanization and are indirectly influenced by the socio-cultural changes in the study area.

The livelihoods of CTs are different and unique in each part of the nation. However, the present research tries to understand the livelihoods of the Census Towns (CTs) on a micro level in relation to the different socio-economic dimensions, with CTs being included as a study unit of the Jalpaiguri district.

1.2 Literature Review

Brief literature was searched to produce this work. Based on the nature of literature review (several journals, research articles, online resources, government reports, etc.), it was divided into groups.

1.2.1 Census Towns in West Bengal

Indian Institute of Technology (2013) published a report entitled "Status of urbanization and industrialization in West Bengal" which revealed that West Bengal experienced a slow and large rate of urbanization till 2001, but the last decade experienced a significant growth rate of the urban population.

Biswajit Ghosh & Namita Chakma (2014) discussed in their article entitled "Urbanization in West Bengal: An Analysis of recent process" that a low level and low-density distribution of the urban population was observed in North Bengal (except Darjeeling district). This was due to the comparatively lower level of economic development in the urban areas of North Bengal.

Gopa Samanta (2014) in her article "Beyond Metropolitan shadow: Growth and Governance of small towns in Eastern India" explained that there is a remarkable growth of CTs in West Bengal in the last decade. West Bengal has contributed to 20% of the total CTs of India. The growth rate of CTs in Eastern India is significantly high and marks the new spatial pattern of urban growth in the last decade. Small towns and CTs are growing at a faster rate but there is a lack of urban facilities.

Debarshi Guin & Dipendra Nath Das (2015) in their article "Spatial perspective of the new Census Towns, 2011: A case study of West Bengal" discussed that the first six states (West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra) of India (2011) where new CTs constitutes for more than 60% of the CTs concerning their density and share of the decadal urban growth (2001-2011), West Bengal and Kerala heads much ahead of all. In West Bengal, the Rural-Urban divide is more common than Rural-Urban Continuum due to the huge spatial consequences of CTs, and therefore, the bulk of the small and medium urban-centres are concentrated around the large cities.

Saurav Chakroborty, Soumendu Chatterjee, Kakoli Das, & Utpal Roy (2015) in their article "Changing pattern of urbanization in West Bengal: An analysis of 2011 Census data" discussed that all district of West Bengal had a significant amount of employment share in services and manufacturing sectors which may lead to the creation of new CTs in 2011 census year. The relationship is strong in the case of manufacturing compared to service sector.

Saurav Chakraborty, Kakoli Das & Utpal Roy (2015) discussed in their article "Concentrated or dispersed urbanization: A critical analysis of newly emerged census towns of West Bengal, India in 2011" that the highly urbanized districts contain the maximum number of CTs in West Bengal and its concentration is around the class-I towns. The bulk of the CTs which are situated outside the rural areas, belonging to the third order groups of towns, eventually make the CTs less important.

Joy Karmakar (2015) has shown his article "Emergence of census towns and its socio-economic condition: a case study of West Bengal" that emergence of a huge urban population is basically owing to the emergence of new CTs of West Bengal. The paper clearly demonstrates that the Terai-Dooars part of the state has 37 blocks and 70 census towns have shown their emergence in 25 blocks. 30% of these towns belong to the class-V category town.

Debarshi Guin & Dipendra Nath Das (2015) in their paper "New census towns in West Bengal: Census Activism or Sectoral diversification?" discussed that there are variations in the sectoral structure of villages in West Bengal. The percentage of non-farms workers has declined considerably owing to the huge increases in agricultural labour.

Saurav Chakraborty, Subhanil Chowdhuri, Utpal Roy & Kakoli Das (2017) discussed their article "Declassification of census towns in West Bengal: Empirical shreds of evidence from patuli, Bardhaman" the crucial points indicating the growing significance of non-statutory towns i.e., CTs in West Bengal. The paper mentioned that all the workforce groups of the CTs

have declined except for the class of agricultural labourers (which has increased by 12.17%). The livelihoods of the CTs are gradually changing.

Joy Karmakar (2017) explained in his article "Urban centres trend, pattern and key challenges for sustainability: the case of West Bengal, India" that small and intermediate towns are negatively growing whereas large cities are positively growing. The percentage of the urban population has gradually increased with the rise of new CTs in West Bengal.

1.2.2 Census Towns in India

M.K. Jain, Minati Ghosh, and Won Bae Kim (1992) published a report entitled "Emerging trends of urbanization in India: An analysis of 1991 Census results" where they discussed that the phenomenon of increasing concentration of urban population in cities reflected that the large cities are increasing over the past decade. Therefore, the levels of urbanization and the pace of urbanization have greatly affected the livelihoods and demographic condition of the cities.

Barney Cohen (2004) in his article "Urban growth in developing countries: A review of current trends and a caution regarding existing forecasts" shows that India covers several million-plus cities. The level of urban intensity is higher in the larger cities. The growth rate of different levels of towns varies from place to place. The larger cities are creating more employment opportunities.

R.B. Bhagat (2008) in his paper "Trends and patterns of India's urbanization: A demographic assessment" evidently discussed that level of urbanization in India not only depends on demographic trends but also economic, social, political factors as well. The socio-economic status of census towns is very bad in small CTs and comparatively better situation is traced in the bigger CTs.

Amitabh Kundu (2011) discussed in the report "Trends and patterns of urbanization in India" that, an increasing trend of class-I towns were observed during the past decade in India. These led to faster demographic and socio-economic variations in the urban structure.

R.B. Bhagat (2011) in his article "Urbanization and access to basic amenities in India" clearly depicts that Class-I cities have more employment opportunities in organized sectors than small towns. Even in small towns and CTs, a little percentage of the workforce is dependent on agricultural activities.

R.B. Bhagat (2012) in his article "A turn around in India's urbanization" explains that a congested state like West Bengal has a tremendous rate of urbanization in the last decade. But the quality of the urbanization in the North Eastern States is not so good. Therefore, sustainable urbanization, especially in small cities throws a big challenge to the dwellers. There is a lack of proper infrastructural facilities and urban amenities.

Eric Denis, Partha Mukhopadhyay, Marie-Helena Zerah (2012) explained in their paper "Subaltern urbanization in India" those Indian cities take their destiny into their way. A different subverting pattern has been dieted over time. To understand the Indian cities and their economic condition, we must look at the urban richness.

Annapurna Shaw (2013) explained in her paper "Emerging perspective of small cities and town" that to grow the small and medium towns, several initiatives were taken by the Central Govt. to improve the quality of life of such small and medium city dwellers, to improve the civic and economic growth and boost infrastructure development of the towns and to initiate effective growth of the surrounding hinterlands.

Kanhu Charan Pradhan (2013) focussed in his paper "Unacknowledged urbanization: New census towns of India" that CTs accounted for 29.5% of the urban growth in the last decade, which were rural regions in the 2001 census. West Bengal has the highest number of CTs followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. The CTs condition depends on its economic structure.

Eric Denis and Marie-Helena Zerah (2014) in their paper "Rural-Urban linkages: India case study" discussed that the differences between urban population (defined by census) and urban population are very much important for assessing the current rises of CTs in India.

Chinmay Tumbe (2016) discussed in his paper "Urbanization, demographic transition and the growth of the cities in India, 1870-2020" that urbanization in India has a tight relationship with the economic growth of the regional level. Boosting the agricultural productivity and rural literacy levels shall make India more urbanized.

Partha Mukhopadhyay, Marie-Helena Zearah, Gopa Samanta, Augustin Maria (2016) discussed their paper "Understanding India's Urban frontier – what is behind the emergences of Census Towns in India?" that much of the economic activities of the census towns remains as an ordinary economic structure, mainly non-tradable services, and commerce.

Partha Mukhopadhaya, Marie-Helene Zerah, & Eric Denis (2018) discussed in their article "Subaltern Urbanization Revisited" that Indian urbanization recently faced rapid growth. Much of the growth took place in the small towns like Census Towns without the proper administrative status. The population of the census towns nearly doubled from 7.4% to 14.6% in the last decade.

Shamindra Nath Roy & Kanhu Charan Pradhan (2018) explained in their working paper "Census towns in India: Current patterns and future discourses" that 37.2% of the new CTs are near the proximity to the larger cities. 49% of the upcoming CTs grow outside the purview of large cities, termed as clustered CTs, 17% of the new CTs grow on their own anywhere, termed as isolated CTs. They showed, a maximum number of CTs is grown near the tea belt of West Bengal.

Shamindra Nath Roy & Kanhu Charan Pradhan (2018) explained in their paper "Predicting the future of Census Towns" that the new census towns significantly contributed to the spatial structure of the larger cities as a significant proportion of these cities are comprised of them. They also discussed that CTs are the hotspot of economic transition in rural areas making the urbanization process complicated.

Manoj Sahu, Kailash Chandra Das & Bibhishana Bhuyan (2019) in their article "Role of census towns in rising urbanization of India" shows that India has experienced a massive increase in urbanization, where the CTs have contributed to the total level of urbanization of the country. The massive growth of the CTs in West Bengal is basically owing to the variations in the economy, which includes the huge decrease in the male workforce of agricultural and related activities.

A.K.M. Anwaruzzaman (2019) discussed in his paper "Urban growth and urbanization in India- some insights with special references to selected census towns of West Bengal" that census towns severely lack the minimum infrastructural services like pacca road, sanitation, drainage facility, lighting, domestic power supply, and education. The livelihood condition of the CTs is of very poor quality in India.

1.3 Rationale for selection of the study area

There are low level and low-density of urbanization noticed in North Bengal (Ghosh and Chakma, 2014) as well as in Jalpaiguri district. The socio-cultural status, economic status, and infrastructural level of CTs differ from both in cities and towns. The socio-economic status of

CTs is in a very bad situation in India (Bhagat, 2008), (Anwaruzzaman, 2019). Spatial differences in every aspect of the CT resident's livelihood were an important issue across the district as well as in the sub-Himalayan part of the state. For a long time, the study area remained deprived of primary urban needs. The basic framework conditions of CTs faces several challenges. After a careful review of the literature, it has been found that there was no systematic study of the social, cultural, economic development, and infrastructural status of the CT dwellers of Jalpaiguri district. Based on the intensive field research, the present study will therefore contribute to understanding the challenges of livelihoods and the living conditions of CT dwellers in the study area.

1.4 Statement of Problem

In general, cities and CTs play an important role in urbanization in India. Since independence, the small towns and CTs are growing at a faster rate but with lack of urban infrastructure (Samanta, 2014). The growth of CTs has a major impact on the urbanization process. The government has implemented various urban programs to improve the social and economic status of cities and CTs. But despite these urban programs, CTs across the country are experiencing several crises. The CTs lack access to basic public facilities and urban infrastructure, which has led to a deterioration in the socio-economic situation of residents. The unplanned growth and changing land use patterns of CTs have a direct impact on city dwellers' livelihoods.

In the study area, the lack of basic urban framework conditions for CTs, the lack of standard urban primary facilities, and unemployment triggered the great crisis. All these factors contributed to the poor living conditions of these CTs. Although the standard of livelihood is changing today, many urban families of such CTs do not yet benefit from these basic facilities.

1.5 Study Area

The Jalpaiguri district is in the North-Eastern part of West Bengal. Geographically, the district is bounded by the Alipurduar district in the east, the Cooch Behar district in the south-east, the Kalimpong district in the north, the Darjeeling district in the north, and the north-west and the district shares international boundary with Bangladesh in the south and south-west. Geographically, Jalpaiguri district is located at 26º 16′ to 27º North latitude and 88º 23′ to 89º 8′ East longitude.

The Jalpaiguri District was formed on 1st January 1869. In 1947 the map of Jalpaiguri district changed, especially during the partition of India. The transfer of 672 square miles of the land took place as part of the Radcliff Award on the eve of the partition of India. Five police stations (namely Boda, Panchgarh, Debiganj, Tetulia, and Patgram) from Jalpaiguri district were relocated to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). On 25th June 2014, Alipurduar became a district and it was separated from Jalpaiguri district. The present Jalpaiguri district is the study area of this research work.

Currently, Jalpaiguri district is divided into two sub-divisions (Jalpaiguri Sadar Sub-division and Mal Sub-division) consisting with 7 community development blocks (Jalpaiguri, Rajganj, Maynaguri, Dhupguri, Nagrakata, Meteli, and Mal). Jalpaiguri district has three urban centers (Municipality) namely Jalpaiguri, Dhupguri, and Mal, and part of Siliguri Municipal Corporation (14 wards).

The total geographic area of Jalpaiguri district is 3386.18 km². According to the 2011 census, the total population of the district is 2,381,596, of whom 1,217,532 (51.12%) are male and 1164064 (48.88%) are female. Jalpaiguri district has 752,805 people, or 31.61% of the urban population (of which 395,996, or 52.60% of the residents of Statutory Town, and 356,809, or 47.40% of the residents of Census Town), and 1,628,791 people, that is 68.39% of the rural population. The share of the CTs in the total urbanization is 56.50% and the share of the Statutory Towns is 43.50% of the district. The population density of the district is 701 persons per km².

According to the 2011 census report, in West Bengal, 4.43 million populations are concentrated in CTs. Of the 780 Census Towns (CTs) in West Bengal, only 15 Census Towns (CTs) are selected that fall under the research area (Jalpaiguri district). The names of the CTs with their block jurisdiction are listed below:

Table 1.1 List of Census Towns in Jalpaiguri district

District	**Block**	**Name of the Census Town**	**Population**	**Number of Household**	**Area in Km²**
Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Kharia	61661	14715	58.0255
	Maynaguri	Maynaguri	30490	7678	12.3800
		Dakshin Khagrabari	7469	1805	4.3598
	Dhupguri	Banarhat Tea Garden	15652	3463	8.8300

		Telipara Tea Garden	11535	2465	15.5407
		Gairkata	7577	1749	2.9600
	Matiali	Matialihat	4215	910	0.3118
		Chalsa Mahabari	4973	1130	2.9840
		Mangalbari	5934	1390	6.5095
	Mal	Odlabari	14194	3116	9.2766
		Dakshin Odlabari	4997	1051	6.0117
		Lataguri	4981	1208	3.0268
	Rajganj	Dabgram	119040	26827	24.0600
		Binnaguri	58840	12868	58.9260
		Chakiabhita	5251	1199	3.8392
Source: District Census handbook, 2011					

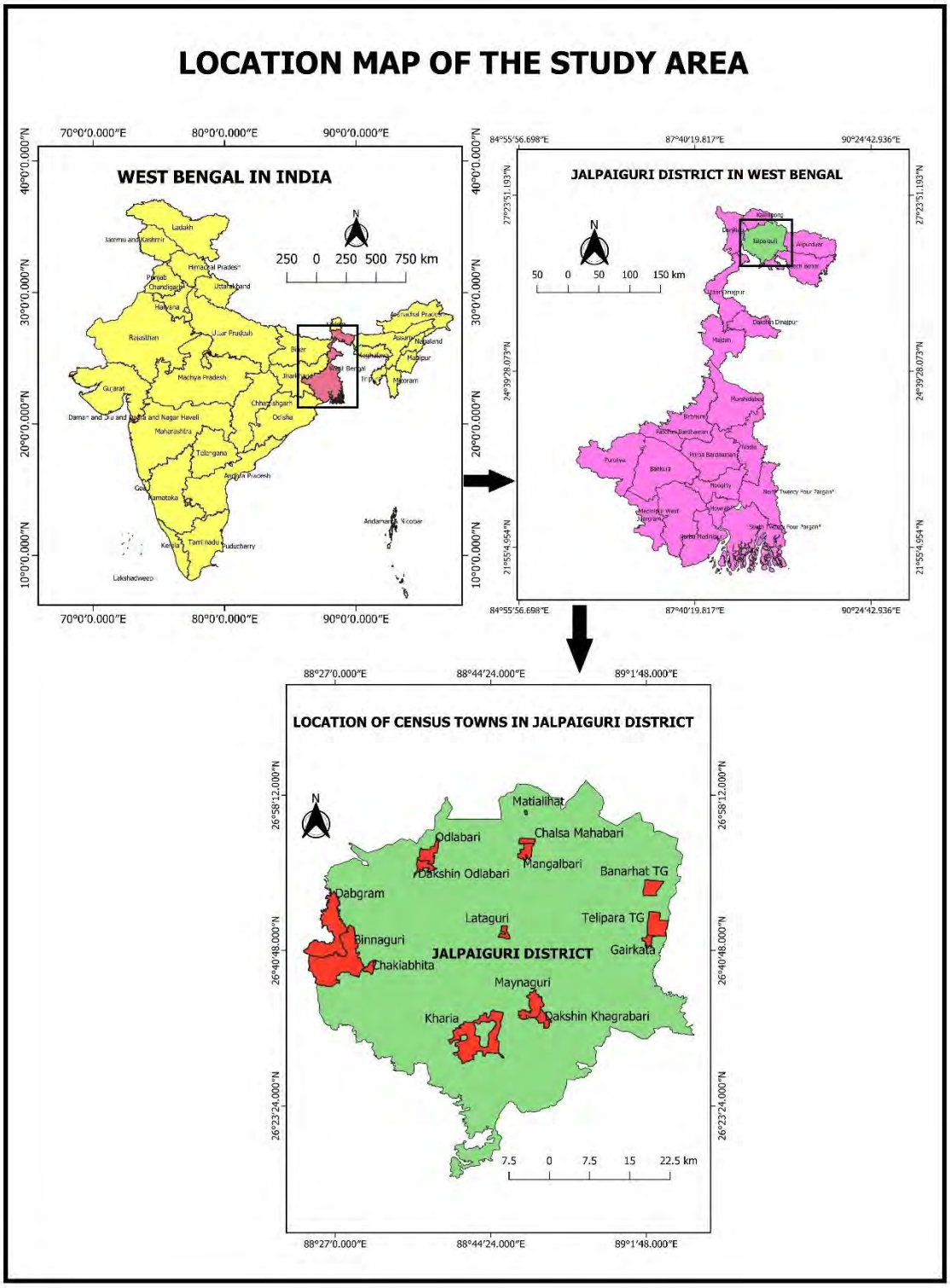

Figure 1.1 Location map of the Study area (Census Towns in Jalpaiguri district)

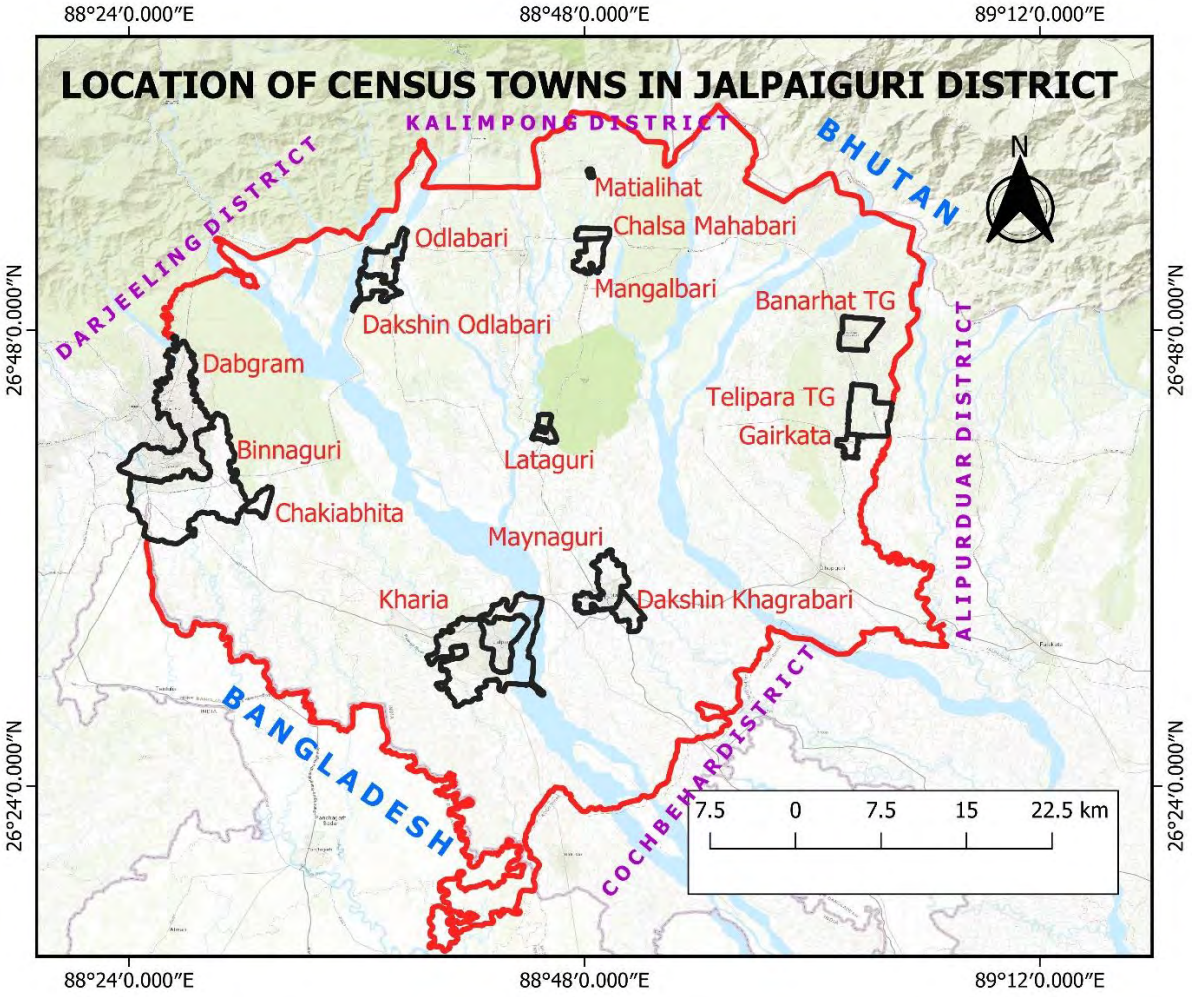

Figure 1.2 Census Towns in Jalpaiguri district

1.6 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to analyse the status of livelihood condition of the CT dwellers of the study area. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To find out the pattern and growth of CTs of the Jalpaiguri district.

2. To find the livelihood conditions of Census Town dwellers.

3. To scrutinize the levels of infrastructural development of the CTs of the study area.

4. To analyze the problems associated with the urban development of the CTs of the study area.

5. To recommend the developmental strategy of the Census Town dwellers.

1.7 Hypothesis

1. The levels of urbanization of the CTs are increasing over periods.

2. The socio-economic and socio-cultural status of the CTs are facing several challenges.

3. The infrastructural development of the CTs are inadequate.

4. The problems associated with the urban development of the CTs are more in the case of large CTs and low in the case of small CTs.

1.8 Data base

The study is mainly based on primary data that were collected from all CTs in the study area by means of a household survey. The scheduled questionnaire has been incorporated to collect primary data on the aspects of age-gender composition, literacy rate, state of health, income status, information on occupation and living conditions. A household survey with a planned questionnaire have been adopted as it helps to understand the degree of availability of household assets and urban facilities for residents. The essential secondary data were collected from the District Census Handbook (DCHB), the Statistical Handbook, various government reports, the Census Book, several census-related data, articles, journals, documents, e-books etc. The relevant data were collected from various sites and departments of the state and central government, e.g., Census of India (Government of India), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (Government of India), Ministry of Urban Development (Government of India), Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs (State Govt.), etc.

1.9 Methodology

The methodology is the backbone of any research that guides researchers on the processes and techniques involved. It also helps in scientific explanation, examination, and description of reality of the research work. The degree of urbanization and the livelihoods of the study area have been discussed from a geographical perspective. The entire work is thus carried out in three different but interconnected phases, namely the pre fieldwork, the field work, and the post fieldwork until the end of the study. The research phases are discussed in detail below:

1.9.1 Pre-Field Work

Pre-Fieldwork is an exploratory study to record the problems of urban livelihoods and the associated infrastructural development. Changes in the rate of urbanization and their livelihoods are a continuous process. Numerous regional books help to collect the information and to perceive the problems of the study area. The investigator receives data and necessary information from secondary sources such as District Census Handbook (DCHB), Census Book, various census-related data, articles, journals, etc. The relevant data were collected from various sites and departments of the state government and the central government e.g., Census of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Government of India), Ministry of Urban Development (Government of India), Ministry of Urban Development and Local Affairs (State Government), etc. Referring to previous research on urban growth and reference is made to infrastructure development (especially North Bengal) to gain experience of the growth pattern and expansion of city-related issues. Selection of the study areas for descriptive survey and preparation of elaborate questionnaire for fieldwork is carried out before the commencement of the fieldwork.

1.9.2 Field Work

The study of the livelihood condition of the Census Towns (CTs) based from a geographical perspective cannot be undertaken without a detailed fieldwork. The following technique has been followed.

1.9.2.1 Sample Population

All the CTs were selected to study livelihood and its infrastructural development in detail. Households of the CTs in the study area were selected as the sample population. Equal importance was given to the process of selecting the number of households in each CTs of the district.

1.9.2.2 Sampling Technique

As part of the first-hand collection of primary information, various methods, including detailed questionnaires, semi-structured interviews of CT residents and the elite classes, have been used to perceive the experiences of CTs livelihoods. For quantitative and qualitative data on the socio-economic conditions of the residents of CTs, a household survey with a structured questionnaire was carried out. Households are selected in a specific CT using a stratified random sampling procedure, whereby the sample size will always larger than 100 households per CT. Both open and closed-ended questions were prepared for CTs problems related to qualitative or quantitative answers. Regarding the change in livelihoods due to urbanization, semi-structured interviews have been carried out among different age groups and especially among literates. The researcher even included the CTs in participatory city assessments to express their livelihoods in their unique way.

1.9.3 Post Field Work

Both qualitative and quantitative data that are collected from primary and secondary sources were finally processed. The primary data for the research are generated from household surveys and partially structured surveys. Depending on the nature of the data, these have been processed and analyzed step by step. For the qualitative data, various cartographic techniques have been used and statistical analyses are carried out, which are then represented by thematic techniques or mapping. Quantitative data is mainly analysed by various statistical methods such as ranking, correlation analysis, bivariate and multivariate analysis, spatial regression, and time series analysis, etc.

Specific methods such as population concentration, birth rate, death rate, literacy rate, age-gender composition, gender parity and inequality, labour force, dependency ratio, occupational structure, etc. have been incorporated to reveal the population composition of the study area. In addition, methods such as linear relationships, correlations, time series analysis, and regression analysis are used to measure the social and economic parameters.

The focus was also be paid to the growth and development of CTs based on their population and infrastructure. Particular attention is paid to the urban problems of these selected CTs and how to deal with them. In addition, levels of urbanization and livelihood are assessed by analysing previous research, research articles, and information from elite group interviews, e.g., Gram Panchayats offices.

The effects of urban problems on livelihood are analyzed based on the changes of livelihoods from the household survey, a semi-structured interview. To analyse the research work, appropriate statistical techniques and methods have been used to analyze the data and derive meaningful generalizations with the help of Microsoft Excel 2019. GIS software e.g., Global Mapper 15, QGIS 3.16 with different geo-processing tools have been used to create the maps of the study area and for linking spatial and attributes data in maps.

To fulfil the objectives of the research, the following database and methodology have been adopted.

Objective 1 To find out the pattern and growth of CTs of the Jalpaiguri district.

Secondary Database

Data of Census Towns has been collected from Jalpaiguri Municipal Board, District Gazetteers, District Census Handbook, Statistical Handbook, Census of India, Government Reports, and various published and unpublished thesis related to study area.

Methodology

The growth was tracked through various census data of the study area. To analyze the pattern and growth of the census towns, various tools have been integrated and analyzed accordingly, such as CT temporal assessment, growth pattern temporal assessment, growth indices, size-based CT classification, population balance sheet, exponential growth rate, etc.

Objective 2 To find the livelihood conditions of Census Town dwellers.

Primary Database

In order to study the demographic, and socio-economic characteristics of the CTs of the study area, a questionnaire-based household survey was carried out. This section discussed with the strategy, size, and mode of sampling for household survey.

Questionnaire-based Household Survey

The Census Towns of Jalpaiguri district has undergone serious demographic and socio-economic changes over time. Moreover, the collection of data on the accessibility of various amenities and services was important to understand the overall scenario of the Census Towns. So, a questionnaire-based household survey was incorporated to study the livelihoods of the study area.

Method of Sampling

The sampling was carried out based on a scheduled structured questionnaire (Appendix C) to capturing the following aims of:

1. General Information
2. Household Demography
3. Socio-Economic Background
4. Housing
5. Mobility and Accessibility
6. Energy Sources
7. Water and Waste Disposal

Sampling Strategy and Sample Size

The entire study was based on the dwellers of the census towns in Jalpaiguri district. According to the 2011 Census of India, the total number of households of CTs in Jalpaiguri district is 81574. A sample size of 100 households from each CT was calculated and selected as a sample. Thus, the total sample size selection for the study was 1500 households (15 CTs x 100 households).

Table: 1.2 Census Town wise Sample Sizes for Household survey

Sl. No.	Census Town	Total number of Households		Surveyed Households	
		Households	Populations	Households	Populations
1	Banarhat Tea Garden	3463	15652	100	394
2	Binnaguri	12868	58840	100	484
3	Chakiabhita	1199	5251	100	462
4	Chalsa Mahabari	1130	4973	100	382
5	Dabgram	26827	119040	100	452
6	Dakshin Khagrabari	1805	7469	100	474
7	Dakshin Odlabari	1051	4997	100	394
8	Gairkata	1749	7577	100	372

9	Kharia	14715	61661	100	390
10	Lataguri	1208	4981	100	502
11	Mangalbari	1390	5934	100	384
12	Matialihat	910	4215	100	420
13	Maynaguri	7678	30490	100	472
14	Odlabari	3116	14194	100	410
15	Telipara Tea Garden	2465	11535	100	326
Total		81574	356809	1500	6318
Source: District Census Handbook of Jalpaiguri, 2011, & Primary Survey, 2022					

Secondary Database

The data of Census Towns has been collected from District Gazetteers, District census Handbook, Statistical Handbook, Census of India, Government Reports, various published and unpublished thesis, articles, journals, and other records related to the study.

Methodology

For the analysis of livelihoods, a few indicators were adopted and analyzed accordingly. The socioeconomic and sociocultural characteristics of Census Towns dwellers in terms of their caste population, percentage of caste composition, sex ratio, marital status, age and gender composition, literacy, literacy level, female literacy, early school leaving rate, language, religion, health information, employment, dependency rate, employment composition, monthly family income, housing conditions, house types, basic household equipment or household assets are discussed accordingly. Besides, the inequalities and the development of the social indicators and the inequalities and the development of the economic indicators were also carefully discussed to show the inequality level of the dwellers of the census town.

Objective 3 To scrutinize the levels of infrastructural development of the CTs of the study area.

Primary Database

To assess the levels of infrastructural development of the CTs, a questionnaire-based household survey, semi structure interview was carried out.

Secondary Database

The essential secondary data of Census Towns has been collected from Jalpaiguri Municipal Board, District Gazetteers, District Census Handbook, Statistical Handbook, Census of India, Government Reports, and various published and unpublished thesis related to study area.

Methodology

In order to examine the degree of infrastructural development of the census towns, the rank of the CTs was determined in relation to various parameters like road length per km2, number of railway station per 100000 populations, number of firefighting stations per 100000 populations, number of hospital beds per 1000 populations, number of primary schools per 5000 populations, number of higher educational institutes and technical institutes per 15000 populations, number of stadiums per 100000 populations, number of cinema halls per 100000 populations, number of public library and reading rooms per 100000 populations, number of bank branches per 10000 populations, and number of non-agricultural credit society per 10000 populations, domestic electricity connection per 100 households, number of road lighting points per km of road, number of health institutions per 10000 populations, number of high schools per 10000 populations, and number of cinema halls per 100000 populations, number of working women's hostel per 10000 female populations individually for various census year respectively. The composite index was calculated to measure the infrastructural development of CTs. The spatial distribution of the CTs based on their infrastructural characteristics also showed some essential characteristics.

Objective 4 To analyze the problems associated with the urban development of the CTs of the study area.

Primary Database

To assess the various problems associated with day-to-day livelihoods of the CTs, a focus has been paid to poor household, drinking water, air quality, noise pollution, housing, sanitation, and traffic congestion. The collection of primary data for the problems like water quality, noise pollution, air quality, and traffic congestion has been analyzed across the CTs.

Secondary Database

The essential secondary data was collected from various articles, journals, published and unpublished thesis and Government report.

Methodology

The problems associated with the growth of Census Towns has been discussed and analyzed accordingly.

Objective 5 To recommend the developmental strategy of the Census Town dwellers.

The various recommendations and their problems within the CTs were also discussed in detail. Suggestions are made from the viewer's perspective.

1.10 Significance of the study

Urbanization plays an important role in the development of any space and CTs are the hotspot of economic transition in rural areas (Roy and Pradhan, 2018). The current research aims to find out the trend of urbanization of the census towns and the livelihoods of the residents of the selected study area. Attention is paid to whether the Census Town dweller's livelihood status is increasing or decreasing considering the trend in CTs growth and how this affects the livelihood environment on the one hand and the future lifestyle of CTs residents on the other. The socio-cultural backgrounds of the residents, the employment status of the residents, and the so-called level of development or the arbitrary growth of the CTs are the main issue of the city-related livelihoods. Thus, it varies over the vast expanse of the country. Although most city dwellers are aware of their livelihood, the growth of CTs is very regional and even location specific. The research therefore mainly aims to combine all historical, sociocultural, economic, and infrastructural aspects of the responses of the surveyed CTs from a regional perspective. It is therefore planned to examine the intricate relationship between the Census Town and its sub-Himalayan West Bengal residents, with great emphasis on livelihood issues, and expected to contribute to the general improvement of Census Town residents.

1.11 Conclusion

The present study is based on the primary survey data of Census Town dwellers and as well as secondary data of the Census Towns. In order to express the connection between urban growth and livelihoods, many sensitive issues such as income opportunities, property-related challenges, urban garbage complications, child labour, school dropouts, corruption, and the influence of local politics were planned with extra caution. Despite the unavailability of reliable quantitative data on the above topics, the researcher has been attempted to collect the information from the primary source and direct perception through semi-structured discussions and field observations.

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