

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS OF CENSUS TOWN DWELLERS OF JALPAIGURI DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**” has been prepared exclusively by me after registration under the supervision of Dr. Bipul Chandra Sarkar, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Ananda Chandra College, University of North Bengal for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geography and Applied Geography at the University of North Bengal. No part of this thesis, in whole or in part, has been previously submitted for any other degree or professional qualification or fellowship.

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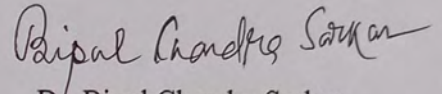
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. Ershad Ali has prepared the thesis entitled “**LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS OF CENSUS TOWN DWELLERS OF JALPAIGURI DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL,**” for the award of Ph.D. degree in Geography & Applied Geography of University of North Bengal under my guidance. Mr. Ali has carried out his research work based on extensive field survey from all the selected Census Towns of Jalpaiguri district, and secondary sources of available information in this regard.



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PREFACE

A geographic study of “**LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS OF CENSUS TOWN DWELLERS OF JALPAIGURI DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**” was conducted to study the trend and growth of urbanization, livelihood, infrastructure development and problems faced by dwellers of census towns in Jalpaiguri district in recent years. The research work was carried out in the years 2019-2023. An attempt has been made to highlight the trend and growth of Census Towns (CTs), analyze their social, economic, and cultural conditions, infrastructural development of the CTs, etc. based on the data obtained from the extensive field study and secondary information sources. The research work focuses on the CTs of Jalpaiguri district as these CTs are severely neglected as not much work has been done on the growth of the CTs and their living conditions. Therefore, it is very important to study the recent trends and trajectory of census town development, as well as the living conditions of dwellers of such census towns in Jalpaiguri district.

For a systematic study, the entire work has been divided into eight chapters.

Chapter 1 - Introduction: In this chapter, an introduction was given to the topic of living conditions of dwellers of Census Towns in Jalpaiguri district. The literature related to the topic was researched. The problems were spot on. The goals have been set. The hypotheses were formulated. The corresponding primary and secondary database to be used and the methodology to be followed have been determined according to the requirements.

Chapter 2 - Geographical Set Up of the Study Area: In this chapter, emphasis has been placed on analyzing the geographic features of Jalpaiguri district. For a systematic study of geographic features, the study region was divided into different categories, viz. history behind the name of Jalpaiguri district, origin of the district, physical background (physiography, topography, drainage, soils, climate, flora and fauna, land use patterns, etc.), economic background (economic and occupational structure), sociocultural background (demographics, social structure), infrastructural backgrounds (transport network, education, health, drinking water) and discussed these fields accordingly.

Chapter 3 – Trend and Growth of the Census Towns in Jalpaiguri District: In this chapter, the recent growth and development trends of Census Towns have been analyzed both at the base level and for individual census towns. Careful analysis has been performed for degree of

urbanization, trend, and growth of census towns over different census years, temporal assessment of growth patterns, growth indices, size-based census town classification, population balance sheet, exponential growth rate, growth patterns with facts, etc.

Chapter 4 – Livelihood Conditions of the Census Town Dwellers in Jalpaiguri District:

This chapter analyzed the socioeconomic and sociocultural characteristics of Census Town dwellers in terms of their caste population, percentage of caste composition, sex ratio, marital status, age and sex composition, literacy, literacy level, female literacy, school dropout rate, language, religion, health information, economic activities, dependency ratio, composition of the workforce, monthly family income, housing conditions, house types, basic household equipment or household assets. Besides, the inequalities and the development in the social indicators and the inequalities and the development in the economic indicators were also carefully discussed to show the inequality level of the dwellers of the census town.

Chapter 5 – Urban Infrastructure Development of the Census Towns in Jalpaiguri

District: In this chapter, a set of infrastructure development indicators was selected and then the composite index was calculated for each census town. Based on the composite index, the Census Towns are then classified into different categories such as high, medium, low, and very low levels of infrastructural development.

Chapter 6 – Problems of the Census Towns Dwellers in Jalpaiguri District: In this chapter, the problems connected with the daily life of the dwellers of Census Towns have been carefully discussed. The problem of living conditions, especially households without safe drinking water supply, households without latrine facilities, households without separate kitchen facilities, households without drainage facilities, were discussed in detail. The issues such as drinking water quality, noise pollution, air quality, traffic volume and average waiting time for human trafficking, health infrastructure, modern livelihoods, solid waste were also discussed in detail for each census town of the study area based on the primary survey.

Chapter 7 – Recommendations for the Development of the Census Towns Dwellers in

Jalpaiguri District: In this chapter, the recommendations related to the everyday problems of the citizens of the census town have been carefully discussed. The various recommendations such as changing the urban status from Census Town to a municipal body, suggestions related to demographic issues, infrastructure development, drainage system, modern livelihood and there are various proposals such as creating new jobs in the CTs, new industry, transportation and communication facilities, street lighting installations, drinking water supply,

environmental issues, waste disposal, drainage development, community facilities, rehabilitation of tourist sites, effective land use, etc. were discussed in detail.

Chapter 8 – Conclusion: In the last chapter, concluding remarks were made after a detailed study of the living conditions of the dwellers of the census town in Jalpaiguri district.

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