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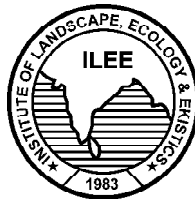
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Vol. II

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Critical Ethnography: A Methodological Intervention for Understanding Human Settlement Issues

Raktim Ray*

Abstract : *Ethnography as a qualitative research method has long been explored to understand the complexities of social and spatial relations regarding human settlement studies. This chapter briefly discusses some ethnographic methods and problematise ethnography as a methodological apparatus. It then expands its understanding by introducing the framework of critical ethnography. By doing so, it not only decentres normative understanding of ethnography but also opens up possibilities for a relational and generative understanding of human settlement issues. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Kolkata, the chapter also shows how differential power relations shape our understanding of the qualitative fieldwork. Finally, the chapter argues for a decolonial understanding of research methods to grasp the complexities of human settlement issues in the postcolonial world.*

Keywords : *Critical ethnography, human settlement, spatial politics, power relations*

Introduction

When I was doing my ethnographic fieldwork in Loomtex Mill in 2017, at the initial phase, after explaining to the group of workers why I wanted to interview them for my PhD research, one of the workers asked me, “what is there for us” (Ray, 2020)? This question unsettled me as I was not sure how my PhD fieldwork could be relevant for the workers. However, this incident made me aware of two things. Firstly, it made me aware of my own privilege of being a UK based heterosexual male researcher who has a middle-class urban upbringing and what differential positionality that privilege can impart between my respondents and me. Secondly, it also challenges considering respondents as merely a source of data.

This chapter positions itself within those critical tensions that exist in any ethnographic fieldwork in the postcolonial context. By doing so, it highlights the complexities of qualitative research methods and how differential power relations shapes our fieldwork experiences. To discuss these, the chapter is structure in the following way. After the introduction, the second section critically discusses

* *Development Planning Unit, University College of London, United Kingdom, Room 404, 34 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EZ, raktim.ray@ucl.ac.uk*

Journey toward Equality and Empowerment: A Study on Rural Craftswomen of West Bengal

Krishna Biswas¹ and Premangshu Chakrabarty²

Abstract : *Empowerment of women in the backward region is a challenge in association with provision of gender equity measures in demographical context. Rural craft making is an arena in which women folk is largely absorbed. The objective of the study is to address the research gap on the status of women empowerment in relation to locational aspects of the craft villages. With the application of ethnographic methods in field survey, this empirical study reveals the relative importance of intrinsic and locational factors in determining the level of decision making of craft women engaged in dokra craft. From case studies on Panchmura and Bikna in Bankura district of West Bengal that have been sampled for differential behavioural characteristics, the space effect on women empowerment has been derived.*

Keywords : *Gender, craft, women, space, empowerment*

Introduction

Traditionally man enjoys superior position in the patriarchal society, which leads to a gender disparity. The extent of freedom to access household resources and income may be the key to assess and interpret the level of such disparities. Traditionally inclusion of every person in the process of empowerment irrespective of their gender is very much important for the all-round development of a society. Removal of the gender gap that persists between male and female is the issue affecting equity from which a mechanism to achieve equality is derived (Council for International Development, 2012). Economic empowerment is identified as one of the fundamental requirements in order to assure gender equality (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], 2013). Gender equality is an ideological social situation, where any person is able to enjoy equal freedom in terms of self-development and access to decision making irrespective of gender identities. It is an antithesis of the role set by rigid norms of a conservative gender biased society. It advocates for judicious treatment of different genders as per essential requirements and needs. The word empowerment is deeply connected

1 UGC-SRF, Department of Geography, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan,
E-mail: geokrishnawb@gmail.com

2 Professor, Department of Geography, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan,
E-mail: drpremangshuindia@gmail.com

An Insight into the Land and Life of Tribals in Junglemahal, West Bengal, India

Lila Mahato*

Abstract : Tribes are an integral part of Indian civilization and marked for distinct difference from mainstream population in terms of their 'habitat, economy and society'(Forde,1934). At present tribes of India account for approximately eight percent of total population. Tribal groups may show variation in ethnic identity but share more or less common features. The livelihood patterns are centred on small land base, low agricultural productivity and low income from daily wages. These lead to indebtedness and finally into a vicious circle of exploitation. The life of the tribes is increasingly becoming vulnerable due to lack of assured rights to their resource base. A peep into the land of tribes from geographical perspective is therefore essential and central to apprehend the life of the people. Junglemahal and its surroundings have a long history and enriched geography that shape the tribal landscape. The present study reveals the demography, economy and culture resulted from constant interaction of geographical processes on the cultural space.

Keywords : ethnicity, demography, livelihood, geographical processes, cultural space

Introduction

All places over the Earth's surface reveal complex relationship between different processes and phenomena. The people have responded and shaped their lives in a systematic way, as they interact in the natural and cultural space. The nature and the surroundings influence all spheres of life. In India, the land and the people also exhibit closeness with nature and indicate the indigenouness in their identity. In fact, the panorama of population exhibits plethora of various communities and social groups. They adhere to different religions and cultures, speak different dialects but all of them are parts of Indian society. Tribal societies are till now in the stigma of sustaining life in a traditional way with distinctive cultural space. In fact, India is noted for remarkable concentration of tribal population in the World. According to 2011 census, the tribes account for 8.6 percent of the total population in India. Nearly 80 percent of them live in remote forest areas and hilly tracts. The term 'Scheduled Tribes' first appeared in the Constitution of India, [Article 366 (25)]. Scheduled Tribes are those communities who are scheduled in accordance with

* Associate Professor, Post Graduate Department of Geography, Krishnagar Govt. College, Nadia, West Bengal, Email : lila_mahato@yahoo.co.in

Socio-Economical Upliftment of Rural Poors through Self-Help Groups: A Case Study - Bajitpur Gram Panchayat, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Subhendu Bachhar*

Abstract : *In India 26.1 per cent of population are below poverty level. The financial requirement is one of the basic needs of the poorer section of the society for socio-economic development. The micro-finance provides that basic needs (small loans and governmental subsidy) to the poor through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and works as a tool for poverty alleviation. The present study is an attempt to explain the role of micro-finance through SHGs for socio-economic development of poor villagers at Bajitpur Gram Panchayat in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal and to examine what kind of socio-economic changes are occurred in the group members after joining the group. The broad objective of the study is to analyse the socio-economical development during pre-SHG and post-SHG period, purpose of loan, operating system of SHGs for mobilization of savings, delivery of credit to the needy and the changes of income and expenditure of the members. In order to collect and gather primary data, field observation and structured questionnaire survey method are employed. The information are also collected through discussions and interviews with local grameen bank, Gram Panchayat and government's grass roots level workers. There are 106 SHGs working at Bajitpur Gram Panchayat. Here, 10 SHGs have been chosen with 114 members for individual interrogation by field survey. The rural SHGs are utilizing the credit effectively and for the different purposes with a higher propensity to the income. It is observed that the micro-finance enables the rural families to rise their income. The paper is also tried to seek some problems in running the programme. Some solutions of the problems are suggested and steps taken by the government in solving the problems are also explained at the end of the study.*

Key words: *Self-Help Groups, Occupational structure, Family income, Housing condition, Micro-finance*

Introduction

Sometimes, the term micro-credit and micro-finance are interchangeably used. But now, micro-credit (small loans) is shifted to micro-finance as a broader activity in addition to credit, mobilization of savings, insurance, training and support services

* Junior Research Fellow, Department Of Science & Technology, Govt. of West Bengal

Role of Kanyashree Prakalpa as a Developmental Project to improve the Socio-Economic Status of Girls from Economically Backward Families in West Bengal, Special Reference to South 24 Parganas District

Moumita Ghosh¹ and Lakshminarayan Satpati²

Abstract : *Feminist theory and geography of gender mainly focus on the gender inequality in order to focus on gender politics, power relations and sexualities. Themes related to development include the inequality between genders, the disproportionate amount of work performed by women, and yet the absence of women in development policy or group decision making - in general, all of these being attributed to the subordinate of women. On this content, it can be mentioned that a section of the girls from very poor family and sometimes economically marginal families in West Bengal is an important focus group in the study of development and marginalization. The objective of this paper is, to analyse the socio-economic status of girls who and how the "Kanyashree Prakalpa "a social development project of the Government of West Bengal, has been acting as a helping tool for girls, to combat against child marriage, maternal health, school drop-outs and girl child trafficking.*

The work is based on various reports of the Government of India and State Government of West Bengal, important data delivered by Woman and Child Development, and Social Welfare Department of Govt. of West Bengal and on primary survey done on more than one thousand Kanyashree Beneficiaries and interview of local people on this project. It is found that Murshidabad, Maldah, Birbhum, Purulia, Bankura, Dakshin Dinajpur, South 24 Parganas, Nadia and Coochbehar districts are the most vulnerable districts in terms of child marriage and school drop-out amongst the others in the state. Special emphasis in study given to South 24 Parganas District to understand the status of girls by their number of enrolment in this project. According to the DLHS-3, published in 2007-08 the percentage of child brides were 54.7, which has reduced to 32.1 in the year 2012-13 mainly due to the implementation of the Kanyashree Project. The school drop-out rate has also reduced significantly in these districts. According to the Annual State of Education Report (ASER) 2020, the school dropout rate in the state declined from 3.3 per cent to 1.5 per cent while it went up from 4 per cent to 5.5 per

1 Assistant Teacher of Geography and Part-Time Research Scholar, Department of Geography, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, Email : moumitagh1985@gmail.com

2 Professor of Geography and Director, UGC-HRDC, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, Email : satpati.ln@hotmail.com

Bizu Festival of Chakma, Tripura: Future Prospects as a Tourist Destination sap

Saptarshi Mitra^{1*} and Jony Hrangkhaw¹

Abstract : *Cultural depiction covers a widespread range of approaches and techniques, but the most commonly used methods of cultural expression are festivals and fairs. Themed cultural and traditional festival acts as a source of attraction for potential tourists and generates income for the local community. The paper deliberates the Bizu festival's unique characteristics, essence, and major drawbacks that disrupt it from getting all the attention it requires from tourists everywhere. The data epitomized in the paper are also based on the Handheld GPS survey and the tourist survey conducted during the festival. The study reveals the festival's unique celebration and highlights the different approaches, social linkages of the festival according to the inhabitants, the potentialities of the festival, and the hindrances to establish it as a famous festival of the State of Tripura. The most special characteristic of the Bizu festival is its socio-religious assimilation. The festival highlights certain features that can attract local, regional, and global tourists in near future. The Maze and the Tower are the hallmark features of the festival spot. Further, the survey data reveals that there are still lots of basic limitations like lack of accommodation facilities, improper road accessibility, poor public sanitation facilities, lack of emergency medical care facilities, etc. which prevent it from attracting a larger number of people attending the festival by which it may be recognized as a potential tourist destination festival of Tripura.*

Keywords : *Cultural Heritage, Chakma community, Tripura tourism, Bizu festival, Cultural tourism*

Introduction

Recently cultural representation has been acquiring more attention in Tourism studies (Cornelissen, 2005; Hoffstaedter, 2008; Pritchard & Morgan, 2001; Santos & Yan, 2008; Smith & Robinson, 2006; Tang, 2005; Yang, 2011). Cultural tourism incorporates exploration of archaeological and historic sites, being part of a community's festival or ceremony, enjoying a traditional dance, or buying a handcrafted art (Besculides, Lee, & McCormick, 2002). Chang (2006) mentioned that festivals are the essential features of cultural tourism (Formica & Uysal, 1998) due

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Disaster Management, Tripura University, Research Assistant, ICSSR Project, Department of Geography and Disaster Management, Tripura University

* Corresponding Author (saptarshigeotu2000@gmail.com)

Sustainable Development of Tourism in Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Rupam Kumar Dutta*

Abstract : *The paper presents an assessment on sustainability of tourism in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Tourism is the strongest support of economy in Haridwar. However, tourism environment in Haridwar city is vulnerable due to continuous degradation of natural resources. The objective of this paper is to evaluate the sustainability of tourism in terms of ecology and local community of the Haridwar city. The study has been completed based on various data and information from different secondary sources and intensive field survey during 2007 to 2010 with scientific methods. The paper has mainly focused conflicts between tourism and conservation of natural resources in the city. Uncontrolled tourism has caused adverse impact on Ganga river water quality and as well as infrastructure of the city. The author emphasized on critical analysis about the Master project of Haridwar city and suggested scientific measures for sustainable development of tourism with stressing ecotourism.*

Key words: *Uncontrolled tourism, vulnerability assessment, sustainable tourism, eco tourism*

Introduction

Haridwar is the world famous religious and spiritual pilgrimage centre of the state of Uttarakhand as well as India because of its rich and ancient religious and cultural heritage. Tourism is one of the biggest and fastest-growing economic sectors in the global economy and has local, cultural, economic and ecological effects both positive and negative. Study on assessment of sustainable tourism in Haridwar has not been done by recent researchers. Based on the current literatures it is evident that more emphasis has been given on prospect of tourism and its economic sustainability in Haridwar, but unfortunately acute conflict between tourism and conservation of natural resources has been hardly discussed in recent studies. Hence, the study on negative impact of uncontrolled tourism in the city has a great significance to assess the ecological sustainability of tourism of the area. That is why the present paper has focused on detailed discussion of sustainable development of tourism in Haridwar district, Uttarakhand. The study has immense importance because it shows serious clash between uncontrolled tourism and

* Assistant Professor, Kultali Dr. B.R.Ambedkar College, South 24 Parganas.
Email : rupam_2007bijoy@rediffmail.com

Tasseled Cap Transformation for The Detection of Change in Major Land Use and Land Cover of New Town and People's Perception about the Development of The Township

Jhantu Saradar^{1*} Sukla Hazra²

Abstract : *Over the past few decades, most of the developing countries have undergone an unprecedented increase in levels of urbanization. The landscape of North and South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal is also undergoing through rapid change in urban growth as because of its nearness to Kolkata city. New Town, Kolkata started to build in the adjacent part of North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas since 1990s. In this paper the changing land use and land cover have been studied using remote sensing techniques. Tasseled Cap transformation of Landsat satellite data of 1990 and 2011 are used to study major changes. The distributions of Green space, Water bodies and built-up areas have been delineated within New Town area. Perceptual variation of the existing dwellers about different facilities and infrastructure of this planned township have been analyzed. The existing infrastructural facilities are evaluated from the beneficiaries' point of view. Residents' satisfaction index (RSI) has been calculated on the basis of perception survey.*

Keywords : *New town development, Land use change, Tasseled Cap transformation, Perception study*

Introduction

To meet the increasing needs of urban infrastructural facilities in a sustainable way, satellite townships are came into existence all over the world. In Asia, urban development policies in 1960s and 1970s were concentrated on slowing down the urbanization rate by the control of expanding metropolitan cities (Shaw, 1995). The concepts of 'Green city' and then 'New Town' have come in late 1970s. Among the Asian countries, Japan was the first country who had implemented National Capital Regional Development Law in 1956 (Shaw, 1995). In West Bengal, the West Bengal Town and Country Planning and Development Act, 1979 (WBT & CP & D Act, 1997), have the statutory provisions to control unplanned development and

1 *Assistant Professor, Nahata Jogendra Nath Mondal Smriti Mahavidyalaya, North 24 Parganas, 743290, West Bengal.*

Corresponding author Email ID. jhantusaradar@gmail.com

2 *Principal, East Calcutta Girls' College, Lake Town, Kolkata 700089, West Bengal*

Role of Census Towns on Urbanization Processes in North 24 Parganas District, West Bengal

Chandan Sarkar*

Abstract : *The new urban areas which are transformed from rural character to urban character and recognized by Census of India, nearer or away from Urban Local Bodies are known as Census Town (CT). But the CTs, their services and amenities depend upon the rural panchayat administration. Actually the large village, market areas, industrial areas and others rural areas adjacent to large urban centers which have fulfilled the criteria of urban centers have been treated as Census Towns. The role of Census towns for urbanization processes and urban agglomeration of any urban areas are very much important. Since Independence, North 24 Parganas district has experienced a dramatic growth in size and volume of statutory towns, but very little importance has been given to the Census Towns which have significantly contributed to the overall urbanisation of the district. This paper is an attempt to understand the role of Census Towns on urbanization processes in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal.*

Keywords : *Urban Agglomeration, Urban Civic Amenities, Urbanization, Urban Growth, Urban Crises*

Introduction

The state governments declare settlements as urban areas, which include all types of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), e.g. Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Notified Area, Nagar Panchayats, etc. These towns are known as Statutory Towns (STs). On the other hand *census towns* are administered by Gram Panchayat, but their physical character is like an urban areas. Census of India has marked the following criteria for defining Census Towns (i) A minimum population of 5000, (ii) 75 per cent of their male working population engaged in non-agricultural activities and (iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km. The *Census Towns* (CT) is first recognized by the census of India in 1971. Urbanization processes are very complex and dynamic. Urbanization is an index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial one. A society may switch to an urban society by increasing its population, introducing non-agrarian economic activities and facilitating 'urban features'. The urbanisation of India is very special and exceptionally top-heavy in nature in comparison to the rest of the developing

* Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, P. N. Das College, Palta, North 24 Parganas, e-mail : chandansarkar2@yahoo.in

Impact of Urbanization in the Development of South Suburban Area of Kolkata

Moumita Saha*

Abstract : *Urbanization is a determinant as well as a consequence of economic development. It lays the foundation for Metropolitanization which in turn causes suburbanization. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the impact of urbanization by its trend and nature in the south suburban area of Kolkata, to understand the reasons behind the uneven formation of this fringe area, to identify the problems of over congestion on basic service related to the uneven urbanization pattern and to understand the future population scenario which will have an effect on resource availability in the study area. Data about temporal variation of population and nature of urbanization have been collected from published government materials and census documents, random sample survey helps to depict deprivation level of basic services and to find correlations. The south suburban area of Kolkata has experienced high rate of population growth and unplanned expansion due to industrialization, improvement of transportation networks outward from the city core, cheap affordable land in the transition areas and various other socioeconomic reasons. The development of urban centres is in some pockets than a continuous development and these pockets create high population congestion and scarcity of resources. There is a huge primacy seen at the municipalities than other constituent units. With rapid rate of urbanization rural areas were swallowed up into the urban landscape, and attained the suburban to urban character. Increasing nature of urbanization increased the aspiration level of achieving standard high quality basic services and thus creating pressure in basic services. This area thus must attain attention of planners to check the congestion scenario after two decades.*

Key words: *Urbanization, suburbanization, urban sprawl, deprivation index.*

Introduction

Urbanization is a determinant as well as a consequence of economic development. It reveals through temporal, spatial and sectoral changes in the demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society. Urbanization is an indicator of development as it indicates that more and more people are engaged in secondary and tertiary activities. It lays the foundation for Metropolitanization which in turn causes suburbanization. Urbanization increases population in urban areas and raises the aspiration level of

* Assistant teacher at Salkia Vidyapith, Howrah, West Bengal 711106,
Email : mou.rinky@gmail.com

Commuters' Perception on Development of Transportation to the Campus of West Bengal State University in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal

Anwasha Haldar¹and Srabanti Bera²

Abstract : *An effective transport system not only aids wider exposure to opportunities from distant locations and regional development but also a sense of security. Satisfaction of commuters to a certain mode of transport greatly varies with traditional beliefs, socio-economic independence, cleanliness, allegiance to the service providers or co-passengers, knowledge about other convenient modes, etc. which create numerous patterns. The idea of easing the accessibility heralds larger enrolment rates in more accessible educational institutions, especially in the suburban tracts of North 24 Parganas District in West Bengal. The West Bengal State University (WBSU) is one such institution located in Barasat-I C.D. Block and responses mainly from students were recorded regarding their accessibility experiences and perceptions for assessing the scopes for improvement of transportation. GIS-based maps were prepared to show surface transport networks and isochrones were plotted. The questionnaire surveys through web-based methodologies and Google forms crowd sourcing techniques were applied and simple statistical analyses were carried out to interpret the responses. The study revealed the dynamics of cost, comfortability, and travel time or distance affecting the commuters' preferences towards the available modes of transportation.*

Key words: *Crowd sourcing, accessibility mapping, commuters' preferences, transport development of Berunanpukuria*

Introduction

Accessibility may be referred to the ease of access or closeness to destination or service from the residence of people, and its efficiency lies with the quality of transport infrastructure and public transportation facilities. Accessibility depends on many things like distance, time, and cost of travel (Martinez et al., 2012, Woldeamanuel and Cyganski, 2011); and can be categorized into: (a) physical, when based on physical distance from roads; (b) relative, when based on the travel time or cost; (c) nodal, when based on connectivity matrix; along with (d) public service

1 Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, East Calcutta Girls' College, Kolkata
anweshahaldar@ecgcollege.org

2 Ex Student, Department of Geography, Vivekananda College, Madhyamgram

Gentrification- Transforming The Indian Cities

Debdip Bhattacharjee*

Abstract : *For the context of present day chain of development 'Gentrification' is one of the most focused issues. Here in this article an attempt has been made to discuss the processes, forms or classification and impacts of gentrification with special emphasis on Indian cities. A special focus has been given to the present conditions of heritage buildings of Kolkata. After a detailed investigation the author has shown ways to sustain in the coming future, e.g. either we should go with our heritage culture or avoid to get rid to fulfill our modern needs. Choice is open for a short span of time. This analysis is based on the evaluation of past literatures amalgamating with present day lay outs.*

Key words: *New Built Gentrification, Heritage building, Financification.*

Introduction

For recent decades, major urban focuses and progressively well-off rural region have been experiencing huge changes in a period of remarkable luxuriousness and innovative advancements. This procedure has not just spread up over the span of the twenty-first century, with rising urban recovery and property proprietors exploiting the unquenchable interest for lodging from the recipients of the mechanical blast. In developed nations, these circumstances were handled by annihilating the whole city and finish crisp advancement as 'Urban Renewal'. Maybe a couple of these urban communities in created nations were influenced by wars, characteristic or man-made disasters. Those urban areas likewise experienced such crisp advancement. E.g. more prominent London was completely restored after the Great Fire of London in 1666, the twin quakes that struck in Nepal on April 26 and May 12, 2015 caused around 9,000 passings, and around a large portion of a million families in the focal district of the nation lost their homes. And additionally houses, many Kathmandu's legacy structures were annihilated, including the notable Dharahara tower. Now a day, gradually however relentlessly Kathmandu is conquering the serious misfortune and turning into a recovered town. The connections among lodging and class battle turned into a long haul inquire about intrigue, and worries about the quickening recovery of Victorian cabin house, tenurial change from leasing to owning, property cost increments, and the uprooting of

* *Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Sukanta Mahavidyalaya, Dhupguri, Jalpaiguri, E-mail : debdip1983@gmail.com*

Social Area Analysis of Nabadwip Town, West Bengal

Dr Surajit Das*

Abstract : *Urban social structure is embedded in spatial arrangement of social groups in different cities. Social fabric of cities has long been the subject of scholarly attention in urban studies from a variety of approaches. Nabadwip is a very ancient & indigenous city, and is anticipated to have been founded in 1063 A.D. (The medieval period). This city is symbols of rural-urban symbiosis. Religion also played an important force for the origin of the towns, have come into being predominantly because of religious sanctity at the point of their site. The tertiary sector of the economy & diversity of jobs have altogether changed the urban milieu. The city unit including areas around its nucleus from the indigenous oriental type of common patterns visible in its uncontrolled growth & provide a mixed land use. The city represents & conflict of blending of indigenous features and hybridized modern features. Social fabric is distinguished by social areas within a city. The present study tries to analyse the social mosaic through social area analysis (SAA) in Nabadwip town. Social areas in terms of social rank, degree of urbanization and segregation have been analyzed. It is a pragmatic study based purely on field enquiry. Finally, authors have given some policy directives as to social policy of the area concerned. This paper depicts the different social areas of the town, which are classified into various pockets dominated by particular functional types such as residential, commercial, industrial or administrative etc.*

Key words: *Rural-urban symbiosis, Social fabric, Indigenous features, Religious sanctity.*

Introduction

City is a mosaic of areas performing different functions. This mosaic mirrors the divisions and inequalities of society as well. Thus, the population of any city, large or small, is not a homogeneous mass urban land use gets classified into various pockets dominated by particular functional types such as residential, commercial, industrial or administrative etc. The complex human society interacts and reacts with physical and cultural environment to produce a mosaic of urban landscape. Within this mosaic are the groupings of urban residents with similar characteristics based on their culture, behaviour and life styles. Factorial ecology is the point where urban

* *Field Investigator, Department of Architecture and Engineering, Jadavpur University. and Student of Centre for Urban Economic Studies, University of Calcutta,
Email ID:surajitgeo84@gmail.com*

Anthropogenic Hazard in The Urban Area: A Geographical Assessment for Management of Fire Risk in Kolkata Muncial Corporation (KMC)

Sandip Ghosh^{1*} and Dr. Ashis Kumar Sen²

Abstract : *Fire is one of the most important hazard, often causing massive damage to life and properties but it can be managed and preventive measures can be taken to avoid large scale devastations. Anthropogenic hazards are usually very common in urban areas, particularly if such areas are unplanned and congested without having proper fire safety. In the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) of West Bengal, the present study area, the density of settlements has been increasing mainly because of the number of houses and infrastructures located within adjacent areas are increasing making it prone to urban fires. The present study involves investigation of the nature of fire hazards in the KMC area, including their geographical and seasonal distribution, frequencies and magnitudes, damages and control. The major focus is on the scope for use of geo-spatial technologies in assessment of fire hazards in the KMC area. Emphasis has been given on the risk factors of the fire hazards over time and space, identification of probable fire hazard zones and their specific categorization, and effective networking of the nearest fire stations and other fire fighting strategies. The research attempts to address the specific issues of different land use sector including industries, market, residential, slum and hospitals area through application of Global Positioning System (GPS), Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) for preparation of Urban fire assessment plan.*

Key words: *Anthropogenic hazards, Risk factors, Geographical Fire Assessment*

Introduction of Kolkata city and its population problems:

Urban fire is one of the most common and dangerous man- made hazards, often causing massive damage to life and properties, which is manageable by taking preventive measures. It occurs frequently, particularly if the urban layouts are unplanned and congested, the man-land ratio is usually very high, and the nature of land use and land cover (LULC) permits fire to spread quickly, especially in the unplanned towns and cities. The Kolkata Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) area is historically old, congested and had emerged as an unplanned city due to haphazard

1 Guest Lecturer, Kshudiram Bose Central College, Kolkata

* Corresponding author Email ID: sandipghosh.85@gmail.com

2 Retd. Associate Professor, WBES, Presidency College & Former Founder Head, Department of Geography, Aliah University, Kolkata

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