

An Exploration into Development Status through variations of Demographic Parameters among Tribal and Non tribal People of South Western West Bengal

Subhasis Bhattacharjee

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, The University of Burdwan, Bardhaman, India

ABSTRACT: population component is an inalienable part for any study related to development. The demographic parameters certainly reveal the progress of any society or country. Community wise demographic statistics further highlight trend of development across communities. Tribes occupy a crucial part in the analysis of demographic spectrum of any spatial unit. In Indian context, Chhotanagpur plateau fringe areas of South western West Bengal represent a unique cluster of tribes dependent upon deciduous varieties of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) vegetation. An insight into population parameters like growth, sex ratio, and work participation reveals that the development benefits are very poorly distributed for tribal communities in comparison to non tribal people residing in the study area.

KEYWORDS: Development, Population, Demographic, Tribals and South Western West Bengal.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The number of people in an area determines the utilization of resources and thus assumes paramount importance. Density, growth, female male composition, migration are also very much important for the development of any area as well as for the study area concerned. Any development study incorporates analysis of population structure as yardstick of development. The work opportunities, growth rate or any other parameters are indicator of technological development of that society (Chandna, 2008). The selected study area of South Western West Bengal exhibits assemblage of tribal as well as non tribal population. These present an opportunity to find out the variation at community level between these two type in regard to share of development enjoyed by them.

Objectives

Firstly, to find out the variation in demographic characteristics like population distribution, population growth, sex ratio, employment opportunities between tribal and non-tribal communities and secondly the interdependence of these demographic features with development activities in the study area.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Census, research literatures, several books, theses, field visits are major materials for this study. The study is primarily based upon census data of 2011 concerning various demographic criteria and tribal information. The administrative maps of 1961 census have been used with addition of recent changes in jurisdiction of Districts and Blocks. The adopted method for this study is based upon data collection, compilation and quantitative analysis. The database pertains to the all the Community Development Blocks of four District viz. Bankura, Puruliya, Jhargram and Paschim Medinipur of West Bengal.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The different aspects of demography or population features and their implications of development are as follows:

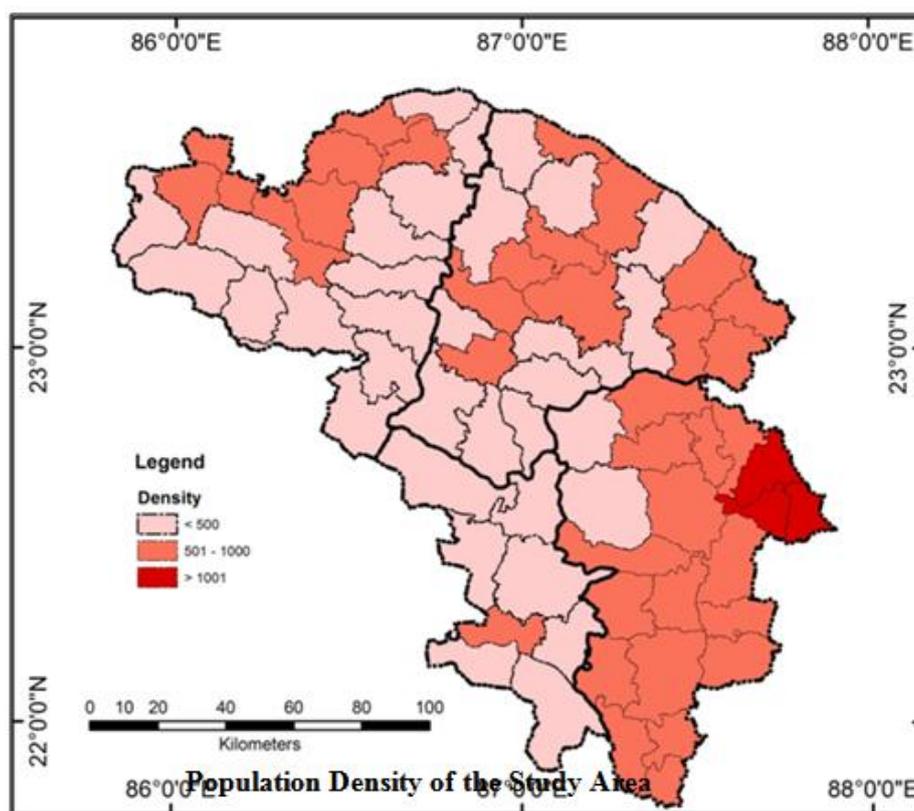
Population Distribution

The study area is one of the ancient cores of tribal population concentration. The latest Census data of 2011 and preceding Census years has been taken as database. Onda, Barjora and Chhatna are topmost 3 populated Blocks of Bankura in terms of total population. Ranibandh, Raipur and Chhatna are the top 3 tribal resident Blocks of Bankura in terms of population. Para, Kashipur and Barabazar are 3 largest populated Blocks in Puruliya among total population. Kashipur, Bundwan and Manbazar II are the largest concentrated tribal

Block in Puruliya . Keshpur, Narayangarh and Debra are the 3 largest populated Blocks in Paschim Medinipur District. Narayangarh, Binpur II and Debra on the other hand occupied the rank of top 3 tribal dominated Blocks of Paschim Medinipur. In common, the distribution of population is skewed from non-tribal eastern part to tribal western part.

Population Density

The ratio of number of people in unit area of land, defined as population density is one of the important demographic parameter to estimate the resource population relationship (Chandna, 2008). All the seventy two Blocks of the study area have been classified into three zones on the basis of data from Census of India for the year 2011. The highest density zones with population density of more than 1000 per km² are found in Ghatal, Daspur I and Daspur II Block.

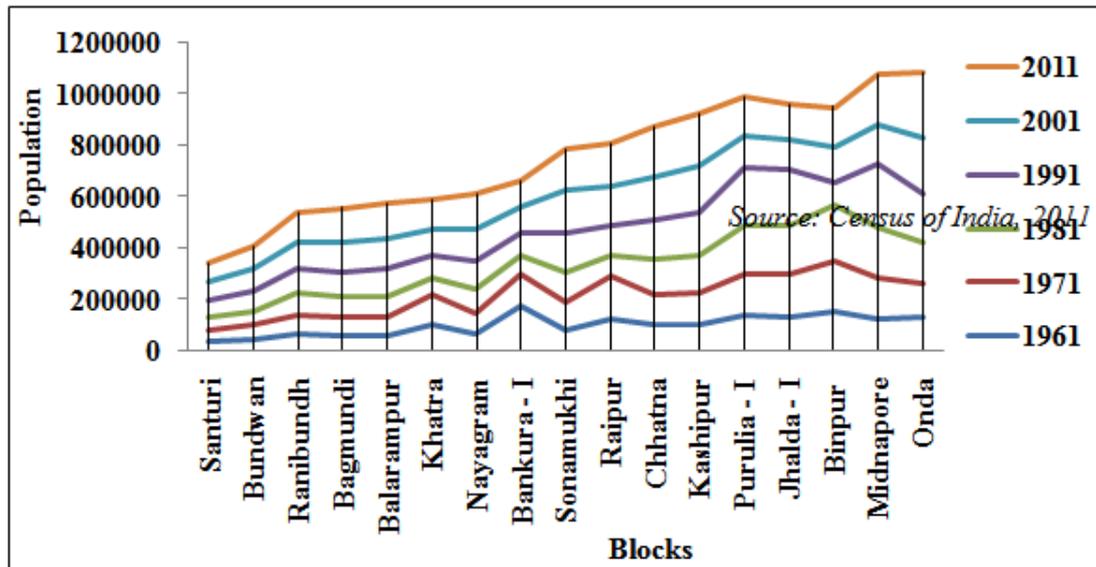


The moderate density zone of 500 to 1000 persons are found in Raghunathpur I and II, Para, Puruliya I and II, Joypur and Jhalda I Blocks of Puruliya District; Mejia, Barjora, Bankura I and II, Onda, Joypur, Kotulpur, Patrasayer and Indas Blocks of Bankura District and Gopiballavpur I, Mohanpur, Datan I, Datan II, Keshiary, Narayangarh, Pingla, Sabang, Medinipur Sadar, Kharagpur I, Kharagpur II, Debra, Keshpur, Garbeta I, Garbeta II, Chandrakona I and Chandrakona II of Paschim Medinipur District. The highest density in the study area is found in the Blocks of Ghatal, Daspur I and Daspur II. Thus, the trend in density is decreasing from east to west and density is positively correlated with concentration of non-tribal people.

Population Growth

The excess of fertility and immigration over mortality and emigration determines the growth of population of any area. The demographic profile of the study area has been represented with population growth parameter from the year 1961 up to 2011 data from Census of India. The chosen Blocks for this purpose include tribal populated Blocks of Bundwan, Baghmundi, Balarampur, Santuri, Ranibandh and Binpur; whereas non-tribal populated Blocks considered are Puruliya I, Sonamukhi, Medinipur and Onda. The total population for Puruliya, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur are respectively 5,27,442; 16,84,513 and 22,33,643 in the year 1961 and 27,65,954; 35,96,674; 53,50,555 in the year 2011. The growth in absolute number is 22,38,512; 19,12,161 and 31,16,912 within in fifty years . The total population change has been studied at Block level simultaneously.

The highest population change found in the Blocks like Medinipur, Onda and Bampur while lowest change has been observed in Santuri, Bundwan and Ranibandh among selected Blocks. It is pertinent to note here that the concentration of tribes and growth of population . Population Change in Selected Blocks has highly negative correlation. This situation is attributed to more development works in non-tribal areas. There are few factors in tribal culture which are commonly overlooked in the analysis of demographic phenomena. These include absence of gender preference, resource–population dynamic etc.



Population Change in Selected Blocks

Female Male Ratio

The number of female per 1000 male population has been studied as another yardstick of demographic profile of the study area. It is considered foremost parameter for human resource analysis of any country. The female male ratio in the study area ranges from 933 in Jaipur of Puruliya to 990 in Binpur II of Jhargram. This ratio has been calculated separately for tribal and non-tribal component of population composition based on Census data of 2011. The highest and lowest ratio in non-tribal component is found in Nayagram of Jhargram with 986 per thousand and 929 per thousand in Neturia and Rahunathpur I of Puruliya. The highest and lowest ratio in tribal component is found in Sarenga of Bankura with 1056 per thousand and Jaipur of Puruliya with 958 per thousand. The data provides positive correlation between tribal concentration and healthy female male ratio.

Economy

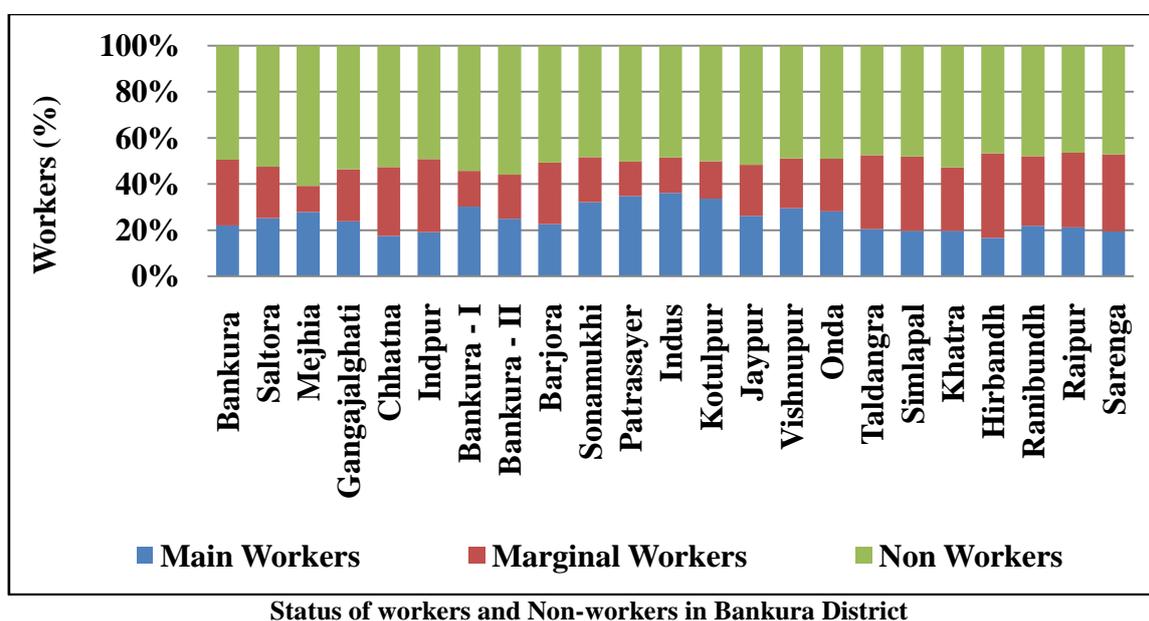
The production practices and consumption patterns have been studied with field observation and Census data to assess the economy of the study area. The opportunity of work and occupational classification are 2 main aspects of the economic characteristics of the study area.

Opportunity of Work

The people with scope of work or absence of work are defined as worker and non worker respectively. Workers are further categorized into main and marginal. The people who are secured of more than 180 days full time work are called main workers while people availing less than 180 days work are called marginal workers (Census of India, 2011).

The economic base of the study area has been studied at Block level in Bankura District from the Census data of 2011. The sample of Bankura District has been chosen purposefully with existence of industries and agriculture, forest land and barren land, as well as, tribal and non-tribal are sufficiently represented. Hence this unit may be taken as microcosm of the study area. The total workforce has been presented in percentage bar diagram with category of main worker, marginal worker and non-worker. The percentages of non-worker are lowest in Simlapal, Hirbandh, Raipur, Taldangra and Sarenga while non-workers are found in large numbers in Mejia. The shares of main workers are lowest in percentage in Simlapal, Khatra, Hirbandh, Raipur and Sarenga while maximum main workers are found in Blocks like Sonamukhi, Patrasayer and Indas. The proportions of marginal worker are highest in percent in Simlapal, Khatra, Hirbandh, Raipur, Sarenga, Taldangra, and Indpur while lowest share of marginal workers are found in Mejia, Bankura I and Indas. Therefore, it may be summed up that due equal participation of male and female non workers among tribes are comparatively less but the

insecurity and temporary nature of jobs for tribes has increased the number of marginal workers in tribal communities.



Occupational Structure

The type of economic activities of the people plays immense role in shaping the economy and livelihood of the area or country. There are main four categories of workers as per Census of India. This classification has been adopted for the present work which includes cultivators, agricultural labourers, household workers and other workers. The category of other workers include rest of the economic activities including all types of secondary, tertiary, quaternary and highly professional activities. This study has been undertaken with selected nine Blocks from four Districts of the study area based on presence or absence of tribes with separate focus on main and marginal workers.

The category wise analysis on main workers will be followed by the discussion of sector wise marginal workers. The number of cultivators is highest in Baghmundi, Ranibandh and Medinipur. The numbers of agricultural labourers are most abundant in Ranibandh, Nayagram and Medinipur. The household workers are highest in Nayagram and Mejia. Medinipur, Puruliya I and Bankura I has larger share of other workers.

The data on marginal workers reveals that the workers of agricultural labourers' category dominate while rest 3 categories are more or less very small in numbers. The numbers of excessive agricultural labourers are found in Binpur II, Nayagram, Baghmundi and Ranibandh. These compositions of economic activities further support the weak nature of the tribes' economy.

Occupational Structure of Main Workers

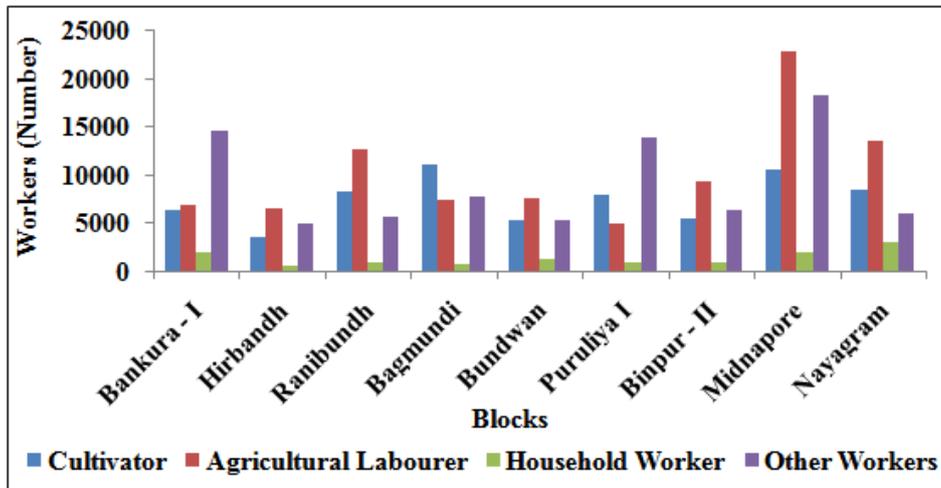
Blocks	Cultivator	Agricultural Labourer	Household Worker	Other Workers
Bankura – I	6273	6950	1939	14527
Hirbandh	3521	6504	593	4898
Ranibundh	8259	12622	885	5653
Bagmundi	11159	7469	703	7806
Bundwan	5346	7586	1275	5217
Puruliya I	7938	5015	936	13864
Binpur - II	5538	9306	894	6417
Midnapore	10615	22875	1991	18222
Nayagram	8531	13486	3009	6063

Source: Census of India, 2011

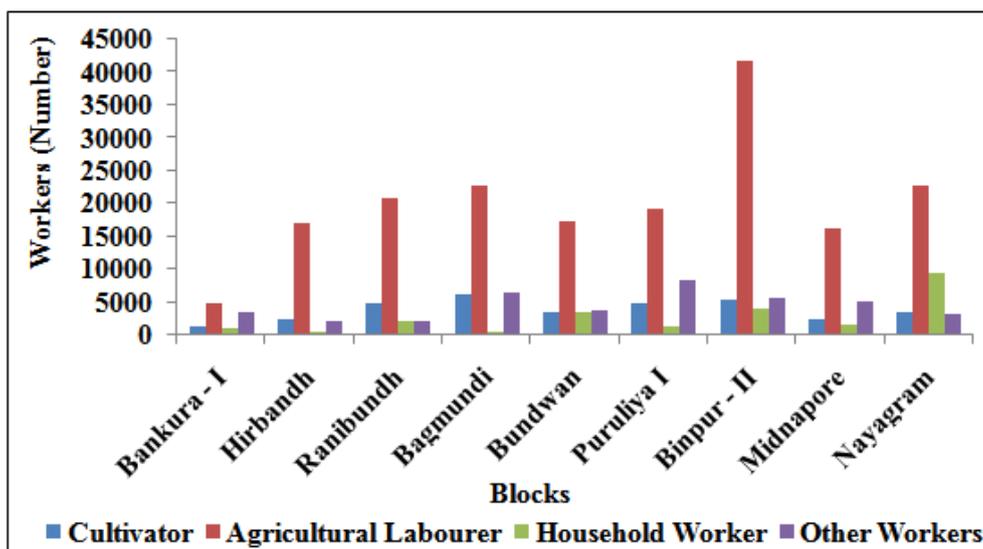
Occupational Structure of Marginal Workers

Name	Cultivator	Agricultural Labourer	Household Worker	Other Workers
Bankura - I	1471	4801	967	3399
Hirbandh	2458	16975	407	2114
Ranibundh	4844	20980	2082	2148
Bagmundi	6200	22839	637	6422
Bundwan	3406	17248	3501	3817
Puruliya I	4997	19141	1280	8299
Binpur - II	5295	41650	4036	5646
Midnapore	2464	16156	1611	5144
Nayagram	3527	22897	9361	3180

Source: Census of India, 2011



Occupational Structure of Main Workers of the selected Blocks



Occupational Structure of Marginal Workers of the selected Blocks

IV. CONCLUSION

This research work presents a synopsis of demographic account and development status of the study area. Selected 5 demographic parameters including distribution, growth, female-male ratio, opportunity of work and occupational structure shows the underlying socio-economic condition and technological development as the background of their variation in statistics between tribes and non tribes of the study area. The population distribution pattern reveals that favourable places of plain areas are occupied by non-tribes. The unchecked growth raid accompanied by food shortages is found maximum among non tribes. Female male ration is favourable to women in case of tribes. The security of employment is less for tribes as they are mainly engaged as marginal workers like agricultural labourer. This Rahr plateau area is habitat of non-tribal well off as well as poverty stricken marginal communities including tribes.

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