



## Population Diversity and Demographic Characteristics in Purba Medinipur District of West Bengal

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### Abstract

To describe the demographic characteristics and identify the needs of population diversity are crucial in addressing the issues of population resources and development of a region. Simultaneously, it is very important to high light different problems and imbalances in population distribution of Purba Medinipur district in West Bengal presents a socio-cultural diverse composition of population. Being inhabited by considerable size of Hindus and Muslims and schedule caste and schedule tribe the district presents a highly diverse socio-cultural topography. The prime objective of the study is to understand the diversity in population composition and associated demographic characteristics in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal in spatio-temporal perspective. The relevant data for the study have been collected from secondary sources and the data so obtained have been analyzed and presented using various statistical and cartographic technique.

The district has witnessed a substantial population growth gradually coming down with mark growth in the urban areas. Out migration is gaining pace in the district in the form of rural to urban migration. The district represents variation in population composition and population dynamics in spatio-temporal aspects. However the present paper is an endeavor to study the demographic characteristics, composition and population dynamics in the district in light of cause and effect relationship with the futuristic approach.

**Keywords:** population diversity, demographic attributes, population growth rate, migration, population dynamics

### Introduction

Human population is considered as a socio economic and cultural agent in shaping the earth. Geographers have been studying population in various aspects like numbers, evolution, growth spread and demographic characteristics, their distribution and diversity and changes and dynamics over space and in time. Etymologically population geography implies the investigation in human covering. Population in Purba Medinipur district has a very diverse characteristics contains diverse race cast customs and tradition accompanied by variable economic conditions. Growth distribution and density of population in the district are marked with variation in nature. Since the creation of the district in 2002 Purba Medinipur is seeing a huge socio economic transformation of population as result imbalances in development are inevitable.

### Study Area

Purba Medinipur District came into existence after bifurcation of erstwhile Midnapur on and from January 1, 2002. This district is situated on the southern side of the State of West Bengal. The total area of the district is 4,151.64 square kilometres. It is situated between 21°38' N to 22°31' N and 87°27' E to 88°12' E. The District is surrounded by Ghatal Sub-division of Paschim Medinipur District in the north, Bay of Bengal in the south, Paschim Medinipur district in the west and Hoogly-Rupnarayan river in the east (Rupnarayan river separates this district from Howrah). Tamluk, Haldia, Contai and Egra are its 4

Subdivisions. The district comprises of 25 Blocks and 5 Municipalities, namely Panskura, Tamluk, Egra, Contai and Haldia.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the paper are:-

1. To study the demographic features *viz* population structure, composition, distribution and population dynamics in Purba Medinipur district with their cause and effect factors over space and time.
2. Approximation of population scenario in coming decades.
3. To provide suggestions in coping up problems with the increasing population and sustainability in the district.

### Database and Methodology

Secondary sources like District Census Handbook of Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal series 1991 and 2011 as well as District Statistical Hand Book of Purba Medinipur district 2001, 2008, 2011 are used to collect the data and maps and information. Explanation and analysis have been adopted to discuss the data. Decadal growth rate, rural urban population composition, gender and caste sharing of population have been done with the help of appropriate methodologies and statistical formula. Various cartographic techniques have been applied to make the data presentable.

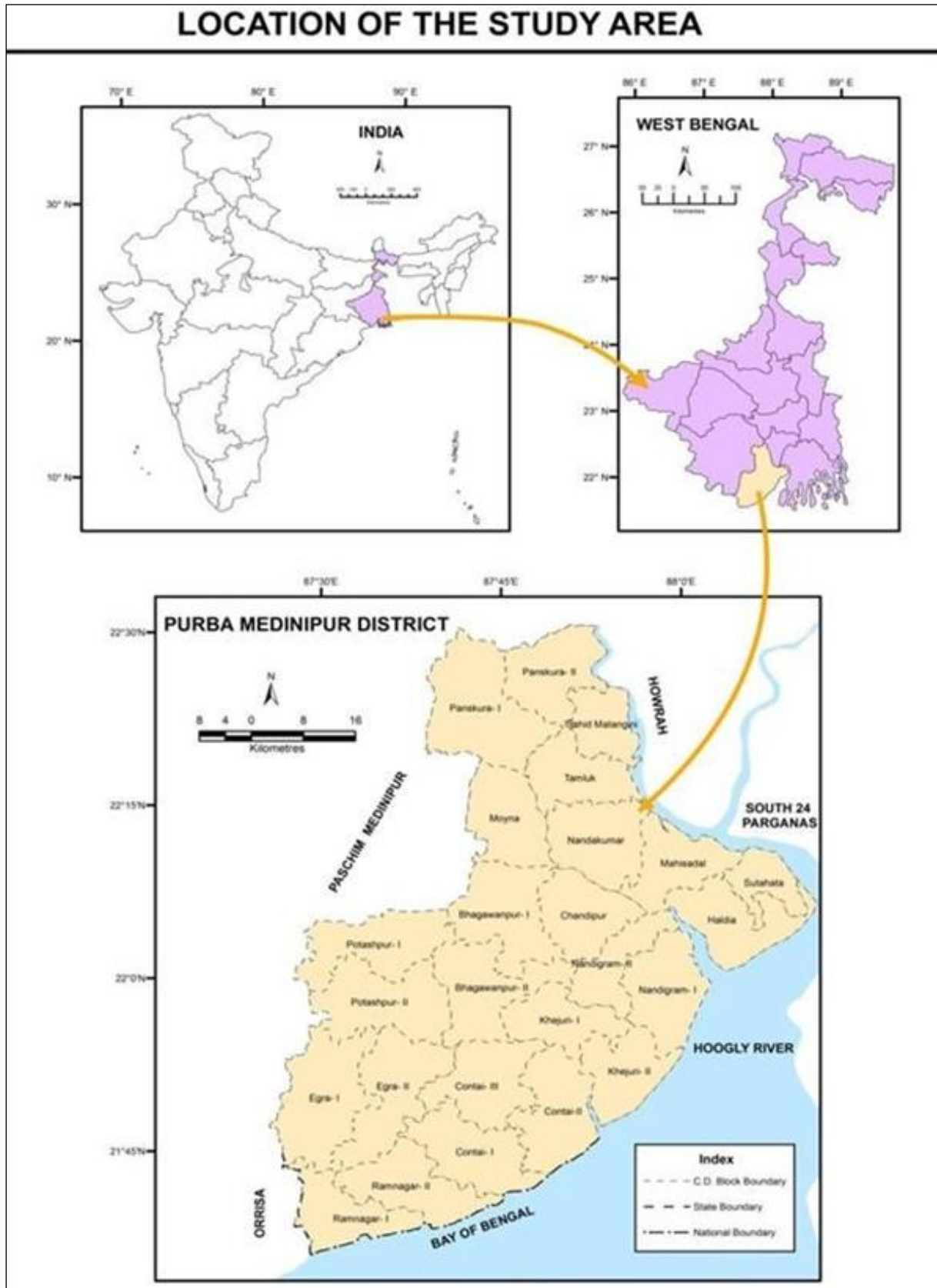


Fig 1

Research and Discussion

Table 1: Demographic Parameters

Population Parameter	Year		Decadal Growth(2001-2011)
	2001	2011	
Total population	4417377	5095875	15.35

Sex Ratio	947	938	-0.95
Child sex Ratio	951	946	-0.5257
Population Density	933	1081	15.86
Total child population(0-6) age	628459	587654	-6.49
Male child(0-6)age	322110	301989	-6.24
Female child(0-6)	306349	285665	-6.75
Total literate population	2806250	3923194	39.80
Literate Male population	1626260	2149073	32.09
Literate female population	1179390	174121	50.42

Source: Census 2001 and 2011.

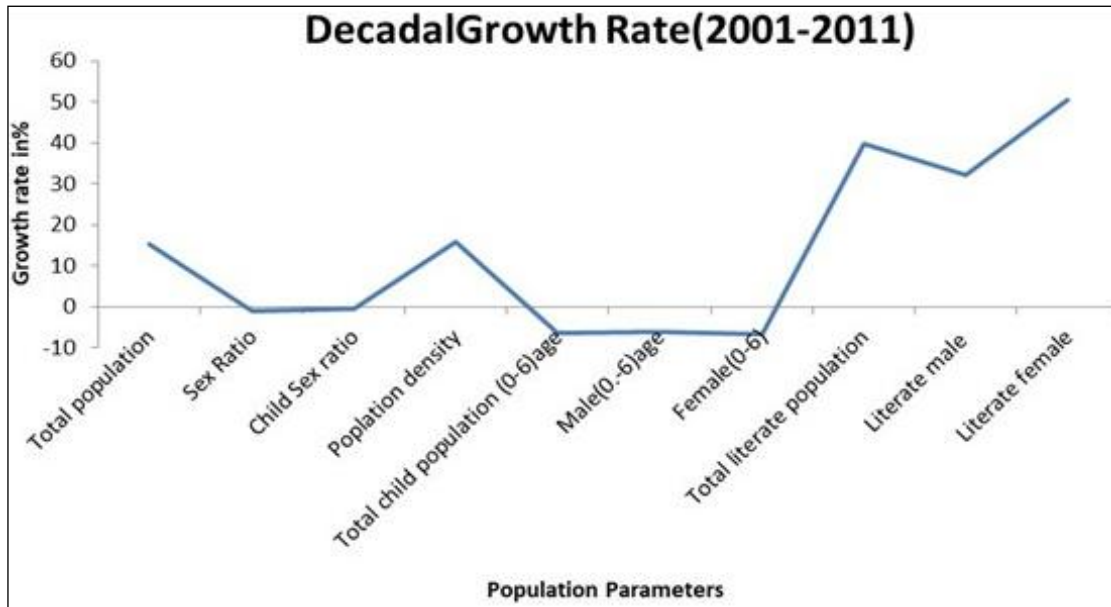


Fig 2

Table -1 depicts the structure and composition of population of Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. Population structure and composition are the two important indicators of population dynamics studies and the vital variables of population which determined the socio-economic conditions and developmental stages of the society. These are also determined and decide the process and levels of resource utilization. Unbalanced structure and composition of population creates several problems in sustainable societal

setup and hindering the running developmental process in time and space. In 2001 the total population of the district was 4417377 persons which increase to 5095875 persons in the decade 2001 to 2011 with the decadal growth of 15.35 percent (Table no-1). It is slightly higher than the decadal population growth of the state (2001-2011) during the same time span.

Table 2: Block wise selected Demographic Parameters of Purba Medinipur District

Name of the Block	Total Population		Population Growth		Population Density		Sex Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Panskura	298139	283303	-4.9762		1207	1154	951	946
Kolaghat	256882	290124	12.94057		785	1638	945	931
Tamluk	204422	217776	6.532565		1799	1901	772	937
Sahid Matanginir	176307	199210	12.99041		1802	1391	938	931
Nandakuma	229462	262998	14.61506		1385	1730	947	938
Mahisadal	182191	206277	13.22019		1244	1026	953	939
Moyna	196502	226927	15.4833		1268	1158	928	923
Patashpur-I	151609	173377	14.35799		880	923	952	936
Patashpur-II	150551	175056	16.27688		785	837	948	938
Bhagbanpur-I	167551	192162	14.68866		1142	1183	957	940
Bhagbanpur-II	198898	234432	17.86544		930	900	960	933
Chandipur	159914	188119	17.63761		1162	1168	946	937
Sutahata	106338	123784	16.40618		1337	1638	950	949
Haldia	81619	97992	20.06028		1489	1327	914	939
Nandigram-I	174691	207835	18.97293		961	1261	962	946
Nandigram-II	104637	123219	17.75854		990	804	965	946
Khejuri-i	114643	132992	16.00534		878	1033	949	942
Khejuri-II	117438	133964	14.07211		854	958	951	956
Contai-I	151706	170894	12.64815		1352	1053	939	940

Contai-II	15365	176393	1048.018	8/99	766	941	940
Contai-III	137349	157793	14.88471	856	820	949	945
Egra-I	145054	167163	15.24191	733	794	817	933
Egra-II	156431	178763	14.27594	847	761	952	931
Ramnagar-I	145054	167163	15.24191	1043	937	963	963
Ramnagar-II	137369	156054	13.60205	841	982	960	942

Source: District Census Hand Book 2001 and 2011.

### Sex Ratio

According to 2011 census data the Sex ratio of Purba Medinipur district is 938 females per 1000 male population gives a sign of little bit concern. In 2001 the sex ratio was 947 which clearly indicate a fallen of sex ratio by 0.95 percent. The child sex ratio which was 951 females per 1000 male child in the year 2001 showed negative growth of 0.53 percent and reduced to 946 female's children per 1000 male child in 2011.

Further it is noticed that during the decade 2001 to 2011 the total decrease of male child population 0-6 age by - 6.49 percent. Similarly negative growth of female child of 0-6 age group has also been noticed and it declined by -6.75 percent. This scenario does not indicate a good sign for the district because this will surely lead an unbalanced sex ratio with numerous societal problems and gender conflict in the state in future. The analysis of block wise sex ratio of the district include some interesting facts like Ramnagar -I shows the highest sex ratio (963) in the year 2001 and 2011 and Moyna block shows the lowest sex ratio during the year 2011. The economically developed blocks like Panskura (946), Sutahata (949), Contai-III (945) Ramnagar show more positive sex ratio in comparison to less economically developed blocks like Bhagwanpur-I, Patashpur-I, Chandipur, Khejuri-II, Contai-II, Egra-I, Egra-II, Ramnagar-II etc.

### Literacy

The district has shown a very good positive change in literacy of the population and the literacy rate of the district has been increased by 39.80 percent during the decade 2001 to 2011 (table-2 and figure-2). Literacy of the district is 88.60% (2011) which is quite better than the state literacy rate 76.26% (2011). According to the census 2011 it is important to mention here that female literacy rate has been increased by 15.43 percent during the decade 2001 to 2011. This is also a positive sign for expectable social empowerment and economic and social development.

### Population Density

Population density of the Purba Medinipur district is increased by 15.86 percent during the last decade i.e. between 2001 to 2011. It is important to mention that population density in the urban areas of the district is increasing very rapidly in comparison to the population density in the rural areas of the district. Various economic and social features are responsible for such increase. This process is creating increasing population pressure on the available local natural resources and in some urban areas the population pressure threatens environmental sustainability. Density of population ensures distribution of resources, status of their use and utilization. As the optimum resource utilization in an area needs optimum population in that area too. So the variation in population density with respect to time has obviously affected resources and population optimal relationship.

### Conclusion

The present study is dealt with demographic features and population dynamics of Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. On the basis of data analysis and findings it can be concluded that the decadal growth rate of the district has been increased a little bit 0.04 percent during the last decade 2001 to 2011. Though in some blocks of the district population growth shows negative population growth rate during the same decade. Retaining almost same population growth rate may be advantageous and encouraging for sustainable development of the district in many fields. This minimum increase of growth rate would help to preserve optimum population resource relationship easily. Urban areas having good accessibility and connectivity in comparison to rural parts of the district are developing rapidly and transferring into destination of trade and commerce, educational hub and centers of health services facilities. These growing centers of higher order services are attracting more population from in and outside the district. Less developed blocks of the district having less accessibility and low connectivity, availability of low social facilities are heavily working as push factors and forcing population to move out from their native place mainly from rural areas and poorly developed small towns. Increasing literacy rate and increasing aspiration towards better life are also forcing younger generation to migrate outwards particularly from rural areas of the district in search of better livelihood options.

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