

## History of Urban Demography in West Bengal: Post-Independence Period

Shefali Khatun<sup>1</sup> and Srimanta Das<sup>2</sup> \*

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Teacher, Narayanpur High School, Rampurhat, Birbhum, West Bengal, India.

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of History, Dukhulal Nibaran Chandra College, Murshidabad, West Bengal, India

Corresponding Author's Email id: [srinanta.dnc@gmail.com](mailto:srinanta.dnc@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

*Urban demography is an extensively researched field in India; nonetheless, the majority of scholarly study concentrates on the growth, structure, and transformation of big cities. The urban demography of West Bengal post-independence is mostly unexamined. Traditional urbanization theories and planning concepts indicate that the magnitude and velocity of urban expansion, inter-urban migration, and the demographic attributes of urban agglomerations influence the urban landscape. This study assesses the comprehensive evolution of urban demographics in the state, considering economic transformations and political dynamics, while relating West Bengal's experience to wider socio-economic growth and urbanization trends in India.*

**Keywords:** Urban area, Urban demography, West Bengal, Kolkata, Independence.

Received 26.04.2023

Revised 20.04.2023

Accepted 20.05.2023

### CITATION OF THIS ARTICLE

Shefali Khatun and Srimanta Das. History of Urban Demography in West Bengal: Post-Independence Period. Inter. J. Edu. Res. Technol. 14[2] June 2023; 01 - 08.

### INTRODUCTION

The term "Demography" is derived from the ancient Greek word "demos," signifying "the people." The term "graphy" originates from "grapho," signifying "writing, description, or measurement" (Ganguly, 2020). The history of urban demography in West Bengal after independence illustrates substantial changes influenced by socio-economic, political, and migratory factors. Subsequent to independence, West Bengal has a consistent population growth. The growth rate was affected by natural increase of births surpassing deaths and significant migration, particularly due to displacement from partition and ensuing cross-border movements (Kamal, 2020). Census data reveal a significant increase in population density, accompanied by the swift expansion of metropolitan centers. Post-1947, West Bengal underwent a substantial influx of refugees as a result of the Partition of India, significantly transforming urban demographic compositions, particularly in Kolkata and its adjacent regions (Roy, 2006). This movement resulted in swift urban expansion and heightened population density in cities, fostering the development of informal settlements and complications in urban infrastructure.

In West Bengal, as in most regions of India, towns first emerged as commercial hubs, primarily for textiles. Colonial urbanization focused on Calcutta, the capital of British India, characterized by the building of jute mills, railway infrastructure, the development of the tea industry in northern districts, and the expansion of mining operations in western regions (Sethia, 1996; Bhattacharjee, 1990; Gupta 2023). This pattern also observed the deterioration of ancient towns, a rise in mining activities, stagnation in agriculture, a drop in handicrafts, and widespread famines. Following independence, urbanization continued amid significant in-migration resulting from the division of the subcontinent and the formation of East Pakistan (Bose, 2005). Approximately fifteen years later, the urban population change advanced gradually. Census data indicate significant disparities in the level of urbanization among the 19 principal urban areas of West Bengal. In the most recent semi-urban period, the quantity of urban centers with growth rates surpassing the state average was restricted, while growth rates in 20 smaller centers continued to be negative (Mukherjee and Chatterjee, 2019). Presently, the districts of Kolkata, Hawra, and North 24 Parganas are heavily urbanized. The districts of Bardhaman, Darjiling, Hugli, Murshidabad, Nadia, South 24 Parganas, and Jalpaiguri are moderately urbanized. According to the 2011

census, the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Koch Bihar, Malda, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Puruliya, Uttar Dinajpur, and Dakshin Dinajpur had low levels of urbanization (Dasmahapatra, 2023).

### **POST-INDEPENDENCE POPULATION GROWTH IN WEST BENGAL**

With the exception of the three decades from 1941 to 1971, when global wars and their repercussions caused significant demographic distortions, urban population growth in West Bengal has been consistently remarkable, if not uniformly rapid (Pandit, 2023). The growth rates of India's urban population post-independence are indeed remarkable when contrasted with Western demographic trends. Nonetheless, the absolute and relative growth from 1971 to 1981 was the most minimal in West Bengal since 1941. The prevailing tendency indicates a rising concentration of people in urban areas, characterized by significant variances in developmental patterns across different regions and periods. Alongside the notably low rates from 1971 to 1981, further evidence is shown by decreasing birth and, particularly, mortality rates, along with alterations in the age distribution resulting in a diminished percentage of children.

Demographic factors have persistently facilitated significant rural-urban migration; yet, the net increase observed in West Bengal's major urban centres from 1981 to 1991 starkly contrasts with the near-equilibrium outcomes noted between 1971 and 1981. In Calcutta, the renewals of temporary migration to the city during the 1980s were characterized by a tendency towards a more dispersed and lower-income migrant community, with the primary demand for housing being satisfied through the creation of permanent slums. Secondary cities and towns typically had greater absolute and relative expansion in both decades, diverging from the conventional roles of the metropolitan area and developing distinct patterns of municipal concentration (Sivaramakrishnan et al., 2005).

### **URBANIZATION PATTERNS AND DRIVING FORCES**

Patterns of urbanization in West Bengal can be elucidated by a comprehensive analysis of both micro-scale and macro-scale factors. An analysis of urban growth in West Bengal reveals distinct eras of urban expansion and stasis in the post-independence period. These stages closely align with the fluctuations of the state's developmental cycles, especially the economic cycle. The development of urban regions in the state's underdeveloped agricultural districts is causally related to the economic expansion of its larger metropolitan regions.

The principal element driving the expansion of towns and cities in West Bengal is rural-urban migration. The migration pattern is not merely a simple push-pull reaction to rural-urban demand; it is a result of strategic decision-making by rural households that weighs immediate income growth against long-term welfare consequences. On one side of the equation are the push factors influencing rural conditions like education, health, and poverty levels, that dictate migratory potential; on the other side are the increasing wage differentials between agricultural and non-agricultural activities in informal employment markets and enhanced access to recruitment for formal employment. Temporary migrations remain predominant, although a substantial permanent migratory element exists. Population distribution patterns are significantly affected by planning. Despite West Bengal's urban planning framework being based on land use considerations, infrastructure has developed in a disorganized manner, with less attention to the spatial distribution of urban concentration within the state. The outcome has been an unforeseen expansion of ring urban areas.

#### **• Economic Restructuring and Industrial Growth**

The post-independence economy of West Bengal has experienced multiple major developments. Numerous industries were established in the state post-independence as a result of numerous economic restructuring causes. Post-independence, the industrial development in the state has been inconsistent, with West Bengal initially becoming the most industrialized state in the nation during the 1960s, thereafter experiencing stasis in industrial growth. The economic reform programs enacted in the late 1970s, along with further liberalization in the early 1990s, have revitalized industrial development throughout the state. The economic restructuring and expansion of West Bengal have been influenced by a dynamic system of regulations, labour quality, and the accessibility of trained labour throughout the state, among various other factors (Singh, 2006).

#### **• Rural-Urban Migration Dynamics**

Rural-urban migration is a significant demographic phenomenon that plays a crucial role in the urban growth of many developing countries, including West Bengal. Over one-third of the rural populace of West Bengal is classified as urban out-migrants. Following Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, West Bengal exhibits the biggest magnitude of overall interstate migration (Haseena, 2014). Rural-urban migration in West Bengal has gained increased importance in recent years, especially as it is viewed as a viable solution to the issue of sustainable urban development.

Numerous push and pull factors contribute to rural-urban migration in West Bengal. Wage differentials between rural and urban areas are the primary push and pull drivers. Employment prospects in urban regions, particularly within the unorganised sector known for its flexibility, autonomy, and substantial earning potential, draw rural individuals to cities. Increased rural wages or decreased urban wages lead to a decline in rural-urban mobility, whereas elevated urban wage rates or diminished rural wage rates encourage migration from rural to urban areas. The rural populace of West Bengal has been diminishing swiftly since the 2001 Census. The distribution of the rural population exhibits significant diversity among several regions of the state. However, recently West Bengal has a low rate of rural-to-urban migration, primarily as a result of poor working conditions in the state's largest cities (Mallick, 2015). Following widespread lockouts in and around Kolkata, numerous industrial facilities were shut down as a result of the nation's economic crisis, which worsened after 1965 (Acharya, 2013; Government of West Bengal, 1994).

- **Policy Interventions and Planning Frameworks**

The urbanization processes in West Bengal remain problematic due to ongoing growth that lacks corresponding enhancements in fundamental living standards and infrastructure circumstances (Maharatna, 2007). The preservation of urban health and sustainability necessitates readiness for future challenges informed by suitable viewpoints, frameworks, and models. Appropriate programs and policies can be formulated utilizing existing planning tools, models, and forecasts. Uncontrolled spatial growth strains urban systems; enlarged urban peripheries provide improved administration of central zones. West Bengal's urban lineage is characterized by five main stages. The initial two stages, occurring prior to independence, exhibited minimal population expansion, confined to areas beyond the current core; the system retained its hierarchical structure. The distinct stages and their characteristics exemplify West Bengal's unique non-linear progression of urbanization and urban demography. The population control program originated in the early post-independence period; this strategy subsequently discontinued, with evolution progressing in a non-linear manner (Sharma, 2018).

Comprehensive planning initiatives commenced early in this series, mirroring significant central government directives. The numerous constraints arising from policy implementation complicate an integrated model, making comprehensive urban planning challenging. Post-independence policies persist in generating unintended local and regional effects, shaping West Bengal's urban development trajectory; however, a decline in strict adherence to and active participation in established plans has resulted in numerous discrepancies observable in routine monitoring of urban systems and periodic evaluations.

## **SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN AREAS**

The phenomena of dissemination across provinces are extensively seen in emerging nations (Roy and Siddique, 2018). The distribution of towns in West Bengal is asymmetrical and varied. Kolkata has emerged as the primary hub for business, administration, trade, education, and finance, experiencing significant migration from the pre-partition era to the present, while other districts in the state have remained static and overlooked. The bulk of towns in the state are categorized as minor and semi-urban, with agricultural secondary purposes, situated in areas distant from Kolkata. Metropolitan expansion is more pronounced in urban areas that hold significant commercial status and exhibit greater peripheral habitation in adjacent areas through the establishment of new settlements and satellite towns. The evolution of these agglomerations is significant at the state planning level, representing a crucial policy concern.

- **Metropolitan Expansion: Calcutta and Surrounding Regions**

The post-Independence history of urban demographics in West Bengal is examined through an objective, evidence-based framework, prioritizing clarity, formality, and scholarly articulation. Urban demography is utilized in a modern context, influenced by advancements post-1947 and enduring interests and effects. The post-Independence era is delineated as 1950–2025; its contemporary phase prompts several pressing and interconnected inquiries. Coarse alignment with Jan Kooiman's three principal research traditions- urbanization, migration, and urban systems indicates asymmetrical development, imbalance, and notable analytical deficiencies. The evidence-based analysis elucidates this complex topic and indicates potential future directions. The evidence base consists of primary data from the Census Bureau and secondary sources. Urban areas and the Calcutta metropolitan region function as analytical units, with decadal Census data governing overarching trends. Urban zones are delineated for the 1971, 1981, and 1991 Censuses. All data, except for diphtheria numbers, are derived from published documents, including those from international bodies. Urban demography includes population dynamics, density, migratory patterns, and housing conditions. The emphasis on growth-determining factors such as physical, economic, political-administrative, social, and infrastructural-influences establishes preliminary

constraints. The asymmetry in growth patterns and influences among metropolitan areas underscores a primary problem in decision-making.

- **Emergence of Secondary Cities and Towns**

Among the planned urban centres, the state's secondary cities in particular, Baharampur, and Krishnanagar have also enjoyed the privilege of the earning of urban status, beginning in the early 1990s (Charan Pradhan, 2013). The growth trajectories of these centres differ from those of Calcutta and its surrounding areas; they have also remained functionally specialised, tending to concentrate on agriculture, services, or, as in the case of Baharampur, transportation. Even with the emergence of new-age centres such as Haldia, Dankuni, and Siliguri, the secondary cities and towns flourished or stagnated because of the pattern of growth generated by economic restructuring and industrialisation, continued rural migrant flows, and urban planning frameworks and policies.

- **Informal Settlements and Housing Stock**

Since the early years following independence, the state of West Bengal has faced significant pressure on housing and sanitation infrastructure. Areas surrounding train stations and bus terminals devolved into slums, characterized by extensive gang violence and drug trafficking. The land encroachment issue has plagued the state due to extensive occupation of government and private land in and around the capital city of Kolkata. West Bengal has acquired significant estimates of the inventory of informally occupied constructions referred to as "slums," "kuchha," "problematic," or "temporary" (Islam, 2018). The Government of West Bengal's strategy must be clearly articulated to render the concept of "informally inhabited structures" a significant transformation. The Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority conducted a reconnaissance survey on "slum" conditions in 1994-95. According to the 2011 Census, among the 3.501 crore homes in West Bengal, an estimated 424,834 households were classified as slum dwellings. There has been a significant reduction in government-supported structural materials during the past decade, despite a rise in such houses according to the 2001 Census. According to the 2011 Census, out of 350.1 million households in West Bengal, 424,834 were identified as slum families. The State Government previously collaborated with the Scheduled Tribe Department to execute numerous initiatives for the Kanjhuli settlement, which is currently in progress around the Phupur area. Numerous families have been uprooted by natural disasters, prompting them to seek refuge on the streets of Kolkata. A considerable segment of the urban populace, comprising women and orphans, relocated because to economic adversity, loss of land, or emotional turmoil. Unregulated urbanization has exacerbated street homelessness, particularly in Kolkata, which has undergone significant expansion as an administrative and economic zone. The city has experienced significant influxes of impoverished migrants from adjacent states and refugees from Bangladesh, leading to the proliferation of informal settlements and a scarcity of housing. Regional imbalances and unregulated development have resulted in unequal socio-economic advancement between Kolkata and rural West Bengal (Roy and Siddique, 2018).

## **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN AREAS OF WEST BENGAL**

The urban population of West Bengal has varied demographic characteristics, indicative of differences in historical trends, the timing of urbanization, functional specialization, and scale. Analysing factors such as age distribution, household dynamics, and fertility rates offers insight into potential future trends and their impact on living circumstances (Galor, 2012). The demographic composition of the cities, marked by a significant ratio of dependents, indicates escalating population pressure on the workforce, while surges in household formation, a pivotal element in housing demand, have been mostly propelled by the rising influx of migrants.

An evaluation of age distribution, household size, fertility, migration, and activity data elucidates fundamental trends and correlations with labour markets. The demographic mix of urban areas exhibits significant variation, largely influenced by localized variables. Numerous cities indicate substantial young demographics, even among large and medium-sized towns, signifying significant population pressure in the forthcoming decades. The low, and in certain municipalities negative, amounts of net migration typically diminish support ratios. Elevated dependency ratios impose escalating strain on economic and employment prospects. As a result, population expansion in underdeveloped intermediate and smaller cities does not coincide with a corresponding increase in the working-age population. Only the metropolitan region exhibits a comparatively youthful age structure, indicating adequate market appeal for additional labour-force growth.

- **Age Structure, Household Size, and Fertility**

Age distribution, family composition, and birth rates are essential demographic factors. These parameters not only influence the population's size and growth rate, as demonstrated in the previous analysis, but also offer crucial insights into the evolving patterns of social interaction within urban areas, encompassing nation-states functioning as meso-scale urban entities, cities serving as focal points of

socio-politics, and rural areas acting as refuges for the rural populace. Bhatia and McCormick have determined that a population constitutes a community when its members share a common environmental space, languages, customs, and values (Thompson, 1935; Pandey, 2020). Sociologists have acknowledged that the age structure of a population constrains the degree of normative integration and involvement among urban dwellers. This empirical part addresses concerns by investigating processes such as age structure, household size, and fertility, while comparing outcomes across urban locations at a certain time and within a single urban region across many periods. Dispersed age-structure data underscore several prominent characteristics. In 1991, it was shown that 60% of the population in all urban areas of West Bengal, including Calcutta and its 29 wards, was aged between 15 and 59 years. The ratio was slightly reduced in the municipalities of Bardhaman district.

- **Migration, Timely Data, and Labor Force Participation**

The absence of current population and migration statistics continues to be a primary barrier to creating a thorough depiction of urban growth in West Bengal, affecting several temporal and spatial dimensions. West Bengal demonstrates significant disparities in population distribution among its cities and towns (Majumder, 2012), with rapid development suffering a marked decline in Calcutta post-1951. Recent urban centers including Asansol, Durgapur, and Siliguri have developed mostly due to metropolitan agglomeration (Singh et al., 2014). An examination of seasonal or temporal delays in the reallocation of population or jobs necessitates further investigation when studying migratory patterns. In urban areas displaying notable rural-urban movement trends, where Calcutta and urbanized regions are marked by significant outward migration, either nascent or delayed urbanization may also occur. An explicit aspect of urban labour markets must be examined to elucidate the links between growth and migration.

- **Socioeconomic differentials across urban places**

The population of urban areas in West Bengal demonstrates considerable socioeconomic disparity. Table 6.3 juxtaposes per capita income, literacy rates, life expectancy at birth, and the proportion of employment in the tertiary sector among the ten largest urban areas, highlighting significant disparities (Samanta, 2012). Calcutta, serving as the state capital and a principal industrial hub linked to a hinterland that yields jute, tea, and coal, boasts the greatest per capita income and a significant concentration of educational institutions in the region. It also indicates a decline in life expectancy and literacy from 1961 to 1971. The secondary towns exhibit lower income levels yet demonstrate upward developments in life expectancy and literacy, both significant attributes of urbanization. The per capita income in secondary towns is low; nevertheless, the employment rate in the tertiary sector is comparatively high in towns such as Asansol, Durgapur, and Kalyani. These towns attained metropolitan status in the early 1970s, which precipitated urbanization in West Bengal. The expansion of these towns aligns with the pattern noted in other towns across India. The closeness of a major metropolitan city to a secondary urban area facilitates both backward linkages and the development of wholesale and retail commerce. The primary indicator of urbanization is the employment of a substantial segment of the population involved in diverse tertiary activities (Mukherjee and Chatterjee, 2014; Roy and Siddique, 2018).

## **INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNANCE, AND DATA SYSTEMS**

The post-independence era witnessed significant demographic measures that shaped West Bengal's development. An abundance of census and survey data first stimulated innovative research on the urban landscape. However, inflationary outcomes and misconceptions regarding the urban notion impeded advancement. New findings regarding population growth, urbanization, and urban area characteristics, particularly in relation to the 1991 census, emerged only after the revaluation of the demographic foundation, explicit framing of the urban concept, and delineation of the urban constituency for analysis-specifically concerning settlement location and inhabited status. The establishment of the Planning Commission in 1950 was a pivotal moment in the systematic planning of developmental initiatives for the State. Nonetheless, the repercussions of World War II, China's incursion into Tibet, Pakistan's hostilities in Kashmir, the establishment of Bangladesh, and the resulting surge of refugees, coupled with the increasing demands for the dissolution of the previously dominant welfare state model, pressured the 1956 Task Force on Employment and Development for contributions to urban and rural planning. Research has utilized macro and micro models to analyze urban growth in West Bengal, limited by India's intricate, multi-tiered government framework. The unanticipated development of urban zones facilitated their consolidation as a spatial 'system', driven by the former economy's slow transition from an agrarian to an industrial foundation. West Bengal now has 858 towns, with the criteria for urban and town classifications having changed over the years (Mukherjee and Chatterjee, 2014)

- **Census and Administrative Divisions**

The urban planning and demographics of post-independence West Bengal have required and promoted a thorough examination of institutional capability and data compatibility. Since 1947, the delineation of

administrative boundaries has been intricately linked to urban transformation and planning, necessitating careful consideration of the progression of census and administrative aspects. Numerous border modifications have transpired over time; nonetheless, all designated Calcutta suburbs and some supplementary regions have consistently been included within the metropolitan Urban Agglomeration, hence facilitating fundamental compatibility for demographic and urbanization assessments. The areas overseen by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, the operational Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the presently active West Bengal Housing and Urban Development sector demonstrate comparable levels of continuity, creating a historical record that allows for the tracing of institutional and planning influences (Charan Pradhan, 2013).

- **Urban Planning Institutions and Policy Milestones**

The efficacy of responses, grounded on demographic planning, relies on the accessibility of timely and reliable data. The expansion of urban populations is mostly influenced by the development of urban regions. The expansion of urban areas is shaped and governed by various variables, including planning. The rise of urbanization, especially in metropolitan regions, has resulted in the creation of more sophisticated urban planning systems, governance structures, infrastructure development, and policies, distinct from those of previous eras (Turok et al., 2023). Metropolitan regions have emerged as the primary planning focus for both state and national administrations. The oversight of the demographic dimension of urbanization is apparent, since West Bengal, despite possessing numerous urban planners, lacks current public statistics on slum or squatter populations and the provision of urban facilities.

The Census of India and the administrative divisions are directly correlated with the pattern of urban growth. Urban regions are typically delineated based on specific minimum population density and certain administrative criteria. Any alteration or adjustment of the administrative divisions is likely to affect the dynamics of urban expansion and urbanization. Alterations in administrative divisions are thus seen as significant indicators for analyzing the patterns and characteristics of urban growth. The expansion of urban populations is only partially attributable to natural increase, more accurately referred to as demographic explosion. The situation is a consequence of West Bengal's struggling economy, which has failed to create adequate economic opportunities for the influx of resilient refugees escaping severe poverty and degrading social conditions in Bengal. Despite their limited human capital, these individuals are striving to improve their socio-economic status by migrating to urban areas.

### **DATA GAPS, RELIABILITY, AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES**

Timely data on urbanization and demographic shifts is essential for municipal and state governance. The amalgamation of Indian and West Bengali urbanization discussed above, together with its various characteristics, would have provided significant insights for urban policy and development over the past seventy years. The urbanization development in West Bengal has occurred in a detrimental context, influenced by a confluence of historical, political, and economic reasons. Consequently, while certain advantages of urbanization are being acknowledged, a substantial share of the negative consequences of unregulated urban expansion and development is also being felt. A significant deficiency in timely, pertinent, and precise statistics regarding Urbanization and Demography in West Bengal has contributed to this unfavorable condition. This recommendation has been reinforced in the report of the National Commission (1988–90).

A prevalent and recognized definition of a city is a location having a population of 100,000 or more. In India, cities and census towns are classified according to the 2001 Census, with Kalimpong being the most recent inclusion. In addition to these towns, other significant towns with populations of 30,000 or more are excluded from the census list. The census towns in West Bengal do not qualify as a metropolitan area and should be excluded from the census town list. The lack of timely information, information deficiencies, and inadequacies in the trustworthiness of Census data impede the effective planning and execution of urban programs and projects within the state, particularly at the sub-state level.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE TRAJECTORIES**

The prior analysis of urban demographics in post-Independence West Bengal offers a methodical evaluation of urban expansion, developmental trends, socio-economic attributes, and institutional operations. The results indicate that diminishing the conventional focus on urban planning would more effectively address the dynamics of urban expansion in the State, but planning remains significant. A synthesis of the results provides the probable future evolution of urban demography, against which actual behaviour can later be assessed. The relevant authorities must acknowledge these results, particularly on the potential under-reporting in the jurisdictions of Calcutta and the different municipalities and Notified Areas in 1981. Similarly, attention must be paid to the unique demographic, socioeconomic, and spatial attributes of urban areas in West Bengal. Future development expenditures

and strategies must be formulated, at least in part, based on these distinct qualities. The analysis indicates that, despite West Bengal's significantly greater control over urban development compared to other states since Independence, policy objectives have often been unmet or yielded results divergent from expectations.

## CONCLUSION

The post-independence urban demographic evolution of West Bengal illustrates a transition from migration-induced growth to industrial development, succeeded by economic stagnation and subsequent reorganization due to liberalization. Urban zones were significant consumers of commodities and services generated in rural regions. Transformation of rural socio-economic conditions was unimaginable without advancements in urban regions. Nonetheless, the majority of historical urban expansion, particularly the proliferation of informal settlements, has been from the impoverished migrating to the city and its outskirts in pursuit of improved prospects. The census data has been analysed to assess the housing stock, occupational characteristics, birth and death rates, gender ratio, age distribution, sex ratio, literacy rates, and labour force participation ratio. The changing urban environment underscores the necessity for equitable regional development and sustainable urban planning to tackle the challenges of population expansion and resource management.

## REFERENCES

1. Acharya, N. (2013). West Bengal saw 97% decline industries since 2010, available at <http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/west-bengal-saw-97-decline-in-industries-since-2010-11311.html>
2. Bhattacharjee, B. (1990). Understanding Calcutta. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 25(18/19):1012-1013.
3. Bose, S. (2005). Anatomy of violence: Analysis of civil war in East Pakistan in 1971. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 4463-4471.
4. Census of India (2001). Primary Census Abstract for Slum 2001. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
5. Census of India (2011). Primary Census Abstract for Slum 2011. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
6. Chakrabarti, P. K. (1999). *The Marginal Men*, Naya Udyog, Calcutta.
7. Charan Pradhan, K. (2013). Unacknowledged Urbanisation: The New Census Towns of India. *Economic and Political Weekly XLVIII* (36):43-51.
8. Galor, O. (2012). The demographic transition: causes and consequences. *Cliometrica* 6: 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11698-011-0062-7>
9. Government of West Bengal. 1994. *Introducing West Bengal*. Information and Cultural Affairs Department.
10. Gupta, D. (2023). Evolution of an Indian City: From Calcutta to Kolkata. *International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research*. 8(3):467-483.
11. Haseena V.A.H. (2014). The Intensity of Migration on the Light of Rural Development in Indian Scenario-A Study of Kerala. *Public Policy and Administration Research*. 4(9):141-146.
12. Islam, J. (2023). A Geographical Analysis of Slums in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Area, West Bengal. *Indian Journal of Spatial Science*. 10 (2): 96-100.
13. Kamal, N. (2020). Demography of Bengal from a Historical Perspective. In: Chattopadhyay, A., Ghosh, S. (eds) *Population Dynamics in Eastern India and Bangladesh*. Springer, Singapore. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3045-6\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3045-6_2)
14. Maharatna, A. (2007). Population, economy and society in West Bengal since the 1970s, *Journal of Development Studies*, 43:8, 1381-1422. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00220380701611485>
15. Mallick, D. (2015). Rural-Urban Demography in West Bengal: A Changing Pattern. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*. 5 (4): 712-723.
16. Mukherjee, N., and Chatterjee, B. (2019). Poverty and Inequality in Urban India with Special Reference to West Bengal: An Empirical Study. In: Jayanthakumaran, K., Verma, R., Wan, G., Wilson, E. (eds) *Internal Migration, Urbanization and Poverty in Asia: Dynamics and Inter-relationships*. Springer, Singapore. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1537-4\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1537-4_7)
17. Panday, P.K. (2020). *The Face of Urbanisation and Urban Poverty in Bangladesh*. ISBN 978-981-15-3331: 20.
18. Pandit, J. (2023). Trends of Urbanization in West Bengal: A District Level Study. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology*. 3(8): 782-795.
19. Roy, A. and Siddique, G. (2018). Homeless People in West Bengal: A District-Level Study. *Space and Culture, India*. 6(3):110. <https://doi.org/10.20896/saci.v6i3.312>
20. Roy, H. (2006). *Citizenship And National Identity in Post-Partition Bengal, 1947-65*". Diss. The University of Cincinnati.
21. Samanta, G. (2012). In Between Rural and Urban: Challenges for Governance of Non-recognized Urban Territories in West Bengal. *West Bengal Geo-Spatial Issues*. 44-57.
22. Sethia, T. (1996). The Rise of the Jute Manufacturing Industry in Colonial India: A Global Perspective. *Journal of World History*. 7(1):71-99.
23. Sharma, P. (2018). India's Unbalanced Urban Growth: An Appraisal of Trends and Policies. 13(1):77-90.

24. Singh, L. (2006). Deceleration of industrial growth and rural industrialization strategy for Indian Punjab. Published in: Journal of Punjab Studies.12(2):271-284.
25. Sivaramakrishnan, K.C., Kundu, A and Singh, B.N. (2005). Handbook of Urbanisation in India - An Analysis of Trends and Processes, Oxford University Press, 177.
26. Thompson (1935). Urbanisation in Encyclopedia of Social Sciences. 15:18.
27. Turok, I., Scheba, A., and Visagie, J. (2023). Rethinking urbanization and economic development: a synopsis. Environment & Urbanization. 35(2): 297-309.

**Copyright:** © 2023 Author. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.