

## Changing economy and occupational structure along with suburban growth in the added areas of Kolkata

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### Abstract

Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal is an ever growing urban area, extends towards south and south western part of the main urban area. After 1984 three suburban municipalities were added to main Kolkata i.e Jadavpur, South suburban and Garden Reach. But prior to that, Tollygunj municipality was added to main Kolkata during 1964. The settlements started especially after the partition of India when West Bengal recorded an enormous population influx from East Bengal. Along with the growing urban population and urbanization the change in economy as well as occupational structure has been noticed. The present paper focuses on the various sides of change in economy as well as occupational structure of the study area.

**Keywords:** Occupational Structure, Urban sprawl, economic condition, Changing economy

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Study Area

The selected study area is located at the southern part of Kolkata, West Bengal, which includes borough 10 to 15 of KMC, consisting of a few municipalities Tollygunj, Jadavpur, Garden Reach and South suburban Unit. Among them Except Tollygunj the rest of the three municipalities were added into Kolkata Municipal Corporation in the year 1984. Tollygunj was added prior to that, during 1964. Within the total 141 wards of Kolkata the study area covers 53 wards (81, 89, 91-141). The area is bound between 22°27'11"N to 22°33'21.96"N and 88°14'28.03"E to 88°22'21.72"E.

#### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the present work can be summarised as follows:

- To study the changing occupational pattern among the inhabitants along with the reasons behind such changes.
- To study the improvement in economic condition of the people under the study area.
- To analyse the emerging economic sectors of the area.

#### 3. Methodology and Data Base

Present research is based on secondary data and primary information. Primary information has been collected through field observation and direct interview with the respondent of sampled individual household. The facts derived from analyses were presented with cartographic method for visual interpretation. The secondary data were collected from District Statistical Handbook of Kolkata.

#### 3.1 Economic Expansion in the Study Area

The birth of financial activity and its gradual growth are consequential phenomena of freelance of common people on money market, currency system and their digital version. Previously people used to depend on barter system in which goods were exchanged according to requirement of two people. But with the advent of coins and paper currency, the

barter system added slowly, giving rise to monetary system which over the year has gone through phases of changes to arrive at present advanced system which is more technology dependent.

To control exponential growth of currency system in keeping with buzzing industrial activities and also for imposing a stringent currency movement, a financial infrastructure has been built which is banking network. Alongside this other regulatory bodies has come into being to support this mammoth banking activities. Also rules and regulation have been drawn to align various monetary transactions. Maintaining a race with the banking network the postal departments has been catering to unbanked and under banked areas in monetary terms.

The urbanites are dynamic and rely on technology which has given birth to much digital application to provide convenience related to online transactions, trading activity and foreign currency exchange etc. Today, application based digital frame work had almost dispensed with the requirement of brick and mortar structure of bank as it is virtually present in mobile gadgets and desktops.

Opening of ATMs, introduction of online payment solution system like Pat TM, Vodafone M-Paisa, Airtel Money are slowly taking away pride of paper currency and coin. Also to popularise and keeping their existence intact in the phase of growing threat from this online transaction solution systems, banks have introduced e-wallet system and apps based system from where any banking activity can be done in the twinkle of eye. What is most wonderful fact is that social media, Face book has introduced ping system through which friends can transfer money among themselves.

All these technological revolution had made financial system in urban area, a huge comfort at finger tips, thus being a more people into its fold without any hesitation and coercion. So development and expansion can be summarised in the below way: barter system into currency system then to monetary instruments like cheques, draft etc, then invention of ATM cards and now app based transaction system. Also to note that

plastic currency is being thought about to immortalize currency system and lengthened its life in circulation.

**3.2 Occupational Trend**

The urban expansion has brought about radical changes in traditional mind set and conventional life style of common people living in the research area and on its periphery. Since the urban growth rides predominantly on industrialisation and technological up gradation, it has started instilling confidence and bravery among urbanites and suburb people explore new job opportunities in newly emerging job market. Previously people struck to jobs that have modernised their thought and attitude to wager their lives on emerging growth opportunities. Since independence manual jobs like carpentry, farming, livestock rearing, grazing, masonry, scavenging and domestic helps used to be basic choice of common people in consequence of political and bureaucratic dalliance in taking right decision to create jobs. But penetration of small, medium or large industries deep subcontinent in search of into this unutilised market to business foot print has swept

undeveloped part of this country. The research area is no exception to that. Today, it can be observed that people belongs to middle and lower class vying for skilled jobs in various fields. Thus the next generation people have broken their family tradition in terms of not following low paid and back breaking jobs like their ancestors.

Post-independence, migration from neighbouring states has changed the socio economic as well as cultural pattern of the research area. The people from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, MP Rajasthan and Gujarat mainly have flowed into this place in aspiration of expanding their business and utilising huge abundantly available labour market. This trading community have employed local youths and experienced persons to better cope with their adopted new business settlement area. As the migrants are belonging from trading community, so in the new place too they prepare their new field of business. Some of them come here to enlarge their business also. In many times their activity creates new job opportunity for the middle class and lower class population.

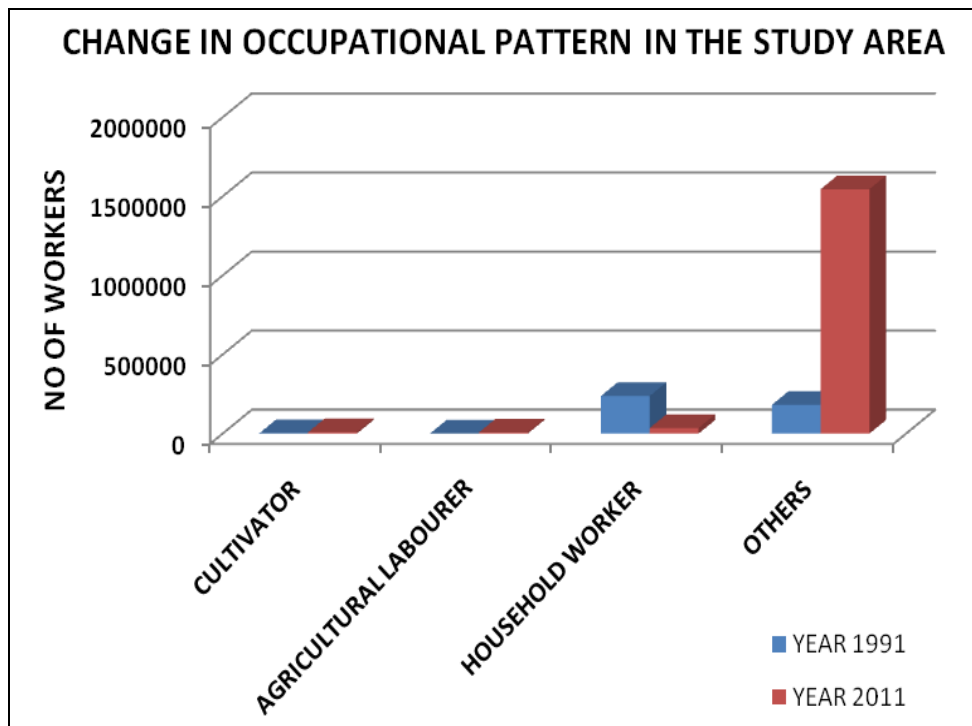


Fig 1

**3.3 Change in occupational pattern**

The researcher has studied the census data of 1961 to 2011 to analyse the trend of occupational structure from 1961 to 2011. As the area is urbanized, so the proportion of primary workers like cultivators, agricultural labourers are reducing, but in the fringe areas like ward no 108, 128 132 the cultivation still practiced. In 1981 and 1991 noticeable population were engaged in these primary occupation, but along with the expanding urban culture the change has been found within the occupation as well as the life style of the people.

Through the Bar diagram the change in occupational pattern in 1991 and 2011 of the selected study area has been represented. Within these two decades, along with the growing population the no of workers had increased in all of the four sectors, but the proportion of tertiary sector has been

increased drastically. But simultaneously the no of household workers has been decreased. Along with the urbanization the dependency on tertiary activity is very common because of the emergence of diversified economic activities. Besides, the no of primary workers also increased, but the change is not at all significant. In a few wards in the study area, still now the cultivable lands exist.

In 2001 and 2011 the change in household industrial worker has been noticed. The no of household workers decreased in 2011 than the prior census data 2001. Within the consecutive census year, the number of both cultivators and agricultural labourers decreased in each of the selected five boroughs. On the other hand the other workers are getting increased in number except borough XI. So it is revealed that versatile

activities are found in occupational pattern which is a sign of urbanization.

**4. Conclusion**

From the above study it can be concluded that though the process of urbanization leads to many types of natural

environmental change but the suburban growth leads to the shifting the occupational pattern, dependency on secondary and tertiary economic activity and also the economic development in the study area.

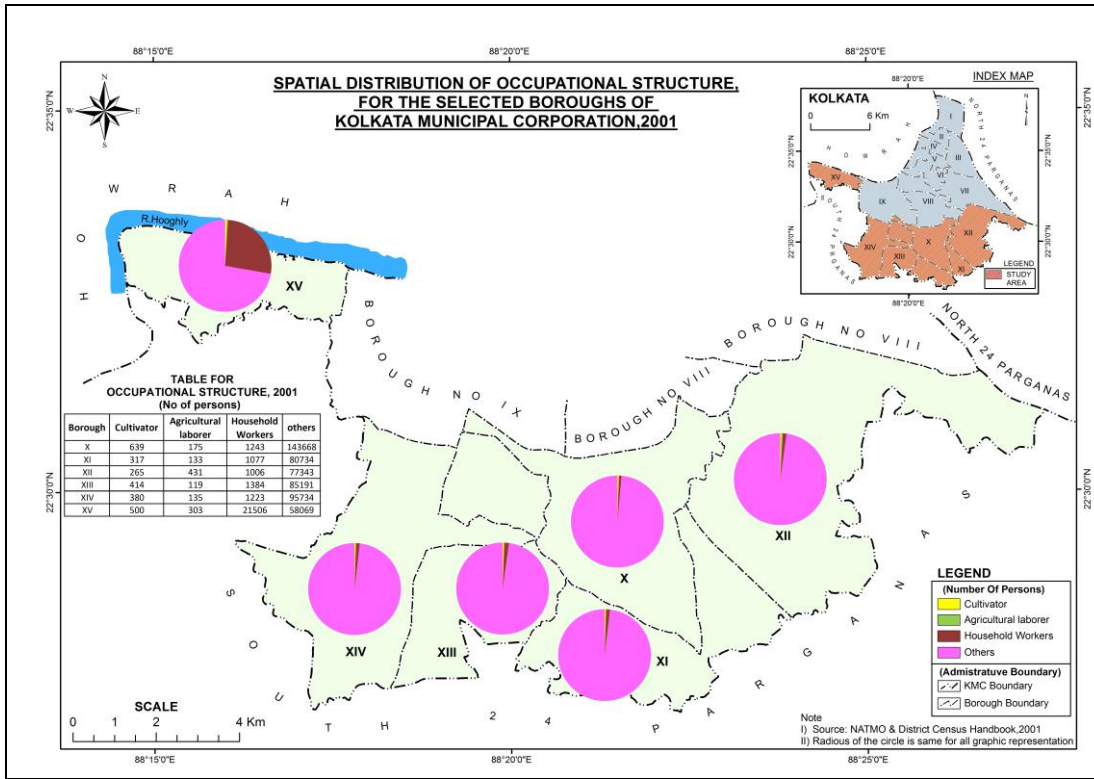


Fig 2

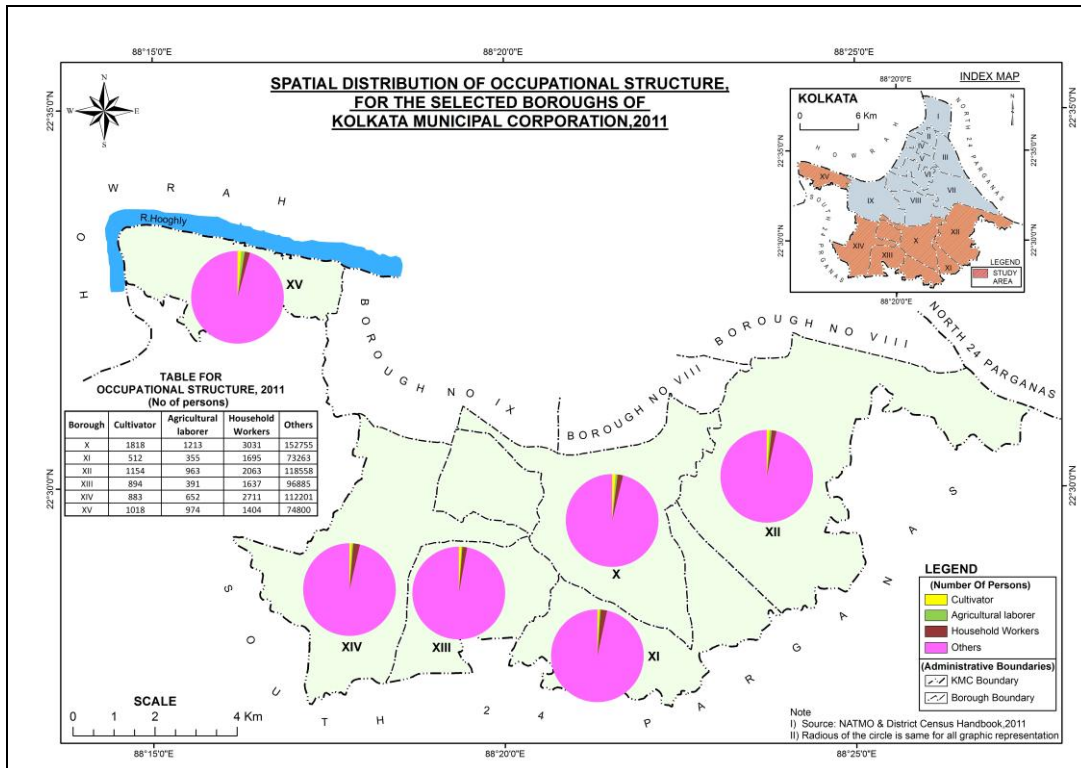


Fig 3

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