CHAPTER – 5

AREA AND PEOPLE
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5.1 AREA UNDER STUDY

Kolkata formerly known as Calcutta is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. It is located in eastern India on the east bank of the River Hooghly. When referred to as "Kolkata", it usually includes the suburbs, and thus its population exceeds 15 million, making it India's third-largest city and urban agglomeration. Calcutta served as the capital of India during the British Raj until 1911. Once the centre of modern education, industry, science, culture and politics in India, Kolkata has witnessed intense political violence, clashes and economic stagnation since 1954. Since the year 2000, economic rejuvenation has spurred in the city's growth. Like other metropolitan cities in India, Kolkata continues to struggle with the problems of urbanisation: poverty, pollution and traffic congestion. Kolkata is noted for its revolutionary history, ranging from the Indian struggle for independence to the leftist and trade union movements.

Demographics

Residents of Kolkata are called Calcuttans. As of 2001, Kolkata city had a population of 4,580,544, while the urban agglomeration had a population of 13,216,546. The sex ratio is 928 females per 1000 males – which is lower than the national average, because many working males come from rural areas, where they leave behind their families. Kolkata's literacy rate of 80.86% exceeds the all-India average of 79.8%. Kolkata Municipal Corporation area has registered a growth rate of 4.1%, which is the lowest among the million-plus cities in India.

Bengalis comprise the majority of Kolkata's population (55%), with Marwaris, Oriya and Bihari communities forming a large portion of the minorities (20%). Some of Kolkata's minor communities include Chinese, Tamils, Nepalis, Telugus, Assamese, Gujaratis, Anglo-Indians, Armenians, Tibetans, Maharashtrians, Punjabis, Malayalees and Parsis. Major languages spoken in Kolkata are Bengali, Hindi, English, Oriya, and Bhojpuri.

According to the 2001 census, 77.68% of the population in Kolkata is Hindu, 20.27% Muslim, 0.88% Christian and 0.75% Janis. Other minorities such as Sikhs, Buddhist, Jews and Zoroastrian constitute the rest of the city's population. 1.5 million people, who
constitute about a third of the city's population, live in 2,011 registered and 3,500 unregistered (occupied by squatters) slums.

Kolkata reported 67.6% of total Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes registered in 35 Indian mega cities in 2004. Kolkata police district registered 10,757 IPC cases in 2004, which was 10th highest in the country. The crime rate in the city was 71 per 100,000 against the national rate of 167.7 in 2006, which is the lowest among all the mega cities in India. Kolkata's Sonagachi area, with more than 10,000 sex workers, is one of Asia's largest red-light districts.

Urban structure

Kolkata city, under the jurisdiction of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), has an area of 185 km$^2$ (71 sq mi). The Kolkata urban agglomeration, however, has continuously expanded and as of 2006, the urban agglomeration (Kolkata Metropolitan Area) is spread over 1,750 km$^2$ (676 sq mi), and comprises 157 postal areas. The urban agglomeration is formally administered by several local governments including 38 local municipalities. The urban agglomeration comprises 72 cities and 527 towns and villages. The suburban areas of Kolkata metropolitan district incorporate parts of the districts North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Nadia. The east-to-west dimension of the proper city is narrow, stretching from the Hooghly River in the west to roughly the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass in the east, a span of barely 5 km (3.1 mi)– 6 km (3.7 mi). The north-south expansion is roughly divided into North, Central and South Kolkata. North Kolkata locality is the oldest part of the city, with 19th century architecture and narrow alleyways. South Kolkata grew mostly after independence and consists of well-to-do localities. The Salt Lake City (Bidhannagar) area to the northeast of the city is a planned section of Kolkata. Rajarhat, also called New Town, is a planned township being developed on the north-eastern fringes of the city.

Central Kolkata houses the central business district around the B. B. D. Bagh area. The government secretariat, General Post Office, High Court, Lalbazar Police HQs and several other government and private offices are located here. The Maidan is a large open field in the heart of the city where several sporting events and public meetings are
Several companies have set up their offices around the area south of Park Street which has become a secondary central business district.

**Geography**

Kolkata is located in eastern India at 22°33′N 88°20′E in the Ganges Delta at an elevation ranging between 1.5 m (5 ft) to 9 m (30 ft). It is spread linearly along the banks of the River Hooghly in a north-south direction. Total area of the city is 1380.12sq Km. Much of the city was originally a vast wetland, reclaimed over the decades to accommodate the city's burgeoning population. The remaining wetland, known as East Calcutta Wetlands has been designated a "wetland of international importance" under the Ramsar Convention.

Like the most of the Indo-Gangetic plains, the predominant soil type is alluvial. Quaternary sediments consisting of clay, silt, various grades of sand and gravel underlie the city. These sediments are sandwiched between two clay beds, the lower one at depths between 250 m (820 ft) and 650 m (2,133 ft) and the upper one ranging between 10 m (33 ft) and 40 m (131 ft) in thickness. According to the Bureau of Indian Standards, the town falls under seismic zone-III, in a scale of I to V (in order of increasing proneness to earthquakes) while the wind and cyclone zoning is "very high damage risk", according to UNDP report.

**Climate**

Kolkata has a tropical wet-and-dry climate (Koppen climate classification Aw). The annual mean temperature is 26.8 °C (80.2 °F); monthly mean temperatures range from 19 °C (66.2 °F) to 30 °C (86.0 °F). Summers are hot and humid with temperatures in the low 30's and during dry spells the maximum temperatures often exceed 40 °C (104 °F) during May and June. Winter tends to last for only about two and a half months, with seasonal lows dipping to 9 °C – 11 °C (54 °F – 57 °F) between December and January. The highest recorded temperature is 43.9 °C (111.0 °F) and the lowest is 5 °C (41.0 °F). On an average, May is the hottest month with daily temperatures ranging from a low of 27 °C (80.6 °F) to a maximum of 37 °C (98.6 °F), while January the coldest month has temperatures varying from a low of 12 °C (53.6 °F) to a maximum of 23 °C (73.4 °F).
Often during early summer, dusty squalls followed by spells of thunderstorm or hailstorms and heavy rains with ice sleets lash the city, bringing relief from the humid heat. These thunderstorms are convective in nature, and is locally known as *Kal baisakhi* (Nor'westers). Rains brought by the Bay of Bengal branch of South-West monsoon lash the city between June and September and supplies the city with most of its annual rainfall of 1,582 mm (62 in). The highest rainfall occurs during the monsoon in August—306 mm (12 in)). The city receives 2,528 hours of sunshine per annum, with the maximum sunlight occurring in March. Pollution is a major concern in Kolkata, and the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) level is high when compared to other major cities of India, leading to regular smog and haze. Severe air pollution in the city has caused rise in pollution-related respiratory ailments such as lung cancer.

**Shyambazar**

Shyambazar is a neighbourhood in north Kolkata, earlier known as Calcutta, in the Indian state of West Bengal. The area, under Shyampukur police station of Kolkata Police, has been, along with neighbouring Bagbazar, the citadel of the Bengali aristocracy, in a part of what was earlier known as Sutanuti. Shyambazar mainly covers Ward No. 10 with part of ward no. 11 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. This area has been taken for research as the emphasis of this work is women education and its impact in the slum area so variety of data are required, as the different sources show presence of a wide range of data so the area has been selected.

**Communication system**

There are four main roads are used for communication and three bylanes. Sublanes are also prevailing in the area. These main roads are.

1. The Balaram Ghosh street at the North.
2. The Kumbulia Tola lane at South.
3. At the west side lies the Bidhan Sarani.
4. At the very eastern side Shyambazar street.

And the bylanes are: 1) Bhupen Bose lane, 2) K.C Bose lane, 3) Shibshnakar Mallick Lane.
Railway Stations

Bidhan nagar, Shovabazar and Shyambazar metro

Ferry Service

The Hoogly river.

Total Population
According to 2001 census, the total population of this area is 33685. The no. of the male are 18300 and female is 15385, and the population of the slum area 4894(14.53%) where male is 2704(14.78%) and female is 2190 (14.23%). The studied total population is 2420 are male is 1056(43.6%) and female is 1364 (56.36%).

No of Police station
The area comes under the Shyampukur Police Station.

Health Centre

1. The Pallymangal Seva samity at Bhuben Bose Avenue under Kolkata Municipality.
2. The Kumbulia Tola Doridro Bhandar at Kumbolia Tola Lane run by a NGO.
3. The Star link nursing home at Shyambazar Street which is private

Hygienic precaution taken by Municipality

a) Water Supply
1) No. of hand deep tube well - 53.
2) Apart from hand deep tube well there is water supply process, which is conducted by The Kolkata Municipality. The water treatment process is done by Kamarhati water plant. The water is supplied a fixed time period, three times in a day. The time period of the supplied water is (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.), (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.).

b) Home garbage collection
In every morning except Sunday the garbage collectors collect the garbage from the houses.
c) Pest killer spraying
The spraying of mosquito oil and the cutting of grasses and bushes are done twice in a week.

d) Drainage system
There is a well constructed drainage system and the drains are cleaned water is twice in a week.

ej) Education:
There are no. of primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and national instructions. There are given below:
1) No. of Primary School - 48
2) No. of Municipal Primary School - 8
3) No. of High Secondary School - 6
4) No. of College - 2
   a) Manindranath College
   b) Jaypuria College.
5) No of National Institution.
   a) The Bagbazar reading Library.
   b) The Chytannto Charan Library

f) Items regarding entertainment
Cinema Hall - 4
Auditorium – 2

Others
1) Bus stand - 8
2) Municipal Market - 1
3) No. of Parks - 1
4) Burning ghat - 2
5) Burial ground – 1
6) Temple - 5
All these suggest that the area has got all the civic amenities.
5.2 PEOPLE UNDER STUDY

The English edition of the excellent Multilingual Demographic Dictionary (Van de Walle, 1982) defines 'demography' 'the scientific study of human populations, primarily with respect to their sex, their structure and their numerical portrayal of a human population is sometimes known as _demography_. The population is viewed as an aggregate of persons represented by certain types of statistics. Demography is concerned with the behaviour of the aggregate and not with the behaviour of individuals. It is used now-a-days to denote the study by statistical methods of human populations and deals primarily with their size and growth or diminution with the numbers and proportion of persons living being born or dying within some area or region and with the measurement of related functions such as of fertility, mortality and marriage. (Cox, 1966). There are many good reasons for wanting to study populations. First, there are the administrative uses; population statistics are associated in various ways with such matters as the election of representative governing bodies, the collection of taxes and subscriptions, the planning and conduct of industry and commerce the vision of social services, the maintenance of health and the preservation of law mad order. Secondly, there is the specifically human aim of bettering the lot of man or 2: least of ensuring that it is not worsened, this aspect is frequently associated Twin that of the resources needed by people-food, shelter, mechanical power and fee like. Thirdly, there is intellectual research - satisfying the demand for finding IKS why things happen as they do (Cox, 1966).

The term _demography_ is derived from Greek words. ‘Demos‘- means people andl Graphl.. means to write. So simple demography is the writing about the people.IDemography_ is the science deals with empirical, statistical and mathematical study of population. The word was coined by Achille Giriarsone,a Belgian scientist in 1855. He defined it as —the natural and social history of human statistics on the mathematical knowledge of population of their genetic changes in physical. Civil, intellectual and moral condition‘. In other words, demography may be defined as the statistical analysis of the woman population of particular area. In anthropology it has become very important since both in the field of social cultural aspect and in the biological, specially genetic aspect. Demo science is a new branch of demography considers distribution, vital statistics, age sex ,birth rate ,death rate and mobility over a period or at one time. In demography population census is basis. In field survey the study
of demography is essential since the different woman population may ascertained on the basis of age group, sex, civil condition, economy, literacy and so on. By studying demography it is possible to know ethnic pattern an change of population. This is of budget estimation, family planning and so on. As a whole it is very useful to investigate different problem about the people. In this thesis the information about people surveyed is given in chapter five.