INTRODUCTION

Industrialisation is considered vital for the rapid economic development of a nation. Industry, refers to the fabrication of raw materials into intermediate component or finished products, by primarily mechanical means, dependent on inanimate source of power. India has never been an industrial country in the modern sense of the term. Agriculture has always been the main source of Indian economy. Inspite of the predominance of agriculture, varieties of industry flourished in India from time immemorial. Before the advent of the British, an outstanding feature was the self subsisting and self perpetuating character of the Indian villages. It produced its food requirements and its material needs were met by the local artisans. As observed by the industrial commission "At a time when the West of Europe, the birth place of modern industrial system was inhabited by uncivilized tribes, India was famous for the wealth of her rulers, and the high artistic skills of her craftsmen".

Even when the merchant adventurers from the West made their first appearance in India, the industrial development of the country was not at any rate inferior to that of the more advanced European nations.

There was a considerable variety of arts and handicrafts
whose production commanded ready market both in India and abroad. Cotton and silk received world wide fame. Bengal figured prominently.

The establishment of the British rule brought about some fundamental changes in India's rural economy. British rulers policy in the late 18th and 19th century, to make India subservient to the industries of Great Britain, had an adverse influence on the economy of the country. As a consequence in course of only a century the one time bubbling village industries were going through the process of decay.

After independence rapid industrialisation has taken place in the country. Industrial policies and framework has so far been concentrated in few pockets, resulting in the concentration of industrial activities, employment opportunities and wealth in a few zones. Thus resulting in regional disparity and imbalance in economic development. Vast areas of the country is still untouched by the stimuli for advancement as a result of which the indigenous economic pattern of these regions has remained static and backward. The economic regeneration of these backward areas can only help in the balanced growth and equity which is the crying need for the country.

One such backward region is selected for this study. Bankura district is one of the most backward districts in
the State of West Bengal. Bankura is one of the graineries of West Bengal but even after forty five years of industrial progress, the district has been declared a 'No industry area' by the Central Government in April, 1983. The term itself reflects the low industrialisation and urbanisation of the district. The State of West Bengal, within which the district is situated, however, recorded significant progress during post-Independence in diversified fields of industrial development. This development remained concentrated in an area less than 2500 sq. cm. covering the Calcutta-Howrah industrial area which accounts for 84% of West Bengal's employment and 15% of All India. The Asansol-Durgapur belt accounts for 8.7% of the states employment and the tea plantation areas of North Bengal which accounts for a meagre 3-4% of the industrial employment of the state. Thus the benefits of industrial growth has not percolated through all sectors and sub-regions of the state. It is essential to improve the conditions of these backward regions, and remove the regional imbalance, to tackle the deep seated problems of rural poverty which is especially acute in these areas.

It is necessary for the planners to go into the causes and problems of the existing industries and reasons for sickness. Keeping this in view a detail survey of the district was carried out and a careful analyses of the reports were done on geo-economic background, to find out
the industrial potentiality of the district, to identify prospective small scale industries and to suggest their location in the district of Bankura. The present study is an outcome of the research work.

The study has been divided into ten chapters. The first chapter deals with the locational aspects, physiographic, hydrographic, climatic and edaphic characteristics and notes their role in the economic development of the district.

Taking in consideration the administrative boundary, a comparative study at the state and district level has been done in the second chapter.

The spatial patterns of industrialisation are influenced in the initial stages by the resource endowment. The present utilisation and the possibilities of utilisation are dealt with in chapter three.

In chapter four the existing infrastructural facilities and amenities are discussed. The present pattern of development, the future requirement and the problems of utilisation of power and transport has been critically discussed in this chapter.

To analyse the potentiality of industrialisation in a region, it is necessary to know the history of industrialisation of that region, the growth and decay of the
industries of Bankura district has been discussed in chapter five. The study has been done in different phases, viz.,

1) Pre-independence period,

2) Post-independence period.

which has been further divided into four phases from middle of nineteenth century to 1980.

In chapter six, the industrial structure of Bankura district has been discussed. The importance of man power can hardly be over emphasised, so the employment structure of the district is dealt with in detail. The different categories of the workers in different sectors have been discussed, police stationwise analysis has been done in this chapter.

To find out the propensity for dispersal of the industrial workers of the district, some statistical methods such as location quotient, coefficient of localisation, the gini's coefficient variation, sperman's rank correlation, coefficient and a few other statistical methods have been applied to the data collected and the inferences drawn from the above has been critically analysed.

Chapter seven analyses the industries developed in Bankura district. In the absence of any large scale and few medium scale industries, the cottage and small scale industries has been discussed in detail. An analysis of
of the trend and the blockwise distribution of unit, and employment has been dealt with in detail. A detail study of the handloom weaving industry which has played an important role in the economy of the district has been carried out. The growth rate, distribution of looms and weavers, co-relations between variable has been worked out to find out the impact of the industry in the rural and urban life of the district.

Chapter eight of this study has been devoted to the study of the problems confronted by the industrial workers.

The problems of the different industries in the field of raw material, infrastructure, adequate finance training has been discussed in this chapter.

The potential for the growth of the small scale industries in the district of Bankura has been discussed in chapter nine. The study is based on survey reports carried out by various government institutions and personal observations.

Finally, the study has been concluded, and a few suggestions for industrial regeneration of the district has been put forward based on personal observations.

It has been a strenous task to collect data and informations, from different government and private institutions. It was more strenous to process and compute the huge mass of statistical data thus collected and
arrive at a definite conclusion.

The processed data has been presented through maps, charts, cartograms, to focus attention in particular fields of observation and problems.

The books referred to, to put forward the study has been given in the Bibliography.

The different data and computations of the same has been given in the appendices.