ABSTRACT

The scheme of the present work has been divided into three parts. The first part deals with different aspects of geographical study and serves as the introductory chapter of the thesis. To underscore the geographical background, the location of the district, its physical features, its climatic conditions, its soil, natural vegetation and civic amenities etc. have been touched upon with necessary diagrams and figures. The population data are based on the census publication; hence census data for only the last hundred years could be considered. The 1981 census data for the area are yet to be published, and in a few cases provisional data have been included.

The second part of the study, i.e. the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh chapters, is devoted to the interpretation and analysis of the different characteristic factors of population study.

The second chapter examines the trend of population growth, and male-female, rural-urban population characteristics in particular. The third chapter emphasises the points already posed in the second chapter in a more detailed manner. The age-sex break-up, along with other important elements of population study i.e. fertility, mortality and migration, have been studied in this chapter.
The district has a distinct place in population migration history, and the author has brought in a short discussion of population movements across the Pakistan border. Separate treatment in a full chapter has helped to bring out the special migratorial features of the area.

The fifth chapter attempts to find out the nature of the actual productive population. The nature of the distribution of labour participation in different fields is presented in terms of a division into three categories. In earlier chapters a study of the components of population study, e.g., distribution and density calculation, has underlined the fact that this agrarian district has only limited possibility in further absorption of population in primary occupational fields. The absorption of the working population in the tertiary field is also higher than in the secondary sector.

The sixth chapter is devoted to the study of urban population. The study area includes a few towns, and covers the urban population character, and how they are engaged in non-agricultural pursuits in the field of household industries.

Thus the continuity of the study of the working population in previous chapter has been maintained. Rural population character is studied in the seventh chapter.
Rural population which constitutes the majority of the population has been studied in relation to India's general population distribution and the State's population statistics. An actual village-wise study under the two aspects of crude density and variation of population between 1961 and 1971 in percentage has been recorded and analysed.

The third part of the present scheme includes chapters eighth and ninth where conclusions have been drawn from the author's own field survey findings and an analysis of the data of the previous chapters.

Here author was tempted to study the possible manner of working class absorption in the secondary sector. The study area being an area of deltaic plain and marked by the absence of mineral deposits, did not offer much scope for development into major and heavy industries. The only option lies in small scale, household and ancillary industrial development. This issue has been taken up and probed to some extent. The author examines this in relation to age, sex and rural and urban population percentages within the formal discipline of population studies.