The present thesis highlighted the nature and the pattern of the transformation of the rural society of the northern part of West Bengal since the Permanent Settlement to the Operation Barga (1793-1978). The history of the rural society of the southern part of North Bengal is relatively neglected area of research. Though important scholars and academicians have contributed in the study of urbanization of North Bengal. Some popular writers in local magazines and periodicals have focused on the development of Siliguri but the writings do not deal with the historical angle regarding the development of southern part of North Bengal especially Malda and West Dinajpur during the colonial and post-colonial period.

The proposed studies address to the issues of push and puff factors for the land settlement during the pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial period. The introduction of a settled agrarian structure by the colonial government, rapid change of agricultural based economy of Malda and Dinajpur, expansion of land revenue system and the role of Rent, Tenancy and Chowkidari Act transform the rural society of North Bengal towards urbanization. It also touched the change in politics from Tebhaga to Naxalbari over the issue of land in post-colonial period. It also highlighted the emerging of land question as communal issue and help in spreading of ethnic movement in the northern part of North Bengal. The present work revealed that how the shifting of rural populace to urban centres took place, especially in Malda and West Dinajpur. Role of zamindar family is also highlighted. Apart from these the introduction of Operation Barga changed the scenario of the rural society of North Bengal. Later formation of District Board emerged the new social elite in the rural society and the three-tier Panchayat system changed the aspiration of rural society.
The objective of the work is to investigate the historical transition of Malda and West Dinajpur in social, economic and political aspects. The developed tension in the tenant-zamindar relation leading to the gradual change in the share-cropping pattern and wealthy zamindar-jotdars began to occupy an important position in the society. Another important investigation is that the changes took place in the rural society of North Bengal after the abolition of zamindari system and the implementation of Operation Barga. In this way land became politicalised by the hands of political parties in the post 1977 and that question is also discussed. Bangladesh War of Liberation in 1971 changes the rural society of border areas of Malda and West Dinajpur. Especially West Dinajpur was deeply affected by the immigration crisis. Hence, a new outline is draw about the changing profile of the transformation of the rural society of North Bengal.

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