

Changes in Occupational Structure: A Study on Birnagar Municipality, Nadia, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

Birnagar is a Municipality town under Taherpur police station of Ranaghat sub-division in Nadia district in the state of West Bengal, India. ("District Wise List of Statutory Towns". Census of India 2001, Urban Frame. Directorate of Census Operations, West Bengal. Archived from the original on 2007-09-27. Retrieved 2007-10-06). The geographical location of this Municipality is 23.1424°N, 88.3326°E (website: nadia.nic.in). As per the 2001 Indian census Birnagar has a population of 26597, total worker 8809(33%) and non-worker 17788(67%), as per the 2011 Indian census Birnagar has a population of 30799, total worker 11091(36%) and non-worker 19708(64%). During last 10 years total increase in population is about 16%, percentage of working population has been increased 3% and non-working population has been decreased 3%. From Indian census 2001 to 2011, main and marginal workers are 91% and 9% in 2001 and 94% and 6% in 2011. Besides this municipality is lightly affected by child labour. Yet, changes in occupational structure of Birnagar Municipality are very much effective.

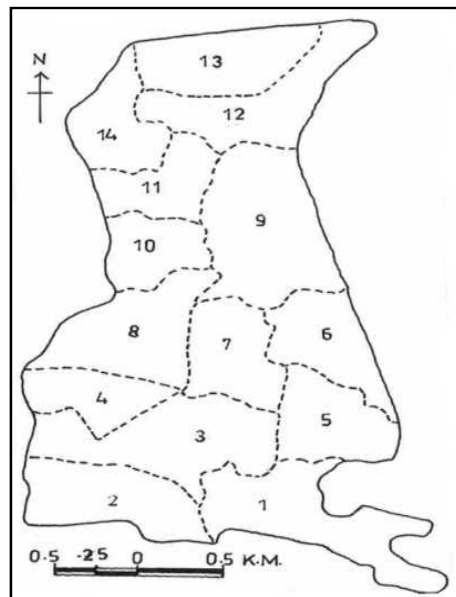
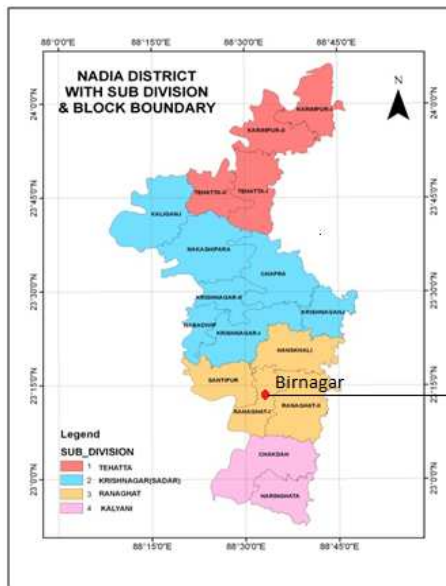
Introduction

Occupational structure plays an important role in a diversity of studies, including those related to the level of economic development and social inequalities. Since occupation reflects the individual's position in a technical division of labor, it is taken to be a central determinant of current and future economic opportunities in modern societies (Mills, 1956; Rose and Pevallin, 2001). Occupational structure may also reflect the level of discrimination and segregation among social groups, if we believe that the occupational attainment is not just a result of individual's choice (Boskin, 1974; Brown et al., 1980; Filer, 1986; Gill, 1989; Schimdt and Strauss, 1975). Moreover, changes in the occupational structure are also related to changes in the demand for different occupational services, as a result of socioeconomic improvements and technological advances (Blau and Duncan, 1967). Since technological development affects the division of labor, it impacts on almost every aspects of the social structure (Williams, 1979).

This paper analyzes the role of occupational structure as a source of socioeconomic inequalities in Birnagar Municipality, making a change in occupational structure on Birnagar Municipality, Nadia, West Bengal, India.

The paper provides important elements to understand the complex level of development and inequity in this Municipality through the light of occupational structure. Moreover, this change allows us identifying eventual trends of

centralization and decentralization of socioeconomic development, as well as changes in the patters of social inequalities.



Wards of Birnagar Municipality

Materials and Methodologies:

Materials for this study are primary and secondary on occupation and employment of the population concerned. In order to accomplish the paper on the urbanization and changes in occupational structure of Birnagar Municipality of District Nadia, some particular methodologies have been followed:

At first a holistic idea about the study area Birnagar Municipality was gathered and visited the municipality offices. Besides several professional institutions have also been visited. After that a detailed objective oriented questionnaire were prepared and penned-down responses of all the queries by random sampling (10% household were chosen of 5 wards). This perception survey is a paramount significance because this is one type of ground-truth verification. And finally analyzed all the primary and secondary databases obtained from household survey

and several institutions and MS-excel was employed for graphical representation of the findings.

Findings and Discussions:

Indian census 2001 and 2011 of this municipality shows that during last 10 years total increase in population is $(30799-26597)=4202$ person(about 16%) and percentage of working population has been increased 3% where as percentage of non-workers have been decreased 3% (Table no. 1). Because men-women both workers are engaged in different types of occupation. This change in occupational structure of Birnagar Municipality indicates a positive trend and it's become a well developed urban area.

Table: 1

Census Year	Total Population	Workers			Non-workers
		Male	Female	Total	
2001	26597	7265(82%)	1544(18%)	8809(33%)	17788(67%)
2011	30799	9050(82%)	2041(18%)	11091(36%)	19708(64%)

In the wards of Birnagar Municipality most of the workers are main workers (Who get job more than 180 days/year), 91% in 2001 and 94% in 2011(Table no. 2). Otherwise some workers are also engaged as marginal workers (Who get job less than 180 days/year), 9% in 2001 and 6% in 2011(Table no. 2). Although during last 10 years overall main workers are increased 3% (Table no. 2) but percentage of male main workers is decreased 3% (Table no. 2) and female main workers are increased 3% (Table no. 2). On the other hand male marginal workers are lesser than female marginal workers (because female workers are unable to do or find out their job more than 180 days/year), 22% in 2001 and 20% in 2011(Table no. 2) but percentage of male marginal workers is increased 1% and female marginal workers is decreased 1% (Table no. 2) during last 10 years. So, it is clear that the above mentioned change in occupational structure will take this municipality in better place in future.

Table: 2

Census year	Total Worker	Main Workers			Marginal Workers		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2001	8809(33%)	6955(87%)	1056(13%)	8011(91%)	310(39%)	488(61%)	798(9%)
2011	11091(36%)	8786(84%)	1639(16%)	10425(94%)	264(40%)	402(60%)	666(6%)

Actually main and marginal both workers are divided into four different types of occupation: Cultivators, Agricultural labourers, Household industrial labourers and other labourers. These different types of main and marginal workers have been changed within 2001 to 2011 census (Table no. 3). In different types of main workers, male main workers are greater than female main workers. On the other side in different types of marginal workers, male marginal workers are greater (Except- Household Industrial Labourers in 2001 and

Cultivators, Household Industrial Labourers, Other labourers in 2011 census) than female marginal workers. In main workers, male main workers are greater in number because males are able to do or find out their job more than 180 days/ year. Otherwise females are unable to do or find out their job not more than 180 days/year, so maximum females are belong in marginal sector. So, one matter is clear that male and female both workers are engaged in various types of occupation as a main or marginal worker, this is an important effective step for this municipality.

Table: 3

Census Year	Different occupations	Main Workers			Marginal Workers		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2001	Cultivators	337(98%)	8(2%)	345(4%)	6(75%)	2(25%)	8(1%)
	Agricultural Labourers	1060(98%)	21(2%)	1081(13%)	57(76%)	18(24%)	75(9%)
	Household Industrial Labourers	765(69%)	351(31%)	1116(14%)	48(14%)	294(86%)	342(43%)
	Other labourers	4793(88%)	676(12%)	5469(68%)	199(53%)	174(47%)	373(47%)
2011	Cultivators	364(99%)	2(1%)	366(4%)	10(36%)	18(64%)	28(4%)
	Agricultural Labourers	1061(95%)	59(5%)	1120(11%)	59(88%)	8(12%)	67(10%)
	Household Industrial Labourers	524(58%)	385(42%)	909(9%)	15(8%)	173(92%)	188(28%)
	Other labourers	6837(85%)	1193(15%)	8030(77%)	180(47%)	203(53%)	383(58%)

Primary data (2015) shows that main employed workers are always greater than marginal employed workers, where the percentage of main and marginal employed workers is 77% and 23% respectively (Table no. 4). On the other hand females are much more unemployed than males (male-39% and female-61%....Table no. 4) because females are physically not strong as males and they unable to do or find out their job as males, besides their life is chained by some different man made social rules. The people of Birnagar Municipality have also been practised some important miscellaneous occupations (Like-fruit processing, fishing, car repairing, shop worker, business of old clothes etc). So, these primary data collected by random sampling prove that occupational structure of this municipality has been positively changed.

Table: 4

Ward No.	Employed people		Unemployed people		Miscellaneous Worker			
	Main Worker	Marginal Worker	Male	Female	Fruit Processing	Fishing	Car repairing	Shop worker
1	41(14%)	19(21%)	3(14%)	4(12%)	6(10%)	4(44%)	7(37%)	3(14%)
2	61(20%)	17(18%)	2(9%)	6(18%)	11(19%)	0	2(11%)	2(9%)
3	67(22%)	23(25%)	5(23%)	9(26%)	12(21%)	2(22%)	3(16%)	5(23%)
4	81(27%)	18(20%)	8(36%)	9(26%)	17(29%)	3(34%)	5(26%)	8(36%)
5	52(17%)	15(16%)	4(18%)	6(18%)	12(21%)	0	2(10%)	4(18%)
Total	302(77%)	92(23%)	22(39%)	34(61%)	58(54%)	9(8%)	19(18%)	22(20%)

On the basis of primary household survey by random sampling on some selected wards, one matter is clear that this municipality has been suffered by child labour. Here, the maximum and minimum number of child labours is found in the ward no. 4 and 5 respectively, where the percentage is 27% in ward no. 4 and 11% in ward no. 5 (Table no. 5). This is a social curse as well as a social shame at present time for each and every society.

Table: 5

WARD NO.	AGE WISE CHILD LABOUR				
	6-8	8-10	10-12	Above 12	Total
1	0	3 (20%)	5 (33%)	7 (47%)	15 (16%)
2	2 (9%)	4 (19%)	6 (29%)	9 (43%)	21 (23%)
3	0	5 (25%)	3 (15%)	12 (60%)	20 (22%)
4	0	8 (32%)	5 (20%)	12 (48%)	25 (27%)
5	0	2 (18%)	5 (46%)	4 (36%)	11 (12%)

Conclusion

From the above study it can be concluded that after the analysis of primary and secondary databases regarding the occupational structure of Birnagar

Municipality of District Nadia in details some above mentioned problems have come out in the forefront of Birnagar Municipality (like: male workers are too much than female workers, a huge differentiation between main and marginal workers, child labour etc). Yet we can say that if these occupational problems can be eradicated and if Local Government as well as Non-Governmental organizations take positive initiatives to involve the unemployed persons in proper jobs depending on their skills and potentialities and if some fruitful urban planning and management measures are taken into considerations, then automatically the occupational scenario of Birnagar Municipality will be changed and definitely will become better in near future.

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