

## DEMOGRAPHICAL VIEW OF BARANAGAR MUNICIPALITY FROM 1991-2001

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### ABSTRACT

The present study is focused on the demographic scenario of Baranagar Municipality over the two decades and its related problems. Once the seat of high religious customs and testimony to diverse cultural activities, the century old municipality intends to transform itself into an environment friendly, clean and attractive urban area not deterred by the past unplanned growth. Need based and problem driven issues relating to infrastructure improvement plan, pollution free mandate, organized and homogeneous growth perspective along with heritage conservation, refurbished slum infrastructure and increased development focus on poor households will aim to ensure all our citizens lead healthy lives. All excluded and marginalized groups who do not benefit from any poverty alleviation schemes will get an opportunity to address their livelihood issues. Literacy mission and health for the poor and masses operation are the two main fortes to achieve the above goal. Booming trade and commerce and industries on both sides of its many main arteries, that characterize this municipality and underline its locational advantage, have a formal and regulated growth. Simple and efficient organizational structure and long term innovative financial planning will serve the local citizen better and have adequate solvency for the municipality which has a long historical and renaissance background and ways to go into the promising future.

**KEYWORDS:** Financial Planning, Municipality, Poverty Alleviation, Unplanned Growth & Urban Area

### INTRODUCTION

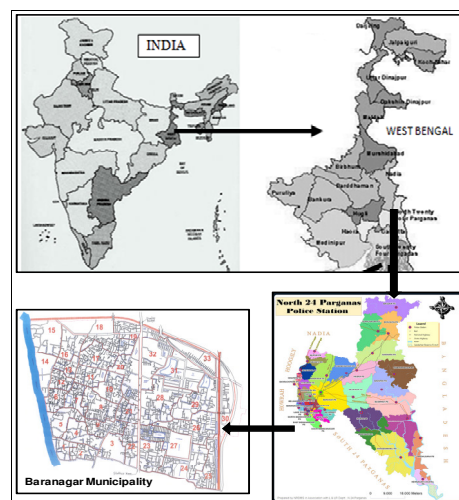
Baranagar or Barahanagar, meaning the big (Bara or Barra) and town or land (nagar) of the pig (baraha), is a town in the northern outskirts of Kolkata. It is a Municipality in North 24 Parganas district in the state of West Bengal, India. A railway station of the same name is on the Dankuni line off the Sealdah north section. It is home to the Indian Statistical Institute, the famous gun shell factory of the Indian Ministry of Defense, and an important jute mill on the banks of Hooghly river. It is a major industrial centre for the manufacture of agricultural and industrial machinery, chemicals, castor oil, and matches; there are also numerous cotton-processing companies. It is the fourth most densely populated city proper in the world. It is an ancient region of artisan people, is situated adjacent to Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The place is related with many great personalities like Sree Sree Chaitanya, Sree Sree Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Sashipada Bandopadhyay, Manik Bandopadhyay and Sisir Kumar Bhaduri. First statistical institute in India, Indian Statistical Institute was founded here by P. C. Mahalanabish.

The Dutch mynheers had homes here in the seventeenth century. Streysham Master who visited the area in 1676 spoke of the hog factory where about 3000 hogs a year were slaughtered and salted for export. Later it became the centre for the extensive jute trade, manufacturing gunny bags. A major road parallel to the river Hooghly connects Baranagar

bazaar with Dakshineswar. In between temples such as kaancher mandir (which is made of glass), Joy Mita Kali Bari, and Pathbari are located. The place is situated on the eastern bank of the River Hooghly. Portuguese colonist at first established their business camp here which was in existence till 1862. Dutch settlers established their 'Kuthi' or office for business. Dutch supremacy ended with the arisen of British power in Bengal. M/s. Colvin Cow II Co. was the pioneer of industrial Baranagar. They founded a Sugar Mill near Alambazar. Later George Henderson founded Borneo Jute Factory at that site. In 1859 the factory was renamed as Baranagar Jute Factory and till date in existence. The Baranagar Jute Factory was the first mechanical Jute Factory in India. During the two World Wars many engineering factories were set up in Baranagar and the town became famous as Industrial City. To provide civic amenities, North Suburban Municipality was formed in 1869 consisting of Chitpur and Cossipore (presently under Kolkata M.C.), all mouzas of present Baranagar Municipal Area along with Kamarhati, Ariadaha and Dakshineswar mouzas of present Kamarhati Municipality. In 1881 North Suburban Municipality was divided in two parts, 1) Cossipore- Chitpur Municipality (later amalgamated with Kolkata Municipal area) and 2) Baranagar Municipality. On 01.08.1899 Kamarhati Municipality was formed parting Kamarhati and Ariadaha Mouzas from Baranagar. In 1949 Dakshineswar Mouza was parted from Baranagar and merged with Kamarhati Municipality.

## LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

Baranagar is located at  $22.64^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $88.37^{\circ}\text{E}$ . It has an average elevation of 12 metres (39 feet). It is situated east of the Hooghly river. Baranagar Municipal area lies between Sinthee More and Dunlop. More particularly to say, the boundary of Baranagar is – in East, the Rail line from Sealdah towards Krishnanagar, in West-the holy river Ganges, in North-PWD road and in South-Baranagar Bazar. (Figure.1)



**Figure 1: Location of the Study Area**

It is served by nothing less than 50 bus routes (private, mini, CTC, CSTC, public, chartered and others) that travel very frequently on BT Road and connect the Municipality well with the rest of the KMA. On top of that, upcoming Second Vivekananda Bridge and Belghoria Expressway that fall on its northern periphery increases its geographical importance and connect Baranagar to a wider regional network. BT Road, very busy main artery of KMA and running north- south, not

only is accessed by local people but also branches many auto-rickshaw routes for traveling inside the Municipality. It has a railway station, which well connects the Municipality with the rest of the KMA. Average rain fall is 1277.8 mm and maximum and minimum temperature is 35.6 and 10.8 degree Celsius respectively.

## YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

Administrative Boundary of the Baranagar Municipality, Estd. in 1869. Southern base of the Calcutta chord railway from the river Hoogly upto the point where it meets the 'Dantia' or Bagjola Khal' to the east of the East India Railway line, then the northern bank of Dantia or Bagjola khal upto the point where it meets the eastern boundary of mouza Belghoria. Eastern boundary of mouza Noapara, then the southern boundary of the said mouza up to its junction with the East India Railway line, then the East India Railway lines upto their junction with Ramkali Mukherjee Road. In the south, Paramanik Ghat Road, Kashipore Road, Kashi Nath Dutta Road, Kali Charan Ghosh Road and Ram Kali Mukherjee Road generate the southern boundary. River Hoogly is the western limitation of the municipal body.

Source: *The Calcutta Gazette. May 26-1949, page- 843*

## COMPARATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC SCENARIO OF 1991 AND 2001

### Total Population

According to the census data of 1991, the total population of Baranagar Municipality was 224821 of which male population was 120134 which was 53.44% of the total population while female population was 104687 which was 46.56% of the total population. Sex ratio was 871 females per 1000 males which was quite low in accordance with the national level. Total number of Scheduled Caste population was 10465 which was only 4.73% while Scheduled tribe population was 580 which was really a very less amount (0.26%) with respect to the total population. The male population was comparatively higher in respect of total population in each and every ward. Highest population was found in the ward number 29 followed by ward number 26. Ward 14, 1, 3, 10 etc. were under the low population category. If we talk about 2001 census, the picture is almost similar. The total population was 250768 among which male and female population was 132559 and 118209 respectively. Hence, 52.86% population was male and the rest portion was female. Total number of scheduled caste population was 9127 while scheduled tribe population was 510 which were less than the 1991 census. Highest population was found in ward 33 followed by ward 12, 25 and 8 while ward 14, 1, 3 etc. are considered under less number of population. Figure.2 depicts the whole and comparative pictures of ward-wise distribution of total population of Baranagar municipality in the year of 1991 and 2001.

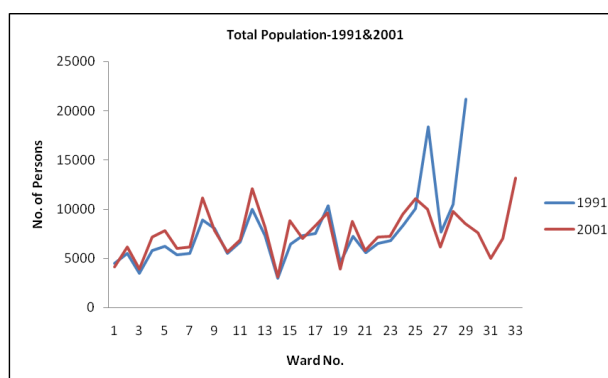


Figure 2: Total Population of Baranagar Municipality

**Table 1: Population Growth Rates**

Year	Total Population	% of Growth
1901	25432	
1911	25895	+1.82
1921	32084	+23.90
1931	37050	+15.48
1941	54451	+46.97
1951	77126	+41.64
1961	107837	+39.82
1971	136842	+26.90
1981	170343	+24.48
1991	224821	+31.98
2001	250768	+11.54
2011	297451	+18.61

From the Table.1, it is observed that population growth in Baranagar Municipality was inconsistent over the century. After the partition in 1947 and Bangladesh War in 1971, there was a very huge influx of refugees in this Municipality. Secondly, the proximity of this Municipality to KMC area is another reason of high population growth rate.

### **Population Density**

Population density refers to the total number of population per square kilometre. A distinction must be made between population distribution and population density. The distribution of population is more locational, while the density is more proportional because it is concerned with the ratio between the size of population and the area. Overall the population density of Baranagar Municipality is very high. In 1991, population density was 31576 persons/sq km while in 2001 it become 35220 persons/sq km. Maximum population density was found in ward number 12(84805 persons/sq km) and 13(64333 persons/sq km) in 1991. The picture remained unchanged in 2001 also. Ward 12 had a population density of 102262 persons/sq km and 13 had 71675 persons/sq km.

### **Different Categories of Population**

This municipality has mainly three different categories of population based on social caste system, namely, general population, scheduled caste population and scheduled tribe population. General population clearly dominates the other two categories which reveal the traditional richness of the area. Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population composed a very less number and most of them were engaged as industrial labourer. General population composed of more than 85% for each and every ward in 1991 and this percentage has been increased in 2001 while it comprises with near about 90% for every ward [Figure. 3].

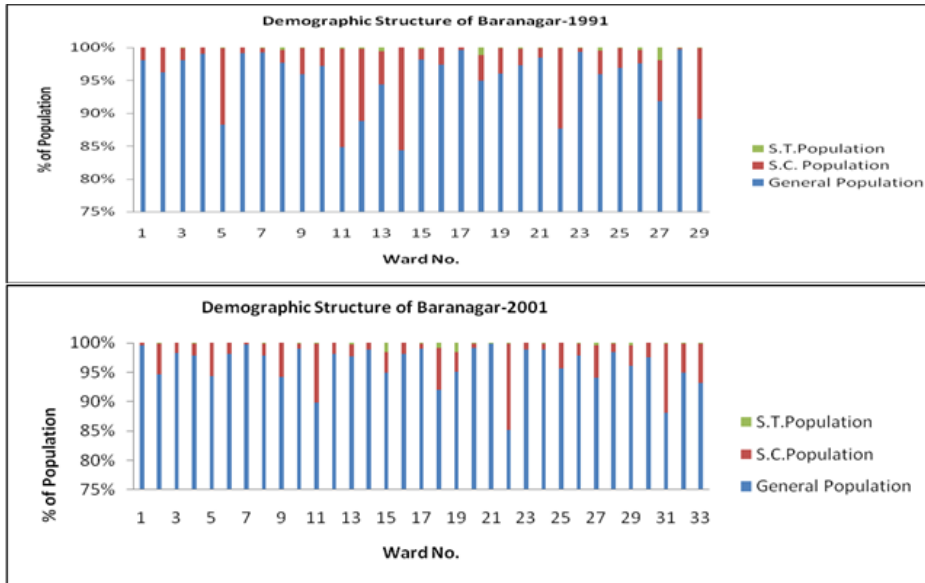


Figure 3: Different Categories of Population (1991 and 2001)

**Households**

Figure.4 shows the comparative diagram of number of households in Baranagar Municipality in the years of 1991 and 2001. Ward no. 29 and 26 have maximum number of households in 1991 (4388 and 3747 respectively)but in 2001 due to reconstruction of the wards these two wards have less number of households while 33 no. ward has maximum number of households in that year.

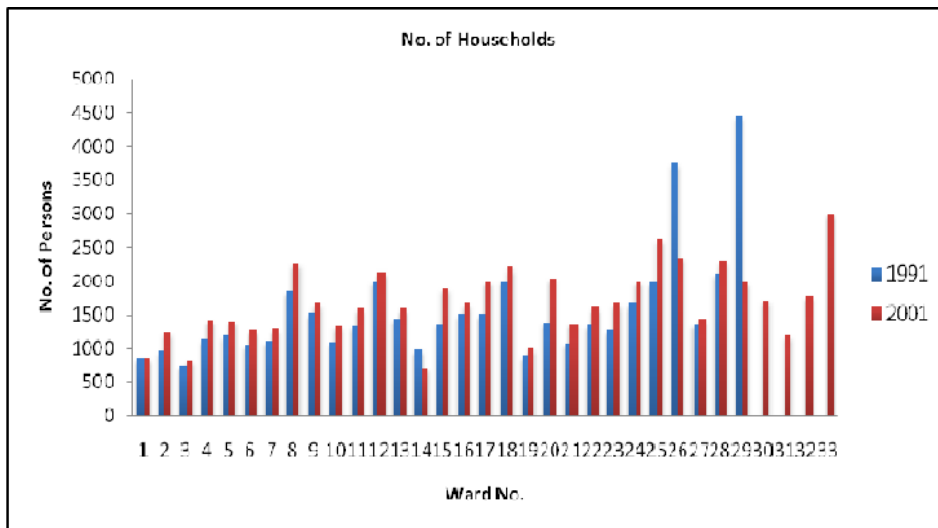


Figure 4: Comparative Scenario of Number of Households

**Population 0-6 Years of Age**

0-6 year population is considered as child population who are completely dependent to their parents or guardians. They are totally unproductive. According to 1991 census, total 20834 persons were under 0-6 year old population which is only 9.27% of the total population. Ward no. 26, 29 and 12 have more population under 0-6 age group. If we consider 2001 census, 20826 persons were under this particular age group which is only 8.31% of the total population. Ward no. 33 and

12 were the wards having more population with respect to 0-6 age group people. From the Figure.5 the ward wise spatio-temporal distribution of 0-6 year population is very clear.

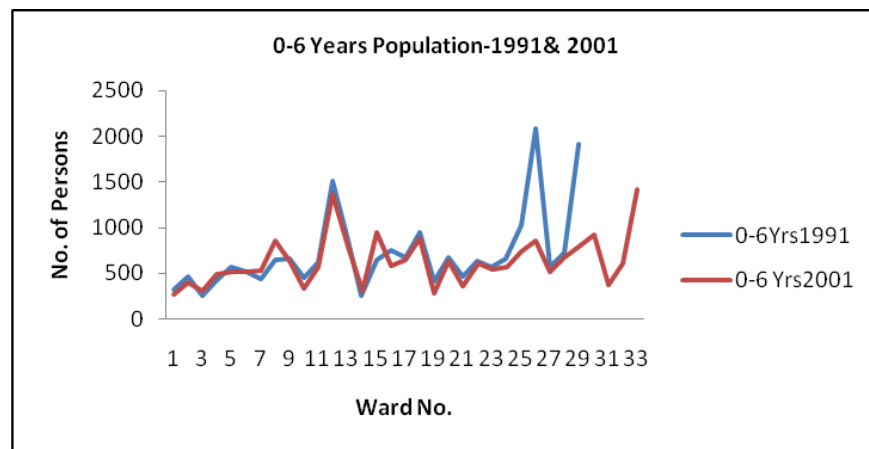


Figure 5: 0-6 Years Population in 1991 and 2001

### Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population

Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population consists very less amount of the total population. 1991 census reveals more scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population compare to 2001 census. It was because of outmigration from the S.C. and S.T. population and immigration of general population. Ward no. 29 shows maximum percentage of scheduled caste population in 1991 while ward no. 22 represents largest amount compare to the remaining wards in 2001. If we consider scheduled tribe population, then ward no. 18 and 26 shows maximum number of population in 1991 whereas ward 15 is the densest ward in 2001 census [Figure.6].

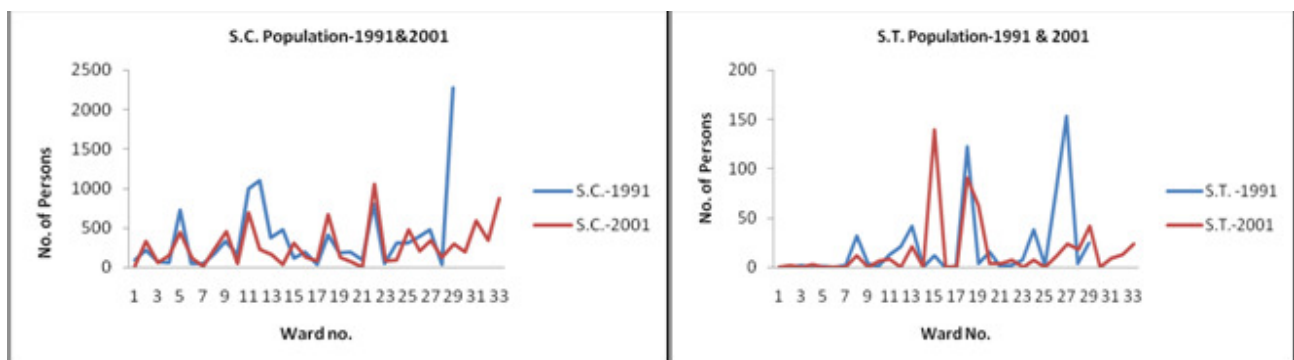


Figure 6: Comparison of S.C. and S.T. Population

### Literate Population and Literacy Rate

Literacy rate of Baranagar Municipality is very high. In 1991, highest literacy rate (87.97%) was found in ward no.28 while the lowest rate (53.14%) is found in ward no. 12 and the average literacy rate was 77.52%. Compare to that, the average literacy rate in 2001 was 81.76% which is quite high than 1991. In 2001, the highest (91.65%) and lowest (60.15%) literacy rate was found in ward no. 21 and 14 respectively. Male-female composition of literate population has been vividly understood from the study. Number of literate population and literacy rate were substantially high among the male people. The literacy rate is increasing gradually with time. A number of academic institutions like schools, colleges

are located in this area. A famous international institute like Indian Statistical Institute is also situated here. Apart from that it is basically an urban residential area. So, education is a prime characteristic among the residents. This comparative study has been shown through Figure.7.

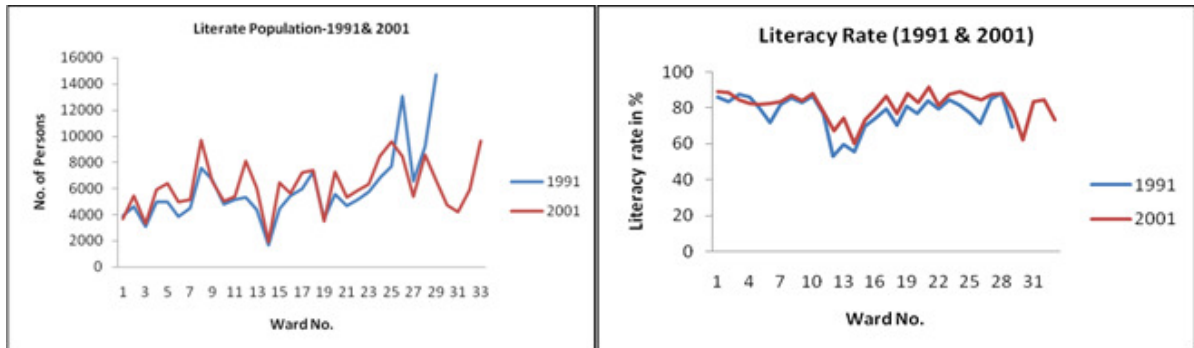


Figure 7: Comparative Study on Literacy rate and Literate Population (1991 & 2001)

**Main Workers**

Figure.8 depicts the overall scenario of the number of main workers in 1991 and 2001 respectively. A very less number of female populations are engaged as main workers in both the years. In 1991, 5744 and 4769 male population is involved as main workers for ward no. 29 and 26 respectively but in 2001 the scenario was changed. Ward 24 has enjoyed maximum number of male main workers (4426) followed by ward 25 (4140) and 33 (3979). This is happened because the area under particular wards has been altered. Among the main workers 91% is male and rest of the 9% is female in according to 1991 census while in 2001 the percentage of female main workers is slightly increased (13%) and the remaining 87% is male workers. The study vividly describes the different segments of main workers according to 1991 census. Only 1% main workers were engaged in Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Plantations, and Orchards & Allied Activities. Near about 0% was engaged in Mining & Quarrying activities because this area is not a mining town. Again only 1% of the main working population was come under Manufacturing, Processing, and Servicing & Repairs in Household Industry category. A significant amount of 38% was directly involved in Manufacturing, Processing, and Servicing & Repairs in other than Household Industry. Only 3% persons were involved in construction. Trade and Commerce accounts almost 24% population. About 10% of the main workers were busy with Transport, Storage and Communication sectors. And remaining 23% main workers were heavily engaged in other services. This scenario remained almost unchanged in 2001.

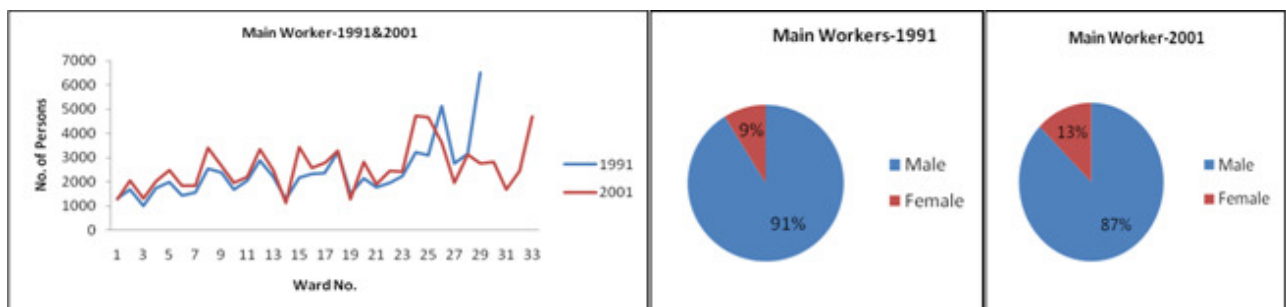
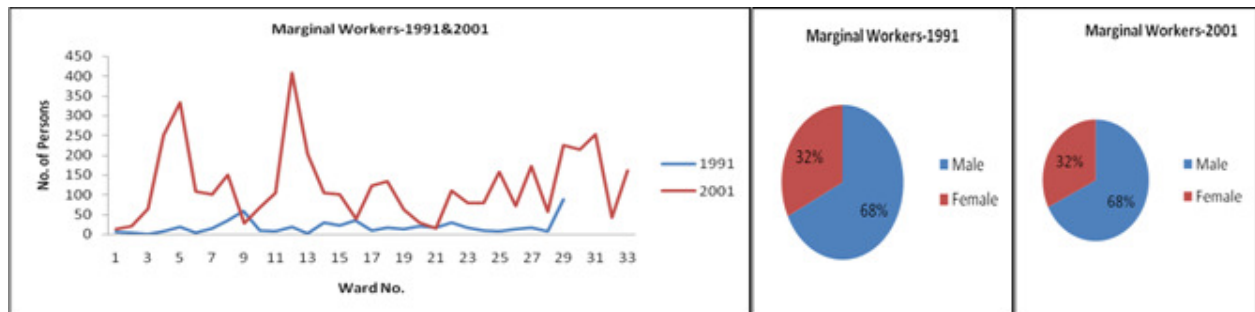


Figure 8: Comparative Study on Main Workers (1991 & 2001)

### Marginal Workers

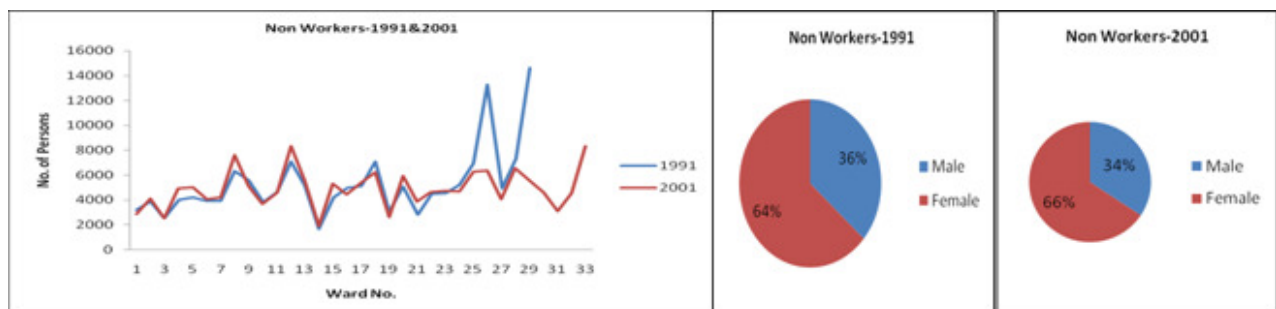
This particular category of working population is very less significant in this region. In 1991, only 536 persons were identified as marginal workers among which 536 were male and 163 were female. In 2001, the number of marginal workers is slightly increased. A total 4079 persons were marginal workers among which 2550 were male and 1529 were female. 68% marginal workers are male population and this statistics has no change throughout the decade. Figure.9 depicts the comparative study on marginal workers for the two decades of this particular region.



**Figure 9: Comparative Study on Marginal Workers (1991 & 2001)**

### Non Workers

A huge population is considered as non workers in 1991 as well as in 2001 census report. According to 1991 and 2001 census overall 74% and 64% population were non workers. So, in 1991, a total of 154852 persons were non worker among which 36% were male and the rest of the population was female non workers. Again In 2001, among 161234 non workers male and female persons were 34% and 66% respectively. So, it is clear from this demographic data that, female population are converted from non workers to workers but this rate of conversion is not so fast. Figure.10 shows the temporal variation of non workers of the study area.



**Figure 10: Comparative Study on Non Workers (1991 & 2001)**

### Comparative Study between Workers and Non Workers

In 1991, 30.88% persons were considered as main workers and 64.29% were non workers while marginal worker category consists a very less proportion (1.63%) of the total population. Among the male population, percentage of main workers was high (52.69%) compare to the percentage of non workers (47.01%). But the picture was completely different for female category. Here only 5.86% were under the main workers while non workers consist of 93.97%. The working status was remaining almost unchanged in 2001 also. 34.08% total population was under main workers while 64.29% were non workers. Percentages of main workers among both the male and female persons were slightly increased (56.32% for



male category and 9.14% for female category).

## SCOPE AND LIMITATION

In preparing this “first generation” DDP, it is important to note that there are likely to be some imperfections in the overall development plans. Such limitations are in the form of gaps in thematic integration of various proposals and linkages between the proposed development plan and the overall resource availability. In addition, gaps are likely to exist in various socio-economic and infrastructure datasets which have not been entirely addressed through the various surveys conducted, thus resulting on a greater emphasis on the use of secondary data, citizens’ feedback, ward level consultations and participatory planning as much as possible. The important features, in the process of making the first generation DDP, include

- Participation by and consultation with the widest range of stakeholders, Ward Committees, NHG, NHC, CDS, etc.
- Pro-poor focus.
- Transparent system for prioritization of issues.
- Realistic and affordable financial projections from predictable funding schemes.
- Short gestation, cost effective projects with large number of beneficiaries and community participation.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Baranagar Municipality is characterized by full urban local body. So the nature of demographic structure is obviously urban. But the area is suffered by the immense pressure of population. According to population density it is considered as the 4<sup>th</sup> most densely populated urban Municipality in the world. The increase in population is heavily due to the migrating people mainly coming for their occupation purpose. From 1991, there is a sign of clear growth of the households. A number of individual land properties have been converted into high rise apartments. So, the scarcity of water is increasing day by day. A very complex pattern of drainage and sewerage line has been developed in this area. The condition of roads is very poor due to a large number of vehicles. Slum population is also increasing in an alarming rate. Bank erosion is also added along the Ganga river and it generates degradation of environment. A number of small factories are found in the north-western corner of Baranagar and it leads the pollution level in an increasing rate. Residential areas have been developed in an extremely unplanned way. A number of shops have also been increased here and there. Availability of drinking water is another big problem in Baranagar. Because of the large population the gas service is very irregular throughout the area. Another major problem is that there is total absence of fire brigade in this area. So, it is very dangerous to live in this Municipality because there are a number of factories and residential places are also situated in a congested pattern. There are also found a number of roads which have no footpath. Besides the major markets like Baranagar bazaar, Alam bazaar, Palpara bazaar etc. there are a lot of small markets found in almost each and every ward. So, the total area is very congested and extremely unfavourable for living. The huge pressure of population must be decreased and availability of basic civic amenities like electricity, gas supply, drinking water supply, number of academic institutions and health centres must be increased. Fire brigade service must also be provided in this Municipality. After all, it can be said that Baranagar Municipality enjoys an important and very significant place in the territory of North 24 Parganas district because of its historical point of view and its adjacency to Kolkata metropolis.

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