

MIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM BANGLADESH TO WEST BENGAL- A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

After partition Migration happened from Bangladesh to West Bengal as well as from West Bengal to Bangladesh. In my study I just want to discover the trends, the causes as well as some effects of Muslim and Hindu migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal. The intelligence and talents of Bangladesh failed to protest and stop their government of being their country as a Muslim nation. But as India have announced that their country will be a secularist one people after partition both Hindus and Muslims of Bangladesh feel insecurity not only for their livelihood but also their culture. So some rapid patches of migration started to come from Bangladesh to West Bengal. Even today at 2015 though rate of migration declines but the flow continues. Though rapid Muslim and Hindus have come to West Bengal but actual figure tells that Muslims are actually minorities in this state. Migration after 1971 drives to the population growth in West Bengal and it is noticed that the tendency of population growth is much higher among the Muslims than Hindus.

KEYWORDS: Migration, Census, Bangladesh, India

INTRODUCTION

Methodology

Here I have applied some cartographic techniques and have taken help of some Census Reports. I have prepared some diagrams with the Help of Excel and GIS techniques. After preparing all the diagrams I have transferred it into the JPEG format and put into my article at suitable place.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

- To investigate the pattern of migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal.
- To discover the cause of migration from Bangladesh
- To find the associated problems of West Bengal due to migration.

Nature of Migrated People from Bangladesh to West Bengal

Partition of India happened in 1947. On account of the partition of West Bengal a huge migration had been happened from the Pakistan. But the thing is it has been identified that not only lack of safety and security but also people had been forcefully migrated. Even after the emergence of Bangladesh at 1971 a huge patch of migrated people from Bangladesh (East Pakistan) have been identified. The nature of migration though differs between the migration from the Pakistan and latter from Bangladesh. The basic thing is that the nature of migrated people from Pakistan in the year 1947 was basically refugees and it has been identified that almost all the people from Pakistan have been marched towards Indian Territory includes all the Christians, Buddhists and Jains to the territory of West Bengal. But during the Bangladesh Era mostly Bangladeshi Muslims were migrated towards different parts of the West Bengal.

Trendsof Migration

I have identified certain parameters to show the trend of migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal:

- Hindu-Muslim proportions in the border villages.
- Demography of districts of West Bengal in 1951-2001period.
- **Hindu-Muslim proportions in the border villages**

Hindu-muslim proportions have been significantly changed due to migration:

Table 1

TIME PERIOD	Gunarajpur	Keutsa	Mathurapur	Hogolberia
1950s and 1960s	2:3	2:3	4:6	7:3
1970s and 1980s	2:3	2:3	5:5	6:4
1990s and 2000s	1:4	1:2	3:7	5:5

Source: Illegal migration from Bangladesh- A case study of West Bengal by Bimal Pramanik

The above 5 border villages have taken from P.S. Swarupnagar, Baduria (district 24-Parganas), Karimpur, Hogolbaria and Muturia (District Nadia).

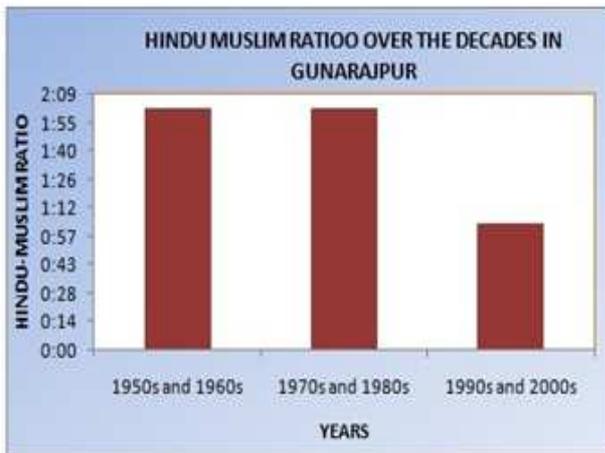


Figure 1

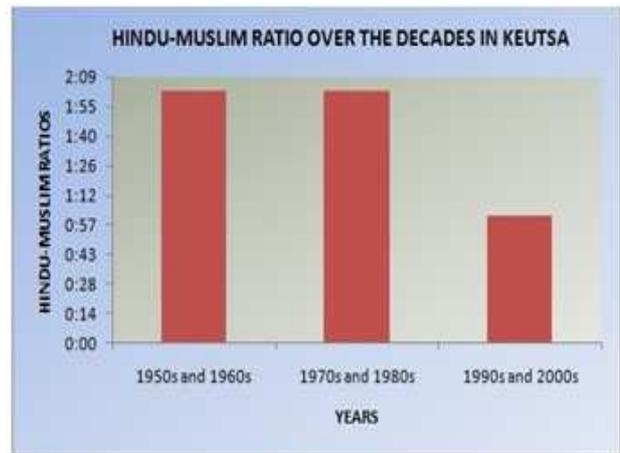


Figure 2

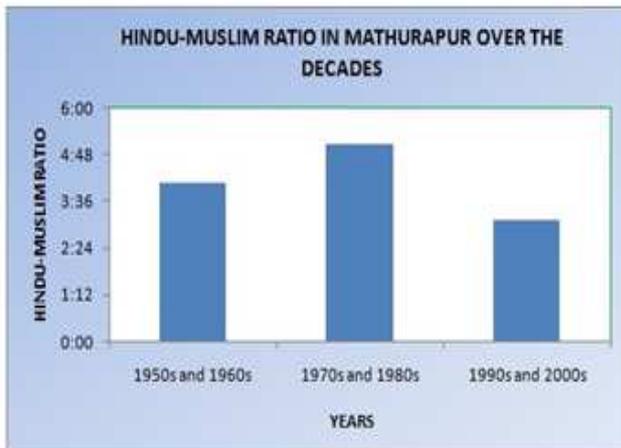


Figure 3

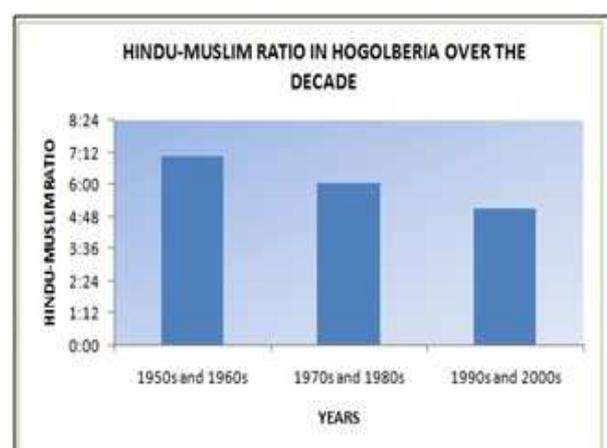


Figure 4

- **Demography of districts of West Bengal in 1951-2001 period**

1981 and 1991 census is the major indicator of West Bengal within to know the trends of migration

Table 2: District Wise Rise of Hindus and Muslims in the Duration of 1981-91

DISTRICT	RISE IN NUMBER OF HINDUS 1981-91	RISE IN NUMBER OF MUSLIMS 1981-91
COOCHBIHAR	18.51	37.43
JALPAIGURI	22.54	44.58
DARJEELING	24.50	58.18
MIDNAPORE	19.74	53.08
BANKURA	14.33	38.71
24- PARGANAS(NORTH AND SOUTH)	16.49	35.15
WEST DINAJPUR	28.49	33.48
MALDAH	24.36	36.09
MURSHIDABAD	19.55	34.15
NADIA	28.43	34.49
HOWRAH	22.30	28.35
HOOGHLY	20.90	29.11
PURULIA	18.93	31.62
BURDWAN	22.38	38.67
BIRBHUM	18.36	30.00

Source: ' *Illegal Migration From Bangladesh –A Case Study Of West Bengal* ' BY Bimal Pramanik, Also cited in ' *Population Explosion in West Bengal- A Survey* (A Study by South Asia Research Society, Calcutta)

From the above table it is almost clear that West Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad Nadia, Howrah, Hooghly, Purulia, Burdwan, Birbhum are the districts where the Muslim population is significantly higher than the Hindu population and the Coachbihar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Midnapore and Bankura are the districts where the rise of Muslim population is almost doubled than the rise of Hindu population in the duration of 1981-91. From this figure it is clear that Muslim emigrants from West Bengal to Bangladesh came at a higher rate than Hindu emigrants.

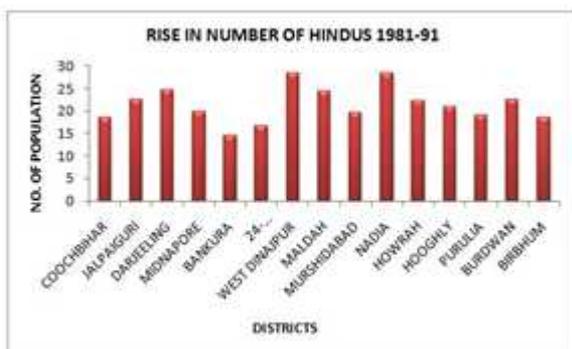


Figure 5

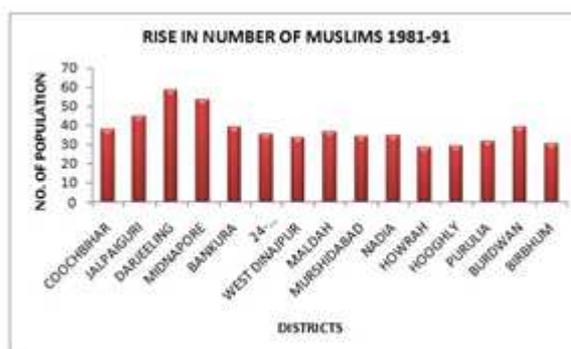


Figure 6

Bangladesh Population Census 2001 also tells that the share of Hindu Population also comes down to 9.2% only. From the year 1951 it has been noticed that there are very slow growth rate of Hindus indicates rapid migration of Hindus from Bangladesh to India especially in West Bengal. On the contrary there is a rapid growth rate of Muslims since 1951. The share of Muslim population has been increased from 76.9% in 1951 to 89.7% in 2001. Hindu population growth has been increases only 23.16% in comparison to Muslim population as 244.68%. on the other hand in the same time the growth of Muslim population in West Bengal becomes 310% in comparison to growth rate of Hindu population which then stands to 198%. This figure directly indicates the rapid rate of infiltration of Muslims from Bangladesh (*Illegal migration from Bangladesh –a Case study of West Bengal by Bimal Pramanik, also cited in Religious Census 2001*). The history now

tells another fact that during the Bangladesh Liberation War about 20 million Hindus have been arrested and molested by the Pakistani army. From the Bangladesh Government it has been stated that it is the major cause of loosing Hindu Population in Bangladesh (*Hinduism in Bangladesh* from www.wikipedia.org).The population census of Bangladesh in 1981-91 also identifies rapid migration of Hindus in comparison to the Muslim population:

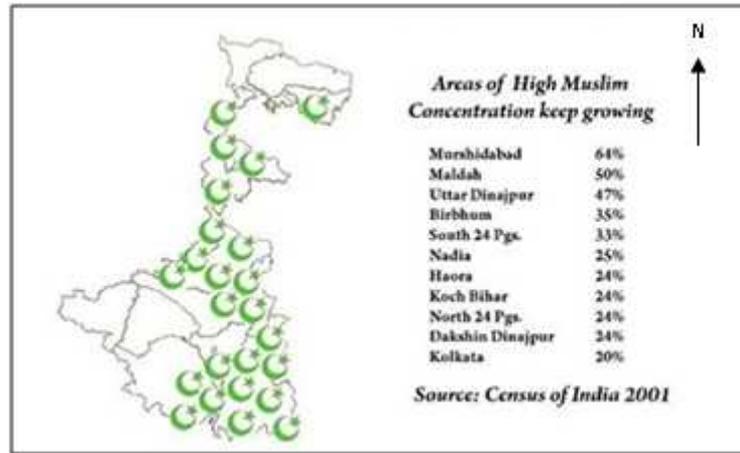


Figure 7

Table 3

Census Year	Muslims	Hindus
1941	70.3	28.0
1951	76.9	22.8
1961	80.4	18.5
1974	85.4	13.5
1981	86.6	12.1
1991	88.3	10.5

Source: Bangladesh population census in 1981 and 1991, also cited in 'Population Explosion in West Bengal'- A survey (A study by South Asia Research Society, Calcutta)

Now it is almost clear from graph and the data there is a decreasing trend of the Hindu Population and the upward trend of the Hindu population.

Reason of Migration- Push and Pull Factor

India has decided to be a secular country by promising to protect all the religions in their territory but on the other hand the Bangladesh has decided that their country will be a Muslim country. After clearing the position of the two countries both Hindus feel insecurity in the territory of Bangladesh. This insecurity primarily motivates the Hindus to come in the territory of Bangladesh. But from the data the fact has been identified that not only the Hindu population but also Muslims were migrated rapidly from Indian Territory to the territory of Bangladesh. In case of privileged Muslims of Bangladesh at that time they also migrated. I have identified the factor which may be called the Gravitational Pull factor. Mathematically the factor can be expressed as follows:

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Where, F is the force, m1 and m2 is the objects interacting, and r is the distance between the masses and G is the gravitational constant.

In this case push factor lies in Bangladesh and the pull factor lies in the secular country India.

Table 4

Gravitational pull for west Bengal in 2001 Gravitational $F = \frac{8017619 * 130522598}{471.1 * 471.1}$ $= 4,715,252,085$ Where, 8017619 is the population of West Bengal in 2001 Bengal in 2011 130522598 is the population of Bangladesh in 2001 471.1 is the distance from Bangladesh to India.	pull for West Bengal in 2011 $F = \frac{91347736 * 14231900}{471.1 * 471.1}$ $= 5.857798967000,000,000,0$ Where , 91347736 is the population of West Bengal in 2011 142319000 is the population of Bang 471.1 is the distance from Bangladesh and West Bengal.
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Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011, Variation of population of Bangladesh from Banglapedia

From the gravitational pull factor calculation it is almost clear that the migration of people from Bangladesh to India has been increased from 2001 to 2011.

Forced Migration

The ruling party of Bangladeshi Parliament voted for the Muslim country. Though Awami League and some teacher and professor's organization have stated that they will strictly resist it (*'The Partition and Muslim minorities in West Bengal'* by Tridib Santopa Kundu, 2009). The Hindu community in Bangladesh joined in the Liberation War to achieve equal status as well as rights along with the Muslims. But the suffering of minority continues even after the independence. Constitutionally they have been degraded; economically they have been violated by some discriminatory laws. Not only that they become segregated but also they have been molested by the Muslims with the direct cooperation from the Government (*Illegal Migration from Bangladesh- A case study of West Bengal, 2005* by Bimal Pramanik). They become socially and culturally vulnerable. In this situation Hindus are actually forced to migrate and to become a refugee and to come to the West Bengal.

A real factor is that like Hindus in Bangladesh Muslims also a minority group in West Bengal (*'The Partition and Muslim minorities in West Bengal, 1947-1967'* by Tridib Santopa Kundu, 2009). But the West Bengal Government never force them to migrate. That is the beauty of secularism and at this point the major policy difference of Bangladesh and West Bengal is marked.

Problems

The problems of West Bengal can be identified as followings:

- Increase of population in almost every district of West Bengal creates a immense space problem. As a result the price of the land starts to increase rapidly especially in the districts of border area of the village. Reports says that Bangladeshi Muslim Agriculturists bought the large scale of lands with the connivance of local influential Muslims. In this context a memorandum on the subject was submitted to the former Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu, and Land and Land Revenue Minister, the Late Benoy Chowdhury, on behalf of the State Committee of the CPI (*Illegal migration from Bangladesh- A case study of West Bengal* by Bimal Pramanik, 2005)
- Rapid population increase give birth the immense poverty and scarcity of food.
- Rapid increase of unemployers.
- Lack of education among the mass people.

- Lack of education leads to high population growth with almost no family planning policy.

CONCLUSIONS

What Should West Bengal do?

- The present focus of West Bengal should be to stop emigration of people from Bangladesh immediately. The government should focus on the awareness about the Family Planning Policy. Single child policy must be taken by the West Bengal Government and they must try their level best to implement it. For this implementation they should emphasize on the brand 'Education For All'. Education is the only way to make people understand the harmful effect of population increase.
- Immediately to prepare the list of illegal migrants and they should be treated according to the existing norms and rules of UNHCR.
- The Indo-Bangladesh border should be in effective administrative control.
- iv) Need to complete immediately the barbed wire facing along the Indo-Bangladesh without further delay.
- Land requisition by the illegal migrants should be stopped immediately by the active action by the state.
- vi) Grant of citizenship of Hindus since after 1971 because they were actually the victims of the circumstances.

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