



**MIGRATION LEADS TO OVER POPULATION AND RELATED PROBLEMS: A  
CASE STUDY ON BUDGE MUNICIPAL AREA AND SURROUNDINGS**

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**Abstract**

*Economic factors play a significant role behind migration of people in Budge Budge Municipal area and surroundings. Due to set up of different industrial units, employment opportunities increases and this leads to migration from different districts and other backward places of South Bengal. In accordance with the industrial growth, education opportunities, transport system and other civic amenities such as supply of water, electricity, market, hospital and nursing homes are also developed here. Due to migration, one of the major problems is housing problem which is very prominent during recent days. This present paper deals with the causes behind migration in this study area and the changing scenario after migration of people as well as the effects of this. In this context some humble measures are tried to suggest in order to get rid of the problems arising due to excessive migration of people.*

**Keywords:** migration, over Population, housing problem, industrial growth, measures



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**Introduction:**

Migration from one place to another place in search of better opportunities regarding employment, education, improved livelihoods, basic civic amenities etc is not a new concept in early history in India. Infact, it is a feature of human societies for many centuries. During recent years, Budge Budge Municipal area is growing as an urban centre which offers vast scope for employment, business, education, transport and other services. Along with industrial expansion rapid urbanization is taking place here and it attracts more and more people from different parts of West Bengal as well as different states of India. Undoubtedly, migration is essential for development of a region. But at present, it is noteworthy that due to excessive migration of people population pressure on resources especially on land resources

is emerging as an arising critical problem in this area. As a result of huge migration, over population takes place which leads to housing problem. Price of land as well as demand for land become very high and it increases day by day. Instead of high price, shortage of land is observed here and land use pattern also fast changes. Multistoried complexes are built to control housing problem but still many slums and colonies are developed as a signature of housing problem.

### **Location and Background of the Study Area:**

Budge Budge is municipal town in South 24 Parganas district in the state of West Bengal, India. It is a part of the area under Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority. The study area comprises of Budge Budge area as a whole which is located along the left bank of Bhagirathi-Hugli River. Many industries and habitations are developed along its bank. Rapid industrialization advance economic growth leading to urbanization in this area.



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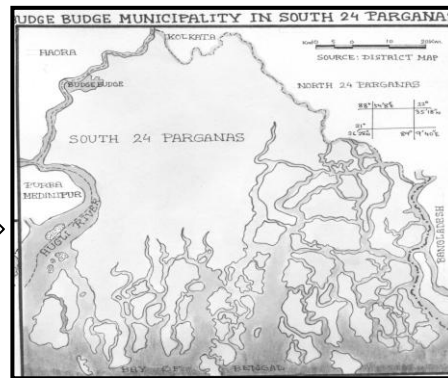


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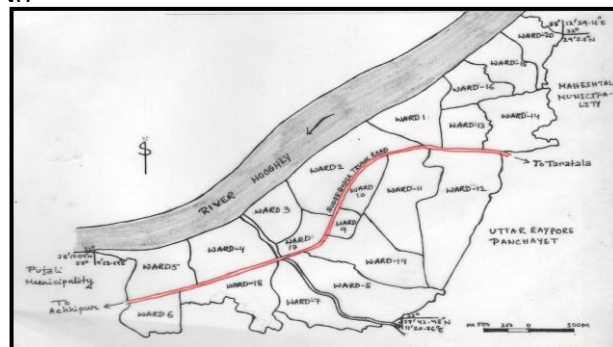


Fig. No. 3 Map of Budge Budge Municipality  
Source: Budge Budge Municipal office

### **Objectives of the Study:**

- To examine the causes behind migration of people in this area.
- To observe changing demography of this municipal area.
- To analyse the impacts of migration and overpopulation on the livelihood of people.

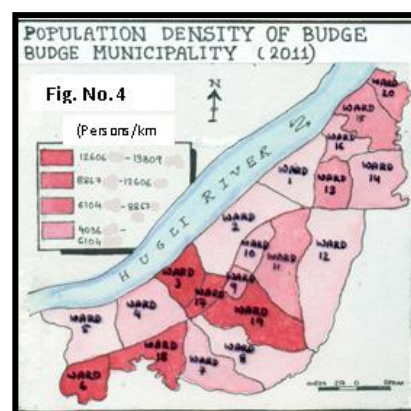
- To suggest some recommendations to control this problem.

### **Methods and Database:**

The present work is based on a two phase study, viz. – database collection and analysis of data. Secondary data are collected from Budge Budge Municipal Office and primary data are collected from surveyed local people. Thereafter, these data are analysed and interpreted through various statistical techniques.

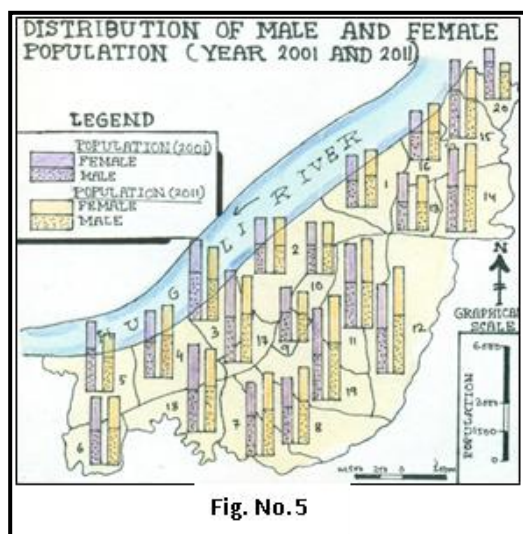
### **Factors behind Migration:**

- A handsome number of people are migrated from different remote areas in search of employment. Most of these people are migrated from rural areas because the agrarian economy and small and cottage industrial units fail to provide their basic needs. Growth of different industrial units and their concentration in this area is one of the major causes of migration of people as industrial labourer and worker. As a result of skewed up industrialization, people from different parts migrated here in search of income and employment as well as with a dream of better standard of living.
  - In most cases, at the time of migration, family members with them also migrate and prefer to permanently settle down in this area.
  - Due to dearth of employment opportunities, a handsome number of people tend to be unemployed or underemployed. As such, they don't have a source of steady income. Thus, due to poverty, they are unable to afford the basic amenities of life. As a result, they migrate in this area to escape poverty.
  - Many students are coming here for better educational facilities especially for higher education and most of them settle down here for earning a livelihood after completing their education.
  - Marriage is an important social factor resulting in migration. Women are migrated after marriage to stay with her husband and his family.
  - Improvement in connectivity and construction of roads also facilitates migration of more and more people.
- ### **Demographic Profile:**
- It is observed that ward no. 3, 6, 17, 18 and 19 under Budge Budge Municipality have the highest population



density while ward no. 1, 2, 5, 8 and 12 have the lowest population density. The highest population density occurs probably due to availability of space for dwelling.

- The male and female population distribution of the year 2001 and 2011 give a comparative

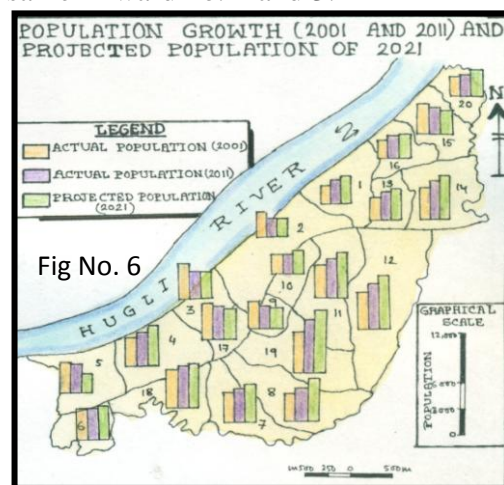


view of demographic profile of the Budge Budge Municipal area. The no. of male and female population increases in the ward no. 1, 7, 8, 11,12, 14,16 and 19 and decreases in ward no. 5, 3, 13, 15, 17 and 18. The female population increases in the ward no. 2, 8, 1, 14 and 16 and decreases in the ward no. 3, 5, 6, 9, 17, 18 and 20. The male population increases in ward no. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 18 and 19 while it decreases in ward no. 3, 5, 2, 9 and 20.

**Table No. 1 Changing Scenario regarding population growth:**

Ward No.	Actual 2001	Total 2011	Rate (r)	Projected population
1	2769	2772	0.010828958	2775
2	3075	2987	-0.289932501	2902
3	4154	3786	-0.923327634	3451
4	3736	3931	0.51007976	4136
5	3635	3046	-1.752264677	2552
6	3520	3696	0.48909382	3881
7	3948	4426	1.149426924	4962
8	3712	4344	1.584672522	5084
9	2926	2730	-0.690948829	2547
10	2799	2658	-0.515548963	2524
11	4619	4800	0.38511654	4988
12	4906	5807	1.700345474	6873
13	3047	3136	0.288320872	3228
14	4612	4724	0.240231053	4839
15	4215	4021	-0.470081278	3836
16	2790	2929	0.487378564	3075
17	4657	4561	-0.208078877	4467
18	4684	4643	-0.08787873	4602
19	4866	5817	1.801152782	6954
20	2792	2080	-2.900992204	1550

A population projection map on the basis of the individual growth rate of the municipal area for the period of 2001-2011 shows that the projection is higher than actual in ward no. 1, 7, 8, 4, 6, 10,11,12,13, 14, 16, 18 and 20 while the population is lower than actual in ward no. 5, 9, 15 and 17 and the projected population remains same in ward no. 2 and 3.



Source: Census of India, 2001 and 2011

**Table No. 2 Changes in Land use and Landcover:**

Landuse and Landcover	Percentage of Area coverage with respect to total area(2004)	Percentage of Area coverage with respect to total area(2015)
Vegetation	79.08	10.12
Water Bodies	64.52	13.56
Fallow Land	51.19	7.74
Marshy Land	43.56	9.85
Open Bare Land	47.13	10.37
Industrial area	16.49	47.58
Commercial area	11.01	39.05
residential area	31.27	71.34
Area under Transportation	17.98	57.21

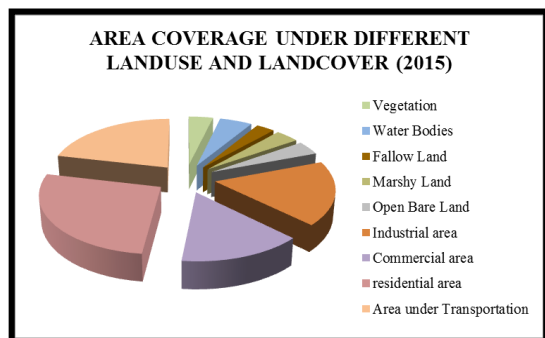
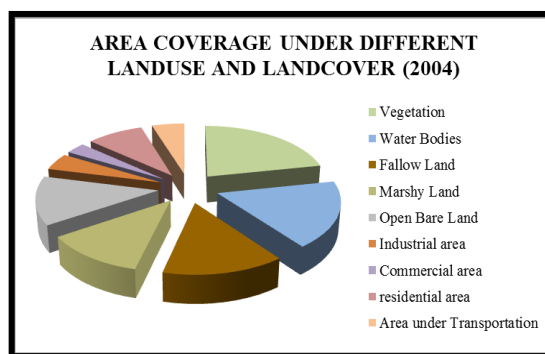


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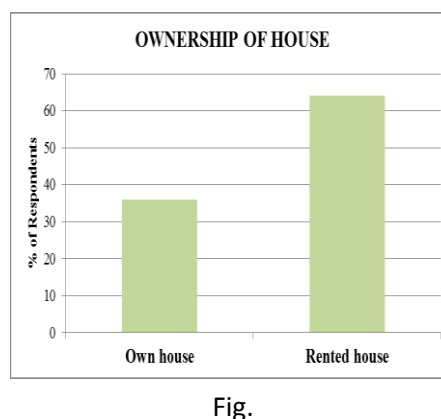
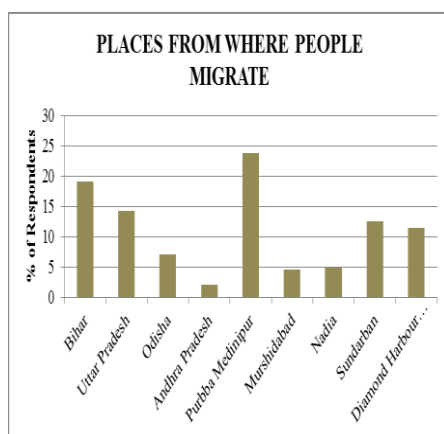
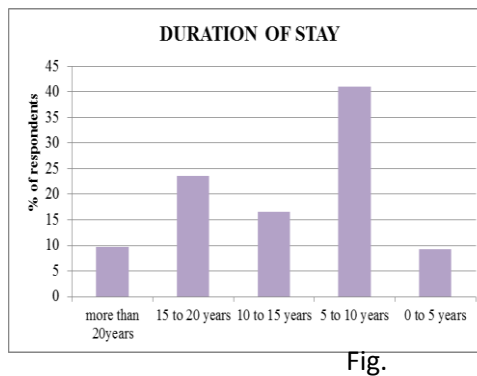
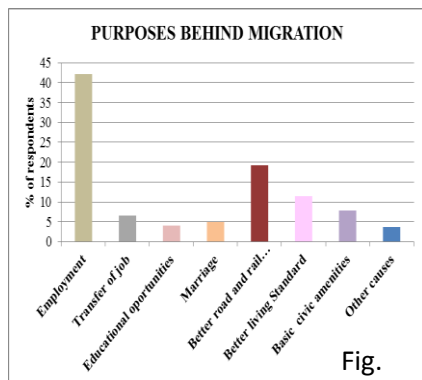
Source: Budge Budge Municipal Office and Plot Specific Primary Survey

It is observed that in 2015, area underwater bodies, vegetation, fallow land and marshy land decreases significantly whereas area under residential, industrial and commercial increases. Ponds are filling up for construction of multistoried complexes and with the rapid urbanization industrial and commercial area are extended day by day.

**Perception of Surveyed People:**

A household survey was conducted on 300 households and it is observed that most of them are migrated in this area for different purposes throughout different years. Some of them are migrated in search of employment, for increase in income, for transfer in job while some of them are for better educational opportunities, marriage, improved standard of living, better connectivity and road and rail linkages etc. it is noteworthy that most of them are migrated with their families and reside here for many years. They are coming from different places of different districts of West Bengal as well as different states of India.





It is surprisingly observed that most of migrated people live in rented house and due to huge number of migration slum and colonies are developed.

**Effects of Migration:**

Migration is essential for development in an area but massive migration leads to negative impacts on the area and livelihood.

- Migration occurs to fulfill the needs of labourer or employees in different industrial sector and others. But over migration leads to unemployment and underemployment as well as shortage of basic amenities like water supply, sanitation, sewerage and electricity.
- Another major problem is dearth of housing facilities. As a result, it tends to mushroom large slum population.
- The people whose income is low, they are unable to bear escalating housing costs and rents to get affordable accommodation close to their workplace. That is why, they move away to far-flung-places in search of affordable accommodation which may hike their commuting time and commuting cost.
- Day by day, the landuse of the area is gradually changing. Ponds are filled up, lands are deforested, marshy lands are filled up due to construction of roads, houses and buildings,

markets etc. the demand for land is very high so the value of land is very high and also increasing.

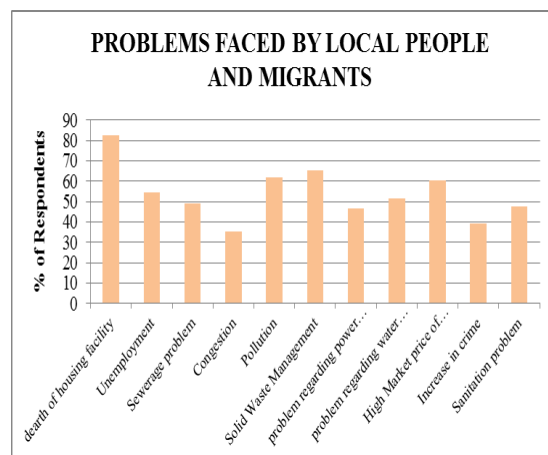


Fig. No. 12

- The crimes such as dacoity, murder, cheating, pick-pocketing etc. become quite common in this area due to overcrowding, unemployment, poverty etc.
- As migrants encroach in this area, the environment also gets damaged by increasing pollution the physical appearance of this area is vanished due to overcrowding.
- Market price of essential commodities is also increasing due to over population.

#### **Recommendations:**

- The above mentioned problems can be mitigated only when the migration of people can be stopped or controlled by providing the basic facilities in their own places.
- The best way to stop people from migrating would be creating earning opportunities by generating sufficient number of jobs and business opportunities in those remote areas.
- They have to provide basic amenities like clean drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sound healthcare, quality educational institutes, good public transport, modern communication network and internet access as well as other facilities in their native places.
- On the other hand, for those people who are already migrated here and start to reside here permanently for many years in a poor condition, they have to provide enough amenities and job opportunities. So that they can live within a healthy environment.
- The unplanned conversion of landuse pattern should be stopped by implementing proper laws e.g. the civic authorities should aware about filling up of ponds and marshy lands.

**Conclusion:**

Migration is a common outcome of dissimilarity in the regional development. It is completely related to modernization, industrialization and development. Migration leads to development of any region and it is a desirable phenomenon. But massive migration leads to unplanned and haphazard growth of this area resulting in overcrowding and mushrooming of slums. During recent years, due to rapid urbanization and economic advancement this area experiences high in migration. As a result, housing problem is an emerging issue in this area. It should be arrested by following above mentioned recommendations. This may retain the labour force at the native places and thereby lessen overcrowding and congestion here. This will result in a more prosperous and balanced migration flow. The migration policy should focus more on the development and advancement at the place of origin rather than at the destination place.

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