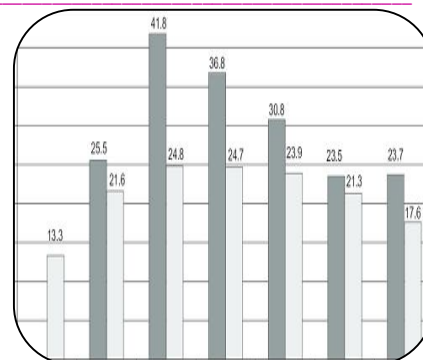




CHANGING PATTERN OF TOTAL & TRIBAL POPULATION GROWTH DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS STUDY IN LALGOLA AND MSD-JIAGANJ BLOCKS OF MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL, INDIA.

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ABSTRACT :

This study encompasses the growth pattern of total & tribal population and attempts to find out the present status of socio- economic conditions in Lalgola and Msd-Jiaganj blocks of Murshidabad district, West Bengal. The rate of population growth in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks are remarkably changing. The socio-economic conditions are changing with the growth of population in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks of Murshidabad district. Socio-economic status is measured as a combination of education, health, roads, Post Office, drinking water and workforce participation etc. In the study area Socio economic conditions are the best reflection of the quality of life of its people. Both primary and secondary data base have been employed to conduct the study. Secondary data has been generated from the Government and Non-government offices and institutions, while the primary data has been collected through questionnaire survey in the villages. Personal contact with the local people was made and perceptions of the people have been recorded in the field. Some selected villages were taken into account to generate field survey data.

KEYWORDS : Population growth, Socio-Economic structure, primary data, secondary data, questionnaire survey.

INTRODUCTION

Population growth plays a distinct role in the development process of the countries, particularly the third world countries like India. population growth as the central problem facing less developed West Bengal and specially Murshidabad district in the twenty first century. While over population is a problem, it is economic underdevelopment that is the most pressing concern. Socio economic development of an area is the best reflection of the quality of life of its people. People of Lalgola and Msd-Jiaganj blocks are mainly engaged in agriculture. So they are not so economically strong. Education plays a fundamental role in income generation and there are many other ways in which education helps to promote and sustain socio-economic development in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj blocks under Murshidabad district. The rate of population growth in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks are high. This study attempts to find out the present status of socio- economic conditions in Lalgola and Msd-Jiaganj blocks of Murshidabad district . For socio-economic development it needs policy implementation in sustainable manner.

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this study are the following:

- To examine the pattern of total & tribal population growth in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj blocks under Murshidabad district, West Bengal during the last two decades.
- To study the present socio-economic conditions in the study area. .

- To suggest remedial measures for the socio- economic conditions improvement of the study area under Murshidabad district.

LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA:

Lalgola and Msd-Jiaganj blocks are situated on the bank of river Bhagirathi. The study area Lalgola Block is situated from 24°27'35" to 24°18' 15" N longitudes and from 88°08'25" to 88°19'15"E latitudes Covering of an area of 134 sq. km. MSD-Jiaganj Block is situated from 24°07'55" to 24°18' 15" N longitudes and from 88°12'35" to 88°26'25" E latitudes covering of an area of 208.62 sq. km.

Database:

Both secondary and primary data have been used in this paper. Primary data has been generated using questionnaire survey, field visit and the secondary data was collected from various sources. These are Census Book of India (2011), Report of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (West Bengal) Department, Irrigation Department, District Statistical Hand Book and Annual Reports. Some photographs were taken where it was found necessary.

Methodology:

Methodology apply for the present work is statistical as well as cartographic. For analyzing this data, various statistical techniques have been used to fulfill the objectives.

Discussion: The Pattern of Population Growth :

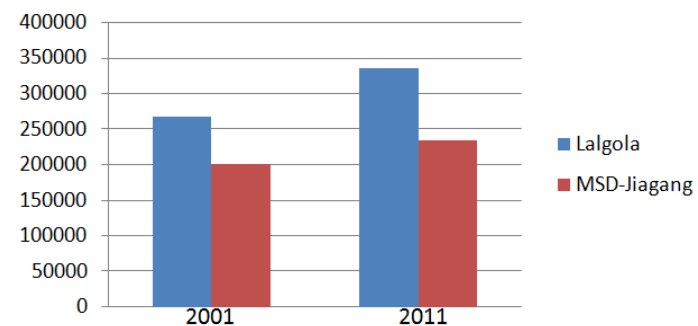
As has been mentioned earlier the rate of population growth in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj blocks under Murshidabad district, particularly in the recent decades, has been very high.

Table 1 : Distribution, Density & Tribal Population in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, 2001 & 2011.

Name of the sub-district	Census Year	Total Population	Population Density(Persons/ sq.km)	Total S.C Population (%)	Total S.T population (%)
Lalgola	2001	2,67,641	1997	19,805(7.40%)	107(0.04%)
Lalgola	2011	3,35,831	1616	31,248(9.30%)	168 (0.05%)
MSD-Jiaganj	2001	2,00,258	960	29,498(14.73)	8,551(4.27%)
MSD-Jiaganj	2011	2,34,565	1366	40,442(17.24)	12,326(5.25%)

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011.

Fig. 1 : Growth of Total Population in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks on Different Census years from 2001 onwards under the District of Murshidabad.



Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011.

Population growth pattern has been studied in the selected village namely Golapnagar (average 90% peoples are S.C) under Lalgola Block using the method of Primary survey. The table as generated is given below.

Table 2: Length of time the people living in the area under Lalgola block.(Murshidabad)
Sample size – 200 persons

Length of time	Nos. of Respondents	% of the total
Since independence	12	6
Since 1971	20	10
Since 1981	36	18
Since 1991	32	16
Since 2001	44	22
Since 2011	56	28

Source: Data generated in the field

Population growth pattern has been studied in the selected village namely Jamunbagh (average 95 % peoples are S.T) under MSD-Jiaganj Block using the method of Primary survey. The table as generated is given below:

Table 3: Length of time the people living in the area under MSD-Jiaganj block.(Murshidabad)
Sample size – 200 persons

Length of time	Nos. of Respondents	% of the total
Since independence	16	8
Since 1971	24	12
Since 1981	36	18
Since 1991	28	14
Since 2001	44	22
Since 2011	52	26

Source: Data generated in the field

Although the data size is not large enough still it can be seen that influx of population in this villages has been very large since the beginning of this century. Some field survey pictures are given below:



Plate 1, 2, 3 & 4 : An infield door-to-door questionnaire survey by the author (Plate 1 & 2 Golapnagar village and plate 3 & 4 Jamunbagh village field survey by the author).

Socio-Economic condition of Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, West Bengal:

Table 4 : Level of Literacy in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, 2001.

Block	Persons	Percentage
Lalgola	2,67,641	50.6
MSD-Jiaganj	2,00,258	53.2

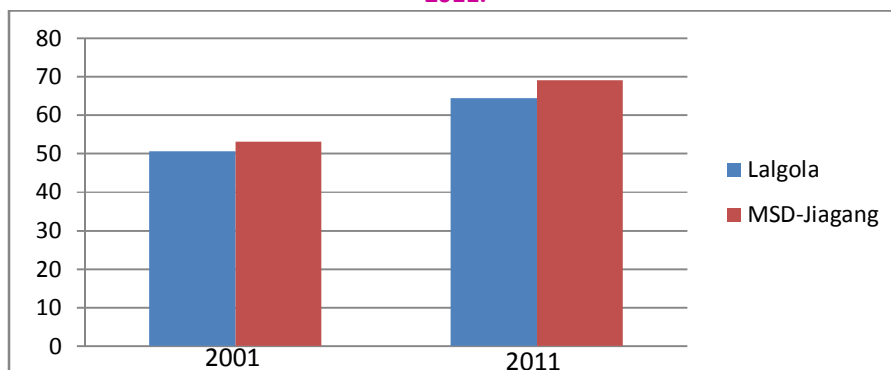
Source: Computed from Census of India, primary Census hand book, Murshidabad, 1991 and Final population table, West Bengal, 2001.

Table 5 : Level of Literacy in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, 2011.

Block	Persons	Percentage
Lalgola	3,35,831	64.32
MSD-Jiaganj	2,34,565	69.12

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Fig. 2 : Literacy rates (%) in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, 2001 & 2011.



Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011.

Table 6 : Roads in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, 2002-03.

Name of Block	P.W.D	Zila Parishad	Gram Panchayat &
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			Panchayat Samiti
Lalgola	30	6	140
MSD-Jiaganj	25	65	97

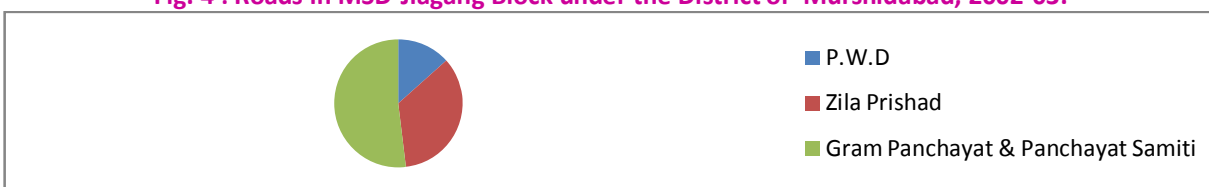
Source: Statistical Handbook Murshidabad, 2003.

Fig. 3 : Roads in Lalgola Block under the District of Murshidabad, 2002-03.



Source: Statistical Handbook Murshidabad, 2003.

Fig. 4 : Roads in MSD-Jiaganj Block under the District of Murshidabad, 2002-03.



Source: Statistical Handbook Murshidabad, 2003.

Occupational Structure:

Table 7 : Occupational Structure in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, (1992-93).

Name the Blocks	Total Working population	Non-Workers (including school going children, women & very old people)	Cultivators	Agricultural Labours	Others Workers
Lalgola	56572	150199	15401	24186	19685
MSD-Jiaganj	47629	110660	14912	20652	12065

Source: Census Office, Kolkata, West Bengal, Government of India.

Table 8 : Occupational Structure in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, (2002-03).

Name the Blocks	Total Working population	Non-Workers (including school going children, women & very old people)	Cultivators	Agricultural Labours	Others Workers
Lalgola	80749	186992	10303	17041	53405
MSD-Jiaganj	69760	130498	13849	23124	23786

Source: Census Office, Kolkata, West Bengal, Government of India.

Table 9 : Occupational Structure in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, 2011.

Blocks	Total	Main	Cultivators	Agricultural	House Hold	Others
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	Workers (Population)	Workers (Persons)		Labours	Industry Workers	Workers
Lalgola	1,17,018	81,536	9,144	22,684	9,122	40,586
MSD-Jiaganj	85,530	69,980	14,497	29,172	3,177	23,134

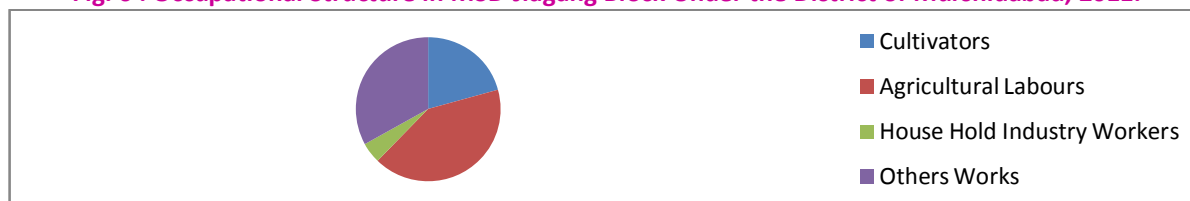
Source : Census of India, 2011.

Fig. 5 : Occupational Structure in Lalgola Block Under the District of Murshidabad, 2011.



Source: Census of India, 2011.

Fig. 6 : Occupational Structure in MSD-Jiaganj Block Under the District of Murshidabad, 2011.



Source: Census of India, 2011.

Table 10 : Distribution in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, according to availability of different amenities ,2011.

Name of Blocks	Number of inhabited Villages	Education (School, College etc.)	Medical	Drinking Waters	Post Office	Telephone
Lalgola	84	71(84.52%)	51(60.71%)	83(98.81%)	17(20.24%)	83(98.81%)
MSD-Jiaganj	127	105(82.68%)	47(37.01%)	127(100.00%)	14(11.02%)	115(90.55%)

Source: Census of India, 2011 , 'Primary Census Abstract, Village and Town Directory' Series-20, Part XII-A.

Table 11 : Distribution in Lalgola & MSD-Jiaganj Blocks under the District of Murshidabad, according to availability of different amenities ,2011.

Name of Blocks	Number of inhabited Villages	Transport Communications	Banks	Agricultural Credit Societies	Approach by Pucca Road	Power Supply
Lalgola	84	17(20.24%)	6(7.14%)	4(4.76%)	38(45.24%)	84(100%)
MSD-Jiaganj	127	54(42.52%)	11(8.66%)	7(5.51%)	57(44.88%)	127(100%)

Source: Census of India, 2011 , 'Primary Census Abstract, Village and Town Directory' Series-20, Part XII-A.

Table 10 Shows: Education = all education facilities (School & College etc.), Medical = all medical facilities, Telephone = Telephone, PCO and Mobile, Post office = post office, telegraph office . Table 11 Shows: Transport communication = bus service, rail facility and navigable waterways, Bank = Commercial Bank and Co-operative Bank.

CONCLUSION:

Present analysis shows that there has been changing scenario of population growth from 2001 to 2011 in Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj Blocks of the Murshidabad district, West Bengal is concluded to be the increasing trend. The village of Golapnagar under Lalgola Block and village of Jamunbagh under MSD-Jiaganj Block is concluded to be the increasing trend of population growth onwards since independence.

In the study area, literacy rate is medium (according to the 2011 Census Lalgola- 64.32%, MSD-Jiaganj 69.12% peoples are literate). There are not sufficient transport systems (Lalgola Block the facility for transport communications are available by 20.24 per cent bus service, rail facility and navigable waterways. MSD-Jiaganj Block the facility for transport communications are available by 42.52 per cent bus service, rail facility and navigable waterways). Moreover, as most of the rural peoples are dependent on primary activities such as cultivators and agricultural labors, increase in the population in the rural sector has obviously put a pressure on local production. Consequently the quality of life is going down by pulling the socio-economic conditions of the study area downward.

It is clear from the discussion that population growth, socio-economic conditions and quality of life are significantly related, higher population growth has hampered the social and economic development of the study area which have ultimately affected the quality of life. Existing infrastructural set up of the Lalgola and MSD-Jiaganj blocks are not sufficient in comparison to increasing population.

Policy Recommendations: Based on the above findings and assessment made thereby the following policy recommendations can be made.

- Educated sections of the society as well as the local leaders may take initiative to campaign programme to convince people at large about ill effects of rapid population growth.
- Spread education and societal communication activities are needed.
- In the study area needs sustainable development to reduce natural resource depletion and sustain them for future generation.
- Preserve existing forest, promote afforestation as well as social and agro-forestry.
- The availability of proper transport network and health services is measure in the study area which needs.
- Arrange for awareness camps on a regular basis in the study area.

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