URBAN FUNCTIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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Abstract: **Function and occupation of towns are the crucial factor for urbanization and development .The paper analyzes functional classification of towns and occupational structure of towns in North 24 parganas district, by using Ashok Mitra functional classification method and occupational classification by census report 2011, on the basis of census data in 1971, 1991 and 2011. According to census data in 1971 and 1991 there are nine fold functional classifications and in 2011 only four fold occupational structures have been analyzed. Occupational structure also influences the socioeconomic development of any area.**

Keywords: **Urban function, urban occupation, urbanization, urban development.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Functional classification of towns and occupational structure of towns, there are as many opinions as many experts. For such classification of towns in different part of the world cannot be affected by any hard and fast rules. Classification of towns according to function present some difficulties since all towns perform more than one function. The classification of a town as a manufacturing one need not imply the absence of trade. Bhatpara is a manufacturing town so; the dominance of the manufacturing section justifies this classification. Town may be classified on the basis of the types of economic activity carried on within the town. Certain economic activities have acquired greater significance than other. The range of economic activities in a town covers the entire spectrum of primary, secondary and tertiary activities. The classification of cities based on the relative importance of primary, secondary and tertiary activities is by itself. Towns show a remarkable degree of specialization in one or more specific activities, such as trade, manufacturing, service and so on. It is, therefore, more meaningful to classify cities on the basis of detailed categories of primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

Occupation implies trade or profession it reveals the nature of economic progress of any area, it is related to agriculture, industry, service and other activities. Occupation depend upon on the degree of economic development any areas. The study is essential to understand the economic base of urban centers. Because occupation is an important parameter for measuring the level of economic development. The occupational characteristics of population are reflected by working force, dependency load, employment and un-employment. Therefore it has been become essential to investigate the functional base and occupational structure of towns and urban areas.

OBJECTIVES: The major objectives are 1. Identify the basis of function of towns, 2. Identify the distributional character of towns of similar functional classes, 3. Analyze the major function of towns, 4. Classification the towns by function for simplification.

STUDY AREA: The district North 24 Parganas forms the south-eastern part of the West Bengal and lies between 22°11'06" N to 23°15'02" N latitude and 88°20'E to 89°05' E longitude (figure-1). The district is bordered by the districts

of Nadia in north, South 24 Parganas and Kolkata in the south, Howrah and Hooghly in the west. Bangladesh forms the eastern border of the North 24 Parganas. Barasat is the district headquarters. The total number of urban centers in the district is 107 (Municipality 27 + Cantonment Board 01 + Census Town 78 + Industrial Township 01) Figure-1.
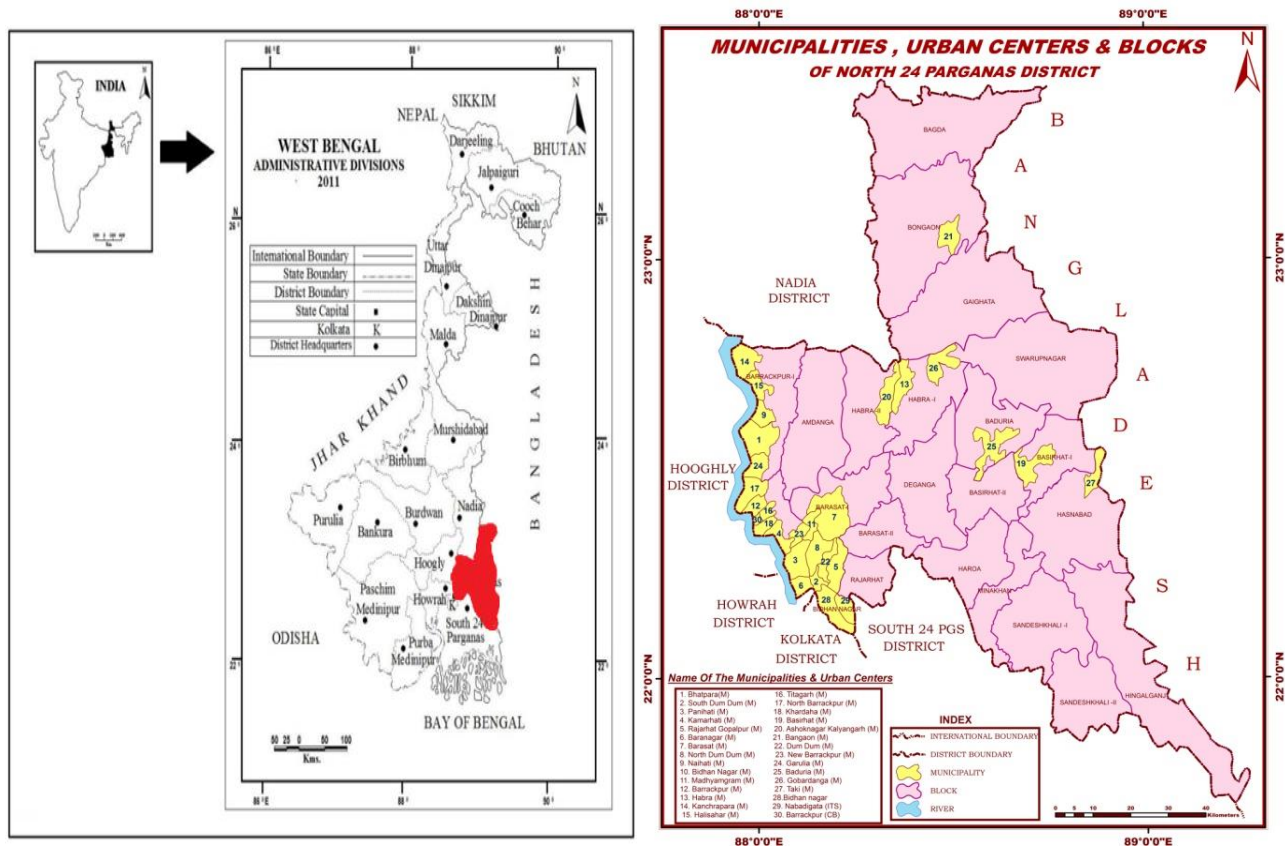

Figure-1 Map of the Study Area

2.   THE DATABASE

Data on economic activities in urban places are rather meager. The main source of information on this aspect is the Indian Census. In the 1971 and 1991 Censuses, data for all towns of the district are provided for nine industrial categories of workers. This classification of workers closely corresponds to the Standard Industrial Classification of workers at the first digit level.The categories are in table-2.

Table-2 Nine Fold Functional classification

I.	Cultivator
II.	Agricultural labour
III.	Forestry, Fishing, Plantation, Mining, Quarrying etc
IV.	Households industry
V.	Manufacturing and other than household industry.
VI.	Construction
VII	Trade and Commerce
VIII.	Transport, storage and communication
IX.	Services

Source-Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

The industrial categories of workers include primary, secondary and tertiary economic activities. The first three categories represent primary activities; IV and V represent the secondary sector, while categories (VI, VII, VIII and IX represent tertiary services. The first two categories related agriculture. The third category has a mix of urban and non

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urban activities. Categories IV to IX have definite association with urban areas. Urban areas have a large proportion of worker in secondary and tertiary sectors. In this aspect that is relevant to the economic classification of Indies urban places. But, the number of industrial categories for which data are provided in the census is far too small for any in-depth classification of towns and cities.

The census data in 2011 also provide fourfold functional classification these are I-Cultivator, II- Agricultural labour, III-Households industry and IV-others (Forestry, Fishing, Plantation, Mining, Quarrying, Construction, Trade and Commerce, Transport, storage and communication and Services)

3. GENERAL METHODOLOGY

The functional pattern of town emerges from dominant and distinctive functions helps to delineate the regional system and the associated hierarchy. Harris (1943) was the pioneer in this respect. He used the proportion of labour force in a particular occupation as the basic criteria for determining the degree of its specialization. Pownall (1953) modified the scheme by using 'mean' and 'deviation from mean' in determining the 'distinctiveness of a function. Later Nelson (1955) had successfully used the 'mean' and 'standard deviation' to determine the degree of 'distinctiveness' of any function. A town which shows a percentage employment of more than 'mean' plus 'standard deviation' is said to be significantly characterized by the function diagnosed by the occupation group. Dick (1961) adopted a similar technique while Mattila and Thompson (1955) and Ullman and Dacey (1962) emphasized more on the urban economic base respectively on the basis of index of 'surplus workers' and 'index of diversity' . The most sophisticated techniques in the form of multivariate analysis has been employed by Moser and Scott (1961), Hadden and Borgatta (1965) and Berry (1972). They have used a number of criteria to indicate the functional size of centers in an urban hierarchy.

In India , functional classification of town has been attempted by several authors like Ashok Mitra(1981), Singh(1959), Ganguly (1967) , Bhattacharya (1968) , Mukherjee(1968), Rafiullah (1965) , Ram pyara (1980),mRam ans Sinha(1972) and so on . For the present purpose Ashok Mitra's functional classification has been adopted to find out the degree of specialization and distinctiveness of function.

4. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF TOWNS IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT

A composite classification system based on predominant function was worked out in 1964 by Ashok Mitra. He was the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India). This was based on the 'industrial' classification of all workers in to nine different categories adopted in the 1961, 1971 and 1991 census data.

From the above table-2, the first two categories being related to agriculture are totally non-urban activities and have not been taken in to consideration for classification system.

Table: 3 Three Functional Type And Their Categories

Functional Type		Census Industrial Categories
A	Manufacture	III, IV, V & VI
B	Trade and Transport	VII & VIII
C	Services	IX

Source-Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

Table :4 Subclass And Criteria For Three Functional Class

Class	Subclass	Criteria
A. Manufacturing town		% of workers in A greater than in B or in C
	1. Mining town	% of Workers in categories III is greater than in IV, V or VI considered individually.
	2. Artisan town	% of workers in categories IV is greater than that in III, V or VI
	3. Manufacturing town	% of Workers in categories V is greater than that in III, IV, or VI

B. Trade & transport town		% of workers in B greater than in A or in C.
	1. Trade town	% of workers in VII greater than in VIII.
	2. Transport town	% of workers in VIII greater than in VII.
C. Services town		% of workers is IX greater than in III, IV, V and VI together or VII & VIII.

Source-Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

Table:5 Functional Classification Of Town in North 24Parganas district By Ashok Mitra ,Based On 1971 Census Data

Sl.no of the town	Name of the town	CIVIC STATUS AND CLASS	Functional sub-classes of town	Degree of specialization of town
1	Bangoan	M—II	Trade town	Hs in tr
2	Kancharapara	M+OG(3)--II	Manufacturing	Md
3	Halisahar	M+OG(1)--II	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
4	Naihati	M—II	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
5	Bhatpara	M+OG(2)--I	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
6	Gobardanga	M—III	Trade town	D
7	Habra	M—II	Trade town	Md
8	Ashoknagar kalyangarh	M—III	Service	D
9	Garulia	M—III	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
10	Ichapur defence estate	CT—IV	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
11	North barrackpur	M—II	Manufacturing	Ms in mf
12	Barrackpur cantonment	CB—III	Service	Md
13	Barrackpur	M—II	Manufacturing	Md
14	Titagarh	M—II	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
15	Patulia	CT—V	Manufacturing	Ms in mf
16	Nebadhai duttapukur	CT—V	Trade town	D
17	Baduria	M—III	Manufacturing	Md
18	Barasat	M—III	Trade town	D
19	Madhyamgram	M—III	Trade town	D
20	Khardaha	M+OG(1)--III	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
21	Panihati	M—I	Manufacturing	Md
22	New barrackpur	M—III	Service	Md
23	Kamarhati	M—I	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
24	Baranagar	M—I	Manufacturing	Md
25	North dum dum	M—II	Manufacturing	D
26	Dum dum	M—III	Manufacturing	Hs in mf
27	South dum dum	M—I	Manufacturing	D
28	Bashirhat	M—II	Service	D
29	Taki	M—III	Service	D

Source- prepared by authors based on Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1971

Index
D :diversified,
Md: moderately diversified
Hs : highly specialized
Ms :moderately specialized
Mf : manufacturing
Tr : trade & transport

5. RESULT ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION ASHOK MITRA'S FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION BASED ON 1971 CENSUS DATA

A composite functional classification system based on predominant function was worked out in 1964 by Ashok Mitra. The functional classification of towns of North 24 parganas district has been attempted based on 1971 census data by Ashok mitra's methodology. According to 1971 census, out of 29 urban centers, number of Municipality was 25, Censustown was 3 and cantonment board was1 total number of urban centers was 3.This 29 towns fall in to seven categories activities; among which cities specializing in manufacturing, trade and service are by far the most numerous. In this district there are 18 (62%) manufacturing towns, 06(20.68%) trade towns and 05(17.24%) service town.

Table: 6- Functional Classes of Towns in 1971

Manufacturing Towns 62% (Mf-18)	1. Kancharapara 2. Halisahar 3. Naihati 4. Bhatpara 5. Garulia 6. Ichapur Defence Estate 7. North barrackpur 8. Barrackpur 9.Titagar 10.Patulia 11.Baduria 12. Khardaha 13. Panihati 14. Kamarhati 15. Baranagar 16. North Dum Dum. 17. Dum Dum, 18. South Dum Dum
Trade Towns 20.68% (Tr- 06)	19. Bangoan. 20.Gobardanga. 21.Habra 22.Nebadhai Duttapukur 23. Barasat 24. Madhyamgram
Service Town 17.24% (S- 05)	25. ashoknagar kalyangarh.26. Barrackpur cantonment, 27.New Barrackpur, 28.Bashirhat, 29. Taki.

Source-Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 197

Table: 7-Degree of Functional Specialization of Towns, 1971

(A) Highly Specialized Towns (HS- 10):	
a. Manufacturing(Mf - 09):	1. Halisahar 2. Naihati 3. Bhatpara 4. Garulia 5. Ichapur Defence Estate 6. Titagarh, 7.Khardaha, 8.Kamarhati, 9.Dum Dum
b. Trade & Transport(Tr -01):	10. Bangoan
(B) Moderately Specialized Town (MS-02):	
a. Manufacturing (Mf -02):	11. North Barrackpur, 12.Patulia
(C) Moderately Diversified Town (MD - 08):	13.Kancharapara, 14.Habra, 15.Barrackpur cantonment, 16.barrackpur,17.Baduria,18.Panihati,19.NewBarrackpur, 20.Baranagar
(D) Diversified Town (D-09) :	21.Gobardanga 22. Ashoknagar Kalyangarh, 23.Nebadhai Duttapukur, 24.Barasat,25.Madhyamgram,26.North Dum Dum 27.South Dum Dum 28. Bashirhat. 29.Taki

Source-Ashok Mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1971

On the basis of the classification, the manufacturing towns have a greater tendency for specialization, with as many as 09 towns with a high degree of specialization and 02 towns are moderately specialized towns. Only 01 trading towns (Bangoan Town) is highly specialization. So the total number of specialization town is 12 and 17 towns are diversified town. These 17 diversified towns have no clear specialization in any one economic activity and in fact have diversified

economic base. There are 08 moderately diversified towns and 09 highly diversified towns, out of 17 diversified towns. The diversified towns with multiple functions including manufacturing, trade and service constitutes the most common and representative type of towns. The urban system of the district is indeed basically a system of diversified towns.

6.   RESULT ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF ASHOK MITRA'S CLASSIFICATION IN 1991

A composite functional classification system based on predominant function was worked out in 1964 by Ashok Mitra. The functional classification of towns of North 24 parganas district has been attempted based on 1991 census data by Ashok Mitra's methodology. According to 1991 census, total number of urban centers was 36 (M-26, CT-9 and CB- 1). This 36 towns fall in to seven categories activities; among which cities specializing in manufacturing, trade and service are by far the most numerous. In this district there are 19 manufacturing towns, 16 trade towns and 01 service town.

Table: 8 Functional Classification of Towns in North 24 Parganas district by Ashok Mitra, Based On 1991 Census Data

Sl .no	Name of the town	Civic Status And Class	Functional sub-classes of town	Degree of specialization of town
1	Bangoan	M--II	Trade Town	HS in Tr
2	Sonatikiri	CT--V	Trade Town	HS in Tr
3	Kancharapara	M+OG(3)--I	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
4	Halisahar	M+OG(1)--I	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
5	Naihati	M--I	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
6	Bhatpara	M+OG(2)--I	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
7	Gobardanga	M--III	Trade Town	D
8	Maslandapur	CT--V	Trade Town	MD
9	Sadpur	CT--V	Trade Town	MS in Tr
10	Habra	M--I	Trade Town	MD
11	Ashoknagar kalyangarh	M--II	Trade Town	D
12	Garulia	M--II	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
13	Garshy mnager	CT--V	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
14	Kaugachhi	CT--IV	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
15	Ichapur defence estate	CT--IV	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
16	North barrackpur	M--I	Manufacturing	MS in Mf
17	Barrackpur cantonment	CB--III	Trade Town	D
18	Barrackpur	M--I	Manufacturing	D
19	Titagarh	M--I	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
20	Patulia	CT--IV	Manufacturing	D
21	Nebadhai duttapukur	CT--IV	Trade Town	MD
22	Baduria	M--III	Manufacturing	MS in Mf
23	Barasat	M--I	Trade Town	MD
24	Madhyamgram	M--II	Trade Town	MD
25	Talbandhu	CT--IV	Manufacturing	MS in Mf
26	Khardaha	M+OG(1)--I	Manufacturing	MD
27	Panihati	M--I	Manufacturing	MD

28	New barrackpur	M--II	Trade Town	D
29	Kamarhati	M--I	Manufacturing	HS in Mf
30	Baranagar	M--I	Manufacturing	MD
31	North dum dum	M--I	Trade Town	D
32	Dum dum	M--III	Manufacturing	D
33	South dum dum	M--I	Trade Town	MD
34	Bidhan nagar	M--I	Service Town	MD
35	Bashirhat	M--I	Trade Town	MS in Tr
36	Taki	M--III	Trade Town	D

Source- prepared by authors based on Ashok Mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

Index
D :diversified,
Md: moderately diversifed
Hs : highly specialized
Ms :moderately specialized
Mf : manufacturing
Tr : trade & transpport

Table: 9- Functional Classes of Towns in 1991

Manufacturing Towns 53% (Mf-19)	1. Kancharapara 2. Halisahar 3. Naihati 4. Bhatpara 5. Garulia 6. Garshy Minage 7. Kaugachi 8. Ichapur Defence Estate 9. North barrackpur 10. Barrackpur 11.Titagar 12.Patulia 13.Baduria 14. Talbandhu 15. Khardaha 16. Panihati 17. Kamarhati 18. Baranagar 19. Dum Dum.
Trade Towns 44% (Tr-16)	20. Bangoan 21. Sonatikiri 22. Gobardanga 23. Maslandapur 24. Sadpur 25. Habra 26. Ashoknagar Kalyangarh 27. Barrackpur Cantonment 28. Nebadhai Duttapukur 29. Barasat 30. Madhyamgram 31. New Barrackpur 32. North Dum Dum 33. South Dum Dum 34. Bashirhat 35. Taki
Service Town 2.7% (S- 01)	36. Bidhan Nagar

Source-Ashok Mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

Table: 10-Degree of Functional Specialization of Towns in 1991

(A) Highly Specialized Towns (HS- 12):	
a. Manufacturing(Mf - 10):	1. Kancharapara 2. Halisahar 3. Naihati 4. Bhatpara 5. Garulia 6. Garshy Mnager 7. Kaugachhi 8. Ichapur Defence Estate 9. Titagarh 10. Kamarhati
b. Trade & Transport(Tr -02):	11. Bangoan 12. Sonatikiri
(B) Moderately Specialized Town (MS-5):	
a. Manufacturing (Mf -03):	13. North Barrackpur 14. Baduria 15. Talbandhu
b. Trade & Transport (tr -02) :	16. Sadpur 17. Bashirhat
(C) Moderately Diversified Town (MD - 10):	18. Maslandapur 19. Habra 20. Nebadhai Duttapukur 21. Barasat 22. Madhyamgram 23. Khardaha 24. Baranagar 25. South Dum Dum 26. Bidhan Nagar 27. Panihati
(D) Diversified Town (D-9) :	28. Gobardanga 29. Ashoknagar Kalyangarh 30. Barrackpur Cantonment 31. Barrackpur 32. Patulia 33. New Barrackpur 34. North Dum Dum 35. Dum Dum 36. Taki

Source-Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

Table: 11 Class wise Towns In North 24 Parganas District As Per Function ,1991

Class – I (M) Towns (17)	
Manufacturing town (11)	1. Kancharapara, 2. Halisahar 3. Naihati 4. Bhatpara 5. North Barrackpur 6. Barrackpur 7. Titagarh 8. Khardaha 9. Panihati 10. Kamarhati 11. Baranagar
Trade towns (5)	12. Habra 13. Barasat 14. North Dum Dum 15. South Dum Dum 16. Bashirhat
Service town (1)	17. Bidhannagar
Class – II (M) towns (5)	
Manufacturing town (1)	18. Garulia
Trade towns (4)	19. Bangoan 20. Ashoknagar Kalyangarh 21. Madhyamgram 22. New Barrackpur
Class – III (M) towns (5)	
Manufacturing towns (2)	23. Baduria 24. Dum Dum
Trade towns (3)	25. Gobardanga 26. Barrackpur Cantonment 27. Taki
Class – IV (CT) towns (5)	
Manufacturing towns (4)	28. Kaugachi 29. Ichapur Defence Estate 30. Patulia 31. Talbandu
Trade towns (1)	32. Nebedaha Duttapukur
Class – V (CT) towns (4)	
Manufacturing town(1)	33. Garshy Mnager
Trade towns (3)	34. Sonartiki 35. Mashlandapur 36. Sadpur

Source-Ashok mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1991

On the basis of the classification, the manufacturing towns have a greater tendency for specialization, with as many as 10 towns with a high degree of specialization and 03 towns are moderately specialized towns. Only 02 trading towns are highly specialization and 02 trading towns are moderately specialized town. So the total number of specialization town is 17 and 19 towns are diversified town. These 19 diversified towns have no clear specialization in any one economic activity and in fact have diversified economic base. There are 10 moderately diversified towns and 09 highly diversified towns, out of 19 diversified towns. The diversified towns with multiple functions including manufacturing, trade and service constitutes the most common and representative type of towns. The urban system of the district is indeed basically a system of diversified towns.

7.   COMPARE THE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF TOWNS IN 1971 AND IN 1991

Table-12 Findings From The Functional Classification Of Town By Ashok Mitra ,Based On 1971 And 1991 Census Data

Sl.no of the town	Name of the town	Civic status and class 1971	Civic status and class 1991	Functional sub-classes of town-1971	Functional sub-classes of town-1991
1	Ashoknagar kalyangarh	M--III	M--II	Service	Trade town
2	Baduria	M--III	M--III	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
3	Bangoan	M--II	M--II	Trade town	Trade town

4	Baranagar	M--I	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
5	Barasat	M--III	M--I	Trade town	Trade town
6	Barrackpur	M--II	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
7	Barrackpur cantonment	CB--III	CB--III	Service	Trade town
8	Bashirhat	M--II	M--I	Service	Trade town
9	Bhatpara	M+OG(2)--I	M+OG(2)--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
10	Bidhan nagar		M--I		Service town
11	Dum dum	M--III	M--III	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
12	Garshy mnager		CT--V		Manufacturing
13	Garulia	M--III	M--II	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
14	Gobardanga	M--III	M--III	Trade town	Trade town
15	Habra	M--II	M--I	Trade town	Trade town
16	Halisahar	M+OG(1)--II	M+OG(1)--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
17	Ichapur defence estate	CT--IV	CT--IV	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
18	Kamarhati	M--I	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
19	Kancharapara	M+OG(3)--II	M+OG(3)--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
20	Kaugachhi		CT--IV		Manufacturing
21	Khardaha	M+OG(1)--III	M+OG(1)--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
22	Madhyamgram	M--III	M--II	Trade town	Trade town
23	Maslandapur		CT--V		Trade town
24	Naihati	M--II	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
25	Nebadhai duttapukur	CT--V	CT--IV	Trade town	Trade town
26	New barrackpur	M--III	M--II	Service	Trade town
27	North barrackpur	M--II	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
28	North dum dum	M--II	M--I	Manufacturing	Trade town
29	Panihati	M--I	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
30	Patulia	CT--V	CT--IV	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
31	Sadpur		CT--V		Trade town
32	Sonatikiri		CT--V		Trade town
33	South dum dum	M--I	M--I	Manufacturing	Trade town
34	Taki	M--III	M--III	Service	Trade town
35	Talbandhu		CT--IV		Manufacturing
36	Titagarh	M--II	M--I	Manufacturing	Manufacturing

Source- prepared by authors based on Ashok Mitra functional classification of towns and census report 1971 &1991

On the basis of the functional classification of towns, the maximum number towns have been same function in 1971 and 1991.Only seven municipal towns have been changed their functional characteristics from 1971 to 1991.These towns change their functional characters to trade town from service town or manufacturing town. Ashoknagar Kalyangarh,

Barrackpur Cantonment,New Barrackpur, Bashirhat and Taki. Urban local bodies have been changed their function from service to trade. Other hand Dum Dum and South Dum Dum municipality have been changed their function from Manufacturing to trade. The percentage of trade towns increase from 20 %(1971) to 45 %(1991), manufacturing towns and service towns decrease from 62% to 53% and 17% to 2.7%. So the trend of the function of towns towards trade and commerce function, but concentration of function of towns are in manufacturing in 1971 and also 1991(Figure-2).
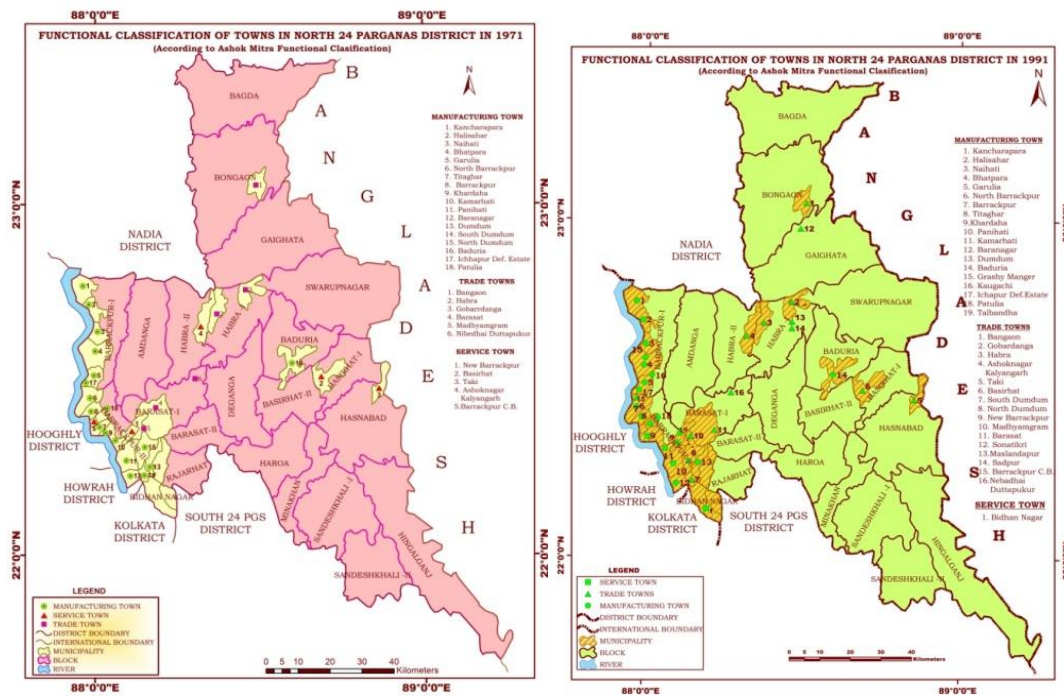

Figure-2 Functional classification of towns in North 24 Parganas district, 1971 &1991

8. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT IN 2011

According to Census 2011, Work Participation Rate (WPR) of urban population in West Bengal is 36.69 percent. In North 24 Parganas, the WPR is 35.13. It appears that the WPR in the district is quite low. In fact, the district ranks 13th in terms of WPR among nineteen districts of the state . WPR among the male population in the district is 82.07 which is almost more than to the average WPR in the state. However, the WPR of the female is only 17.93 which is lower than the state average. Table no-15 also indicates that, the WPR in Murshidabad, a backward district is as high as 41.56. The gender related WPR also indicates that the WPR in male is low and female is higher than that in North 24 Parganas. In fact, the WPR in female in Murshidabad is 35.90 percent which is almost about 2 times the WPR among the female in North 24 Parganas. The Census data also indicates that the WPR is higher in some other backward districts such as Dakshin Dinajpur , Malda and Kochbihar Compared to North 24 Parganas, the female WPR is also higher in these districts.

Table:13 District Wise Urban Worker Population in 2011

SL. NO.		total worker %	RANK	total worker males %	RANK	total worker female %	RANK	main worker Persons %	RANK	main worker Persons Males %	RANK	main worker Persons Females %	RANK
	State - WEST BENGAL (19)	36.69		79.68		20.32		86.17		83.27		16.73	
	Name of the district												
1	- Bankura	36.46	9	78.03	15	21.97	5	83.64	13	82.08	14	17.92	6
2	Barddhaman	33.85	16	82.10	3	17.90	17	79.66	19	86.25	3	13.75	17

3	Birbhum	36.29	11	78.84	12	21.16	8	85.44	11	82.62	12	17.38	8
4	Dakshin Dinajpur	37.84	4	76.35	16	23.65	4	86.93	9	80.22	16	19.78	4
5	Darjiling	35.05	14	76.26	17	23.74	3	87.72	7	79.01	18	20.99	2
6	Haora	37.39	6	82.30	2	17.70	18	86.27	10	86.56	2	13.44	18
7	Hugli	36.64	8	81.69	6	18.31	14	87.87	5	85.10	5	14.90	15
8	Jalpaiguri	36.79	7	80.26	10	19.74	10	87.50	8	84.42	8	15.58	12
9	Koch Bihar	35.68	12	80.39	9	19.61	11	89.00	3	83.48	11	16.52	9
10	Kolkata	39.93	2	78.66	13	21.34	7	87.79	6	82.10	13	17.90	7
11	Maldah	37.68	5	73.60	18	26.40	2	80.63	15	79.22	17	20.78	3
12	Murshidabad	41.56	1	64.10	19	35.90	1	83.70	12	68.98	19	31.02	1
13	District - Nadia (10)	38.36	3	78.40	14	21.60	6	88.79	4	81.93	15	18.07	5
14	North Twenty Four Parganas	35.13	13	82.07	4	17.93	16	90.90	1	84.14	9	15.86	11
15	Paschim Medinipur	34.78	15	79.48	11	20.52	9	82.53	14	84.02	10	15.98	10
16	Purba Medinipur	32.82	18	85.02	1	14.98	19	80.05	17	87.76	1	12.24	19
17	Puruliya	31.95	19	80.98	7	19.02	13	79.90	18	85.08	6	14.92	14
18	South Twenty Four Parganas	36.40	10	80.60	8	19.40	12	80.27	16	85.51	4	14.49	16
19	Uttar Dinajpur	33.07	17	82.02	5	17.98	15	89.97	2	84.45	7	15.55	13

Source: Computed by authors from Census Reports 2011

However, as we get from Table no-15, higher WPR is mostly associated with the marginalisation of the workforce. For example, the percentage of main workers in Bardhaman,Bankura, Puruliya is only 79.66,83.64,79.90 percent. In North 24 Parganas on the other hand, the percentage of main

workers is as high as 90.90 (rank 1). The burden of evidence is in favour of the argument that higher WPR in backward districts is due to the existence of higher percentage of marginal workers in both male and female. The districts are backward because the opportunities for regular employment are rather low in these districts. In North 24 Parganas, the WPR is lower than that in the backward districts. The WPR in the female is also low in this district. However, a high percentage of the workforce both in male and female is engaged as regular workers in this district (Table 15).

9.   OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT IN 2011, MUNICIPALITY WISE

According to Census 2011, the Work Participation Rate (WPR) in urban North 24 Parganas is 35.13

Percent which is marginally lower than that in its rural counterpart (36.43). Among the male the WPR is 56.53 percent and among the female it is 12.85 percent. Both the rates are lower than what are observed in rural North 24 Parganas. Among 29 Urban Local Bodies WPR is the lowest in Bhatpara (31.30) and the highest is in Nabadiganta Industrial Township (42.73) and Bidhan Nagar (39.25). Among the male workers WPR is the highest in Nabadiganta Industrial Township (62.83) rank -1and Baduria (60.10) rank-2 and lowest is in Naihati ,where the percentage of total workers among the male is only (51.46). The WPR among the female is the lowest in Bhatpara (7.51 percent) and the highest in Bidhannagar (22.13), due to rapid industrialization of the district. According to Census 2011, the female WPR is 15.76 percent in South Dum Dum where as in North Dum Dum the percentage is 11.23.

Table: 14 Municipalities Wise Worker Population In North 24 Parganas District 2011

Sl. no.	Name of the urban local bodies	Total worker Persons in %	Rank	Total worker Persons male in %	Rank	Total worker Persons fenale in %	Rank	main worker Persons in %	Rank	marginal workers Persons in %	Rank	Main Worker Persons Male in %	Rank
1	Ashokenagar Kalyangarh (M)	35.07	16	58.03	12	11.79	18	91.70	14	8.30	16	93.30	15
2	Baduria (M)	35.86	10	60.21	2	10.47	22	87.03	26	12.97	4	89.37	26
3	Baranagar (M)	37.44	4	59.55	4	14.00	7	92.78	10	7.22	20	95.00	8
4	Barasat (M)	35.01	17	56.80	16	12.70	11	92.74	11	7.26	19	94.95	9
5	Barrackpore (M)	34.61	19	56.16	17	11.92	17	91.54	15	8.46	15	93.11	16
6	Barrackpur Cantonment (CB)	32.86	23	53.27	25	11.58	20	89.20	20	10.80	10	90.96	22
7	Basirhat (M)	34.37	20	58.67	7	9.60	26	93.06	8	6.94	22	94.94	11
8	Bhatpara (M + OG)	31.30	29	52.41	27	7.51	29	90.26	16	9.74	14	91.82	20
9	Bidhannagar (M)	39.25	2	55.98	18	22.13	1	88.59	21	11.41	9	92.27	18
10	Bongaon (M)	36.41	8	58.86	6	13.16	10	91.82	13	8.18	17	94.53	12
11	Dum Dum (M)	35.98	9	54.71	21	16.48	2	87.47	25	12.53	5	92.51	17
12	Garulia (M)	32.96	22	54.00	23	9.69	25	87.80	24	12.20	6	89.40	25
13	Gobardanga (M)	35.74	11	57.19	13	13.64	8	90.07	17	9.93	13	93.47	14
14	Habra (M)	36.59	7	59.88	3	12.68	12	92.28	12	7.72	18	94.95	10
15	Halisahar (M)	33.16	21	55.41	20	8.65	27	85.96	27	14.04	3	88.29	28
16	Kamarhati (M)	32.74	24	52.52	26	11.68	19	88.54	22	11.46	8	91.31	21
17	Kanchrapara (M + OG)	32.37	26	54.03	22	10.28	24	89.63	18	10.37	12	90.96	23
18	Khardah (M)	35.18	13	55.66	19	14.21	6	88.53	23	11.47	7	92.09	19
19	Madhyamgram (M)	35.54	12	58.13	11	12.59	13	93.70	5	6.30	25	95.51	5
20	Nabadiganta Industrial Township (ITS)	42.37	1	62.83	1	12.39	14	99.78	1	0.22	29	99.76	1
21	Naihati (M)	32.67	25	51.46	29	13.56	9	84.40	28	15.60	2	88.42	27
22	New Barrackpore (M)	36.81	6	58.16	10	15.67	4	93.89	4	6.11	26	95.85	3
23	North Barrackpore (M)	32.32	27	53.96	24	10.34	23	94.10	3	5.90	27	95.06	6
24	North DumDum (M)	35.14	15	58.39	8	11.23	21	92.79	9	7.21	21	94.39	13
25	Panihati (M)	34.83	18	57.16	14	12.31	15	93.39	7	6.61	23	95.02	7
26	Rajarhat Gopalpur (M)	36.99	5	58.29	9	15.15	5	93.50	6	6.50	24	95.74	4
27	South DumDum (M)	37.62	3	59.36	5	15.76	3	95.13	2	4.87	28	96.77	2
28	Taki (M)	35.15	14	57.02	15	12.28	16	89.42	19	10.58	11	90.83	24
29	Titagarh (M)	32.00	28	52.36	28	8.26	28	84.03	29	15.97	1	85.72	29

Source: Computed by authors from Census Reports2011

From Census 2011, it appears that Baduria municipality still maintains a rural character. About 23.01 percent of the workers inBaduria municipality are engaged as cultivator and agricultural labour . For the other municipalities the percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourers is quite insignificant. Most of the main workers in these municipalities belong to the Census category of 'other workers' which include every type of non-agricultural non-household industry related activities. So Other Workers are engaged in Allied Agricultural Activities, Mining & Quarrying, Other than household industry, Construction, Trade & Commerce, Transport Storage and Communication, Other Services

10.   OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT IN 2011, CENSUS TOWN WISE

According to census 2011 total number of census town is 78, which are distributed and included in 17 C.D. Blocks. So we considered as the block wise distributional worker pattern. These census towns ,their administration system is rural character,but their functional status are in urban type. On the basis of the urban work participations rate(WPR), of the census towns in Hingalganj block is highest(44.25%) and the census towns which are under Barrackpur-I blocks, WPR is low (34.77%). Among the male workers of census towns in Amdanga blocks ,WPR is highest(62.80%) and lowest(56.35%) male WPR is in the census towns of Gaighata block .On the basis of main workers the census towns in Rajarhat blocks is the highest (92.60%) and the lowest main worker is in Minakhan block(72.87%).Howover the high percentage of work force both in male and female are engaged in regular workers in Rajarhat block.These features also reflected in male main worker population of Rajarhat and Minakhan blocks. Maxium non workers is present in the census towns of Barrackpur-I blocks (65.25%) and minimum is in Hingalganj block (55.75%).

From the census 2011 more or less all census towns under C.D. blocks have been engaged near about 20% in agricultural labour and cultivators.The census towns which are under Barrackpur-I, Barrackpur-II, Rajarhat, Habra,Barasat-I and Barasat-II blocks, these are more urbanized function base towns and rest of the census towns are in rural function base census towns.

11.   CONCLUSION

Ashok Mitra's functional classification on the whole does bring out the categories on the basis of their broad economic activities. In particular, it succeeds in differentiating the manufacturing, trading and service towns. The vast majority of the towns of the district however have no clear specialization in any one economic activity and infect have a diversified economic base. Specialization appears on the whole, as the exception rather than rule. In 1991, 19 manufacturing towns and 16 trade towns do appears as a major subtype among the towns of the district. The diversified towns with multiple function including manufacturing, trade and services.

On the basis of the functional class of the town 62% and 53% town are manufacturing town regionally are concentrated in the eastern part of Hooghly river , on the other hand 21% and 44% trade towns are spread scattered way in all other part of the area of the district in 1971 and 1991. Only one service town is Bidhannagar which is adjoining to Kolkata.

On the basis of degree of specialization, high specialized manufacturing towns are also situated in the eastern part of Hooghly River. High specialized trade &commerce towns are Bangoan, Sonatikir, sadpur and Bashirhat. Rest towns are basically moderately diversified and diversified towns. These diversified towns are spread scattered way in the district.

On the basis of the class of the towns 11 towns out of 17 towns of class –I towns are presented as manufacturing town, which are also located in the eastern part of the Hooghly river. Other classes of towns, that is class – I to V towns are represented as manufacturing and trade towns both also. Bidhannagar is the only one service town of the district. Interestingly 53% towns do not show any significant specialization in any activity group, also called diversified town. Only Baduria municipality is in rural function base and rest of the municipalities are in urban function base.

Hence functional hierarchy of the towns of North 24 Paarganas district is quite moderate developed. It is observed that in the study region showed increasing trend in the total working population. The imbalances in the infrastructural development had been responsible for the general lack of regularity in efficient functional organization. To achieve more urban balanced urban system proper re-alignment and reorientation of the number and nature of urban functions of the towns through effective regional planning processes are urgently needed. However, the recent governmental exercises to erase the regional disparities through infrastructural development in backward areas of the district is really welcome.

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