



RESEARCH ARTICLE

SECTORAL TRANSFORMATION OF WORKING POPULATION AND STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT- A  
CASE STUDY OF JANGIPARA C.D BLOCK, HUGLI DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ARTICLE INFO

**Article History:**

Received 01<sup>st</sup> January, 2013  
Received in revised form  
21<sup>st</sup> February, 2014  
Accepted 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2014  
Published online 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2014

**Key words:**

Economic sector,  
Occupational structure,  
Employment status,  
Transformation,  
Work participation

ABSTRACT

In every progressive economy there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities..... to secondary activities to all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyze the changes in the structure of economy and sectoral transformation of occupational structure during last three decades in Jangipara C.D block of Hugli district of West Bengal. Emphasis also given to examine the nature of employment status and enumerate the pattern of employment among different social groups by religion, education and economic status. Present study reveals that though Jangipara C.D block is a rural block but its economy is changing in nature. As time progresses occupational structure shifts primary to secondary and tertiary sectors.

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INTRODUCTION

Broadly we can divide the different occupations into three types- Primary, Secondary and Tertiary. Agriculture, forestry, pasturing, mining, fishing are known as Primary activities as their products are essential or vital for human existence. Manufacturing industries, trade and commerce, transport and communication are known as secondary activities whereas all types of services are under tertiary activities which directly or indirectly help to mention other two types of activities. West Bengal is an agro based economy but secondary and tertiary based economy are also dominating in some parts of the state. Out of 19 districts of West Bengal Hugli is one of the main districts whose economy is developed and stands upon mainly agriculture and industries. The occupational structure of a country refers to the distribution or divisions of its population according to different occupations. Colin Clerk, in his work "Conditions of Economic Progresses" argues that there is a close relationship between development of an economy on the one hand and occupational structure on the other hand and economic progress of any region is generally associated with certain distinct changes in occupational structure. A.G.B Fisher said that "In every progressive economy there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities ..... to secondary activities of all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production. It is true that in case of West Bengal industrialization and urbanization

are imparting new values on rural areas of West Bengal. Improvement of communication and transport on the existing agrarian economy have led to better exchange of ideas between the villages and towns and thus resulted in occupational mobility in rural society.

**Study Area**

The study area covers the Jangipara C.D block of Serampur sub division of Hugli district of West Bengal, India. The area is located in the southern part of West Bengal. Its latitudinal extension is 22° 40' 30" N-22° 44' 26" N and longitudinal extension is 88°00'E - 88°12'30" E. The study area is bounded on the north by parts of Haripal and Tarakeswar C.D block. Khanakul C.D block is located in the eastern portion and in the southern portion Haora district is situated. The total area of the block is 162 Sq. Km. It Has 10 Gram Panchayet and 129 villages. According to 2011 Census total population of Jangipara C.D block is 165837 with male population of 81635 and female population of 84202 so the male female ratio is 49: 51.

**Objectives**

The main objectives of the study are as follows-

1. To bring into light the transformation of working population.
2. To depict the pattern of employment status.

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3. Analyze the changes in the structure of economy and work force during last three decades.
4. To enumerate the pattern of employment among different social groups by religion, education and economic status.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methodology is the way of achieving the goal through the drawing of inference by observation, collection and differential analysis of relevant data relating to the study of sectoral transformation of working population and nature of employment status in Jangipara C.D block. In order to achieve the aforesaid objectives, the methodology of work has been divided into several phases:

- Collection of secondary data – At first choice of study area, then secondary data was collected from different government and non government agencies.
- Sample size: Total 50 families are surveyed on the basis of questionnaire schedule. Among them males and females surveyed individually.
- Sample Design: At first out of 9 Gram Panchayet 5 Gram Panchayet are selected by their location, one Gram Panchayet was selected from each direction i.e. north, south, east, west and central position. With the help of the systematic formulated questionnaire schedule primary data regarding nature of employment and sectoral transformation were collected by door to door survey.
- Calculated data was tabulated and analyzed based on different cartograms and quantitative techniques which are followed by interpretation.

## Findings and Analysis

From the analysis of the primary data it is clearly seen that out of the 5 rural mouza 84 percent are Hindu and 16 percent are Muslim (mainly concentrated in Furfura). Majority of the people belongs to general category (26%), OBC (60%) and SC (2%) and OBC (12%). Literacy rate is very high (76%) among the surveyed population only 24% are being illiterate. Recent study shows that 50% population engaged in primary sectors. 45% are in secondary sectors and remaining 5% are belongs to tertiary sectors. Analysis of the data related to status of employment shows that 70% are regular workers and engaged in full time work during last one year whereas 30% are casual workers who are not engaged in full time work rather engaged in part time work. The workers who are engaged in different types of activities i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary satisfied 86% of their current employment or job. In the surveyed area 48% of the employed people are permanent, 14% are contractual employee, 16% are temporary workers and 20% are part time workers (Fig-1). In the surveyed area 36% workers are skilled, 34% are semi skilled and only 30% workers are unskilled who are engaged in different types of activities. (Fig-2) 18% employed people are in government service (10% are central government employee and 8% are state government employee). Most of them are private employee (42%). The point is to be noted that many people get their job by their own effort and becomes self employed (22%). Rests of the persons are agricultural labourers (9%), casual labourers (6%), industrial workers (4%) and only 1% is

engaged in cultivation. (Fig-3) Through the analysis of the economic data related to income condition 82% people earned less than Rs/- 5000 per month, 6% people earned 5001-10000, 6% earned 10001-15000, 2% earned 15001-20000 and 4% people earned more than 20000 per month.

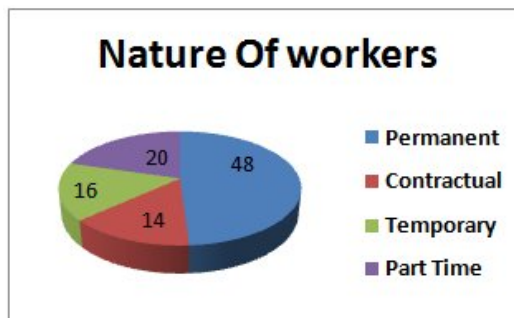


Fig. 1. Nature of Employment

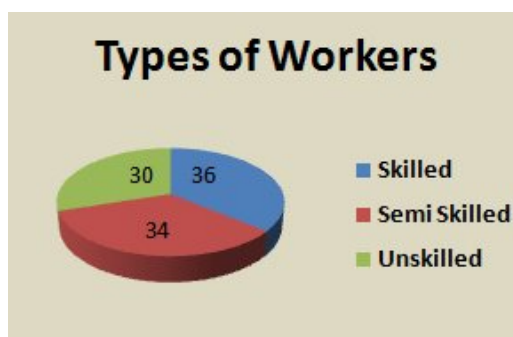


Fig. 2. Types of Workers

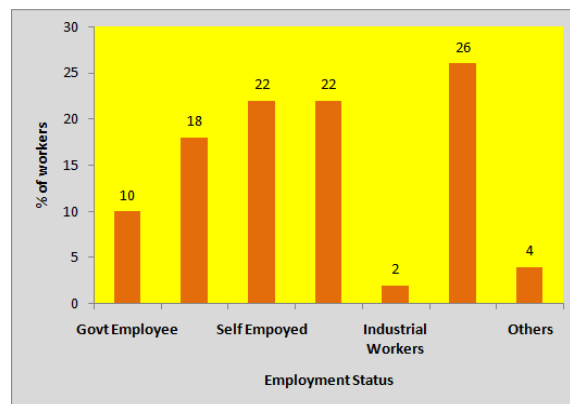


Fig. 3. Status of Employment

The above table indicates that with hard work of more than 8 hours in a day they get their minimum wages. (Fig-4) Despite of 36% skilled workers the situation is too worse. Most of the workers received their salary monthly (32%). The ratio between main and marginal workers is 56:44 (Fig-5). The workers in the survey area of Jangipara C.D block both organized and unorganized sectors expect the state to look after their problems by instituting appropriate social security benefits according to them? The results suggest that very little benefit is reach to them. Among these few benefits like provident fund, pension, and gratuity, health care. Accident benefits, co-operatives, loan facility etc. (Fig-6) only 40%

workers enjoyed bonus and 60% workers enjoyed yearly increment facility. Labour management conflict prevails in those sectors where most of the workers are worked in factories or industries as industrial workers.

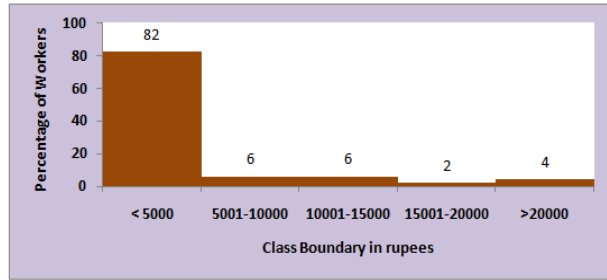


Fig. 4. Income Condition

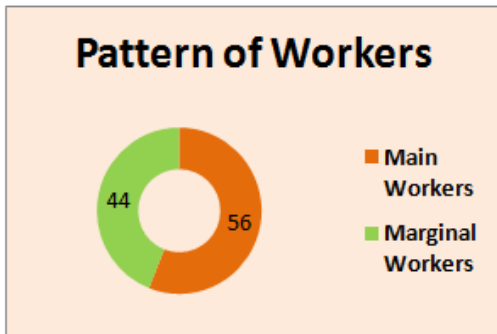


Fig. 5. Patten of Workers

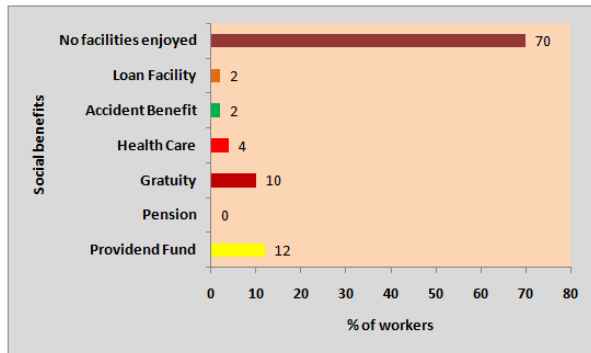


Fig. 6. Social benefits Enjoyed by the workers

**Changing character of working population**

Main working force is composed of three groups: primary, secondary and tertiary workers. Before going to village wise analysis, the changing character of working population in three decadal years for Jangipara C.D block as a whole have been done. The percentage of different working population with respect to total working population is given below: From the above Diagram (Fig-7) it is clear that the area is mainly dominated by tertiary activities (other workers). During the last three decades proportion of workers engaged in secondary sectors increased 11 % in 1981 to 45% in 2013. It is surprising that being a rural block proportion of workers engaged in primary sectors (cultivators and agricultural labourers) dropped down 29% in 1981 to only 0% in 2013 in case of

cultivators and 36% to 22% in case of agricultural labourers. On the other hand percentage of secondary workers are slightly increasing in nature. There is less impact of primary activity in the region in recent time. Analysis based on village level primary data also stated that have a rapid growth of secondary workers which is expressed by positive and negative bargraphs which also reflects the facts of transformation.

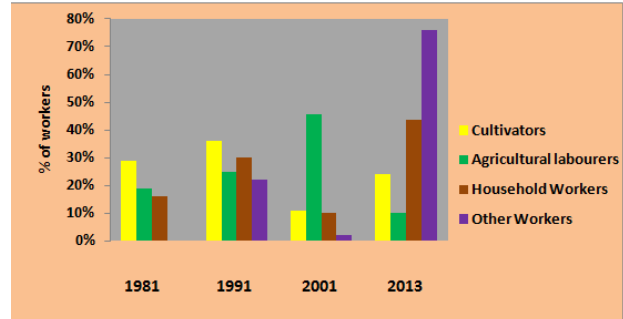


Fig. 7. Occupational structure

**Growth of working population**

**Growth of primary workers**

From the census data it is clear that during last three decades growth of primary workers is negative. Out of five surveyed villages i.e Furfura, Jangipara, Rajbalhat-I, Rajbalhat-II and Kotolpur, Furfura and Kotolpur showed high rate of engagement in primary sectors. Jangipara and Rajbalhat-I showed moderartely engagement and it is quite surprising that in Rajbalhat-II no one is engagement in primary sectors, all the peoples are engagement in secondary sectors. On the other hand all over the block growth of primary workers is negative. In 1981 proportion of workers engaged in primary sectors are 65% which decreased 21% in 1991 but again in 2001 the rate increased 2% and present primary survey shows that decreasing trend of primary sectors continues and it comes down to 50%. So it can be said that in these regions agrarian economy is gradually turned into industrial and service sectors economy which is focused by participation of people in secondary and tertiary activities.

**Growth of secondary workers**

During the three decades growth of secondary workers reflects a mixed picture. In 1981 percentage of workers engaged in secondary sector is 11% which increased to 46% in 1991 so 35% positive growth was observed. But surprisingly in 2001 the rate decreased to 10% so 36% negative growth was observed but the primary survey conducted in 2013 over five villages tells different story that is again the proportion is increasing in nature and the rate is 45% which means 35% positive growth was observed. The point is to be noted that out of five villages except Furfura in other villages proportion of secondary workers are more than other two sectors. In Jangipara, Rajbalhat- I and Rajbalhat-II village the engagement rate is too high compare to other sectors and astonishingly in Rajbalhat -II all the workers are engaged in secondary sector mainly in gold ornament designing, polishing and making etc.

**Growth of Tertiary workers**

From the primary survey it is clearly revealed that as the block is purely a rural block growth rate in the tertiary sector is too slow, somewhere it is absent too. Since 1981 there is a negative growth of tertiary workers has been observed. In 1981 24% workers engaged in tertiary activities which decreased 14% in 1991. But in 2001 the growth was high and 34% of positive growth was observed. Recent survey shows the opposite picture that 39% negative growth in this sector (Fig-8). From the primary data collected through household survey tells some other story. Among the five villages only in Jangipara 30% workers engaged in tertiary activities. Other villages show less dominance of tertiary sector. As Jangipara is a main centre in this region having good transportation and communication network enables the workers to reach far distance from their home for work purpose (Fig-9)

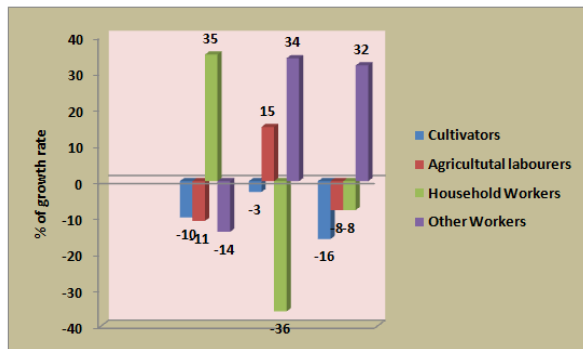


Fig. 8. Pattern of growth of workers

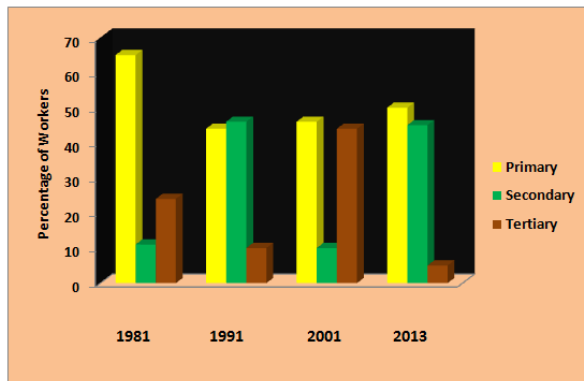


Fig. 9(a). Occupational structure

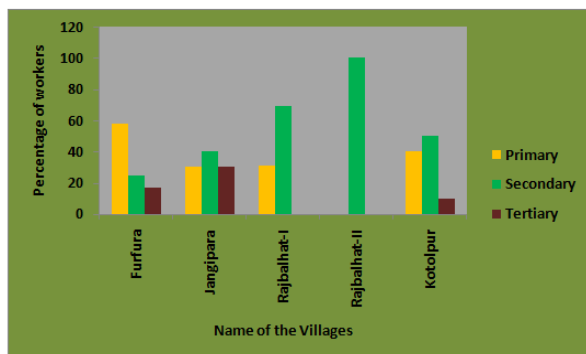


Fig. 9(b). Occupational structure of the surveyed villages

**Sectoral Transformation of Working Population**

The objective of the study is to ascertain whether there is any change of transformation in the working population over three decades. If there is any static growth of different working sectors then it is clear that no transformation has occurred in the existing economy, but if there is any shifting scenario from primary to secondary, secondary to tertiary then it can be said that transformation is properly happened. It is not true that in case of Jangipara C.D block. In case of primary workers the decadal growth rate is negative. In case of secondary workers the decadal growth rate is positive and in case of tertiary workers the growth is negative. Hence it can easily remark that the working population has shifted from primary to secondary sector gradually. It can also be said that growth in primary and secondary sector is in a balance position. To show the transformation some cartographic and quantitative techniques has been used. A Ternary diagram has been prepared to show the sectoral transformation of economy from 1981 to 2012. This diagram shows the relative importance of different sectors in the region. From the diagram it is clearly said that in every decade the processes of transformation goes on which intend more secondary in recent time (Fig-10)

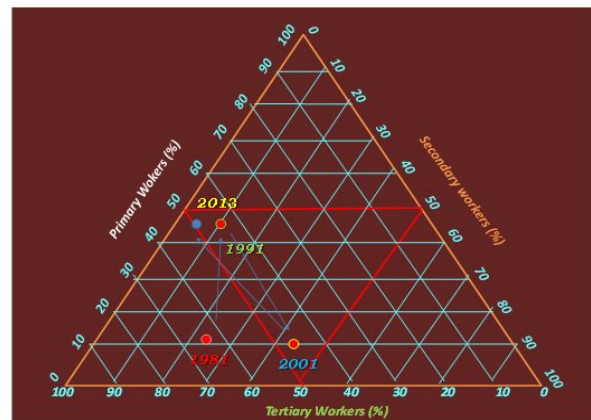


Fig. 10. Shifting of occupational structure

**Conclusion**

All over the Jangipara C.D block existence of three types of economic activity primary (cultivators and agricultural labourers), secondary (household industry) and tertiary (other workers) can be perceived in every census year 1981 to 2011 but the ratio of dependency of people on these types of economic activities are changing gradually. Only because of the development of transport network mainly Kolkata-Durgapur Expressway, Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojona, Belgharia Expressway, construction of flyover in Dankuni Station, eastward extension of Kolkata Metro Railway most of the habitants can travel much more distance and come to Kolkata and its surrounding areas daily for their working purpose and return home safely in the night. Thus most of the area under study shows the dynamism in the transformation of their occupational structure.

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