

Socio-Economic Transformation of Muslim Society- A Case Study on Murshidabad District, West Bengal

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Abstract

Transformation in economics refers to a long-term change in dominant economic activity in term of prevailing relative engagement or employment of able individuals. Individual sector transformations are the outcomes of human socio-economic evolution. The present paper is an attempt to analyze the socio-economic transformation of Muslim society in Murshidabad district, West Bengal and also to explore the level of standing with different socio-economic parameters for sustainable development. Based on the block wise secondary data obtained from the District Census Handbook, 2011, I prepared C.D. Blocks wise different cartographic technique of the study area. The results shows that male female literacy rate in Murshidabad are 60.71% & 47.63% in 2001 census and 69.95% & 63.09% in 2011 census year and also marginal changes have occurred in the decadal growth rate of population from 23.76% in 1991-2001 decadal periods to 21.09% in 2001-2011 decadal periods. However, a planned evolution pattern is suggested considering demographic change of the region.

Keywords: Literacy rate, population growth rate, distribution of rural and urban population composition, urbanization rate and HDI & GDI value.

Introduction

After industrial revolution population has been seen increase, but in 21st century it has been seen very first growth on the Earth planate. On the basis of the history of human demography, it has been seen that in earlier time high population growth is a natural phenomenon due to low level of technological advancement and high mortality leads to high fertility. But with the technological advancement population growth is declining all over world and as well as in India as. As considerable evidence exists, a process of marginalization of minority communities exists in almost all societies and there is nothing warrants that the same is not true of Muslims in India to a greater or a lesser degree (Ahmed, 1993). Muslims have negligible influence on the process of economic development (Beg, 1994). There is widely held belief that Muslims have remained largely unaffected by the process of economic development and social change that have been taking place in the country and their general economic condition has been deteriorating progressively (Mainuddin, 2010). In recent past Muslim population growth became an issue of the national debate in India. Muslim constitutes the largest minority community in India with 14.23 percent population according to 2011

census. This largest minority community has been relegated to the lowest socio-economic stratum in the post- independent India. Though India in recent year has achieved economic development but influence of this economic development is not uniformly distributed across the religious community and across region. Muslim socio- economic backwardness has profound impact on their education. The crude literacy rate of Murshidabad district in 1901, 1911, 2001 and 2011 are 5.35percent, 5.92 percent, 64.83 percent and 74.04 percent. According to census of India 2001 and 2011 in Murshidabad District the urban population are 12.49 % and 19.78 %. This figure shows the very negative figure than the national urbanization value. The urbanization rate of India in the census year 2001 and 2011 are 28.53 percent and 31.16 percent. According to UN report-2014 the HDI value of Murshidabad district is 0.460. In Murshidabd district the percentage value of urban population on the basis Indian census year 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 are 9.36 percent, 10.43 percent, 12.49 percent and 19.72 percent. As well as the rural population percentage of Murshidabad district in last two Indian census years are 87.51 percent (2001) and 80.28 percent (2011).

Problems of study area

The main problems the Muslim society in the study area is as follows

1. Rapid growth of Muslims population.
2. High fertility rate.
3. Large size of family structure.
4. Low literacy rate (mainly female literacy rate)
5. Low rate of higher education level (mainly female education)
6. Lack of female work participation.
7. Under development of economic growth.
8. Much lower sex ratio.
9. Restriction of guardians on female.
10. Huge number of child labor.
11. Early marriage of boys and girls.
12. Health problems.

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are

- i. To find the trend of Muslim population growth.
- ii. Estimate distribution of Muslim population in respect to non Muslim population.
- iii. The changes in the socio-economic composition of the Muslims.

Methods

Study Area

The study area is located on flood plain of lower Ganga river basin in West Bengal. It has 26th C.D. block and surrounded by Bangladesh in east and northeast, Maldah in north, Bihar and Birbhum in West and

Burdwan and Nadia in south. The longitudinal and latitudinal extension is $87^{\circ}49' E$ and $88^{\circ}46' E$ and $23^{\circ}43' N$ to $24^{\circ}50' N$. Murshidabad is selected as study area because it is the largest Muslim population district of West Bengal.

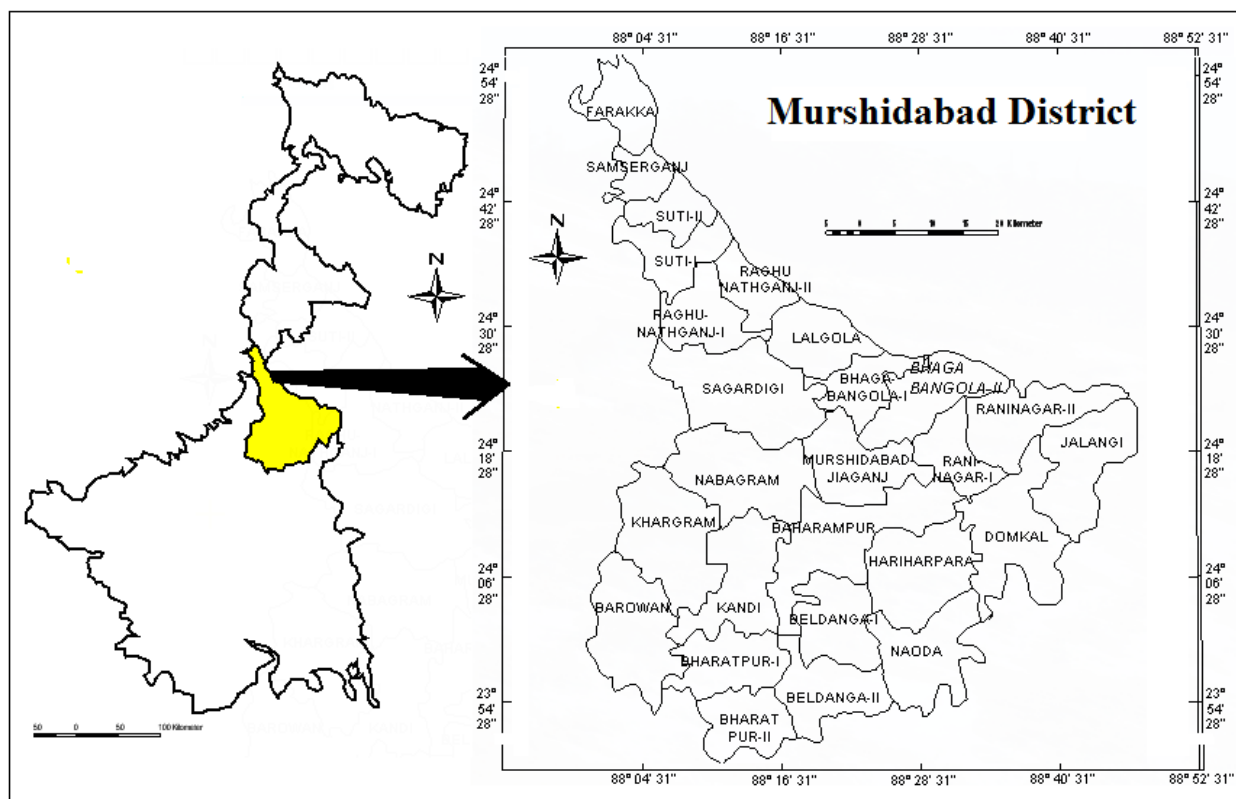


Figure 1: Location of study area

Data Analysis

The study is based on the secondary data obtained from District Census Handbook, 2011. Block is taken as a unit of study, for analysis and mapping purpose. Data thus collected, interpreted and represented cartographically by using pie and bar diagram technique. Here, represent the pie diagram of the study area in block wise for analysis the distribution of different religious population and also the bar diagram analyze the nature of literacy rate in Muashidabad diatrict.

The main data source of this study is Murshidabad District Census Handbook, 2011, various books, articles etc. The data taken from Census and used MS Excel and Geographical Information System (GIS) Software for analysis the cartographical presentation the block-wise proportion of area among Muslim population and religious wise distribution of population in Murshidabad district and also the data has been calculated to show the change that is taken place in the different socio economic level.

Results and Discussion

- **Literacy rate of Murshidabad district**

Any one above age 7 who can read and write in any language with an ability to understand was considered a literate. In censuses before 1991, children below the age 5 were treated as illiterates. The literacy rate taking

the entire population into account is termed as "crude literacy rate" and taking the population from age 7 and above into account is termed as "effective literacy rate". Effective literacy rate in India increased to a total of 74.04% with 82.14% of the males and 65.46% of the females being literate.

In last two census year (2001 & 2011) the total literacy rate in Murshidabad are 54.35 % and 66.59 % . This figure shows the negative from the national total literacy rate in both census years. But male female literacy rate in Murshidabad are 60.71% & 47.63% in 2001 census and 69.95% & 63.09% in 2011 census year, it also shows the negative literacy rate. The following bar diagram shows the crude literacy of Murshidabad district of different Indian census year.

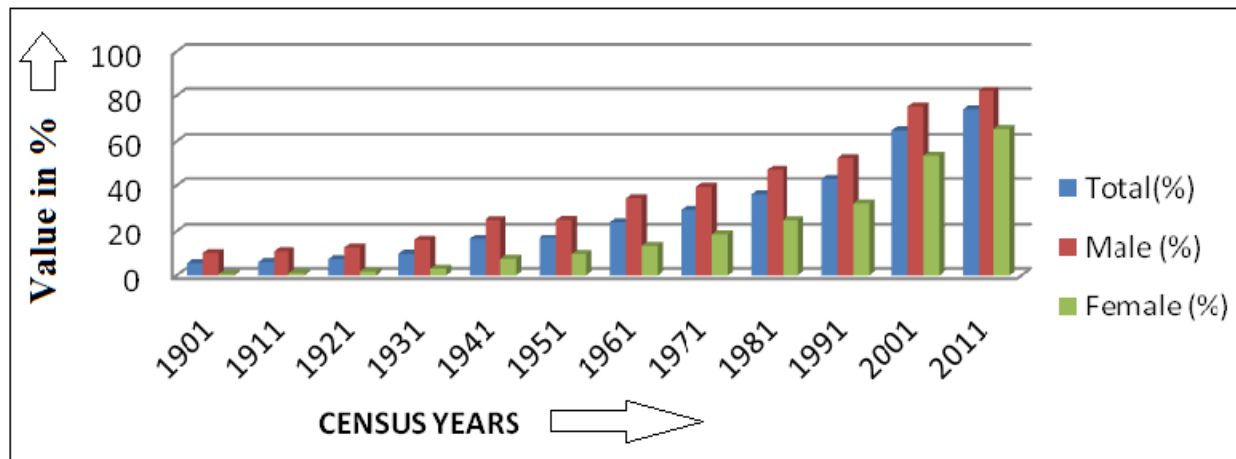


Figure 2: Crude Literacy Rate, Murshidabad District.

- **Population growth rates**

It is significant that the percentage decadal growth during 2001-2011 has registered the sharpest decline since independent. It decline from 23.87% for 1981-91 to 21.54% for the period 1991-2001 ,a decrease of 2.33% point For 2001-2011, this decadal growth has become 17.64% , a further decrease of 3.90% points. But in Murshidabad it was 23.76% in 1991-2001 periods, but it was declined from 23.76% to 21.09% in 2001-2011 decadal periods.

- **Urbanization of Murshidabad District**

Degree of urbanization refers to the proportion of people living in localities or urban settlements among the population of a municipality whose place of residence can be defined by coordinates. Urbanization in India was mainly caused after independence, due to adoption of mixed system of economy by the country which gave rise to the development of private sector. Urbanisation is taking place at a faster rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%.This count increased to 28.53% according to 2001 census, and crossing 30% as per 2011 census, standing at 31.16%. According to census of India 2001 and 2011 in Murshidabad the urban population was 12.49 % and 19.78 % . This figure shows the very negative figure than the national urbanization value.

- **Religious Group of Murshidabad District**

According to the census of India 2011, the constitute of religious groups are Hindus (79.80%), Muslim (14.23%), Christians (2.30%), Sikhs (1.72%), Buddhists (0.70%), Janis (0.37%). The 2011 census

enumerated Indian's population about 14.23% (at over 172,210,523) of the country. According to 2011 census in Murshidabad the religious figure was Hindus (33.21%), Muslims (66.27%) and Christians (0.25%). This Muslim figure shows the almost 4.5 multiple value of national Muslim figure.

Table no. 1: Population of Murshidabad in Percentage of 2011 Census

Name	Hindu	Muslim	Christan	Others
India	79.80	14.23	2.30	3.67
Murshidabad	33.21	66.27	0.25	0.27

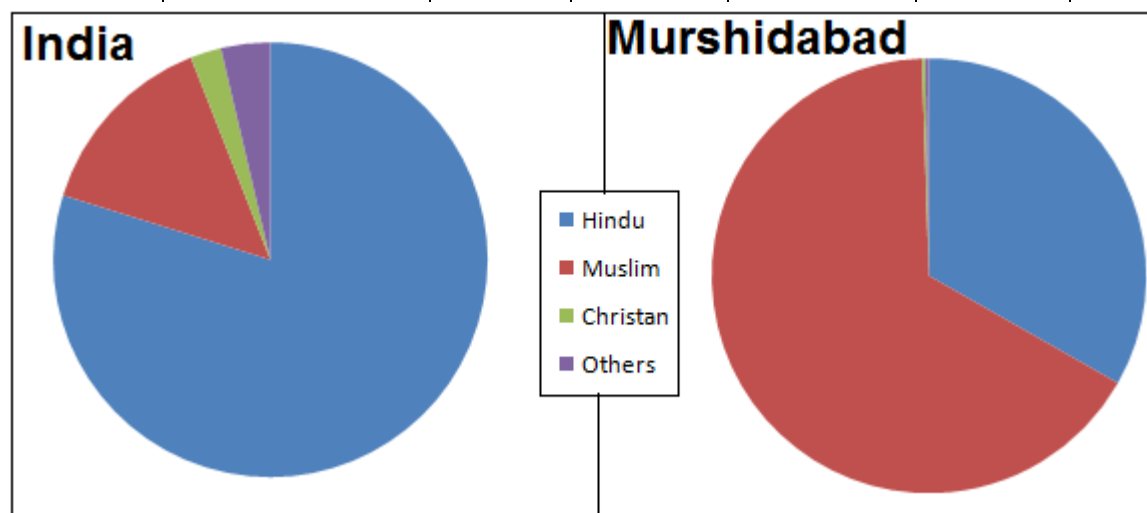


Figure 3: Religious Groups in India and Murshidabad District, 2011

- **Distribution of Muslim population in respect to non-Muslim population:**

Table No. 2: Religion wise population of Murshidabad district in 2011

Sl No.	C.D. Block	TOTAL Popula- Tion	TOTAL Hindu Pop.	TOTAL Muslim Pop.	TOTAL Christan Pop.	TOTAL Other Pop.
1	Farakka	220049	80654	138093	1051	251
2	Samsorganj	211844	39595	172057	64	128
3	Suti - I	139445	62690	76623	78	54
4	Suti - II	213217	64510	148114	203	390
5	Raghunathganj - I	154371	71814	82411	14	132
6	Raghunathganj - II	192530	41289	151055	19	167
7	Lalgola	267641	58380	208573	268	420
8	Sagardighi	252293	89689	156870	4395	659
9	Bhagawangola - I	163466	25872	137452	20	110
10	Bhagawangola - II	129899	17547	111958	161	229
11	Raninagar - II	156159	31530	124225	178	208
12	Jalangi	154609	62292	124479	1	295

13	Domkal	215586	35241	152945	4	239
14	Raninagar - I	311679	29922	276096	101	73
15	Murshidabad Jiaganj	200258	92171	105755	1726	116
16	Nabagram	196608	93227	100035	2873	125
17	Khargram	234780	113810	120557	145	173
18	Kandi	193093	79827	112878	113	106
19	Berhampore	378884	177459	200175	893	253
20	Hariharpara	221741	45537	175942	71	176
21	Nawda	196246	59357	136720	14	149
22	Beldanga - I	259237	63502	195236	267	193
23	Beldanga - II	210188	86271	123740	33	138
24	Bharatpur - II	150133	67260	82725	3	113
25	Bharatpur - I	150896	67608	83226	4	52
26	Burwan	224397	133874	90203	87	134

Source: Calculated by Author from District Census Handbook, 2011.

The table no.2 displays the Religion wise population distribution of murshidabad district according to 2011 census. The total highest population is found at Berhampore (378884) and lowest total population is found at Suti-I(139445).we found that the main religion type of Murshidabad are Hindu, Muslim and Christian. But Muslim is the dominant religion group of all C.D. Block of Murshidabad district except Burwan C.D.Block. Highest and lowest muslim population is found at C.D.Block Raninagar-I(276096) and C.D.Block Suti-I(76623). In respect to Christian population dominant C.D.Block is Sagardigi and except it all the C.D.Blocks are bearing least amount of Christian population and other group of religious population. The cartographic technique bar diagram and Pie diagram has drawn on the basis of above data.

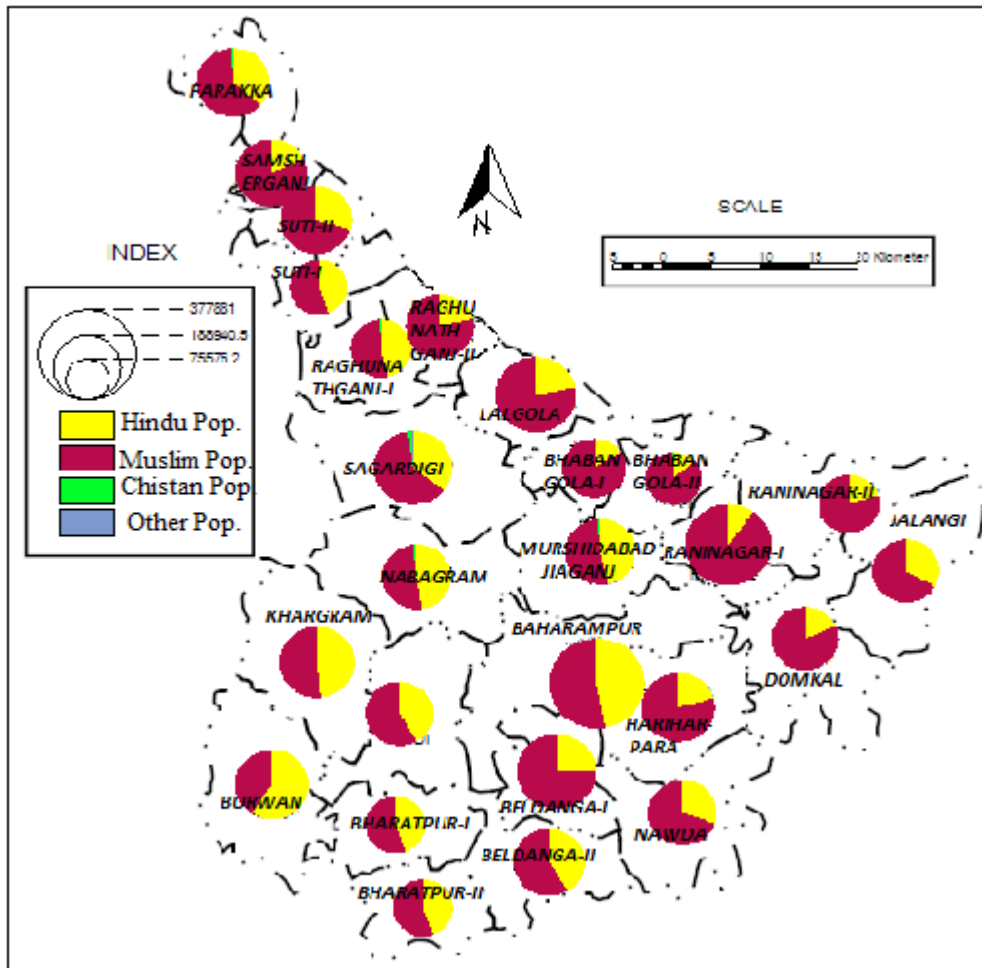


Figure 4: C.D.Block Wise Distribution of Religious Population in Murshidabad, 2011

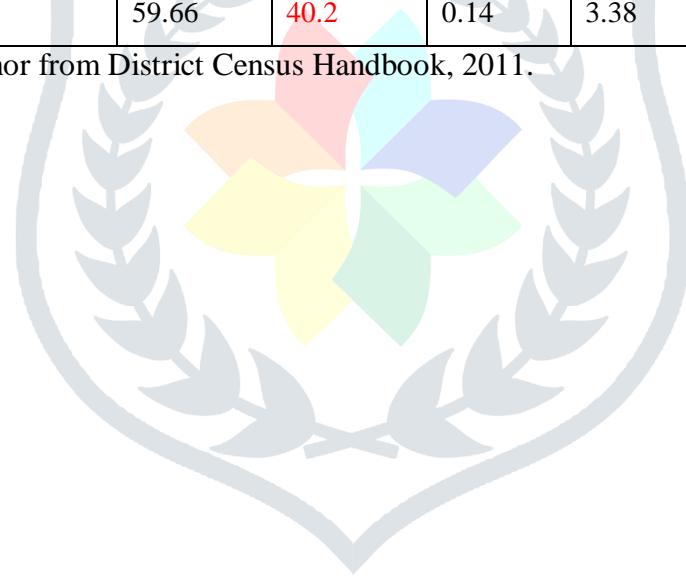
- Coverage Area Among Muslim Population

Table No. 3: C.D. Block Wise Percentage Coverage Area Among Muslim Population in Murshidabad District in 2011

C.D. Block	% of C.D. Block In Respect To Total	Percentage Value			% Coverage Area Among Population		
		Hindu Pop.	Muslim Pop.	Others Pop.	Hindu Pop.	Muslim Pop.	Others Pop.
		Farakka	2.51	36.65	62.75	0.6	0.91
Samserganj	1.59	18.69	81.22	0.09	0.29	1.29	0.01
Suti – I	2.72	44.96	54.95	0.09	1.22	1.49	0.01
Suti – II	2.1	30.26	69.47	0.27	0.63	1.46	0.01
Raghunathganj – I	2.67	46.51	53.38	0.11	1.24	1.42	0.01
Raghunathganj – II	2.3	21.45	78.46	0.09	0.49	1.8	0.01
Lalgola	3.49	21.81	77.93	0.26	0.76	2.72	0.01
Sagardighi	6.71	35.55	62.18	2.27	2.39	4.17	0.15
Bhagawangola – I	2.58	15.83	84.09	0.08	0.41	2.16	0.01

Bhagawangola – II	3.32	13.51	86.19	0.3	0.45	2.86	0.01
Raninagar – II	3.31	20.19	79.55	0.26	0.67	2.63	0.01
Jalangi	3.99	28.89	70.94	0.17	1.15	2.83	0.01
Domkal	5.78	16.35	70.94	12.71	0.95	4.1	0.73
Raninagar – I	2.78	9.6	88.58	1.82	0.27	2.46	0.05
Murshidabad Jiaganj	3.64	46.03	52.81	1.16	1.68	1.92	0.04
Nabagram	5.8	47.42	50.88	1.7	2.75	2.95	0.1
Khargram	6.03	48.48	51.35	0.17	2.92	3.1	0.01
Kandi	4.3	41.34	58.46	0.2	1.78	2.51	0.01
Berhampore	5.95	46.84	52.83	0.33	2.79	3.14	0.02
Hariharpara	4.79	20.54	79.35	0.11	0.98	3.8	0.01
Nawda	4.38	30.25	69.67	0.08	1.32	3.05	0.01
Beldanga – I	3.19	24.49	75.31	0.2	0.78	2.4	0.01
Beldanga – II	3.93	41.04	58.87	0.09	1.61	2.31	0.01
Bharatpur – II	2.99	44.8	55.1	0.1	1.34	1.64	0.01
Bharatpur – I	3.48	44.8	55.14	0.06	1.55	1.92	0.01
Burwan	5.67	59.66	40.2	0.14	3.38	2.28	0.01

Source: Calculated by Author from District Census Handbook, 2011.



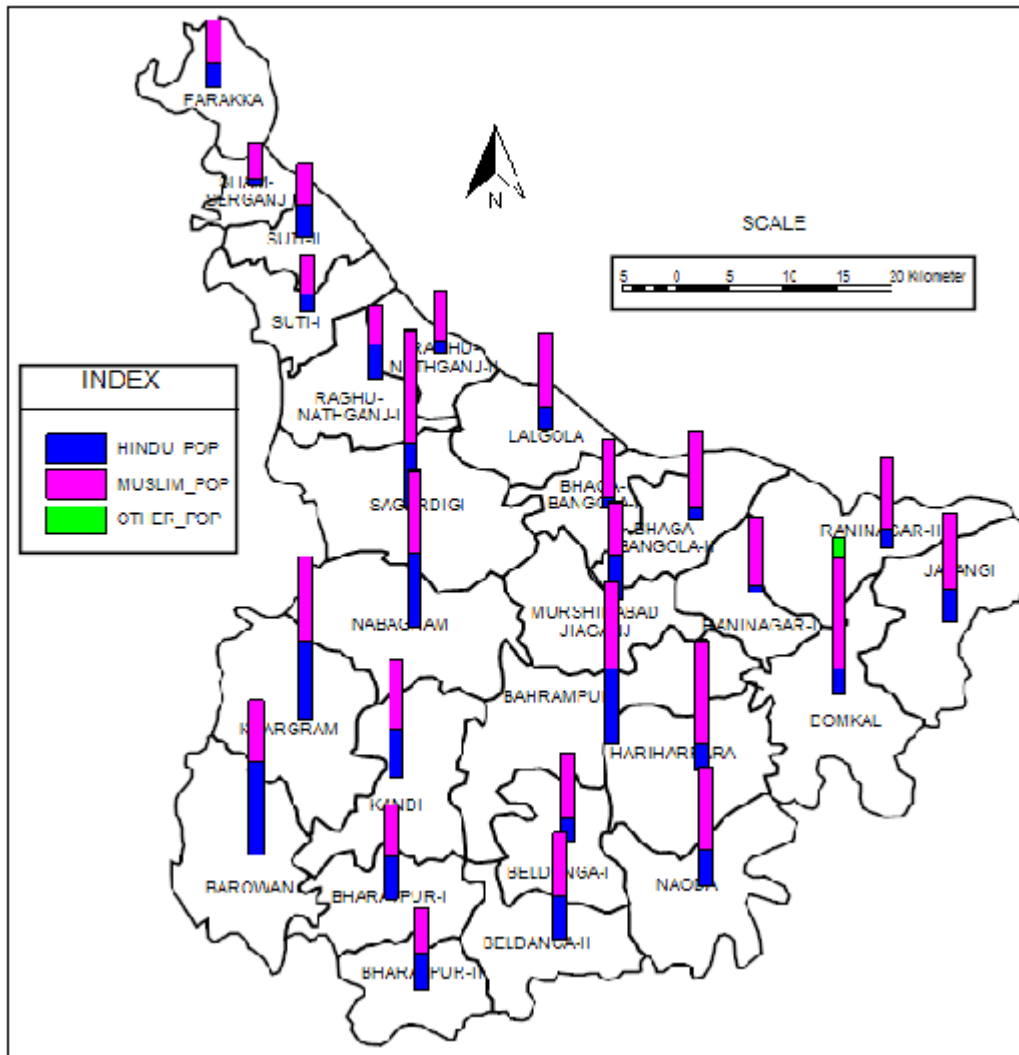


Figure 5: C.D.Block Wise % Distribution of Population with Proportional Area in Murshidabad, 2011

Table No. -3 display the percentage value of area of every C.D. Block of Murshidabad district in respect to total area of grand total of district and also it display the percentage value of Hindu, Muslim and others religion groups of Murshidabad district in respect to C.D. Block total population. And as well as above table also shows the percentage distribution value of each C.D.Block's area among Hindu, Muslim and others religion groups i.e. Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist, Jain .Highest and lowest percentage value of area are found in Sagardigi (6.71%) and Samserganj(1.59%). We show that highest percentage of C.D.Block area are covered by Muslim population except Barowan C.D.Block, this is the only block that represent the highest percentage value of Hindu covered areas in Murshidabad district in 2011. Highest and lowest percentage value of Muslim religion groups are found in C.D.Block Raninagar-I (88.58%) and C.D.Block Barowan(40.2%). Others religion groups are very least count in every C.D. Block , but among all these C.D.Block only C.D.Block Domkal bear highest percentage value of others religious populations. Highest Muslim covered area found in C.D. Block Sagardigi , it is the highest percentage covered area .Lowest Muslim covered area found in C.D. Block Samsherganj , it is also lowest percentage covered area in murshidabad district.

Conclusion

The levels of socio-economic condition of Murshidabad district are very low due to mainly agricultural based economy. After partition of India the large number of refugee population migrated from Bangladesh to India mainly border district of West Bengal. But the maximum refugee migrated in Murshidabad district along Padma River. This led to the exclusive growth rate of population. There is one thing found that the migrant population was maximum Muslim population and as well as they growth the Muslim population in Murshidabad district as others religion population. The maximum population of Murshidabad district engages in primary and secondary sector of economy than tertiary sector, this sector indicates the low level of socio-economic condition. But in recent time the socio-economic condition of Murshidabad district is better than at the time of partition of India for agriculture structure development with use of modern agricultural equipments and high yielding seeds and pesticides.

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