

# A Study of Socio Economic Profile of Cooch Behar Town

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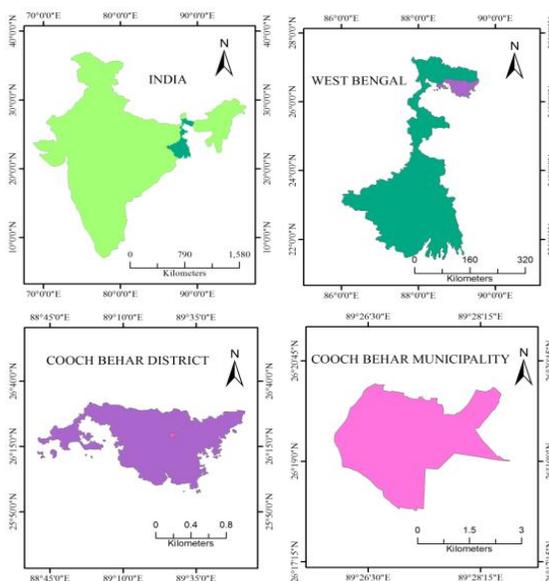
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**ABSTRACT** Cooch Behar is planned town in north Bengal region. This study is to find the working and living conditions of the people of Cooch Behar. The present paper objectives are to mapping the demographic profile of Cooch Behar municipality and to mapping the present social status and economic status of the town. The work is mainly based on the secondary data source. Secondary data collected from census of India 2011. Spatial pattern and characteristics of existing condition of the town have been represented by the different cartographic techniques using global mapper, and Arc Gis, interpretation has been made on the complete work. It is observed that A large section of the people has increased their standard of living so they want send their children to better schools. Coochbehar municipality having some good characteristics in education. Although Cooch Behar is a planning city but it has some problem, the poor people are facing of backwardness, lack of opportunity in their life. These areas have enough resource to enhance the industrial growth. So, in this area industrial activity needs to grow up.

**Keywords:** Anal Naga tribe, Chandel District, Child nutrition and Malnutrition,

**Introduction:** Cooch Behar town is the district headquarters of the coochbehar district in the Indian state of west Bengal. It is situated in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas and located at 26°22'n 89°29'e. Coochbehar is planned town in north Bengal region. The municipality area is used for different purposes. The highest percentage of total area is used for residential purposes. Transport and communication also occupy good land cover. Public and semi public residential areas cover 64.78% of total area. Due to deforestation the green belt occupy only 0.36% of total area of Coochbehar Municipality. The area of 0.46sq.km is used for mixed purpose. Commercial and industrial area covered 0.07sq.km and 0.13sq.km respectively. Underdevelopment land covers 0.3 sq.km area is used for cultivation. The municipality consists of a board of councilors, elected from each of the 20 wards of Cooch Behar town and a few members nominated by the state government. The board of councilors elects a chairman from among its elected members; the chairman is the executive head of the municipality. The All India Trinamool Congress holds power in the municipality. The state government looks after education, health and tourism in the town.

LOCATION MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



**Objective:**

The present paper objectives is

- i) To mapping the demographic profile of coochbehar municipality
- ii) To mapping the present social status and economic status of the town.

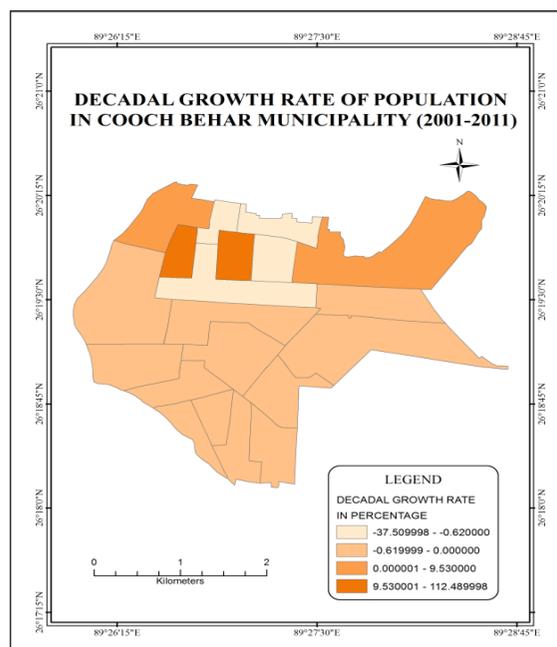
**Methodology:** The work is mainly based on the secondary data source. Primary data related to some socio-economic parameters have been collected through model questionnaire. Secondary data collected from census of India 2011. Spatial pattern and characteristics of existing condition of the town have been represented by the different cartographic techniques using global mapper, and Arc Gis, interpretation has been made on the complete work.

**Discussion**

Socio economic status of an area can be visualized by the analysis of demographic condition, economic condition, housing condition, available infrastructure facilities of that area. The term status means position of a person in a society. Status has been defined by R.Linton (1936) as a position in a social system. The status of a person or a group in a society is determined mainly by the educational status, health status, employment status. All these factors are closely related to one another.

Demography is the science where various aspects related to population (growth, spatial distribution and composition) etc has been studied in the light of statistics.

**Growth of population:-** The term growth of population is generally used to show the changes in the number of population between a past year and present year. This growth rate may be positive or negative and the growth rate of population depends on various socio-economic factors. The census of March 2011 has revealed a perceptible change in Coochbehar municipality's demographics, especially in its growth rate. The number of population has decreased as per 2011 census. It shows negative growth rate of population in Coochbehar municipality. But it has been shown that there was steady growth of population in Coochbehar municipality. In 1961 the number of total population was 41,922 and in 1971, 11,762 were added and the population increasing it to 53,684 and the decadal growth rate was 28.05% where the compound growth rate was 2.49%. During the 1981 a population of only 8,443 was added to 1971's population increasing it to 62,127 with a decadal growth rate of 15.72% and compound growth rate of 1.46%. In 1991 the population went up to 71,215 with growth rate of 14.62% of adding 9088 persons. In 2001 only 5659 was added to 1991's population and recorded as 76,874 with decadal growth rate of 7.95% and compound growth rate of 0.76%. In the Coochbehar municipality the no of population has increased from 76874 (2001) to 77935 (2011).



**Ward wise decadal growth rate of population in Coochbehar municipality (2001-2011)**

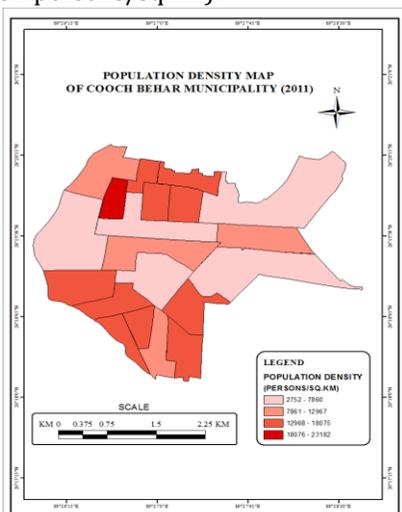
WARD NO.	GROWTH RATE (%)	WARD NO	GROWTH RATE(%)
1.	3.14	11.	12.62
2.	-4.13	12.	3.95
3.	-8.30	13.	2.49
4.	9.53	14.	-31.93
5.	-0.62	15.	-0.28
6.	-10.09	16.	8.07
7.	112.49	17.	-18.37
8.	-37.51	18.	48.29
9.	-31.02	19.	4.05
10	9.86	20.	31.00

Source: Cooch Behar Municipality office

**Population density:** The analysis of population density has immense significance for geographers, as its successful understanding holds the key to the analysis of entire demographic character. Thus it is measure of the incident of population concentration and generally expressed in terms of person/ sq.km.

Population density = total no. of population/total geographical coverage of an area.

As per 2011 census, coochbehar municipal area has a density of population of 9,402 persons/sq. Km. In coochbehar municipality ward no 7 has recorded the highest density of population (23182 persons/sq.km) which is more than the average density of population the municipality has. On the other hand ward no 4 has the lowest density of population (2752 persons/sq.km).



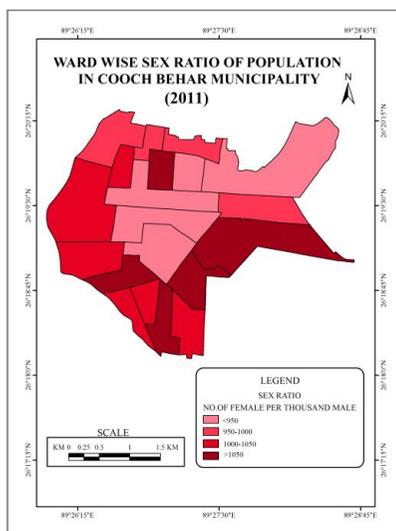
**Ward wise density of population in coochbehar municipality (2011)**

Serial no.	Density of population (persons/sq.km)	No. Of wards	Ward no	Remarks
1.	2752-7860	5	4,8,10,17,19	Low density
2.	7861-12967	4	1,9,13,20	Moderate density
3.	12968-18075	10	2,3,5,6,11,12,14,15,16,18	High density
4.	18076-23182	1	7	Very high density

Source: Cooch Behar municipality office

**SEX RATIO:-**The numerical measurement of sex composition is often expressed in terms of sex ratio. Sex ratio as the number of females per thousands of all the demographic attributes of population, sex ratio is the most fundamental as it determines the reproduction potential, marital status , work-force, migration pattern ,growth of population and the socio-economic relationship. In fact it is an important demographic indicator to measure the extent of prevailing quality between males and females in a society at a given time sex ratio in India is defined as number of females per 1000 males. Sex ratio in Coochbehar municipality is favorable to female. Sex ratio can be calculated by this formula-

Sex Ratio= $Pf/Pm \times 1000$  (where Pf=Female population and Pm=Male population). Ratio is expressed in terms of no. of females per thousands male. Ward wise sex ratio of Coochbehar town is given below-



**Ward wise sex ratio in Coochbehar municipality (2011)**

SERIAL NO.	SEX RATIO	NO.OF WARDS	WARD NO.	REMARKS
1.	<950	5	4,5,8,17,20	LOW SEX RATIO
2.	950-1000	4	1,2,3,9	MODERATE SEX RATIO
3.	1000-1050	6	7,12,14,15,18,19	HIGH SE RATIO
4.	>1050	5	6,10,11,13,16	VERY HIGH SEX RATIO

Source: Cooch Behar Municipality office

In 2011 sex ratio of Coochbehar town was 998 females per thousands males. Sex ratio is highest in ward no. 13(1103 females/'000 males) and lowest in ward no. 20(844 females/'00 males).Nine wards have higher sex ratio than the average of the town. Sex ratio of India is 940 females/'000 males where our study area has higher sex ratio than India. Socio-economic status of women is considered to be an important factors leading to this sex ratio. The increasing pattern of women social status and literacy are the main cause behind of that.

**Literacy:-**literacy is considered is fairly reliable index of socio-cultural and economic commencement. Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic processes. Population commission of United Nations considers "the ability to both read and write with understanding in any language a sufficient basis for forclassifying a person as literate". According to 2011 census,' any person aged 7or above if can read and written any language with proper understanding considered as literate'. In 2011 census, india has a literacy rate of 74.05%.as provisional population totals of census 2011, coochbehar municipality has 86.75% literate population aged 7 and above and illiterate of 13.25%. The main advantage of literacy is that it provides relatively more opportunity of employment. The rate of literacy is largely determined by large number of socio-cultural, political and physical factors.

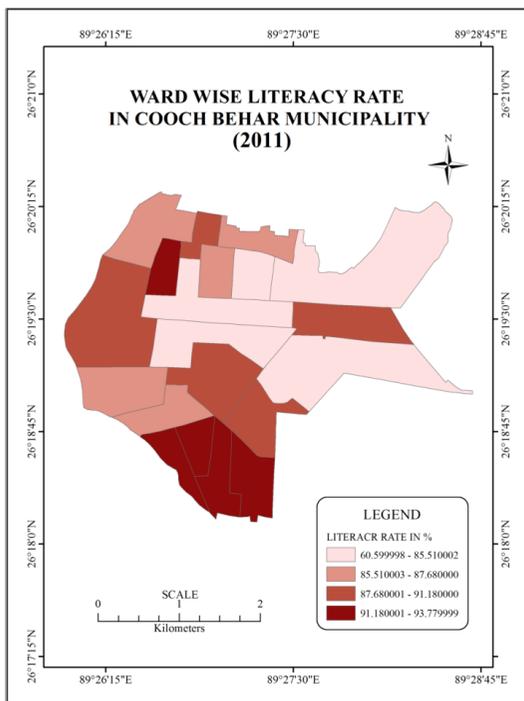
**Ward wise literacy rate of coochbehar municipality (2011)**

Serial no.	Literacy rate(%)	No.of wards	Ward no.	Remarks
1.	60.599998-85.510002	5	4,5,8,10,20	Low
2.	85.510003-87.680000	5	1,3,6,16,18	Moderate
3.	87.680001-91.180000	5	2,9,11,17,19	High
4.	91.180001-93.779999	5	7,12,13,14,15	Very high

Source: Cooch Behar municipality office

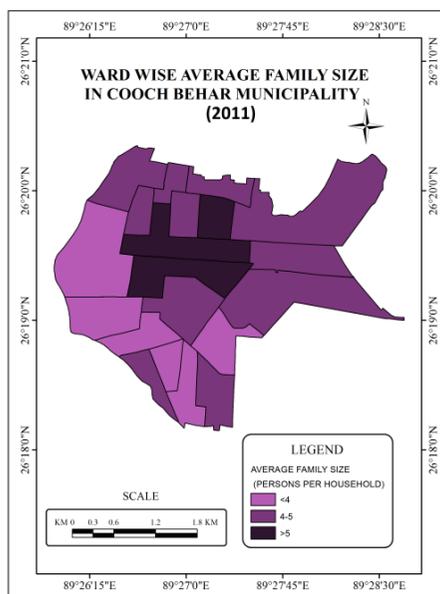
In coochbehar municipality the percentage of male literacy is 51.11% female literacy constitute of 48.89% which is very low than male literacy. The highest literacy found in ward no 18 where the rate of literacy is 86.87% which is better than average literacy rate in coochbehar municipality having male literacy

of 50.51% and female literacy of 49.49%.this ward occupy 7.43% of total literates where the lowest literates found in ward no.2 which occupy only 2.75% to total literates persons among 20 wards lowest number of male literates is found in ward no.2 with 937 males and lowest no.of females is also found in this ward population 891 among 20 wards.



**Cast composition of population:**in coochbehar municipal area,13.50% Of totalpopulation is under sc category,0.52% comes under st category and 85.98% comesunder others category ( as per 2011 census).

**Average family size:**average family size can be considered as an important parameter of socio economic development of an area. It can be calculated by using following formula, family size=total no of population in award/no. Of household of that ward. In coochbehar town average family size was 4.22 in 2011.if we see the ward wise status of average family size it can be seen that it is high in ward no.5(5.26 persons/household) which is high than that of average of coochbehar town. On the other hand ward no.13 and 16 has recorded lowest family size (3.80 persons/household).among 20 wards average family of size 9 wards are higher than that of the town average.



**ward wise average family size in coochbehar municipality (2011)**

Serial no.	Average family size (persons/household)	No. Of wards	Ward no.
1.	<4	6	7,11,13,14,16,18,19
2.	4-5	11	1,2,3,4,6,7,9,10,12,15,17
3.	>5	3	5,8,20

Source: Cooch Behar municipality office.

**Occupational Structure:** The study of economic change of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The occupation of an individual refers to his trade, profession, type of work etc. The occupational structure of a society is the product of a number of intimately related factors. When the primary resources are utilized on a commercial scale, it generates diversification of occupational structure (Clarke 1972).the diversification process gets further impetus from industrialization generates a variety of traditional jobs. The societies have often been classified into primary, secondary and tertiary civilizations on the basic of occupational composition (united nation 1964).the economic composition of population.

**Working status of population in coochbehar municipality (2011)**

Total population	Class of workers				Total workers	Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers
	Cultivators	Agriculture labour	Household industrial workers	Other workers				
77935	247	227	532	26393	27399	24460	2939	50536
	0.90	0.83	1.94	96.33	35.16	31.39	3.77	64.84

Source: Cooch Behar municipality office.

**Monthly income:** According to ward wise monthly income of household it has been seen that ward no.14 has the highest number (26%) of households of >rs.15, 000 income. In this wards people are in good financial condition and only 5% of households having <rs. 5000/- income. People are mainly under the income group of rs. 10000 to 14999.ward no.15 having lowest % of income >rs.15000/- and it has 38% of households of <5000/- rs income. Most of the poor people lives in ward number 3 while it has the 62% of the total households income of <5000 rs. Followed by 60% of households of income 5000 rs. In ward no.5 34% of the households having income of 5000 to 9999 rs. In ward number 12 and 13.

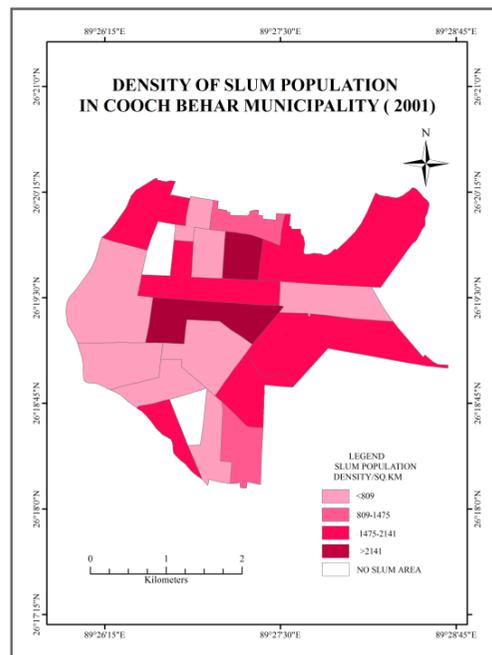
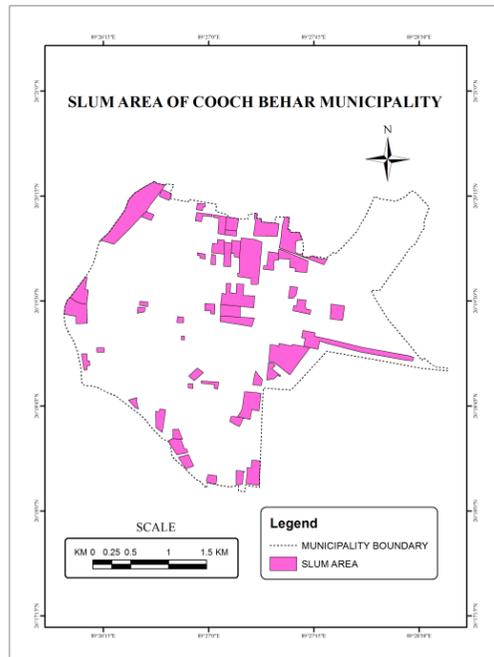
**Ward wise monthly income of household in coochbehar municipality (2011)**

Ward number	<rs.5000/- % of ward household	Rs.5000-9999/- % of ward household	Rs.10000-14999/- % of ward household	>rs.15000 % of ward household
1	41	20	27	12
2	27	33	22	18
3	62	18	12	8
4	59	21	8	12
5	60	16	15	9
6	26	32	33	9
7	16	29	30	25
8	30	22	28	20
9	24	38	28	10
10	35	37	20	8
11	21	28	39	12
12	20	34	36	10
13	7	34	38	21
14	5	32	37	26
15	38	29	25	8
16	28	30	22	20
17	15	31	33	21
18	35	25	22	18
19	37	27	29	7
20	48	24	21	7

Source: Cooch Behar municipality office

**Slum population:** Coochbehar is neither metropolises nor a big city it has a good number of slum population. The total number of slum population is 41270 persons (2001).Ward no.20 occupy 1st position in slum population as it has 2806 slum population which is 6.80% of total slum population followed by ward no.9 having 6.43%(2652 slum population) and ward no.5 with 2300 slum population which consists of 5.57% of total population. There are two wards which having number slum population which are ward no.7 and ward no.14.

highest population density is found as 10952 slum population/sq.km in ward no.5. and the lowest population density is found in ward no.17 with 509 persons/sq.km. The ranges from less than 809 having 7 wards ; than medium slum population found in two wards; high slum population density is found in 6 wards; and very high slum population density is found in ward no.5 with 10952 persons/sq.km followed by ward no.7 having 7624 slum population/sq.km and 6606 slum population/sq.km in ward no.11 with other wards.



**Slum population in Coochbehar municipality (2001)**

WARD NO.	SLUM POPULATION	AREA (SQ.KM)	SLUM POPULATION DENSITY	WARD NO.	SLUM POPULATION	AREA (SQ.KM)	SLUM POPULATION DENSITY
1	1860	0.4026	4620	11	2040	0.3088	6606
2	143	0.1263	1132	12	1213	0.3009	4031
3	1445	0.2492	5799	13	224	0.2615	857
4	1686	1.291	1306	14	0	0.1643	0
5	2300	0.21	10952	15	1774	0.2327	7624
6	801	0.1893	4331	16	181	0.3143	576
7	0	0.1593	0	17	236	0.4639	509
8	2000	0.5005	3996	18	326	0.4532	719
9	694	0.3996	1737	19	2652	0.8761	3027
10	1889	0.8997	2100	20	2806	0.4868	5764

Source: Cooch Behar Municipality office

**Conclusions:** Although Coochbehar is a planning city but it has some socio-economic problem. This area has enough resource to enhance the industrial growth. So, in this area industrial activity needs to grow up. There are very few of English medium schools which are not enough to cater to all. A large section of the people has increased their standard of living so they want send their children to better schools. So for better educational facilities people have to go to other. Now the traffic congestion is very common problem of Coochbehar town. Today's much amount of TOTO vehicles are found in that area vehicles' create jam on the road. There are 71 slum in the study area, from them many slum have absent of drainage system, as result the sewerage water in standby mode, become the sources of mosquitoes and spread bad smell, and the surrounding environment become unhygienic.

Coochbehar municipality having some good characteristics in education, no. of females, health infrastructure. But keeping in view the above problems related to the socio economic condition of Coochbehar municipality there are some solution about these which are all the domestic water supply connections are being provided and maintained by the municipality. To improve the quality of drinking water and preserved sub-soil water level there is a dire need of Water Treatment Plants & a few overhead reservoirs to meet the growing demand of increasing population. The drains of Coochbehar need de-silting & other forms of drudgery to reduce water logging & overflow during the peak season period. Far infrastructure services have been provided by the public sector. To reduce pressure of population on land, small industries should be developed on large scale, so that many people are absorbed in the secondary sector. There is need to improve the medical facilities in hospitals & private health centres. So that the people Coochbehar municipality can achieve better opportunities and environment to improve their socio-economic status.

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