

PREFACE

My subject theme is urbanization and field of study is North Bengal. So the title is “Urbanization of North Bengal in Colonial Period”. On the basis of this theme we highlighted the historiography. Urbanization is not a new one. In the world as well as in India urbanization had taken place and is an ongoing process.

If we look into the world urbanization, we will see that Kingsley Davis who pioneered the study of urban demography spoke of world urbanization. So many theorists are there who have studied urbanization. Basically we have studied civic institutions of urbanization, which have a long history. In 14th Century civic polity or civic Republic had established in Italian cities like Milan, Florence, Venis and Pisa.

The British colonial authority brought this tradition in the places of North Bengal and made civic institution there. Municipality was the main of these. Apart from this Union Board, Local Board etc. were there in North Bengal. All these are an experiment of Local Self Government.

The study indicates the colonial policy and economy was superimposed on a pre-existing pattern. For that reason Old Malda was becoming less important town and English Bazar had emerged with a new trade zeal of the colonial authority. Industrial development in Britain had opened a new type of colonialism. Colonial North Bengal had seen the foundation of plantation economy specially tea industry in hill areas like Darjeeling and of Dooars; silk industry of Malda and Jute industry of Dinajpur. Darjeeling as hill stations developed by the colonial masters as recreational tourist centres (sanatorium) as well as administrative centres.

We have studied the civic architecture namely the formation of district administration, District Boards, Local Boards and finally Municipalities throughout the North Bengal. The study also framed a broad civic necessities. The British frontiers expanded towards Himalayas. So from strategic, political and

economic point of view the colonial administration needed a good road and railway communication in North Bengal. Thereby improvement of roads, porters' and dandywallas management, Public Health and Hygiene like latrines, drainage, water supply etc and also education, street light facilities was much more important for the municipal administration and other civic wings.

We have studied trade and commerce gave North Bengal very much important economical status in colonial period. We have mentioned different plantation products made north Bengal a prosperous one. But of all these the most important was the tea industry which was profitable to the British for international demand.

People coming from different districts of Bengal increased the population and therefore the increased urban population appeared. It is argued that although urban population increased gradually in North Bengal, they were mostly migratory people. Therefore, the increase population did not see the increase of collection of revenues through taxation. The migratory people were mostly the plantation labour and coolies.

2.2.1 Bengal Sultanate. 3 British Colonial period. 3.1 Neoclassical. Urbanization is recorded in the region since the first millennium BCE. This was part of the second wave of urban civilization in the Indian subcontinent, following the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization.[citation needed] Ancient Bengal was part of a network of urban and trading hubs stretching to Ancient Persia.[citation needed] The archaeological sites of Mahasthangarh, Paharpur, Wari-Bateshwar ruins, Chandraketugarh and Mainamati provide evidence of a highly organized urban civilization in Bengal. Bengal was one of the last strongholds of Buddhism in the medieval period, and Hindu temples before the Muslim conquest (starting in 1204) were relatively small. Bengal received many immigrants from West Asia, Central Asia, the Horn of Africa and North India during the sultanate and Mughal periods. Many came as refugees due to the Mongol invasions and conquests. Others found Bengal's fertile land suitable for economic production and commerce. The first European colonial settlement in Bengal was the Portuguese settlement in Chittagong. The settlement was established after the Bengal Sultanate granted permission to embassies from Portuguese India for the creation of a trading post. The Portuguese settlers in Chittagong included bureaucrats, merchants, soldiers, sailors, missionaries, slave traders and pirates. North Bengal is a term used for the north-western part of Bangladesh and northern part of West Bengal. The Bangladeshi part comprises Rajshahi Division and Rangpur Division. Generally, it is the area lying west of Jamuna River and north of Padma River, and includes the Barind Tract. During the sultanate period, a distinct and glorious Islamic style of architecture developed the region.[134] Most Islamic buildings were small and highly artistic terracotta mosques with multiple domes and no minarets. Bengal was also home to the largest mosque in South Asia at Adina. Bengali vernacular architecture is credited for inspiring the popularity of the bungalow.[135]. Could Urban Development in North Bengal influence an Identity Movement? 13. Identity Movement and Urbanization ABOUT AUTHOR 349 375 317. International Science Congress Association ii. International E Publication www.isca.me , www.isca.co.in. North Bengal and the Rajbanshis In pre-colonial times, the regions which are now designated as North West Bangladesh and northern West Bengal were then collectively known as North Bengal. North West Bangladesh contains sixteen districts under two Divisions (namely, Rangpur and Rajshahi). On the other International Science Congress Association 1. Contrary to popular impressions, the pace of urbanization in contemporary developing countries is no more rapid than were the patterns of a century ago in the West (Preston, 1979) While it is true that most third world cities are growing very rapidly often at rates of two or three percent per annum the pace of population growth in rural areas has been almost. Initially drawn as cheap labour for the tin mines and rubber plantations of the colonial economy, many Chinese and Indian immigrants and their children subsequently entered the urban economy as petty merchants.