



A Micro Level Analysis Of Occupational Structure And Economic Development At Pingla In Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal

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Abstract

Occupational structure of any country reflects the distribution of population's workforce across different economic sectors (primary, secondary and tertiary). It plays a crucial role in understanding a region's economic development, social progress and population characteristics. In India, a higher portion of the population engaged in the primary sector (agriculture) generally correlates with lower economic development though occupational structure has been shifting in, especially in the last few decades to the secondary (manufacturing) and tertiary (services) sectors, indicates increasing development leading to higher income and improved living standards. This study analyzes occupational structure and economic development at Pingla in Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal. Pingla C.D block is heavily dominated by the agricultural sector but other sector like livestock (dairy, poultry, goat and piggy farming) also important for income generation. As majority of the people engaged in primary sector, indicates lower economic development. Nowadays occupational structure has been gradually shifting from primary to secondary and tertiary thus, development also increasing slowly. This study based on both primary and secondary data. Data represented in percentage. Simple cartographic technique has been applied for data analysis.

Keywords: Occupational structure, Workforce, Economic Activity, Analysis, Economic development, Trend.

Introduction:

The occupational structure of a country refers to the division of its workforce engaged in different economic activities. In India, the occupational structure is divided into three categories: primary, secondary and tertiary activities. The development is calculated in terms of how many people are involved in each category of the occupational sector. There is a close relationship between development of an economy and its occupational structure. In India, the secondary sector absorbed less worker compared to the primary and tertiary sector(Kumar et al; 1995). 'The development path of rural economy is derived from the shifting of workers from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors. As we know that the workers in the developed countries are generally engaged in the secondary and tertiary sector(P.Sethy,2020) .This paper analysis the occupational structure and economic development at Pingla in Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal. Here most of the people depend on the agriculture to sustain their livelihood pattern.

Literature review:

1. Siddiqui (2003) studies structure of employment and levels of economic development under two points, first employment under major occupation groups and second, the employment region. In his study primary, secondary and tertiary occupations are combined together in terms of scores and average is together is calculated to present the performance of employment region with the help of score method. The level of development and its regional distribution is attempted by combining six different variables of economic development.
2. According to Singh (2023),the occupational structure of a region shows the socio-economic characteristics the people inhabiting a particular region or country and for this reason, discuss and also shows the trend of occupational structure of Manipur from 1991 to 2011 censuses where ,workers engaged in non-agricultural activities in Manipur gradually increasing rather than agricultural activities.
3. Colin Clark in his book "Conditions of Economic Progress " is of the view that there is a close relationship between economic development and occupational structure of a country. According to him, a higher per capita income is always associated with a higher proportion of the working population employed in tertiary industries. While a low per capita income is always associated with a low proportion of working force employed in tertiary sector.

Research gap and Problem Analysis:

Pingla is located in an area with high human development indices in education though a significant percentage of people's are farmers. This suggests that agriculture is a primary occupation but not the sole one in this region. On the other hand economic development and increasing non-profitability agricultural operations lead the workers of Pingla to seek other avenues of livelihood, for diversification of their economy. Besides these, there has been no micro-level analysis conducted. That's why occupational structure and economic development at Pingla is the subject matter of this paper.

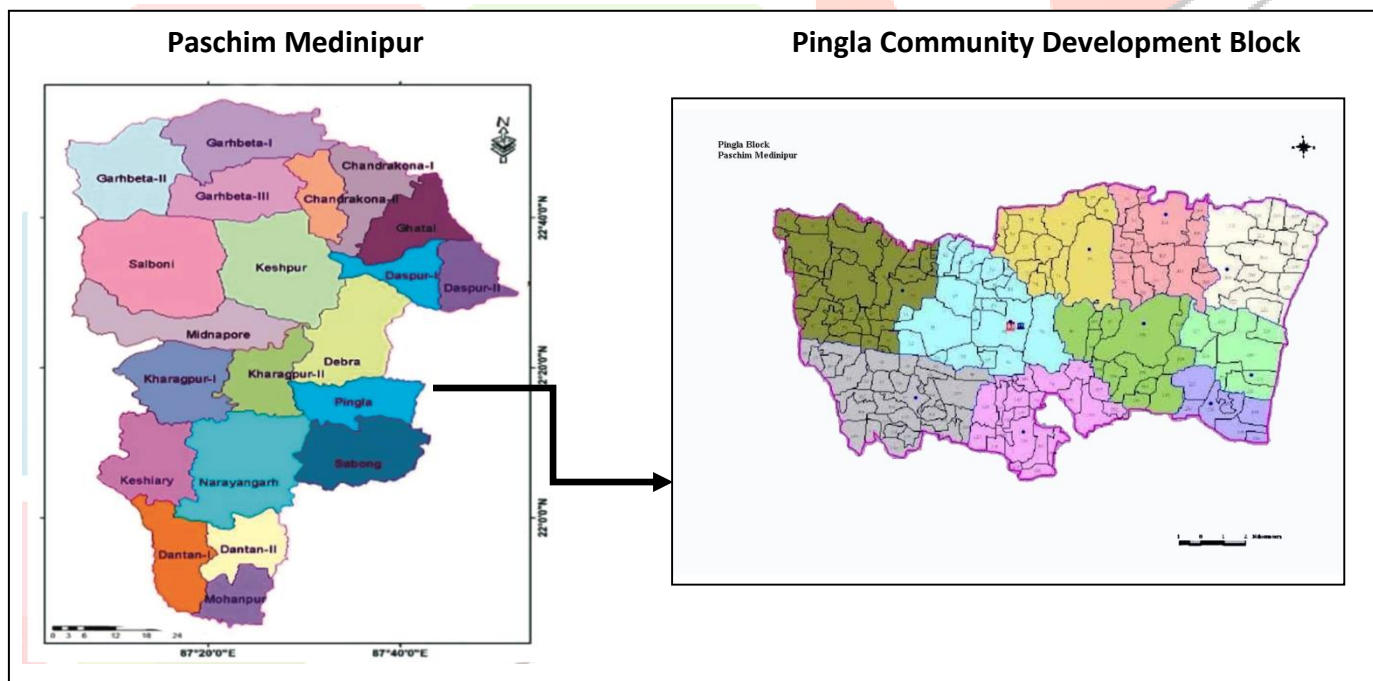
Objectives of the study:

1. To study the current status of occupational structure in relation with economic development at Pingla.
2. To examine the changing occupational structure at Pingla over different time from census 2001 to 2011.

Study Area:

Pingla is a community development block located at 22°16'19"N, 87°35'08"E. It forms an administrative division in the Kharagpur sub-division of Paschim Medinipur District in the Indian state of West Bengal. It has an area of 224.48Km² It has 1Panchayt Samity,10 gram panchayat,142 gram sangsads, 182 mouzas and 175 inhabited villages (Figure -1).

Figure -1: Location Map of Study Area



Topography of Pingla is flat. Average elevation 10m, maximum 27m, minimum 2m. The average annual rainfall is approximately 1750mm. Alluvial soil found all over the block which is fertile for agriculture. About 18600 hectare land is cultivated land out of 21,948 of total geographical area.

The count of occupied people of Pingla block is 99286, however 95523 are non work and out of 99286 occupied individual peoples are totally reliant on agriculture.

According to the 2011 census of India Pingla C.D block had a total population of 194,809 all of which were rural. There were 99,988(51%)males and 94821(49%)females. Literacy in Pingla block is 83.57%.

Materials and Method:

Secondary data collected from District Statistical Handbook, Paschim Medinipur (Specific handbooks covering the year 2013-14),Census of India 2001 and 2011.Primary data collected from people of this area by using questionnaires and interviews. Data represented in percentage. Simple cartographic technique has been applied for data analysis.

Analysis:

Occupational structure in Pingla C.D Block can be classified four categories on the basis of working status, census of India 2011.These categories include cultivators, agricultural laborers, household and other workers.

Figure-2 : Occupational Structure in Pingla (in %), 2011

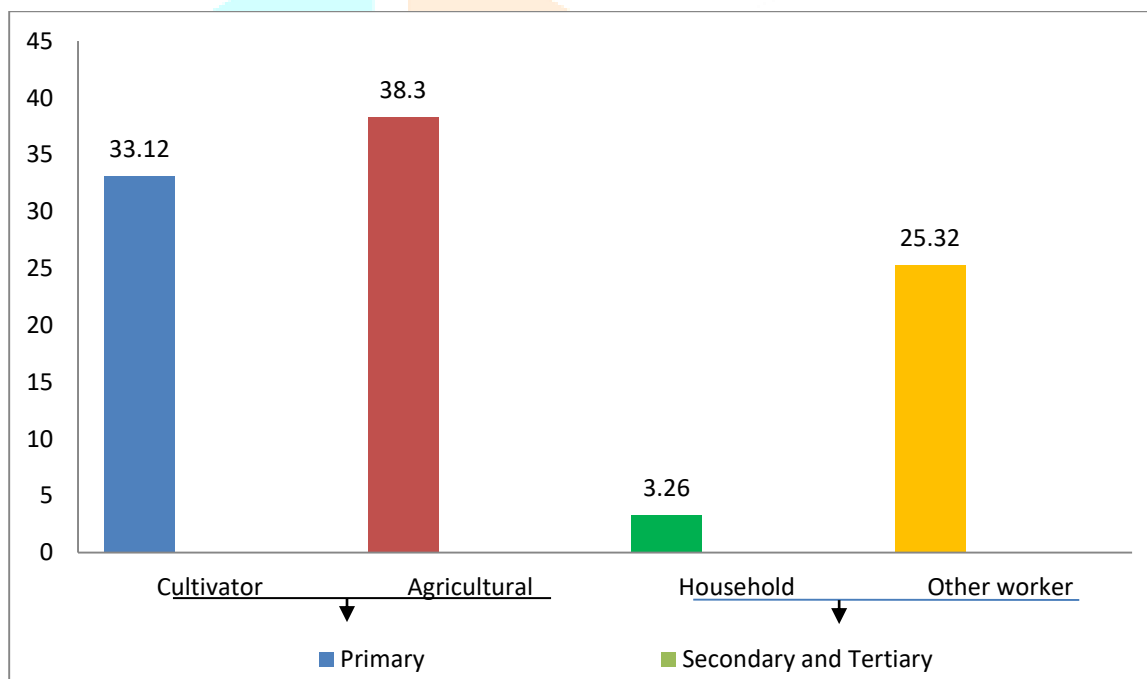


Figure-2 shows that in Pingla 33 33.12% population are cultivators, 38.03% are agricultural laborers,3.26% are household and 25.32% are other workers. All these categories of occupations can be divided into three broad structure such as primary, secondary and tertiary. Therefore first two categories of cultivators and agricultural laborers are considered as primary and other two, household and other workers considered as secondary and tertiary.

But the agricultural structure from 2013-14 shows a workforce dominated by agricultural laborers 46.90%,followed by patta holders 26.70%, marginal farmers 19.35% bargadars 3.75% and small farmers 3.29% (Figure-2).The broader economic context is tied to agriculture due to region 's alluvial soil. #Economic development or growth is related to improvement of the secondary and tertiary sectors.

Table-1 : Occupational structure in Pingla C.D Block (in %)

Year	Cultivator	Agricultural Labour	Household worker	Other worker
2001	45.1	30.08	4.26	20.56
2011	33.12	38.3	3.26	25.32

Source : Census of India 2001, 2011

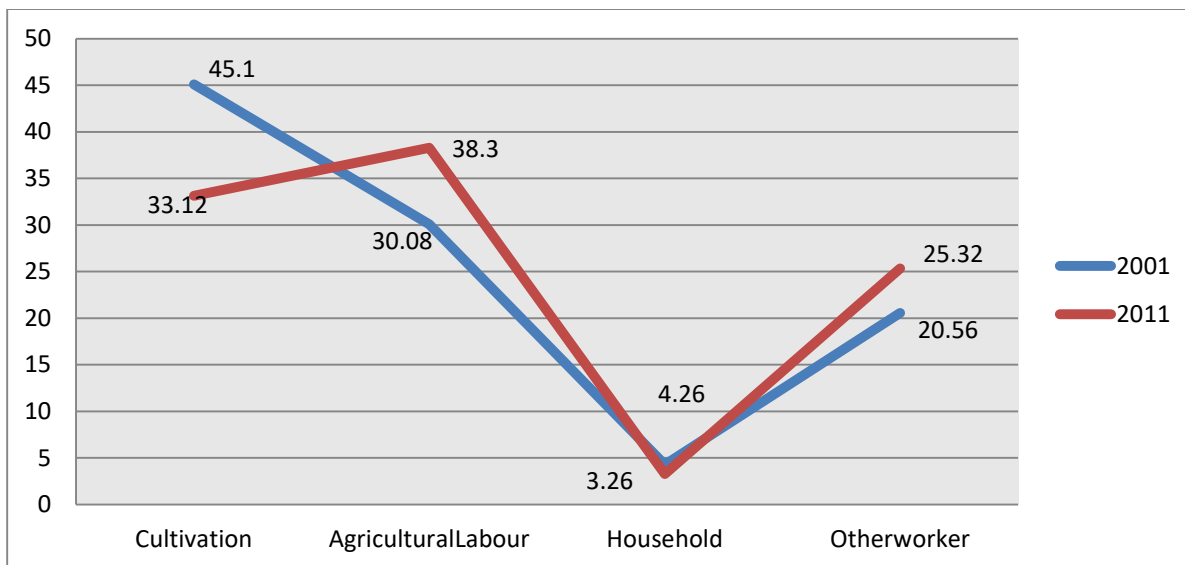
Figure-3 Trend of Occupational structure in Pingla C.D Block (in %), 2001 – 2011

Table-1 and Figure-3 shows that occupational structure at the Pingla C.D. Blocks. With economic development there has been a positive change or shift in occupational structure in Pingla from primary to secondary and tertiary sector. There has been a decline in the percentage of population dependent in agriculture, increase in the percentage of population dependent in industry, services etc.

Table-2 : Occupational Distribution in Pingla

Sl No.	Distribution of Occupation	% of population at Pingla
1	Agricultural Labour	35
2	Cultivator	30
3	Service	15
4	Business	10
5	Industries/ Factories	5
6	Wag Earner	2
7	Other	3

Source: Primary Data

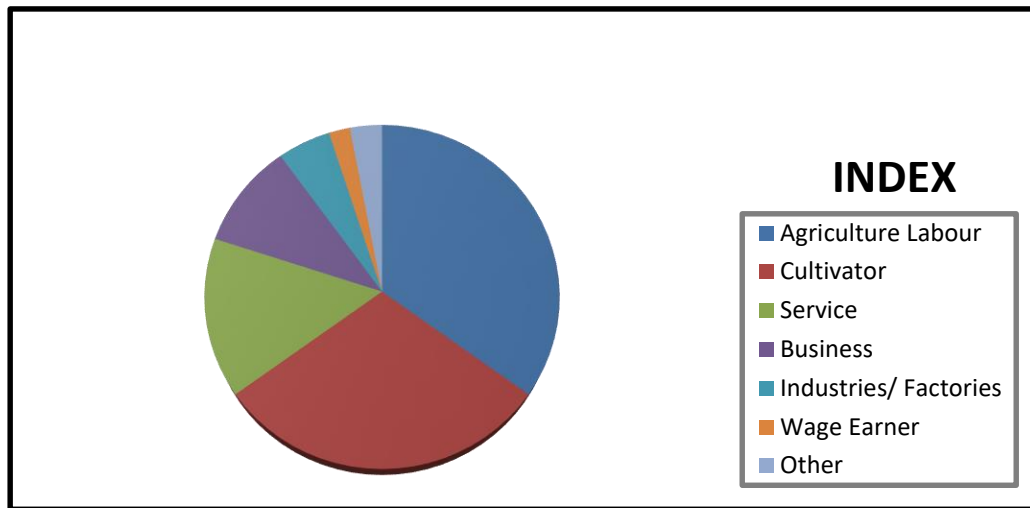
Figure -4 : Occupational stricture in Pingla

Table-2 and Figure-4 shows that at Pingla about 35% population are engaged as agricultural labour and 30% as cultivators, while 2% are wage earner (worker as jewellery, furniture marble colour and painting), 5% are engaged in factories or industries, 10% involving in business and only 3% are engaged in other allied activities like dairy, poultry, fisheries etc. Therefore economic development gradually increasing as population shifted involving in primary to secondary and tertiary sectors through the time.

For their occupational activities, people at Pingla migrate their nearest places (Medinipur, Kharagpur, Howra, Kolkata etc.), out of the state (U.P, Odisha, Bihar, M.P, Gujrat, Delhi) and also out of the country (Dubai).

Cultural Occupation:

In the specific village of Naya Pingla, a unique community of potuas, or scroll painters are engaged in their traditional artwork, which is a form of cultural business.

Results:

1. Population engaged in primary sector 71.42% (2011 Census).
2. Occupational structure increases from primary to secondary and tertiary including 3.76% from 2001 to 2011.
3. Economic development at Pingla gradually increasing as occupational structure has been shifted.
4. People in low economic classes mainly engaged in livestock farming which is about 5%.

Conclusion:

We know the development of a country is directly proportional to the percentage of the population working in each sector of the occupational structure of that country. As the majority of the in Pingla lives in rural areas and activities related to agriculture is their only source of income, agriculture is the primary activity of the occupational structure and comprises 70-75% of the working population, it may be says that this block is less developed. But as the people of Pingla move from primary activities to secondary or tertiary activities thus it develops more through the time

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