



ISSN 2278 – 0211 (Online)

Industrial Resource Development Prospect Bankura District, West Bengal

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Abstract:

In modern times industries have become very important part of an economy. Industries provide employment to large labour force and contribute significantly in the total national wealth/income. Industrial growth changes the economic structure of an area rapidly. In India, industries are the second most important sector of economy after agriculture. The rapid population growth during the last 50 years in India is the major challenge of our economy. At that time industrial development is an utmost necessity to manage of our economy.

The economy of Bankura is mainly agrarian. Yet there is a large scope of employment generation through industrialization. Bankura district is one of the backward district of West Bengal. Here workers are higher in number but due to lack of working sector employment generation and food security is hampering at the different parts of the district. In this situation industrialization is urgent necessary work to develop the district. The district is broadly divisible into two regions; there is wide variation in geographical features as well as in the economic and social life patterns. The pace of industrialization in the district has historically remained slow. Here no worth mentioning industries, till some years ago except a few like some alloy steel plant at Bishnupur and Barjora, Mejia thermal power plant, Kangsabati spinning mill etc. This has however picked up in recent years. In this paper we will try to explain the favourable environmental condition of industrial development and prospect through simple statistical and cartographic method by which the backwardness of the district should be eradicated.

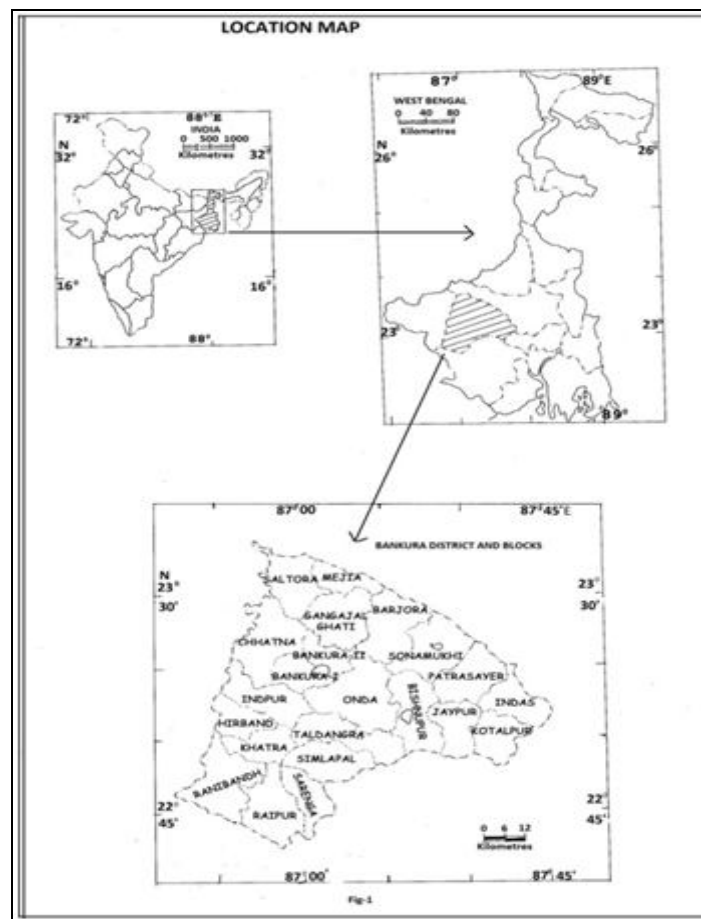
Key words: food security, agrarian economy, industrialization, labour force

1. Introduction

Industry is the production of an economic goods or services within an economy. Industry has power to develop the economy of any region rapidly than the agriculture. The district Bankura is mainly an agrarian. Here workers is higher in number than the number of working days. A large number of people seasonally migrate to the eastern most districts like Burdwan, Hooghly for work at the paddy sowing and cutting season. In this respect industrial development is so necessary work to give working facility of the peoples who migrate seasonally. On the other hand the districts have some good facilities for industrial development. If the development is possible of the district the regional balance of the state should be maintained which should be a good sign of our national economy also.

2. Study Area

The district Bankura is located in between the 22°38' 00" north to 23°38'00" north latitude and 86°36'00" east to 87°46'00" East longitudes. The total area of this district is 6882.00 square kilometers. It has 22 blocks, 3 municipalities, 23 police station, 3830 mouzas , 190 gram panchayat and 1896 gram sansads (Census,2011) . The district is surrounded by the district of West Medinipur to the south, Hooghly and Burdwan to the east and north and Purulia from west. (Map-1)



Map 1

3. Objectives

- The main objectives of this study is to show the industrial resources of this district
- To show the favourable environmental condition of industrialization of this district
- To show the present status of industrialization of this district
- To show the industrial future prospect of this district

4. Data Source and Methodology

The study is based on from both primary and secondary data sources. West Bengal District Gezetters(1968), Census of both 2001 and 2011, the District's Human Development Report 2004 are the main source of secondary data. The primary data has been collected through observation, collection of taking photo and oral interview of the different people's of the district are the most important. First at the pre field stage the study of different books, plan for collection of different data from different offices and the tour almost of all the blocks was so important to collect the primary data. After collecting the of all data I have tried to prepare this paper by simple cartographic Method.

5. Factors Conducive For Industrialization

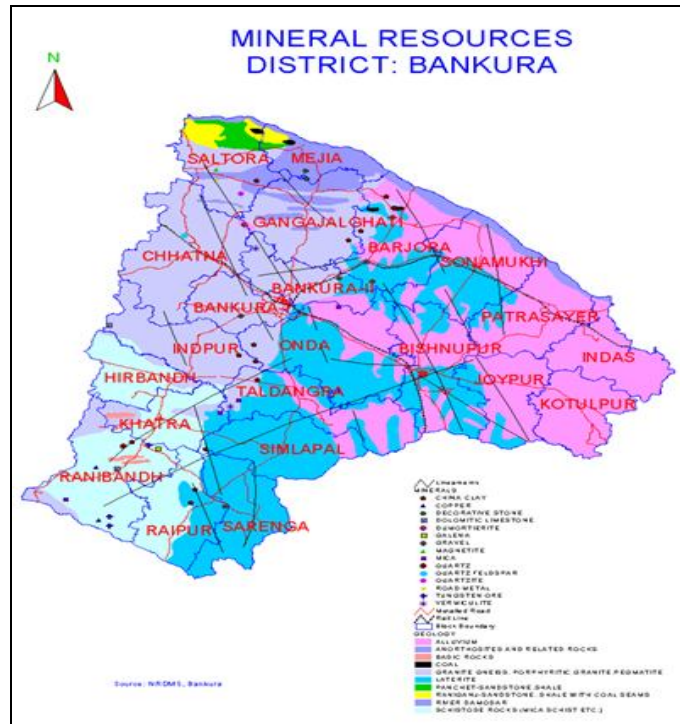
The following factors in this district are available for industrialization

5.1. Source of minerals

The district Bankura is very rich in some minerals like coal,copper, tungsten, kayanide, cheoline, talc, redoxide, feldsper, lead and mica *etc.* There is big potential to tab this resource and put up related industries. (Map-2)

- **Coal** – Coal is the main mineral of this district. The principal coal mines areas are situated in Mejia,Saltora,Barjora and Gangajalghati area.Mejia itself holds ten coal mines. Quantity of coal estimated to be present in Bankura is 11 million tonnes throughout an area of 33.5² kilomeres. Some of the open cast and illegal mining are also available here.Around five thousand people are engaged for mining activities. It should help to develop large scale iron and steel plant in these areas.
- **Copper** – The district has a deposit of copper at the different parts like Damdi, Mukutmonipur, Khatra,Sarong,Nilgiri and Narayanpur near Kangsabati Dam, two kilomeres long ridge of copper has been found.

- **Tungsten** – Chhendapather and porapahar have the deposit of this metal in the whole state. It is a rare metal with vast demand in India and abroad.
- **Cayanite** – Balarampur near Mukutmonipur a huge amount of deposit (20 km long) has been found. This is also a valuable mineral. It is used in heaters, high temperature instruments.
- **Cheoline** – A large amount of deposit of cheoline or china clay can be found out at Jolahari Pahar, Dhatara, Malti Thakurdugri, etc in many places of Taldangra police station.
- **Mica** – Almost hundred numbers of pegmatite have been found in Khatra, Indpur, Bankura town, Gangajalghati and Jhilimili though most of them are in the form of either small shaped sheets or powder. The district Bankura is one of the three districts of West Bengal of mica deposits.



Map 2

5.2. Land

Bankura has a varied physiographic feature. As most of the land of this district is monocropped with cropping intensity of 147 percent and general productivity of crops of this (District Human Development Report-2007 pp-110) district is less than the other industrialised districts of West Bengal. This factor should be helpful for setting up the new industries. The northern Bankura is most favourable site because of nearness to Durgapur and Asansol industrial belts. (Table-1)

Subdivision	Cost per Bigha in Rupees
Bankura	1,80,000.00-2,40,000.00
Bishnupur	2,00,000.00-2,60,000.00
Khatra	1,90,000.00-2,30,000.00

Table 1: Cost of Land: A picture
 Source- Field survey 2013 in the month of June (open price by the landlord)

This price of land is a general picture it may vary slightly between the different blocks. This low cost land price should be a attraction of industrialist.

5.3. Water

The ground water is very poor especially at the western part of the district. A very low amount of water are percolated to the underground water. But the runoff of mainly three rivers Damoder, Dwarakeshwer and Kangsabati of these districts may supply a large amount of water for industries.

Damoder plays an important role in providing water to the industries based in north Bankura. Of course the present source need augmentation to fullfill the requirement of the industries. The Kangsabati dam at the southern Bankura may help to develop the large

scale water requiring like iron and steel industry may develop. By proper management and planning water resources may be used favorably for industrial purposes.

5.4. Labour

The district has abundance of surplus of labour. In the census 2011 the district has a greater percentage of labourforce. Among the nineteen district of West Bengal this districts shares number one position of labourforce. The wage level is in any case low because of low demand. A sizable population goes seasonal migration every year, which indicates that there is a surplus of labour. By the expansion of technical studies skilled labour may be supplied easily for industrial purposes. The following table shows the excess labour force of this district. (Table-2)

Sl. No	Category	Percentage with respect to the Population
1	Main Workers	25.48
2	Marginal Workers	15.29
3	Non Workers	59.23
4	Cultivators	8.61
5	Agricultural Labourers	18.00
6	Household industries	1.71
7	Other Workers	12.44

Table 2: Classification of workers
Source: Primary Census Abstract: 2011

5.5. Electricity

The Mejia thermal power plant within the district and other some thermal power project like Durgapur, Sautaldihi, Kolaghat can be a boon for the proposed industries for Bankura. In this district out of the 3830 mouzas 2890 mouzas are electrified Which is 75.5 percentage (2005-2006) .This picture may support to the industrialist to establish the industrial projects.
(Source: Office of the sub divisional Engineers Rural electrification)W.B.S.E.B

5.6. Communication Network

This is the most important to building investment climate in the district.(Table No- 3).Dense network of rail and road help to supply goods quickly to the projects. This environment is available here only some positive management and planning steps is necessary for this purposes.

National highway	State highway	District Road	Village Road	Railway	Total
126	356	389	328	385	1584

Table 3: Rail and Road Connectivity (Distance In Kilometres 2010-2011)
Source: P.W.D., Govt. Of West Bengal and Bureau of Applied economics and Statistics, West Bengal

Besides this roads *Prodhan Montri Sarak Yojona* road and other roads like *Zila Parisad*, *Panchayet Samity* and *panchayet* road are most important also which help to develop the industries in this district.

5.7. Telecommunication Facility

Telecommunication facility is one of the most important factors to develop the industries. At present in the district near ninety percent areas have mobile phone facility. This is the most important sides to develop the industries in these districts.

6. Present Status of Industrial Investment

Though the districts have good potential for industrialization the investment scenario has been bleak till 1999. After that the scenario has been changing. Northern and northeastern part nearer to Durgapur and Asansol industrial belts like Barjora and Mejia and Gangajalghati there are several sponge iron and steel industries has developed. Recently at Bishnupur there is several sponge iron and steel plant has developed.

The following table has shown the industrial scenario of these districts

Year	No of Units built-up	Number of persons employed	Types of units
2003-04	7	681	Newspaper printing,bleaching,dying and printing of cotton textiles,ferro-chrome,potato preservation,steel products,warehouse of agricultural products,pig iron and steel metal, flyash etc
2004-05	21	2617	
2005-06	16	5896	

Table 4

Source: Annual Report and quaterly report published by the directorate of industries, West Bengal

The above data are clear indication of positive scenario of industrialization of this district. This district has many handloom industries especially at Bishnupur and Sonamukhi where Baluchari sari and silk sari are exported to the other state of India and foreign also. (Banerjee, A.K., 1968.) On the other hand Brass and Bell metal utensils, conchshell, tasar weaving, lac industry, and wool making, pottery making, lantern industries, Terracotta products at Bishnupur, chaina clay products, agrobased ricemill and seed farm at Patrasayer block Rasulpur are most important industries available here.

7. Industrial Prospect and Suggestion for Future Development

The blocks like barjora, Mejia, Gangajalghati, Saltpra have several medium and large scale industries. These areas have some local potentiality to develop more industries also. The minerals and mining play a vital role in the economy of Bankura. The blocks like Chhatna, Saltora, Khatra, Ranibandh, Bankura, Indpur, Raipur, Taldangra are most important for setting up of mineral based industries. The blocks like Indas, Bishnupur, Sonamukhi, Patrasayer, Joypur, Katulpur have been setting up agriculture based industries like ricemill, oil mills and seedfarms. There is scope for more.

The forest wealth of Khatra, Sarenga, Raipur and Ranibandh areas has always been remarkable. From these areas medicinal flora and fauna, various forest products are exported to the home and other state also. These areas have good potentiality to develop the Ayurvedic products and forest products also. This may generate several employment opportunities for these purposes. New species of herbs and medicinal plants may be planted in the vacant areas and unutilised forest land also. Research and planning is necessary for this purposes by government.

Cottage and small scale industry constitutes a major segment of the district's economy. It provides maximum employment opportunities next to agriculture and accounts nearly nine percent of the district's economy. It is required to plan especially by government for textiles industries especially of silk and Baluchari sari and other clothes of Bishnupur and Sonamukhi. It has good potentiality of future development.

It is required to develop the infrastructure especially by one way road and rail connectivity, all time electricity, water conservation projects, easy way for land acquisition after good return to the land owner, establishment of more I.T.I (Industrial Training Institute), and engineering college for efficient workers etc.

8. Conclusion

Through this discussion we have tried to explain the industrial resource development prospect of these districts by different means. We will hope that if all the suggestions, present status and the favourable geographical and other socio economical conditions should be encourage the industrialists to develop the different types of industries in this districts. This should be a future economic developmental term of these districts.

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