

**ABSTRACT**  
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Title of the Thesis: **GENESIS OF URBAN FLOOD IN BURDWAN TOWN**

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**ABSTRACT**

Floods are the most prevalent natural disasters that cause widespread devastation. As the name implies, an urban flood is the influx of massive amounts of water caused by torrential rainfall. It may occasionally be associated with extreme events such as cyclones, but the main cause is haphazard urban growth, excessive rate of concretion, the emergence of slums, expansion beyond the natural flood barrier, poorly maintained sanitation, and so on. Several scientific assessments suggest that increasing sea levels and flooding could affect over 15 million people in metropolitan areas alone by 2030. But the unfortunate and alarming part is the issue of urban flooding never got the same importance as other types of natural disasters, such as earthquakes or hurricanes, because it is typically viewed as a localized issue that affects only certain areas of a city. The situation is the worst in case of old towns like Burdwan in West Bengal, which faces flooding in many of its wards due to mostly anthropocentric causes (Excessive rate of increase of population and unplanned urbanization since last few decades, improper urban drainage system including sewage and sanitation system and ill maintenance of them, degeneration of *Banka* Khal from a navigable river to a dump site over centuries and unscientific municipal solid waste management), coupled with structural, climatological and hydrological factors. This study aims to discuss the influence of the aforementioned factors in the flooding situation, the impact of urban flooding on various socio-economic groups in the town and formulate some practical measures for this chaotic state with well-sought methodology including acknowledged geospatial procedures and proven quantitative approaches. The outcome shows that expanding urban areas, diminishing water bodies, the presence of *kutcha* (Non concreted) drains, and intensified population density have played a significant role in flooding situation. To get relief from these circumstances, the Urban Local Body that is the Municipality should keep parity in both structural and non-structural development, including appropriate Town Planning.

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