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Synopsis

Title: Immigration in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011 with Special Emphasis on Bengal Partition and Bangladesh Liberation War

Introduction:

After the partition of India in 1947, the whole of British India was divided into two different countries viz. India and Pakistan. The consequence of Partition created major turmoil among the people of both these countries and large-scale two-way migration occurred. The displacement from East Pakistan and as well all over the world is enumerated in Indian Census from 1951 and it continued to 2011. This study mainly highlights the large-scale immigration in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011 from outside states of West Bengal and also from different parts of the world and how the immigrants choose different districts for their destination.

Objectives:

- This study examines the immigration pattern of West Bengal after independence and their settlements in different districts.
- This study also highlights the East Pakistan refugee issues in West Bengal and their displacement during Bengal Partition and Bangladesh Liberation War.

Methodology:

The study is based on data from secondary sources. Census reports, archival documents, published papers, books, internet sources will be used as secondary sources. After collecting the data it is represented with the help of GIS. Graphs, tables, and maps are used to visualize the outcome of the study.

Outcomes:

After interpreting the whole database it has been observed that from 1951 to 2011 the maximum number of in-migrants from outside states of West Bengal concentrated in 24 Parganas, Kolkata, and Bardhaman districts. Immigrants from outside India (majority of them are from Bangladesh) mainly chose 24 Parganas and Kolkata due to the availability of fertile and vacant lands and economic opportunities. Nepali migrants are the second major number of immigrants entering West Bengal and mainly concentrated in the northern parts of West Bengal due to the presence of their co-religionists. In-migrants from outside West Bengal mainly come from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh due to the presence of the Jute industry in West Bengal.