

**DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT PATTERN IN PERI-URBAN
AREAS OF WEST BENGAL IN THE CONTEXT OF GROWTH,
GOVERNANCE AND GLOBALISATION**

Synopsis Submitted By

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SYNOPSIS of the Topic:

All the cities in India and their peripheries are in transition today. The situation has become complex due to rapid economic development and urbanisation. More than 50 years ago when Kolkata's basic development plan was prepared, it was found that more than 70% of the urban population lived in Kolkata Metropolitan Regional area. Now with the development of peripheral rural area, towns and district the percentage has been reduced to 65% according to census as the liveability in the city centers has been reduced with limited highly priced resources. It is evident from this, that facilities for livelihood are generating in the areas surrounding bigger metropolitan area periphery, but the modernisation and globalisation have created a kind of disparity and imbalance between affluence and poverty in these areas. These peripheral areas have gone through a "leap frog development" as the Americans say. Such as areas on metropolitan bypass, North of KMDA, West Howrah, Hooghly with their available land have undergone such developments – planned or unplanned – with or without infrastructure. West Bengal like any other state has many development plans, perspective vision plans etc. but actual development patterns do not at all follow these in reality. Municipalities and panchayats have been given separate powers to plan and execute projects on their own. But the profit-making objectives are more prominent than social and public interest or values. This way the whole development in these areas is no more a community but a commodity in the changing economy. They are full of people but human face is being lost in the development. Government has also developed certain Yojanas, and projects for these areas, but almost all of it has only been in papers.

The peripheral areas of a city or shall we call it peri urban is of utmost importance because of the ever-shifting foci of a large part of the urban population towards lucrative cheaper housing / accommodation or migrants from immediate rural areas. The reduced land values, less traffic congestion & pollution, better accessibility through connecting NHs, huge amount of green open spaces, has risen the demand of Housing and the developers, and policy makers greed. Along with the generation of housing, the developers/ investors are also investing money on mass housing accommodation, science-business-IT parks, hypermarkets, superstores, office, hotels and conference centers. But are facing severe consequences due to lack of services and amenities or proper planning guidelines through a complete and independent sustainable developmental goal report also due to negligence of the local body authorities. Therefore, with the lack of proper zoning, & infrastructural development the human settlement in the peri urban areas is at stake from losing its primary objective of being pollution free, faster traffic zones or keeping up the face value of the urban-rural fabric. And even poses as a dead end to demarcate the between Urban and Rural.

This research will identify the problems from the past, learn from the present and prepare for future for the efficient development of the human settlement pattern in peri-urban areas of West Bengal in the context of Growth Governance and Globalisation.

Keywords: Peri-urban, Human settlement, Growth, Governance, Globalisation

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