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## **Decadal Variation in the Distribution of Unemployment Rate of Kaliachak C. D. Blocks in Malda District (West Bengal)**

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### **Abstract:**

*In the Life-cycle of an individual the earning phase is significant not only it is lengthy but also it determines his livelihood and status. Unemployed individual not only fails to gain any status in the society but also suffers from several emotional and social problems. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to trace out the issues of Decadal Variation in the Distribution of Unemployment rate of Kaliachak C.D. blocks into two sections. The first section analyzes the decadal variation of unemployment rate of India, West Bengal and Malda District .In 2001 census the unemployment rate in Malda District was 59.25%, against 63.23 % and 60.54 % of West Bengal and the nation respectively .According to the census 2011 the unemployment rate of Malda District is 61.45 %, in the West Bengal is 61.92 % and the India is 60.20 %. The second section attempts to analyse the decadal variation in distribution of unemployment rate of three blocks of Kaliachak along with male and female non-worker. The rate of non-worker has highly increased of Kaliachak – I Block 42.00 % to 56.56 % in the census period 2001 to 2011, Kaliachak - III 46.40 % to 53.33 % in the census period 2001 to 2011 But in Kaliachak - II increased at very low rate 56.80 % to 57.27 % during 2001 to 2011. According to the census 2011 Female non-worker are very high than the male in the three blocks. In Kaliachak - I the female non-worker increased very high 21.55 % to 29.33 % in the 2001 to 2011, Kaliachak -II is 27.95 % to 32.18 % and in the Kaliachak - III increased at very low rate 27.58 % to 28.74 % during census 2001 to 2011.*

**Keywords:** *Decadal variation, unemployment, non-worker, Livelihood, social problems*

### **1. Introduction**

Every individual in this mundane world has come to perform his duties. He starts to learn different things with an cordial aspiration to implement learned knowledge in his significant later life so that the knowledge on that specific matter may able earn his livelihood fame and recognition in various aspects like agricultural aspects, educational disciplines and so many.

The cotemporary world is confronting different kinds of Socio - Economic, political and environmental problems but among them the problem of unemployment is most serious and burning one as it is the unemployment that has created various severe problems especially in the developing countries of this globe. That is why; the problem of unemployment has figured universal shape. As a consequence of critical matter of unemployment the rate of social diseases and problems like theft, violence, drug taking, crime etc. has been increasing its volume at galloping rate. Next come the poverty very much linked with unemployment as well as inequality. Long term unemployment can actually ruin the family, community and the society.

The unemployment people are those who are wanting to work or are willing to work but they cannot find it at the going wage. In other words, an unemployment person is one who is an active member of the labour force and is able and seek work, but is unable to find work during a specified reference period (a week or a month or a year). In other words, an unemployed person is one who having potentialities and Willingness to earn, is unable to find a remunerative work. Sociologically, it has been defined as forced or involuntary separation from remunerative work of a member of the normal working force during normal conditions. D 'Mello (1969 ) has defined it as a condition in which an individual is not in a state of remunerative occupation despite his to do so .The planning commission of India has described a person as marginally unemployed when he remains without work for six Months in a year . Against this, Indian Labour organization (ILO) considers that persons an employee who remains with work for 15 hours (two days) in a week (of five days)

### 1.1. Study Area

Kaliachak is located in the southern part of Malda district in West Bengal. Kaliachak consists of three blocks. These are known as Kaliachak-I, Kaliachak-II, Kaliachak-III. Kaliachak Block-I extends between latitudes  $24^{\circ}48'11''$  N to  $24.803^{\circ}$  N and longitudes  $88^{\circ}01'44''$  E to  $88.029^{\circ}$  E. It is spreading over on area of  $106.60 \text{ Km}^2$  supported with large number of population 392507. Kaliachak Block-II extends between latitudes  $24^{\circ}57'49''$  N to  $24.963^{\circ}$  N and longitudes  $88^{\circ}05'22''$  E to  $88.0895^{\circ}$  E. It is spreading over on area of  $209.17 \text{ Km}^2$  with 210105 populations. Kaliachak Block-III extends between latitudes  $24^{\circ}45'47''$  N to  $24.763^{\circ}$  N and longitudes  $88^{\circ}06'32''$  E to  $88.109^{\circ}$  E. It is spreading over on area of  $127.37 \text{ Km}^2$  having large number of population 359081.

### 1.2. Objectives

The study has been initiated to fulfill the following objectives-

- To find out the decadal variation of non-worker population of India, West Bengal and Malda District.
- To analyze the decadal variation rate of non – worker population in the Kaliachak three blocks including male and female.

### 1.3. Data Base and Methodology

The paper is mainly based on secondary data which has been collected from community block development office, District Labour Organization, article in journals, innumerable newspapers and Census of India 2011. The primary data has been gathered through pre-designed questionnaires for the target groups of people of the study area. The compiled data are interpreted appropriately and represented by means of cartographic technique to find out the Decadal Variation in the distribution of unemployment rate in the study area.

## 2. Decadal Variation in the Distribution of Unemployment

Population Geography clearly and vividly represents the size and character of unemployment. It is obviously are among the major issues to determine the living condition of the people as there are not sufficient jobs and vocations for all the people. The present paper describes with analysis into two different sections, first section deals with the Trends of unemployment rate of India, West Bengal and Malda District where the second section of the paper makes an attempt to analyse Block-wise unemployment and Block-wise Male and Female unemployment.

### 2.1. Trends of Unemployment Rate (1951-2011)

The state of affairs of unemployment in our country (India) is very high in comparison with many developed parts of the world. Since decades, the unemployment rate in the country, state and district have been changing.

Census	India	West Bengal	Malda
1951	60.09	65.32	73.08
1961	57.02	66.84	67.21
1971	67.07	72.09	72.91
1981	63.30	69.83	69.69
1991	62.54	67.81	65.31
2001	60.54	63.23	59.25
2011	60.20	61.92	61.45

Table 1: Trends of Unemployment Rate in Percentage  
Census of India 2011

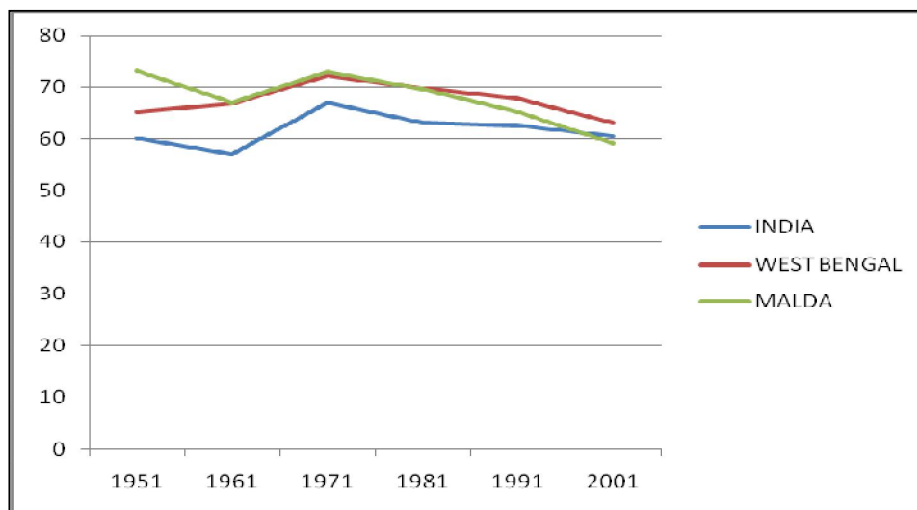


Figure 1: Trends of unemployment rate in percentage

The available data about the unemployment rate in independent India is portrayed in the Table no. 1. In 1951 the unemployment rate was 60.09 percent in India, where as it was highly increased in West Bengal (65.32 percent) in the District of Malda (73.08 percent). The position became reverse in 1961 when unemployment rate decrease to 57.02 % and 67.21 % in the country and in the district respectively while there was a slightly increase in unemployment rate in the state 65.32 % to 66.84 % which was mainly due to the political instability and disturbances in the state. The decrease in the national level was mainly due to the definition of worker adopted in 1961 census, which allowed many persons to be included in the category of workers. In 1961 a person working as little as one hour work in a day was treated as a worker. According a women ,whose time is basically utilized in household duties , was defined worker even if she took food on the field, catered the cattle or did some other work. In the census1961,in pursuance of some demographers, the income concept was given up and the concept of worked measured in terms of time or the labor force was introduced. This concept includes all unpaid family member as workers and therefore, the unemployment rate was observed to be reduced. But this concept was changed in 1971. In the census 1971a man or woman who was engaged primarily in household duties such as cooking for own household, whether a person helped in the family's economic activities as a part time worker or not was not treated as worker but they are put in the category of non-worker. Consequently the unemployment rates highly increased in the country (67.07 per cent), the state (72.09 percent) and Malda (72.91 per cent) with the increase 10.05 per cent points, 5.25 per cent points, 5.7 per cent points, respectively over the previous decade. The increase was moreover caused by the change in the age-sex composition of the population. This striking increase of unemployment rate in 1971 may be partly attributed by the change in definition of worker and partly due to the under-enumeration of the Secondary Work of those who were not worker by main activity (Census of India.1971).In 1981 the unemployment rate was 63.30 per cent in India, whereas 69.83 per cent and 69.69 per cent in West Bengal and Malda District respectively. This reduce in the percentage was again caused by the change in the definition of workers. However, this trend was a strong indication of some large scale displacement in the age-sex composition of the population. In the 1991 census, the change of unemployment rate over the previous census was registered for the country (.76 per cent points)and the state (2.02 per cent points)and the district( 4.38 per cent points ).This gradual decrease in unemployment rate may however, again be due to the changing age composition over the decade. As far as 2001 census is concerned, unemployment rate in Malda district is 59.25 per cent against 63.33 per cent and 60.54 per cent of West Bengal and India 1970 and early 1980.According to census 2011, the unemployment rate of Malda district is 61.45 per cent, in West Bengal is 61.92 per cent and in India is 60.20 per cent .Appropriate job oriented employment strategies are being devised by the government based on the recommendations of the expert group on employment opportunities and special group for targeting ten million employment per year.

## 2.2. Blocks Wise Decadal Variation Of Unemployment Rate:

According the census of India there are two types of people in terms of employment such as Worker and Non- Worker .A person who has participated in any economically productive activity with or without compensation or profit is called Worker. Workers are two types-Main Worker and Marginal Worker. A person who worked for 6 months or more during the reference period is called Main Worker. A person who worked for less than 6 months is called Marginal Worker. For the first time census 2011, the Marginal Worker have been sub-divided in two categories, namely those worked for less than 3 months and those who worked for 3 to 6 months. Persons who did not work at all during the reference period includes students, dependents persons, beggars etc are called Non-Worker.

Name of blocks	Non-worker in percentage (1991 – 2011)		
	1991	2001	2011
Kaliachak-I	63.65	42.00	56.56
Kaliachak-II	62.60	56.80	57.27
Kaliachak-III	62.20	46.40	53.33

Table 2: Decadal Variation of Unemployment Rate  
Source: Census of India2011

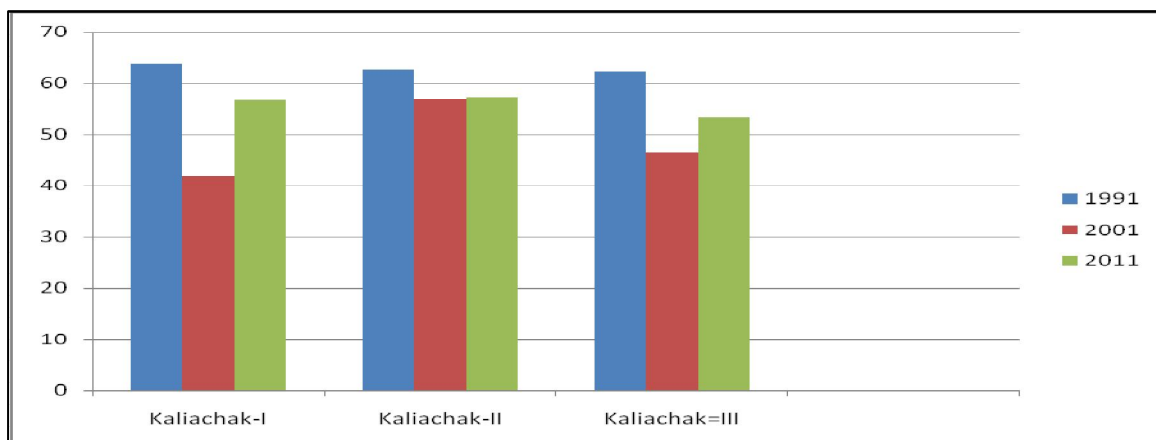


Figure 2: Block wise non-worker in percentage

It is evident from the table no.2 that Kaliachak –I the percentage of non –worker population in the year 1991 was 63.65 % and it decreased at 42.00 % in the year 2001 .After economic reforms (1991 and onwards) some portion of population involved in the sectors of economic activities due to the economic development as well as the infrastructural development. So they did not want engage in their old age profession .They started modifying themselves with the modern work and culture. The power to absorption of work force decreased due the deduction farm sector day after day. In Kaliachak –II the percentage of non-worker population was 62.60 % and it decreased at 56.80 in the year 2001 .In Kaliachak –III. The percentage of non-worker population was 62.20 % in the year 1991 and it decreased at 53.40 % in the year 2001. The people of these area was engaged different types of economic activities such as agricultural activities, houses hold and non-households manufacturing, processing, repairs, constructions, trade and commerce ,transport and other services in villages . The unemployment rate of the Kaliachak three blocks increased in the last decade. In Kaliachak block- I, the percentage of non-worker population increased 42.00 % to 55.56 % in the year 2011, in Kaliachak –II it increased 56.80 % to 57.27 % in the year 2001 to 2011 in Kaliachak –III it increased 53.40 % to 55.33 % in the year 2001 to 2011 .There are so many causes behind this situation .Seasonal unemployment is inherent in the agricultural sectors like Silk, sugar, mango, rice related activities in the study area. Other hand the landholdings are so small than even the family members of the working age groups are not absorbed by the land. It is clear from the table that if we consider youth with at least high school level of education as educated, a bleak picture emerges as unemployment is much more pronounced among these groups while the average unemployment rate very high among youth many graduates and postgraduate are jobless. Nowadays the people of these groups deny the works of road, constructions, factories, bricks field and the Bidi industry. In these sectors their earnings are so low that they cannot fulfill their minimum requirements. Ultimately unemployment makes them extreme victims of extortion and harassment. Now days a large number of boys and girls are seeking work in office, courts, hospital, education institution etc. But those types of working facilities are very scanty in the study area.

### 2.3. Male and Female Unemployment Rate

Female contributes in economic activity through several ways. However, particularly in rural areas where agricultural or artisanal activity is carried out collectively by family labour , female contribute considerable amount of unpaid labour intending livestock and crop production activities . Since much of the worker which female do is unpaid, thus unemployment rate among female is generally high as compared to male counterparts in both rural and urban areas.

Name of blocks	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Kaliachak-I	17.45	21.55	26.96	29.63
Kaliachak-II	28.85	27.95	25.09	32.18
Kaliachak-III	25.82	27.58	24.59	28.74

Table 3: Decadal Variation of Male & Female Non-Worker  
Source: Census of India 2001&2011

In the census 2001 , the male non-worker rate in Kaliachak blocks I ,II & III are 17.45 % ,28.85 % ,25.82 % out of 42.00 % , 56.80 % ,53.40 % non – worker respectively. In the census 2011 the rate of non-worker highly increased only Kaliachak - I is 17. 45 % to 26.96 % (9.51 points) and other two blocks Kaliachak II,III decline at very low 28.85% to 25.09 % ( 3.77 points) and 25.82 % to 24.59 % ( 1.23 points) respectively. In census 2001, the female non – worker in Kaliachak I ,II & III are 21.55 % , 27.95 % , 27.58 % out of 42.00 % ,56.80 % ,53.40 % non-worker respectively. In Kaliachak block –I the rate of female non-worker increased very high 21.55 % to 29.63 % (8.08 points), In Kaliachak –II also the rate is very high 27.95 % to 32 .18 % (4.23 points) and Kaliachak III the rate is increased at very low 1.16 % (27.58 % to 28.74 %).The gender gap in unemployment is very high in three blocks. Female are more unemployed than male worker due to dominating presence of men engaged in every sector. Majority of female worker in the three blocks are engaged in marginal work, the marginal workforce is strongly weighted in favour of female.The employment available to them are still casual in nature and do not offer them employment around the year. Consequently females became compelled to participate in Marginal work. Even in Kaliachak region where many female are able to secure main work because of the proliferation of household based economic activities such as Bidi binding and sericulture. There are still many more females who can only secure Marginal Work opportunities because of the pressure on the avenues for non-agricultural work

### 3. Causes of the Unemployment

- High percentage of people in the study area is Illiterate. According to the census 2011 the percentage of Illiteracy rate in Kaliachak-I is 35.29%, Kaliachak-II is 33.29%, Kaliachak-III is 47.06%.
- Most of the people of the study area are unaware about the professional training and education.
- The scope of secondary and Tertiary economic activities such as Electricity, Gas and Water supply, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport, Storage and Communication, Financial International and Real estate, Renting and Business activities are very low in the study area.
- The objectives of Primary Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises. But the Scheme has not done noteworthy in the study area.

- v. The objectives of the Mahatma Gandhi National & Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult member are willing to do unskilled manual work. But the initiative of MGNREGA is being constantly charged with misuse of funds and corruptions as well.
- vi. After launching employment related many scheme since independence of country still the people of the study area carries the burden of about more than of the population under the poverty line.
- vii. The work facilities for women of the three blocks are very low due to the participation of the female worker is very low.
- viii. Bidi workers have been suffering from many diseases Such as T.B. cancer, respiratory problems. So the young boys and girls are not interest to Bidi Binding work.
- ix. Kaliachak-I, II & III are very backward in terms of Transportation and communication system.
- x. There have no large no. of self employment groups.
- xi. The rate of out migration is very high because they go to outside of state in search of work.
- xii. The people of the study area face the problem of Lack of alternative sources of work. As a result increase twin problems of poverty and unemployment.
- xiii. There is no proper implementation of right to work.
- xiv. Law and order machinery and the political system is also responsible to increase the rate of unemployment in the said area.

#### 4. Conclusion and Suggestion

The overall analysis of the present study reveals that the level of unemployment is generally high in the study area. The high percentage of Non – Worker is found in the Kaliachak block – II. The percentage of female Non-Worker is more than the male Non-Worker .The following measures can be taken to reduce the unemployment-

- i. To protect the misuse funds and corruption of MGNREGA.
- ii. To improve the commercial cultivation, horticulture farm and sericulture sector
- iii. To create alternative source of work for rural people by which twin problems of rural poverty and unemployment can be reduced.
- iv. Emphasis should be laid on the scheme PMEGP.
- v. To implement of right to work.
- vi. To provide deferent types of work opportunities and security for female.
- vii. To increase the literary rate by any cost to overcomes the problems.
- viii. To improve the Transportation and communication systems.
- ix. Encourage and rebuild (if where required) self employment groups.
- x. Drastic reorganization of vocational courses should be done.
- xi. Shift in emphasis from creation of relief type of employment to the building up of durable productive assets in the rural areas.
- xii. To organize, workshop, discussion, seminar to improve more information among the people.

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