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Planning & Prospect of Industrial Development in Hooghly District, West Bengal, India

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Abstract:

Industrial development is considered as one of the important indicators of socio-economic and human development. The economic strength of a country is judged by the development of its industries. All the developed countries of the world are highly industrialized.

The growth and prospect of the industry sector has been experiencing challenge in West Bengal. Hooghly is one of the most economically developed districts in West Bengal. There is an ample opportunity for the development of various types of industry in the district for its favorable industrial environment. It was realized that industrialization was the only vehicle which could lead the shattered economy of the country on the path of progress and prosperity.

Keywords: Industrialization, strength, favorable, shattered economy,

1. Introduction

Hooghly is one of the economically developed district in West Bengal. Most of the land of the district is alluvial type of soil that is fertile for agriculture. But to increase the economic strength of this district industrial development is very much essential at present situation. The district is endowed with sufficient human resource. There is a large scope of employment generation through the industrialization. Though there is a number of industrial complexes including both small band heavy industry, but it is shorter than needs. The district Hooghly ranked many pioneer industries such as the first jute factory in India was established at Rishra and paper industry at Serampur.

→ Study area: The district Hooghly is located in between 23°01'20" north to 22°39'32" north latitude and 87°30'20" east to 88°30'15" east longitude.

The total area of this district is 3149 sq. km (1216 sq. mile) which is 3.55 percent of the total geographical area of the state.

The boundary of Hooghly district covered by the Hooghly river (sharing with Nadia in the east and north 24 parganas in the south-east) in the east, Bardhaman in the north, Howrah in the south. Paschim Medinipur in the west, Bankura in the north-west. It has 4 sub- divisions, 18 development blocks, 12 municipalities and 210-grampanchayat. (Map – 1)

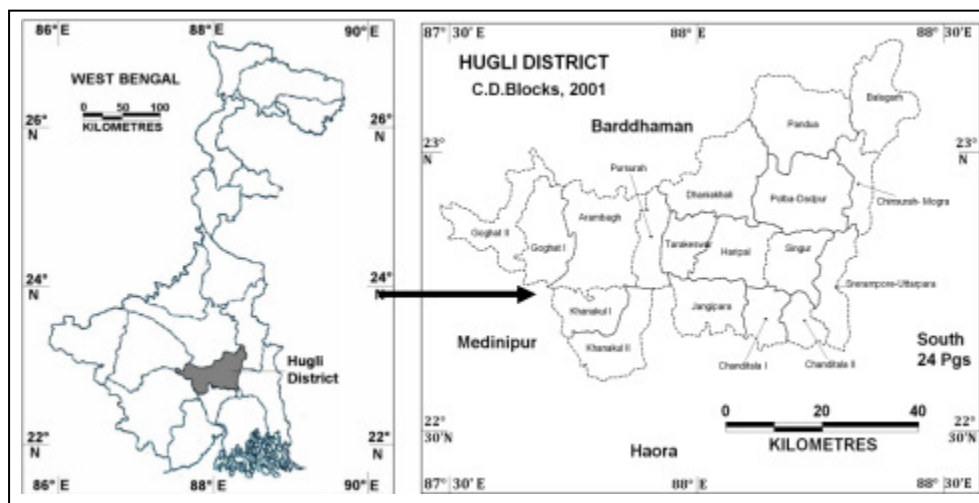


Figure 1: Location map

Objectives of the study: The present work is devoted to appraise the possibility of industrial development in future for a small part of the country named Hooghly district of West Bengal state.

The main objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the physical setting and infrastructural facilities for development of industry.
2. To evaluate the present status of industrialization of this district.
3. To assess the future prospect of industrial development.
4. To find out the district, a region with vast potential for development.
5. To study the employment generation capacity of industries.

Data source and methodology: The study is based on from on published and unpublished works both. The secondary data have been collected from the various government and private sources. The data and information for the present work have been collected from the following department of offices:

1. The District Human Development Report (2011, March).
2. The department of industries, West Bengal
3. The office of the census, West Bengal
4. District Statistical Handbook Hooghly (2012)
5. Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India (2015-2016)

Then the relevant data and information have been organized, tabulated in sequence manner and represented through suitable cartographic techniques.

2. Industrial Infrastructural Facilities in This District

Infrastructure for setting up of industry in sine qua non for economic growth and development.

The district of Hooghly, as we all know, was once an industrial hub of West Bengal. Though it has lost much of its past glory, the district can still take pride in offering the best opportunities for development of industries due to its advantage of raw material, skilled labour, easy finance, availability of land from land bank, power having proximity to Kolkata and having a congenial industrial atmosphere.

The following factors in this district are available for industrialization;

2.1. Physical Infrastructure

Land: The state government agencies like "West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation" (WBSIDC) and "West Bengal Industrial Infrastructural Development Corporation" (WBIIDC) are engaged to acquire and develop land for industrial use. Besides, land could be obtained by approaching the district authority viz. District Magistrate. Recently government has established a 'Land Bank project' for the development of industrial set up. So, there has much enough space for the development of industry or setting up the new industries in this district.

Following table shows the vacant land for industrial use in different blocks of Hooghly district (table- 1)

Name of the Block	Name of the mouza	J.L no.
Mogra-Chinsurah	Kulihunda, Kamarpara, Basudepur, Uttar chandannagar	18,22/7, 39,21
Singur	Khalishani, Bilkull, Nabagram, Bazsa, Gargi, Mankundu, Chandannagar	1,2,3,4,6,9,1
Chanditala	Kushaigachi, Monohor	97,98
Serampur- Uttarpara	Dirghanga, Chak, Sheoraphuli, Nabagram, Bangihati, Bhadrakali	4,1,6,12,21,09

Table 1

Source: District land and land revenue report-2015

The West Bengal Govt. has also set up an establishment in Hooghly district named as Modular Food Park (near Dankuni on Delhi road, NH 2 bye pass) to provide industrial accommodation to the industrial unit.

Water: water is another important requirement for industries. The river of Hooghly flow with enough water throughout the year, besides this Damodar, Dwarakeswar flow through this district with adequate water. So it is much scope for the supply of water in industrial sector. By proper management and planning of rainwater harvesting and ground water resources may be used favourably for industrial purposes.

2.2. Socio – Economic Infrastructure

Power supply: Regular supply of power is a pre-requisite for the localization of industries. Most of the industries tend to concentrate at the source of power. Some thermal project like Bandel, Sautaldihi, Kolaghat can be heart for the proposed industries for Hooghly. "West Bengal State Electricity Board" (WBSEB) is responsible for distributing power in this district. Hooghly district has become fully electrified in the year 2005. So supply of electricity encourages industrialist to setting up a new industry in Hooghly district. Following table shows the various power providers of Hooghly district. (Table- 2)

Name of the power grid	Areas covered
West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) area	All over the district
Singur – Haripal electricity co- operative area	Bhanderhati, Haripal and Dhaniakhali
D.V.C area	Area of Haripal and Singur
CESC	Serampore, Uttarpara, Rishra

Table 2

Source: West Bengal state electricity board report, 2015

Raw material: The district is a rich zone both in agriculture and industry in West Bengal. Some of the crops produced in Hooghly are used as raw material for agro- based industries.

There is limited scope for the development of mineral based industries. increase in surplus agricultural production is expected to open out opportunities for setting up new agro – based industries in this district.

Labour: In spite of increasing mechanization, modern industry still requires a large number of workers. the district Hooghly has abundance of surplus of labour. According to the 'District Statistical Handbook- 2012' more half of the population falls under the active age group(14- 59 years range) representing an abundant manpower. So, industrialization is the best way to proper utilization of man power. Following table shows the labour force of this district. (Table-3)

Name of the sub- division	Chinsurah	Chandannagar	Serampur	Arambag
Main workers (%)	31.93	31.36	32.40	28.12
Marginal workers (%)	10.35	6.65	5.10	9.24
Non – workers (%)	57.72	61.99	62.50	62.64

Table 3

Source: Census of India, 2011

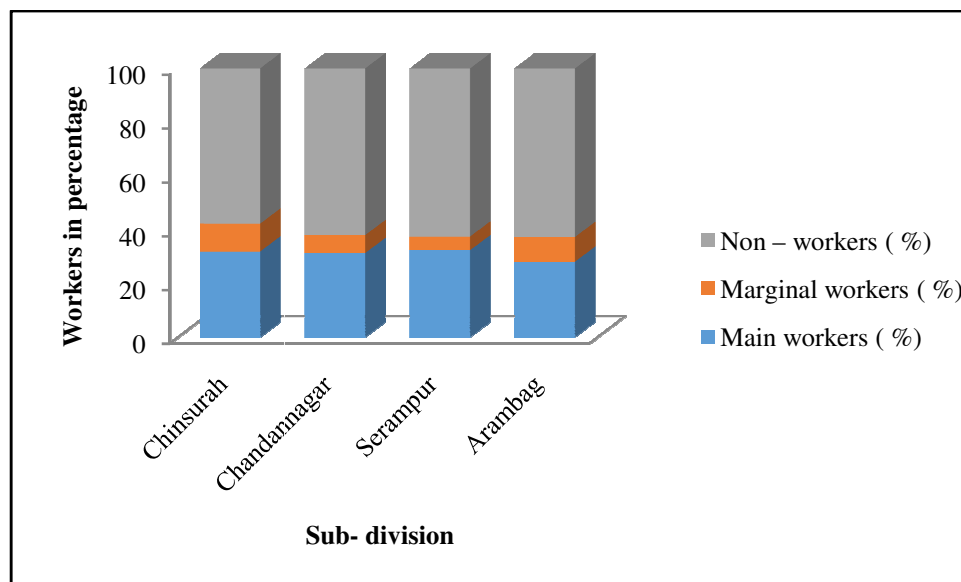


Figure 2

Transport: The district is well connected by rail and road network. The railway communication of the district, especially at the sub urban area is very developed. National highway – 57 km state highway – 235 km passes through the district. This is the most important factor for the development of industries in this district. Following table shows the rail and road network of the district. (table –4)

Year	National highway (km)	State highway (km)	District highway (km)	Village road (km)	Total road (km)
2011-2012	57	235	317	595	1204

Table 4

Source: P.W.D (Roads) Govt. of India

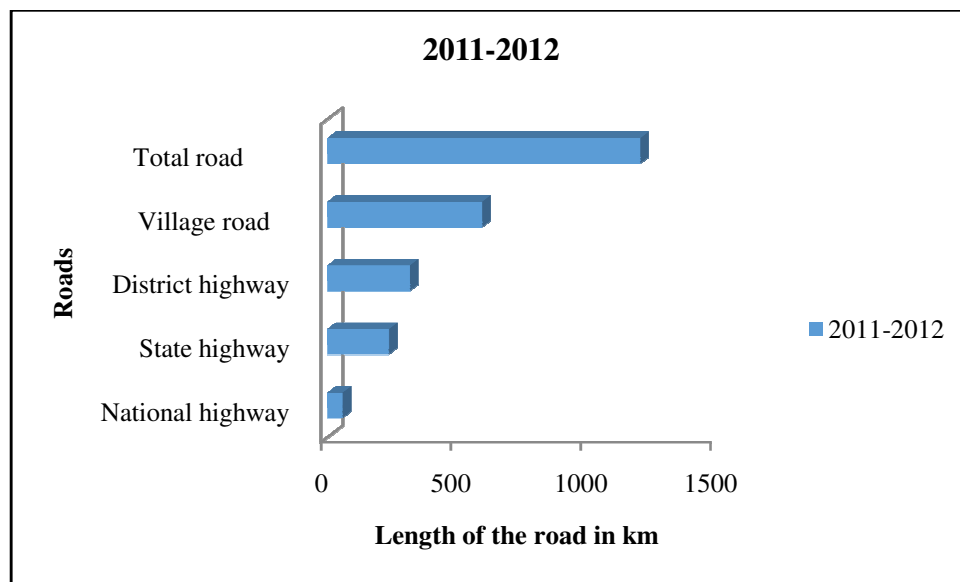


Figure 3

Navigability of river Hooghly has been considered as a great advantage for the development of industries on the banks of the river. Market: The size of market depends on various factors like population, economic status and income of the people, demand of neighboring states, export potential, nature of products etc. Hooghly district as well as West Bengal has a large population with high density. The total population of the district is 5520389, to fulfill the demands of huge number of population, industrialization is only the best policy to overcome the pressure from agricultural land.

3. Present Industrial Scenario

Based on the advantageous factor endowment like rich natural resources, native skills of man power and favourable geographical condition, Hooghly district established along industrial tradition particularly in the jute and automobile industry in the pre-independence period itself. It is noteworthy that in the lack of modernization and technological up gradation and other reasons jute products, paper units, rice mills have fallen sick.

The traditional industrial base of the region, chiefly supported by jute has undergone a rapid diversification. Yet there are other activities as per the traditional needs for new employment demanded. In Hooghly, for example, especially in the Dhaniakhali region, tradition cotton textile and weaving industries continue to maintain the heritage with large volumes of business activities. Though Dhaniakhali handloom, once of pride of Bengal, has been fading away in importance in recent years mainly due to severe competitions from duplicate varieties. Moreover, Micro and Small Scale Enterprises (MSSE) play a significant role in the economy of the Hooghly district.

Following table shows the Micro and Small Scale Enterprises in Hooghly district.(table – 5)

Name of the block	No. of MSSEs	Labour Employed	Type of industries
Arambag	189	3802	Rice mill, Cold storage, Engineering workshop, Washing soap
Khanakul I	50	801	Engineering workshop, vegetable oil, Handicraft
Khanakul II	48	853	Saw mill, Conch shell
Pursurah	60	905	Cold storage, Rice mill, Gunny bag
Goghat I	72	911	Rice mill, Oil mill, Brane
Goghat II	63	1008	Rice mill, Cold storage,
Tarakeswar	150	1410	Cold storage, Oil mill, Elastic tape, Handicraft
Haripal	106	1223	Cold storage, Oil mill, Furniture, Steel
Singur	445	2821	Plywood, Detergent powder, Surgical hand gloves, Plastic product
Chinsurah- Mogra	391	3403	P.V.C pipe, Battery, Automobile, Biscut
Balagarh	80	922	Bricks, Rice mill, Plastic products
Polba- Dadpur	101	1115	Cold storage, Chickon embroidery, Detergent powder
Pandua	120	1327	Organic acid, Cold storage, Rice mill
Dhaniakhali	115	1123	Cold storage, Optical lens, Bakery, Handicraft product
Serampur- Uttarpara	550	4200	Bakery, Casting, Transformer, Alloy steel
Chanditala I	70	1205	Oil mill, Jewellery, Sports net
Chanditala II	360	2217	Rolling mill, Metal casting, M.S tube
Jangipara	70	1012	Cold storage, Steel furniture, Nylon rope

Table 5

Source: Directorate of industries, Hooghly, 2011

There are about 55 large and medium scale industries in the district. (Table- 6)

Name of the industries	Location	Item produced
Bandel thermal power plant	Bandel	Electric power
Dankuni coal complex	Dankuni	Coal
Mother diary	Dankuni	Milk and curd

Table 6: (List of large scale industries)

Source: Directorate of industries, West Bengal

4. Industrial Planning and Prospects for Future Development

Development of agriculture has created an economic base in this district which encourages industrial development.

The districts have several medium and small scale industries. The district has great potentiality for the expansion of activities in Medium –small scale & cottage industries with very good employment opportunity amongst the young generation of this district where there is no dearth of skilled man power. The industrial belts from Chinsurah to Uttarpara are adjacent areas of Kolkata creating marketing opportunity of the products of the said industries.

West Bengal is presently designated as power surplus state and this condition is likely to promote further industrial growth. Availability of power resources is an advantage for the growth of Engineering industries in this district.

The big domestic market of state, constant changes in consumers taste and habit and Globalization are creating further scope for diversification and new ventures. in view of all factors the different industries may grow.

Food processing industry has a great potentiality for growth in this district. This industry leads to employment generation and helps in reduction of wastage and value addition.

Government of West Bengal is now quite interested to establish a food park near Dankuni named as ' Modular Food Park ' to ensure full-fledged production and employment generation. The following food processing industries have been identified for the " Modular Food Park:

1.Frozen potato	6. Jam jelly units
2. French finger chips	7. Tomato sauce, Ketchup, paste and juice manufacturing
3. Packaging, freezing units and hatchery	8.Soft drinks and mineral water
4.Fruit juice	9. Yeast manufacturing units
5.Bakery, Noodles	10.Baby food and other nutritious food units

Table 7

Handloom industries are the single largest sector next to agriculture intern of its employment potential. The handloom industry of Hooghly district especially Dhaniakhali has large prospects. Huge production and marketing development are needed for innovation of the industry. Technology up gradation through training and modernized jacker handloom machine is the important requirement of the handloom sector.

There is a steady growth in the literacy rate of West Bengal that causes the increasing demand for paper. Hooghly district is the pioneer in paper production in India. There is a vast opportunity for the development of paper industry for the availability of raw material, adequate supply of water from river Hooghly and big market of West Bengal.

There is much scope for the development of film industry for its aesthetic environment, so an intense care is needed from government to expand this industry.

There is enough scope for the development of automobile industry in barren land. The government feels that the automobile manufacturing sector is pregnant with immense possibilities and it has, therefore, laid emphasis on development of this sector.

It is require developing the infrastructure of controlling the pollution, easy way for land acquisition after good return to the land owner and establishment of more Industrial Training Institute for efficient and skilled workers etc.

5. Conclusion

Hooghly district has got very good scope for industrial development. The man power planning in the district should aim not only to create jobs, but also to improve them qualitatively. The diversification of jobs is essential to reduce the pressure of agriculture and proper utilize the resources of this district. An integrated approach is necessary for industrial development in the district.

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