Name: **Mamon Chowdhury**

Supervisor: **Prof. Shahnaz Parveen**

Department: **Geography**

 Title: **"Dynamics and Patterns of Urbanization in West Bengal"**

Findings

- Gap in the degree of urbanization of West Bengal and India has decreased from 1951-2011.

- Low and slow *growth rate of urban population* has detected from 1951 to 1981.

- From 1951 to 2011, *rural-urban ratio* gap is very low in the surrounding districts of Kolkata (<3), northern hilly districts (Darjiling and Jalpaiguri) and central part of West Bengal (Barddhaman) and consistently diminishing the gap.

- After independence, *Kolkata as a metropolitan city* and its surrounding districts (excluding South 24 Parganas) have shown a slow growth rate of urban population (average 21%). On the other hand, some emerging areas (Maldah, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum, South 24 Parganas) have shown better growth rate.

- Demographic aspect of urbanization has shown 37% districts of three regions has observed a high *degree of urbanization*- Kolkata, and its peripheral areas in the south-eastern margin, Barddhaman in central part and Darjiling in the northern parts of West Bengal comprising more than 75% of the total urban population of the state that form the core of urbanization.

- Kolkata has experienced a negative growth rate (-17%) of migrants (male -28% and females -2%).

- Intra and interstate migration from rural-urban & urban-urban is high in the south-eastern region (Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, Haora, Barddhaman).

- The spatial pattern of *sex ratio* has shown four high sex ratio zone; northern part (Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur and Darjiling), central-northern part (Murshidabad and Birbhum), eastern margin (Nadia, both 24 Parganas) and south-western part.

- *Literacy level* in West Bengal has shown two high literacy zones; northern part (Koch Bihar, Darjiling, and Uttar Dinajpur) and the south-eastern margin (North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Purba Medinipur, and Hugli).

- *Gender-based literacy and educational level* has shown that the female literacy level in the state is higher than males up to senior secondary. But graduate and above, males educational level are higher than females.

- The high *growth rate of workers* has noted over the northern part (Maldah, Murshidabad, Birbhum, and Jalpaiguri) and southern part (South 24 Parganas).

- Kolkata has noted a low value of spatial aspect due to the decline of the growth rate of population while bordering districts of Kolkata have observed a high to a very high level of urbanization in *size class towns and cities*. Therefore, 37% of the districts have

noted a significant level of spatial aspect of urbanization, extended over northern hilly (Jalpaiguri), central-northern part (Barddhaman, Murshidabad) and south-eastern part (excluding Kolkata).

- High population concentration and continues increase in class I cities from 1951 (56%) to 2001 (74%) and declined in 2011 (62%).

- From 1951-2011, population absorption in large towns, medium towns, and small towns has fluctuated over the decades.

- Share of population of *Class I cities* has shown three high zones; lying in the south-eastern part (Kolkata, Haora, Hugli, and North 24 Parganas), central part (Barddhaman) and northern part (Darjiling and both Dinajpur) accounting for 42% of total districts and 65% of total urban population.

- The share of small towns population is more in the central-northern part (Maldah, Murshidabad), western part (Puruliya) and south-eastern part (Nadia, Haora, and South 24 Parganas).

- The decadal growth rate of population in class I cities has shown three high zones extended over the northern part (Jalpaiguri), central-northern part (Maldah, Murshidabad, Nadia), and southern part (Purba Medinipur and South 24 Parganas).

- The decadal growth rate of small town population has shown three high zones (>220%) extended over the northern part (Maldah and Darjiling), western part (Birbhum and Bankura) and south-eastern part (Purba Medinipur, Nadia, both 24 Parganas).

- The Households *amenities and facilities* aspect has shown that south-eastern part (Kolkata, Haora, Hugli, North 24 Parganas, and Paschim Medinipur), central part (Barddhaman), and northern hilly area of the state have got high facilities which is 37% of the 19 districts.

- Regression analysis of demographic variables where degree of urbanization taken as dependent variable has shown the R value 0.982. The value of R square is 0.964 which means 96.4 % of the variance in the degree of urbanization can be predicted from the independent variables. Urban to urban outside state migration is the most controlling factor of the degree of urbanization in the state followed by inter-state R-U. This model is statistically significant (P value= 0.000).

- Regression analysis of economic variables where growth rate of workers taken as dependent variable has shown the R value 0.908 and R square 0.964 which means 96.4% of the variance in the growth rate of workers can be predicted from the independent variables. Main workers (active age group) is the most controlling factor followed by Marginal workers (active age group). P value of this model is .079.

- Regression analysis of social variables of urbanization where growth rate of urban population taken as dependent variable has shown R-value 0.788. The R square value is 0.621 which means 62.1 % of the variance in the growth of urban population can be predicted from the independent variables. This model statically significant (P=.016).