

Population Growth of Rural & Urban Settlement of Siliguri Subdivision

¹Tuhin Dey Roy and ²Arindam Basak

¹Research Paper, Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal

²Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal

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ABSTRACT

Population growth is a demographic process whereby increasing proportion population in area, structural change and behavioral transformation affecting both people and place. This process is spreading all over the world. It includes both the developmental opportunities and some harmful effects. Siliguri, the gateway to North East India, is crucial for the State of West Bengal as well as Eastern India. Especially, in developing countries like India, chronological population increase of any particular area create hardship environmental condition particularly for local residents. The level of population growth in Siliguri subdivision is at acceleration stage. The present investigation has been made to analyse the Population growth rate & try to find out the relationship between the distance and population growth in this area.

Introduction

"Change in the size of a population, whether positive or negative is called 'growth'. Growth of population comes from only three source- births, deaths and migration" (George W. Barday, 1958). Population growth is the term used to describe changes in population size that are accompanied by a numerical increase. Basically, three key factors—births, deaths, and migration within the time period under consideration—are the main causes of population growth in a region. The pattern of population distribution in a region is mostly determined by changes in population characteristics such as location, distribution, density, growth, and movement throughout the past. Additionally, the factors affecting population change play a crucial role in determining the demographic characteristic of "place," and the population growth pattern in a given area beautifully illustrates the economic potential and evolving character of various sub-areas within a region. The changes in population trends, whether positive or negative, represent the history of man's adaptation to the environmental options available in the location.

Objective

- To study the growth of rural and urban settlements within study area.
- To find out the relationship between distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation with the population growth in rural settlements.

Database The secondary data like demographic characteristics, growth of rural and urban settlements and economic activities was collected from District Census Handbook, Town and Village Directory, West Bengal

Administrative Atlas, Government Reports, Occasional Papers and other reports of Census of India. The analysis will take into consideration the three consecutive census years of 1991, 2001 and 2011.

Methodology

To fulfill the objective i.e. to study the growth of rural and urban settlements within study area decadal population growth rate for the rural and urban settlements will be analyzed from 1991 onwards and the change will be taken into account. To calculating the distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation to the actual road distance of each village and census towns of the study area from Siliguri Municipal Corporation has also been calculated.

Population growth in India

About the demographic characteristics of the ancient era, little is known. Of course, contemporary scholars have given numerous estimates based on the size of the troops and the amount of arable land. Around the year 1600 AD, Kingsley Davis estimated the population of India to be 125 million, and he said that it stayed there until around the year 1750 AD. After 1871, systematic decennial censuses were carried out, which provided for accurate population calculation. The census data is available over the past 100 years, which offer largely accurate projections of the population and growth rate. Even though the numbers are always shifting, India currently accounts for about 17.5% of the world's population with just 2.4 percent of its total land area. India's population in 2011 was estimated to be 1.21 billion. India has the second largest population in the world, only after China.

Table No. 1 Trend of population growth in India

Census years	Population (In Million)	Decadal Growth Rate (In %)
1901	238.4	-
1911	252.1	5.7
1921	251.3	-0.3

1931	279.0	11.0
1941	318.7	14.0
1951	361.1	13.3
1961	439.2	21.5
1971	548.2	24.8
1981	683.3	24.6
1991	846.3	23.8
2001	1024.8	20.2
2011	1210.1	17.7
Source: Census of India 2011, Calculated by the Researcher		

The population growth pattern in India during the course of the 20th century is depicted in the above table. It is evident that population growth fluctuated up until 2011. The table makes it abundantly evident that, except during 1911–21 when the "Influenza Epidemic" occurred in 1918, the decadal population growth rate has been rising steadily since 1901. Therefore, the population growth rate between 1911–21 was negative. After 1921, the population grew quickly as a result of government initiatives to promote the development of healthcare facilities and combat sickness (Cholera, Malaria, Small pox, etc.). The rapid population expansion is mostly the result of a declining death rate rather than an abrupt increase in birth rates. Moreover, the partition of the country resulted in waves of migrants coming from both East and West Pakistan which also accounted for a rapid expansion of population in India during this time. The population growth rate had slightly increased from 1931 to 1941 but had barely changed from 1941 to 1951. Thereafter, the decadal growth rate of population was high up to 1981. After this period, the rate of population growth in India began to show a downward trend as a result of advancements in the medical field, birth control measures, public awareness of social issues and governmental policies etc.

Population growth in West Bengal

According to 2011 census, West Bengal had a population of 9.13 crores. The state had 17.54 percent of the

total population of the country with 88,752 sq. km area. It is the fourth most populous state in India and the fourteenth-largest Indian state by area. The population which was 26.30 million just after independence has grown to 91.35 million in 2011. Because half of the state was ceded to Bangladesh after partition, only the post-independence period of West Bengal's population growth information has been taken into account here. The decadal population growth from 1951 to 1981 is definitely an unprecedented one that corresponds with a period of tremendous growth, as seen by the significantly lower death rate brought on by improved health condition and influx of migrants from Bangladesh.

Because more health institutions have been established, more people are aware of population explosion, and better government population policies, the decadal population growth between 1981 and 2011 appears to have decreased compared to the previous period. Therefore, even if the state's absolute population is increasing, the rate of population growth is dropping during the last two decades. The death rate was quite low throughout this time, and the fertility rate was stable and average. Since 1951, West Bengal's population growth rate can be compared to the national average. Table no. 3.2 shows that the population growth rate is not uniform.

Table No. 2 Trend of population growth in West Bengal

Census years	Population (In Million)	Growth Rate (In %)
1951	26.30	13.22
1961	34.93	32.80
1971	44.31	26.87
1981	54.58	23.17
1991	68.08	24.73
2001	80.18	17.77
2011	91.35	13.93
Source: Census of India 2011, Calculated by the Researcher		

Population growth in Siliguri Subdivision during 1991-2011

Explanation for the variations in population growth in each of the 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 decades is presented below, on the basis of data obtained from the census report of India 1991, 2001, 2011 (table 3.3 & 3.4). The table reveals that there is significant difference in the decadal growth of population in each of the 4 blocks in the study area. The decadal change in

population from 1991-2001 was 43.81 percent for Matigara, 54.60 percent for Naxalbari, 22.46 percent for Phasidewa and 37.83 percent for Kharibari. Steady development in economy, along with increased incidence of migration, improvement in educational facilities, infrastructural development and improved health and medical facilities are some of the important factors that accelerated the population growth during this period.

Although in the following decade i.e. 2001-2011, the rate of growth of rural population witnessed a decline in all the four blocks of the study area, there was a positive growth in the total population. The highest growth rate in population during 2001-2011 was recorded at Matigara, followed by Kharibari, Phansidewa and Naxalbari respectively. Matigara block which is

located nearest to Siliguri Municipal Corporation witnessed a growth in population over 50 percent during 2001-2011. The decline in the rural population can be attributed to development of rural health care centres, along with active participation of N.G.Os in spreading awareness about family planning and measures of population control.

Sl. No.	Blocks/ Municipal Corporation	Population			% of Decadal Variation	
		1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Matigara	89927	129326	197278	43.81	52.54
2	Naxalbari	93731	144915	165523	54.60	14.22
4	Phansidewa	140045	171508	204522	22.46	19.24
3	Kharibari	64012	88230	109251	37.83	23.82
5	Siliguri	216950	472374	513265	117.73	8.66

Source: Census of India 1991, 2001 and 2011, Calculated by the Researcher.

The table 3.4 shows the decadal variation in the growth rate of rural and urban population in the study area. The table shows that rural population in each of the four blocks increased from 1991 to 2011. However, the rural population growth was not uniform in all the decades. In some decade growth was low while in some decades the growth was high. The decadal change in rural population of Matigara in 2001-2011 was 9.41 percent, which was 45.40 percent during the previous decade. The sharp decline in rural growth rate was due to the conversion of rural villages into census towns. Similarly, the decadal change in rural population of Naxalbari in 2001-2011 was negative at -24.33 percent owing to conversion of rural villages into census towns. The decadal change in rural population for Phansidewa and Kharibari in 2001-2011 remained at 19.24 percent and 10.39 percent respectively. These figures are significantly lower than their decadal change of rural population for the previous decade.

According to the table 3.4, urban population of the region witnessed a steady increase in growth rate. The urban growth in each of the four blocks however is not uniform and show block wise decadal variation. Infact the blocks of Phansidewa and Kharibari did not have any urban centre so their urban population was nil during 1991 and 2001. For the other two blocks, the decadal growth rate of urban population recorded has either been very low in some cases while very high in other. During 1991-2001, Matigara block experienced growth of urban population of 14.92 percentage with a single census town namely Bairatisal. Naxalbari Block on the other

hand witnessed an urban population growth rate of 30.75 % with the single census town namely, Uttar Bagdogra. During the same period, Siliguri Municipal Corporation also witnessed a very high population growth rate. This high growth rate was due to the emergence of Siliguri as one of the most important urban centre in the entire North Bengal. Along with this easy availability of basic infrastructural facilities and the extension of municipal boundary also contributed towards high growth rate of urban population. Consequently, Siliguri Municipal Corporation experienced 117.73 percent decadal growth rate in 1991-2001 which is far more than the national and state urban decadal growth rate. The following decade of 2001-2011 also saw a rise in the urban population growth rate with Matigara block experiencing a massive increase of (1041.44%) due to conversion of 5 big villages into census towns. Similarly, the urban population of Naxalbari block increased rapidly with 329.85 percent, as a result of rural-urban migration. This decade was marked by growth of industries which attracted rural population towards urban centres because of the increased employment opportunities. Easy access to infrastructural facilities, better education and health facilities and increased opportunity of trade and commerce and other services also resulted in influx of rural population into towns. Kharibari block in 2011 saw emergence of two urban centre namely Shyamdhan, Kharibari. During 2001-2011, Siliguri Municipal Corporation experienced a growth of 8.66 percent indicating a balanced urban growth, which is far lower than the previous decade.

Sl. No.	Blocks	Population						Percentage of decadal variation			
		1991		2001		2011		1991-2001		2001-2011	
		Rura	Urb	Rural	Urb	Rura	Ur	Ru	Urban	Rura	Urban
1	Matigara	85224	4703	123921	5405	135583	61695	45.40	14.92	9.41	1041.44
2	Naxalbari	81667	12064	129141	15774	97717	67806	58.13	30.75	-24.33	329.85
3	Phansidewa	140045	-	171508	-	204522	-	22.46	-	19.24	-
4	Kharibari	64012	-	88230	-	97399	11852	37.80	-	10.39	-

Source: Census of India 1991, 2001 and 2011, Calculated by the Researcher.

Size class classification of rural settlements in the study area

The census of India classifies rural settlements on the basis of their population size into seven categories. These are less than 200 populations, 200-499 population, 500-999

population, 1000-1999 population, 2000-4999 population, 5000-9999 population and more than 10000 populations. Accordingly, all the villages in the study area has been classified for 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively.

Table No. 5 C.D. block wise number of inhabited villages, 1991

Category	Matigara	Naxalbari	Phasidewa	Kharibari	Total
<200	4	15	10	5	34
200-499	14	16	12	22	64
500-999	17	27	32	25	101
1000-1999	27	22	26	18	93
2000-4999	6	12	16	5	39
5000-9999	1	-	3	-	4
>10000	-	-	-	-	-
Total	69	92	99	75	335

Source: Census of India 1991, Calculated by the Researcher.

From the above table 3.5 it can be seen that in the year 1991, there were 335 villages situated in Siliguri sub-division consisting of 69 villages in Matigara block, 92 villages in Naxalbari block, 99 villages in Phasidewa block and 75 villages in Kharibari block. The population size of villages in each of the blocks varied. The villages have therefore been categorized into seven categories. i.e., below 200, 200-499, 500-999, 1000-1999, 2000-4999, 5000-9999 and above 10000 on the basis of their total population. In the year 1991 there were total 34 villages having population below 200, with 4 villages in Matigara block, 15 villages in Naxalbari block, 10 villages in Phasidewa block and 5 villages in Kharibari block. There were 64 villages having population between 200-499, out of which 14 villages are in Matigara block, 16 villages in Naxalbari block, 12 villages in Phasidewa block and 22 villages in Kharibari block. In the category of population size 500-999 there were 101 villages, consisting of 17 villages in Matigara

block, 27 villages in Naxalbari block, 32 villages in Phasidewa block and 25 villages in Kharibari Block, respectively. In the category of population size 1000-1999, there were 93 villages, with 27 villages from Matigara block, 22 villages from Naxalbari block, 26 villages from Phasidewa block and 18 villages from Kharibari block. In the category of population size 2000-4999, there were 39 villages, consisting 6 villages from Matigara block, 12 villages from Naxalbari block, 16 villages from Phasidewa block and 5 villages from Kharibari block. In the category of population size 5000-9999, there were 4 villages, consisting 1 village in Matigara block and 3 villages in Phasidewa block, respectively. There isn't any village with population above 10000 in any of the four blocks. In terms of the total number of villages in 1991, the highest was in Phasidewa block and lowest was in Matigara block. From the above discussion is clear that the number of villages and their distribution is different from one block to another.

Table No. 6 C.D. block wise number of inhabited villages, 2001

Category	Matigara	Naxalbari	Phasidewa	Kharibari	Total
<200	10	12	12	3	37
200-499	6	9	12	22	49
500-999	14	19	30	16	79
1000-1999	18	24	23	24	89
2000-4999	17	12	19	9	57
5000-9999	2	5	6	1	14
10000>	2	1	1	-	4
Total	69	82	103	75	329

Source: Census of India 2001, Calculated by the Researcher.

Table 3.6 shows the total number of inhabited villages in the study area in 2001. There were 329 villages situated in Siliguri sub-division in the year 2001 consisting of 69 villages in Matigara, 82 villages in Naxalbari, 103 villages in Phasidewa and 75 villages in Kharibari. The size of population in these villages varies. These villages are further divided according to their total population size into seven categories. i.e., total

population below 200, 200-499, 500-999, 1000-1999, 2000-4999, 5000-9999 and above 10000. In the year 2001 there were total 37 villages having population below 200, consisting of 10 villages in Matigara block, 12 villages in Naxalbari block, 12 villages in Phasidewa block and 3 villages in Kharibari block. There were 49 villages with population between 200-499, with 6 villages in Matigara block, 9 villages in Naxalbari

block, 12 villages in Phasidewa block and 22 villages in Kharibari block. Similarly, there were 79 villages with population size 500-999 out of which 14 villages were in Matigara block, 19 villages in Naxalbari block, 30 villages in Phasidewa block and 16 villages in Kharibari block. There were 89 villages with the population size of 1000-1999, with 18 villages in Matigara block, 24 villages in Naxalbari block, 23 villages in Phasidewa block and 24 villages in Kharibari block. In the population size category of 2000-4999, there were 57 villages consisting of 17 villages in Matigara block, 12 villages in Naxalbari block, 19 villages in Phasidewa block, 9 villages in

Kharibari block respectively. Similarly, there were 14 villages with the population size of 5000-9999, consisting of 2 villages in Matigara block, 5 villages in Naxalbari block, 6 villages in Phasidewa block and 1 village in Kharibari block respectively. Finally, there were 4 villages having population above 10000, with 2 villages in Matigara block, 1 village in Naxalbari block and 1 village in Phasidewa block respectively. It can be seen that the number of villages in each block along with their respective population size and their distribution differ from one block to another in the study area.

Table No. 7 C.D. block wise number of inhabited villages, 2011

Category	Matigara	Naxalbari	Phasidewa	Kharibari	Total
<200	7	7	7	5	26
200-499	10	13	11	11	45
500-999	6	21	24	21	72
1000-1999	10	24	29	22	85
2000-4999	18	13	22	13	66
5000-9999	8	0	8	1	17
10000>	0	0	2	-	2
Total	59	78	103	73	313

Source: District Census Hand Book, Census of India 2011, Calculated by Researcher

Table 3.7 shows the distribution of villages according to their size class in the study area for 2011. From the above table it is seen that in the year 2011 there are 313 inhabited villages in Siliguri sub-division consisting of 59 villages in Matigara, 78 villages in Naxalbari, 103 villages in Phasidewa and 73 villages in Kharibari. The size of population in these villages is non-homogeneous and differs from village to village. The villages are divided according to their total population size into seven categories of total population i.e., below 200, 200-499, 500-999, 1000-1999, 2000-4999, 5000-9999, above 10000. In the year 2011 there were total 26 villages having population below 200, consisting of 7 villages in Matigara block, 7 villages in Naxalbari block, 7 villages in Phasidewa block and 5 villages in Kharibari block. Likewise, there were 45 villages having population between 200-499, with 10 villages in Matigara block, 13 villages in Naxalbari block, 11 villages in Phasidewa block and 11 villages in Kharibari block. In the category of population size 500-999 there were 72 villages consisting of 6 villages in Matigara block, 21 villages in Naxalbari block, 24 villages in Phasidewa block and 21 villages in Kharibari block respectively. In the category of population size 1000-1999, there were 85 villages consisting of 10 villages in Matigara block, 24 villages in Naxalbari block, 29 villages in Phasidewa block and 22 villages in Kharibari block respectively. In the category of population size 2000-4999, there were 66 villages consisting of 18 villages in Matigara block, 13 villages in Naxalbari block, 22 villages in Phasidewa block and 13 villages in Kharibari block respectively. In the category of population size 5000-9999, there were 17 villages consisting of 8 villages in Matigara block, 8 villages in Phasidewa block and 1 village in Kharibari block, respectively. There were 2 villages having population above 10000 which belong to Phasidewa block. Thus it is seen that the number of villages and their distribution differ from block to block in the study area.

It is worth mentioning that in 1991 and 2001, there were only 2 census towns viz. Bairatisal (Matigara block) and Uttar Bagdogra (Naxalbari block) however, in 2011 census the number of census towns rapidly increased to 14. Out of the total number of newly formed census towns, Matigara block consisted of 6 census towns namely, Bairatisal, Tari, Jitu, Kalkut, Mathapari and Bara Mohonsingh. Naxalbari block consisted of 6 census towns namely Lalman, Uttar Bagdogra, Dakshin Bagdogra, Dumriguri, Geni and Bhimram. Kharibari block consisted of 2 census towns viz. Shyamdhan and Kharibari. One interesting fact is from 1991 to 2011 the total number of villages in the smallest four size class categories has declined while the same in largest three size class categories has increased in the study area.

Population growth across the villages and census towns of the study area

In the previous section, temporal trend of population growth in Siliguri sub-division and Siliguri Municipal Corporation has been analyzed and it is observed that the growth of population in different parts of the study area cannot be assumed to be uniform. Hence, spatial analysis of population growth becomes necessary. In this context the present part deals with the trend of population growth at village level for the time of period 1991-2011. With the present study being geographically diverse and spread over an area of 819.61 sq. km, differences in population growth become a natural phenomenon. Attempts will therefore be made to identify and give a detailed account on the inter-block difference in population growth during the decades of 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 respectively. Since it has been found that the total number of villages has changed in different years of census (1991-335, 2001-329, and 2011-313) only those villages which were present in two consecutive census years

have been taken into consideration to show the change in population.

Sl. No	Name	Distance from S.M.C in km.	Population			Decadal Growth Rate (%)	
			1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Bairatal	11.4	6996	—	—	—	—
2	Bairatal(C.T)*	11.4	4703	5405	4916	14.93	-9.05
3	Baniakhari	8.4	1984	3555	5088	79.18	43.12
4	Bara Adalpur Dwitiya	16.6	677	1858	419	174.45	-77.45
5	Bara Gharia	6.6	1393	1979	3744	42.07	89.19
6	Bara Mohansingh**	9.8	3242	11006	15616	239.48	41.89
7	Bataliguri	15.8	289	265	362	-8.30	36.60
8	Champasari Chhat	11.5	—	88	96	—	9.09
9	Chamta	9.9	1060	1305	3446	23.11	164.06
10	Chmamtaguri	10.1	382	713	1267	86.65	77.70
11	Daknikata	6.9	1321	1669	4497	26.34	169.44
12	Damra Gayer Chhat	11.2	1164	21	—	-98.20	—
13	Dhukuria	8.7	1275	1147	1783	-10.04	55.45
14	Dumriguri Chhat	16	627	768	950	22.49	23.70
15	Duramarir Chhat	11.5	993	147	—	-85.20	—
16	Foutsingher Chhat	5.8	440	713	—	62.05	—
17	Fulbari Pataner Chhat	15.2	151	170	234	12.58	37.65
18	Gal Makhari	11.2	242	73	45	-69.83	-38.36
19	Gaur Charan	6.8	1054	1889	4124	79.22	118.32
20	Gouri	16.6	347	399	428	14.99	7.27
21	Guria	10.7	1547	2008	2913	29.80	45.07
22	Jadu Bhitari Chhat	10.2	445	799	1242	79.55	55.44
23	Jhauguri	12.4	354	677	767	91.24	13.29
24	Jhauguri Chhat	11.8	1770	1745	147	-1.41	-91.58
25	Jitu**	8.4	2534	5004	5892	97.47	17.75
26	Jugi Bhita	13.5	942	1153	1528	22.40	32.52
27	Kala Bari	8.5	575	784	1482	36.35	89.03
28	Kalam	8.1	528	2146	5664	306.44	163.93
29	Kalkut**	6.8	1278	4356	9184	240.85	110.84
30	Kamala Barir Chhat	12.7	207	236	264	14.01	11.86
31	Karai Bari	10.7	765	841	1183	9.93	40.67
32	Kauakhali	5.4	1838	3917	6615	113.11	68.88
33	Kawakhari	8.3	1210	2048	3676	69.26	79.49
34	Khaprul	15.9	2402	1671	4004	-30.43	139.62
35	Kho Palasi	14.1	633	2764	5284	336.65	91.17
36	Khok Long	16.3	1275	3359	737	163.45	-78.06
37	Khoklong Chaat	16.2	344	47	52	-86.34	10.64
38	Lachka	14.5	806	1035	1126	28.41	8.79
39	Lalsara Chhat	18.5	328	430	551	31.10	28.14
40	Mahatram	8.6	1767	2531	1299	43.24	-48.68
41	Mahish Mari	9.4	831	1306	6010	57.16	360.18
42	Malahar	8.3	451	127	376	-71.84	196.06
43	Mathapari**	7	3144	6689	11529	112.75	72.36
44	Matigara Hat	6.1	1990	3828	4710	92.36	23.04
45	Mohandi Forest	12.8	502	556	—	10.76	—
46	Mohorgon Tea Garden	13.3	1801	2873	3169	59.52	10.30
47	Nengti Chhara	10	344	1994	3182	479.65	59.58
48	Nichitpur	9	542	688	990	26.94	43.90
49	Nimai	11	1349	2172	3816	61.01	75.69
50	Nunu Bairagi Chhat	8.9	32	—	—	—	—
51	Nunubairagi	12.9	1088	218	364	-79.96	66.97

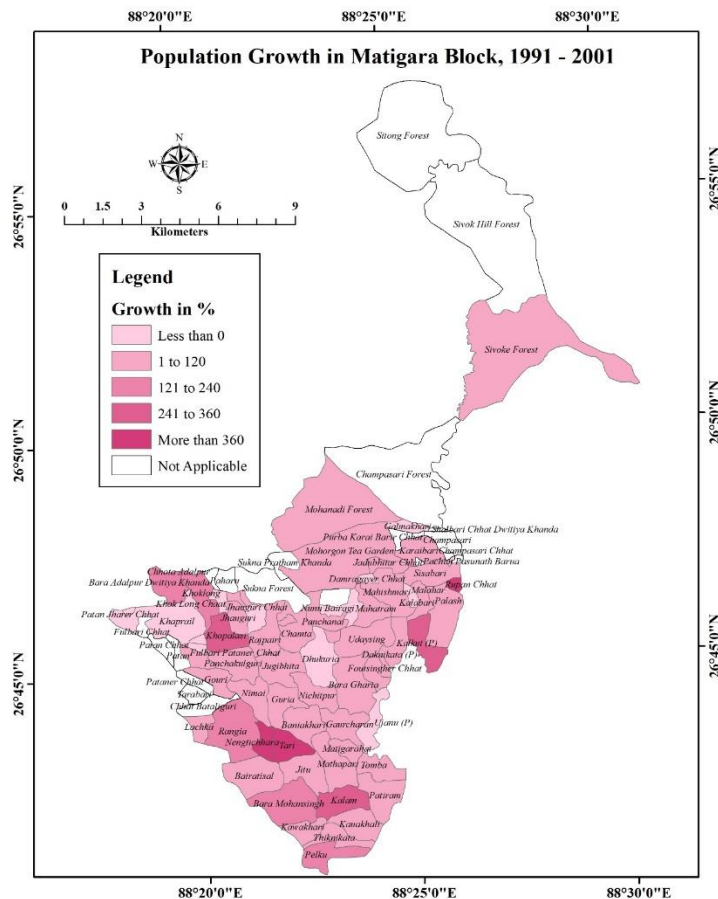
52	Palash	7.9	1052	1525	4204	44.96	175.67
53	Pancha Kulguri	12.4	814	1715	2485	110.69	44.90
54	Panchanai	9.1	1257	2446	5105	94.59	108.71
55	Patan	15.7	—	125	142	—	13.60
56	Patan Jharer	17.6	825	693	—	-16.00	—
57	Patiram	4	2450	3232	8315	31.92	157.27
58	Pelku	8.6	656	1802	3112	174.70	72.70
59	Purba Karai Barir Chhat	10.9	—	22	314	—	1327.27
60	Rajpauri	11.1	994	1526	2018	53.52	32.24
61	Rangia	10.5	1163	2876	3682	147.29	28.03
62	Ruhinir Chhat	14.3	1917	1850	98	-3.50	-94.70
63	Rupan Chhat	10	19	119	238	526.32	100.00
64	Salbari Chhat Pratham	8	257	312	107	21.40	-65.71
65	Shal Bari Chhat Dwitia	12.2	54	—	—	—	—
66	Sisa Bari	9.8	441	684	1085	55.10	58.63
67	Sivok Hill Forest	23.2	—	510	321	—	-37.06
68	Sivoke Forest	17.4	595	632	1045	6.22	65.35
69	Sukna Pratham Khanda	12.2	1576	—	—	—	—
70	Tari**	8.8	1671	10037	14558	500.66	45.04
71	Thiknikata	7.1	1216	2438	3294	100.49	35.11
72	Tomba	3.5	1874	3687	9632	96.74	161.24
73	Uday Sing	8.1	1038	1362	2092	31.21	53.60
74	Ujanu	4.3	2929	561	660	-80.85	17.65

*village declared as census town in 2001

**village declared as census town in 2011

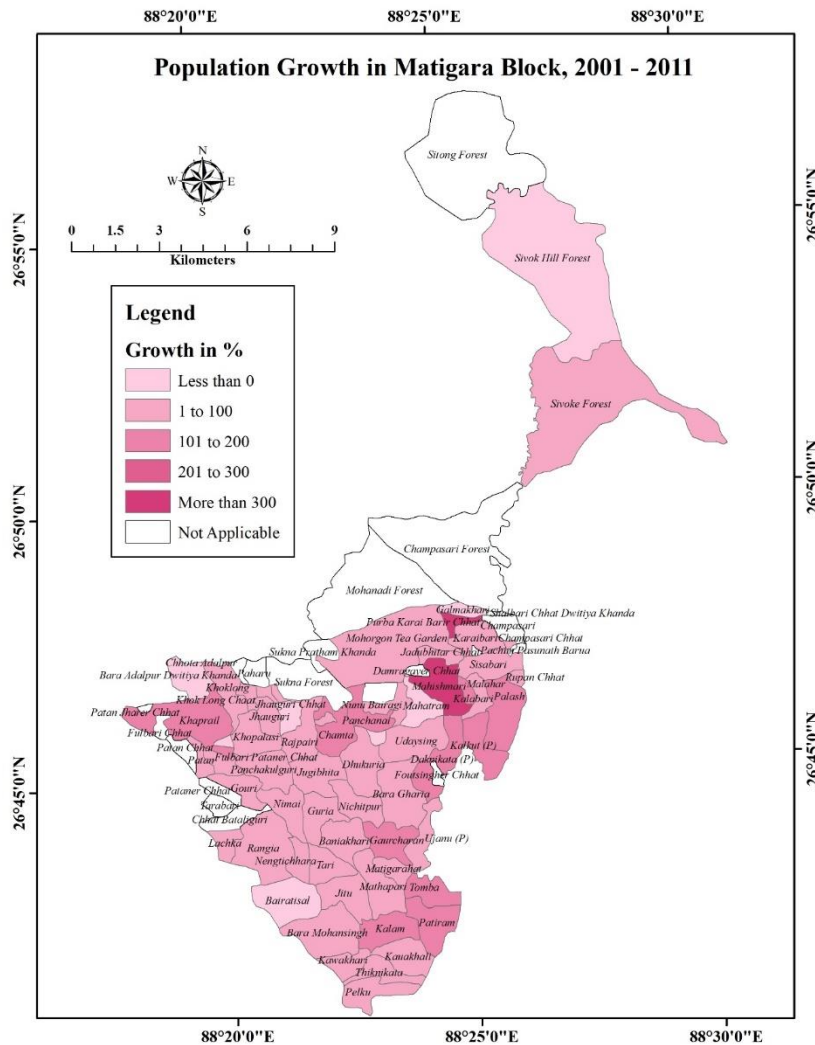
Source: Census of India 1991, 2001 & 2011, Calculated by the Researcher

Map No. 1 Population growth in Matigara block, 1991-2001



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

Map No. 2 Population growth in Matigara block, 2001-2011



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

During 1991-2001 the highest growth rate in Matigara block was found in Rupan Chhat village, recording a population growth of 526% whereas the lowest growth rate was observed in Damragayer Chhat recording a growth of -98%. On the other

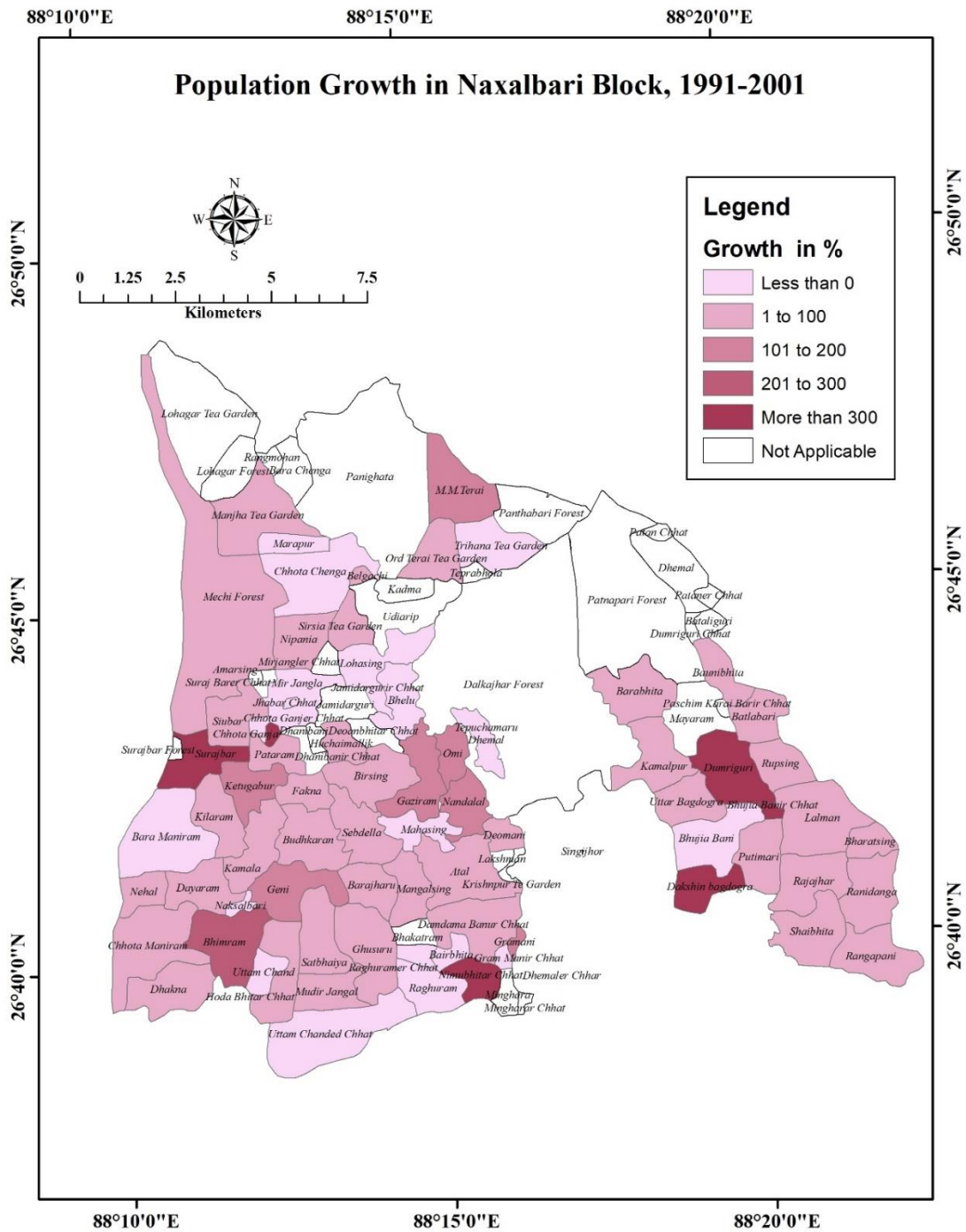
hand, in the following decade of 2001-11, highest population growth was observed in Purba Karai Barir Chhat recording a growth rate of 1327% while the lowest growth was witnessed in Jhauguri Chhat, recording a growth rate of -91.58%.

Sl. No	Name	Distance from S.M.C in km.	Population			Decadal Growth Rate (%)	
			1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Atal	21.5	928	1542	1487	66.16	-3.57
2	Bair Bhita	24.9	128	116	111	-9.38	-4.31
3	Bara Bhita	17.7	110	199	176	80.91	-11.56
4	Bara Chenga	32.5	2292	-	-	-	-
5	Bara Maniram	28.3	771	644	886	-16.47	37.58
6	Baraj Haru	24.3	639	1063	1465	66.35	37.82
7	Batlabari	12.9	1158	1488	1813	28.50	21.84
8	Bauni Bhita	15.1	514	811	932	57.78	14.92
9	Belgachi	28.5	1312	1788	1947	36.28	8.89
10	Bhakat Ram	23.9	295	-	-	-	-

11	Bharat Sing	10.4	333	533	700	60.06	31.33
12	Bhelu	24.1	87	85	564	-2.30	563.53
13	Bhimram**	27.1	3028	9310	11058	207.46	18.78
14	Bhujia Bani	15.5	1276	1047	1487	-17.95	42.02
15	Bhujia Banir Chhat	13	453	2846	2248	528.26	-21.01
16	Birsing	23.7	1099	1289	1380	17.29	7.06
17	Budh Karan	24.8	1417	1608	1632	13.48	1.49
18	Chhota Chenga	29.9	1127	820	754	-27.24	-8.05
19	Chhota Ganja	28.5	5	101	96	1920.00	-4.95
20	Chhota Ganjer Chhat	29.2	146	31	68	-78.77	119.35
21	Chhota Maniram	32	1131	1497	1999	32.36	33.53
22	Dakshin Bagdogra**	16.4	1213	5744	2647	373.54	-53.92
23	Dalkajhar Forest	21.8	–	8318	512	–	-93.84
24	Damdama	23.1	625	1198	1294	91.68	8.01
25	Dayaram	29.3	2498	2505	3182	0.28	27.03
26	Deoan Bhitari Chhat	25.5	41	–	–	–	–
27	Deomani	19.1	850	1088	1735	28.00	59.47
28	Dhakna	29.7	1875	2406	3537	28.32	47.01
29	Dhani Bani	25.7	656	–	–	–	–
30	Dhani Banir Chhat	27.8	–	91	509	–	459.34
31	Dhemal	18	229	338	459	47.60	35.80
32	Dumri Guri**	17.1	2233	10947	13416	390.24	22.55
33	Fakna	27.7	687	1092	1424	58.95	30.40
34	Gaziram	24.2	446	1053	579	136.10	-45.01
35	Geni**	26.6	2805	7080	8747	152.41	23.55
36	Ghusuru	25.2	1126	1389	1373	23.36	-1.15
37	Grammani	24.1	205	484	340	136.10	-29.75
38	Grammanir Chhat	24.3	573	344	476	-39.97	38.37
39	Hoda Bhitari Chhat	28.7	609	979	980	60.76	0.10
40	Huchai Mallik	25	559	698	616	24.87	-11.75
41	Jamidar Guri	26.4	–	716	790	–	10.34
42	Jamidar Gurir Chhat	26.1	123	85	209	-30.89	145.88
43	Jhabar Chhat	29.9	225	164	243	-27.11	48.17
44	Kamala	28.7	2304	3505	4908	52.13	40.03
45	Kamalpur	16	1388	2370	3022	70.75	27.51
46	Ketugabur	28.6	648	1405	1814	116.82	29.11
47	Kilaram	28.4	1285	1584	1931	23.27	21.91
48	Lakshman	19.2	633	–	–	–	–
49	Lakshmaner Chhat	20.6	415	–	–	–	–
50	Lalman**	11.4	2927	5001	6894	70.86	37.85
51	Lohagar Forest	33.2	171	–	–	–	–
52	Lohagar Tea Garden	36.6	1513	–	–	–	–
53	Lohasing	31.5	2152	1339	1363	-37.78	1.79
54	M.M.Terai	25.5	444	1090	1204	145.50	10.46
55	Maha Sing	22.1	529	500	662	-5.48	32.40
56	Mangal Sing	22.1	1300	1859	2327	43.00	25.17
57	Manjha Tea Garden	32.2	968	1145	1323	18.29	15.55

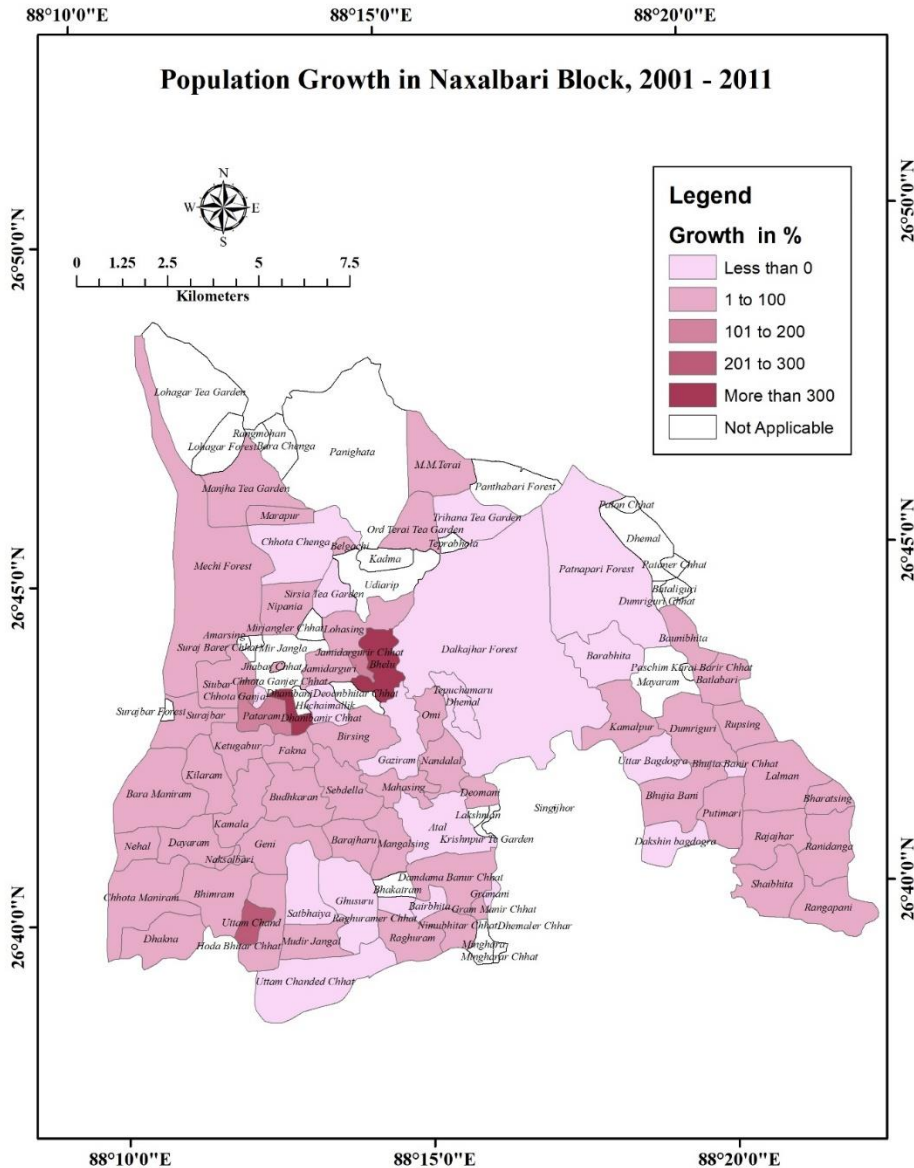
58	Marapur	31	1122	679	738	-39.48	8.69
59	Maya Ram	15.5	89	–	–	–	–
60	Mechi Forest	31.4	118	208	225	76.27	8.17
61	Minghara	25.5	215	–	–	–	–
62	Mingharar Chhat	25.9	190	229	787	20.53	243.67
63	Mir Jangla	29.3	1683	1571	–	-6.65	–
64	Mir Jangler Chhat	31	700	669	–	-4.43	–
65	Mudir Jangal	27.8	686	772	845	12.54	9.46
66	Naksal Bari	28.2	4612	1763	1618	-61.77	-8.22
67	Nandalal	21.6	513	1070	1522	108.58	42.24
68	Nehal	30.5	300	522	731	74.00	40.04
69	Nimu Bhtar Chhat	24.3	37	173	274	367.57	58.38
70	Nipania	30.8	1835	2477	2908	34.99	17.40
71	Omi	23.1	410	1230	1410	200.00	14.63
72	Ord Terai Tea Garden	25	1310	2166	2748	65.34	26.87
73	Panighata	30.4	4036	–	–	–	–
74	Panta Pari Forest	21.3	–	691	434	–	-37.19
75	Pata Ram	40.4	200	213	252	6.50	18.31
76	Putimari	12.7	767	879	1217	14.60	38.45
77	Raghuram	25.7	493	461	481	-6.49	4.34
78	Raghuramer Chhat	25.5	310	119	109	-61.61	-8.40
79	Raja Jhar	13	1534	2126	2590	38.59	21.83
80	Rang Mohan	33.1	794	–	–	–	–
81	Ranga Pani	10.6	1575	2729	3619	73.27	32.61
82	Rani Danga	10.3	3181	3944	4655	23.99	18.03
83	Rupsing	12.8	1838	2573	3499	39.99	35.99
84	Sat Bhaia	25.5	823	950	655	15.43	-31.05
85	Sebdela	24.1	859	866	1276	0.81	47.34
86	Shai Bhita	13.1	1242	1534	1851	23.51	20.66
87	Sirsia Tea Garden	29.5	764	886	245	15.97	-72.35
88	Siubar	29.4	761	879	1052	15.51	19.68
89	Surajibar	30	12	204	235	1600.00	15.20
90	Tarabari	15.9	148	151	163	2.03	7.95
91	Tarabarir Chhat	18.3	17	2	10	-88.24	400.00
92	Teprabhola	23.4	630	–	–	–	–
93	Tepuchamaru	24.5	598	–	–	–	–
94	Trihana Tea Garden	22.9	2431	2039	2016	-16.13	-1.13
95	Udiarip	26.7	–	–	663	–	–
96	Uttam Chand	28	491	457	569	-6.92	24.51
97	Uttam Chanded Chhat	33.1	645	574	538	-11.01	-6.27
98	Uttar Bagdogra (Ct)*	14.8	12064	15774	12064	30.75	-23.52
*village declared as census town in 2001							
**village declared as census town in 2011							
Source: Census of India 1991, 2001 & 2011, Calculated by the Researcher.							

Map No. 3 Population growth in Naxalbari block, 1991-2001



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

Map No. 4 Population growth in Naxalbari block, 2001-2011



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

During 1991-2001, the highest growth rate of population in Naxalbari block was observed in Chhota Ganja village recording a population growth of 1920% whereas the lowest growth rate was observed in Chhota Ganja Chhat recording a

growth of -78.77%. On the other hand, in 2001-11 decade the highest population growth was observed in Bhelu recording a growth rate of 564% and the lowest growth was found in Dalkajhar Forest recording a growth rate of -93.84%.

Table No. 10 C.D. block wise village level population & growth of population: Phansidewa block

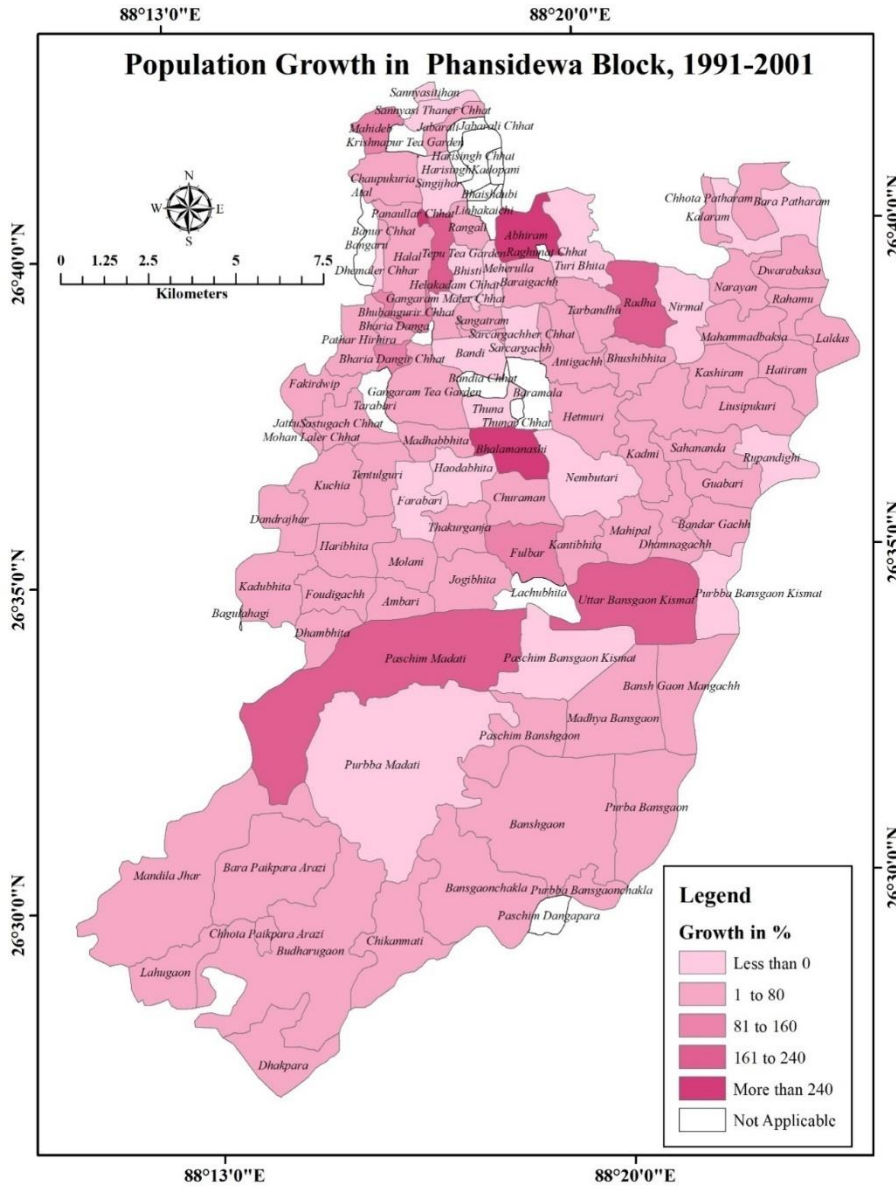
Sl. No	Name	Distance from SMC in km.	Population			Decadal Growth Rate (%)	
			1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Abhiram	18.1	497	1976	1773	297.59	-10.27
2	Ambari	12.1	933	1041	1371	11.58	31.70
3	Anti Gachh	16.9	778	820	2027	5.40	147.20
4	Bandar Gachh	22	2941	3825	3891	30.06	1.73
5	Bandi	21.8	1709	685	493	-59.92	-28.03
6	Bandia Chhat	22.7	—	124	961	—	675.00
7	Bangaru	23.1	1819	—	—	—	—
8	Bans Gaon	30.6	3515	4615	5958	31.29	29.10
9	Bansgaon Chakla	34.8	3031	3940	3876	29.99	-1.62

10	Bansh Gaon Mangachh	25.9	589	614	724	4.24	17.92
11	Banur Chhat	21.5	259	313	446	20.85	42.49
12	Bara Paikpara Arazi	41.2	4075	5123	6899	25.72	34.67
13	Bara Pathu Ram	9.5	2557	2247	2728	-12.12	21.41
14	Barai Gachh	19.7	617	875	427	41.82	-51.20
15	Baramala	24.2	—	368	1799	0.00	388.86
16	Bhala Manashi	25.3	855	3135	2951	266.67	-5.87
17	Bharia Danga	24.5	137	153	—	11.68	0.00
18	Bharia Dangir Chhat	24.8	88	175	190	98.86	8.57
19	Bhisti	23.1	1994	400	459	-79.94	14.75
20	Bhuban Gurir Chhat	23	328	694	870	111.59	25.36
21	Bhushi Bhita	17.1	717	876	1011	22.18	15.41
22	Budharu Gaon	42	3901	5317	6841	36.30	28.66
23	Chaupukuria	20.5	2252	2778	1724	23.36	-37.94
24	Chhota Paikpara Arazi	40.7	482	712	763	47.72	7.16
25	Chhota Pathu Ram	8.3	888	1476	1918	66.22	29.95
26	Chikan Mati	44.7	536	738	2480	37.69	236.04
27	Churaman	25.9	607	948	842	56.18	-11.18
28	Dalur Chhat	20.7	433	560	786	29.33	40.36
29	Dandra Jhar	33.3	519	663	1050	27.75	58.37
30	Dhak Para	47.4	1990	2682	3322	34.77	23.86
31	Dhakna Gachh	32.7	146	133	184	-8.90	38.35
32	Dham Bhita	32	173	232	728	34.10	213.79
33	Dhamna Gachh	20.9	1500	1790	2356	19.33	31.62
34	Dhemaler Chhar	23.3	474	337	644	-28.90	91.10
35	Dwara Baksa	12	562	726	1161	29.18	59.92
36	Fakir Dwip	29.1	589	813	948	38.03	16.61
37	Farabari	29.5	1594	1488	1405	-6.65	-5.58
38	Foudi Gachh	30.3	627	949	787	51.36	-17.07
39	Fulbar	23.7	804	1487	1279	84.95	-13.99
40	Ganga Ram Tea Garden	24.1	2338	2792	2793	19.42	0.04
41	Gangaram Maler Chhat	21.1	405	104	109	-74.32	4.81
42	Guabari	19.2	1111	1816	2203	63.46	21.31
43	Halal	21.5	1195	1532	1511	28.20	-1.37
44	Haoda Bhita	27.3	2849	931	736	-67.32	-20.95
45	Hari Bhita	30.1	855	1084	1042	26.78	-3.87
46	Hatiram	14	820	980	1421	19.51	45.00
47	Hela Kadam Chhat	25.1	50	6	289	-88.00	4716.67
48	Hetmuri	19.4	1726	2141	2124	24.04	-0.79
49	Jabarali	16.6	796	1004	1836	26.13	82.87
50	Jogi Bhita	29.1	1671	2089	2221	25.01	6.32
51	Kadmi	20.5	817	991	1256	21.30	26.74
52	Kadopani	16	—	357	1206	—	237.82
53	Kadu Bhita	33.7	416	446	205	7.21	-54.04
54	Kalaram	10.4	1624	2105	2463	29.62	17.01
55	Kanti Bhita	30.7	560	915	645	63.39	-29.51
56	Kashi Ram	15.2	1959	2009	2372	2.55	18.07
57	Krishnapur Tea Garden	17.4	—	84	405	—	382.14
58	Kuchia	29	940	1270	1360	35.11	7.09
59	Lachubhita	25.3	-	764	1260	—	64.92
60	Lahu Gaon	44	7056	9959	12710	41.14	27.62
61	Laldas	12.1	640	752	738	17.50	-1.86
62	Liusi Pukuri	16.5	3967	4378	5185	10.36	18.43
63	Madhab Bhita	25.1	690	912	1090	32.17	19.52
64	Madhya Bansgaon	25.6	6014	7411	9132	23.23	23.22
65	Mahammad Baksa	13.7	1396	1779	2913	27.44	63.74
66	Mahideb	18.1	84	158	40	88.10	-74.68
67	Mahipal	23.1	1044	1549	1887	48.37	21.82
68	Mandila Jhar	44.5	4307	6444	6642	49.62	3.07

69	Meherulla	19.8	1071	214	1501	-80.02	601.40
70	Mohan Laler Chhat	34.3	152	220	307	44.74	39.55
71	Molani	28.5	1778	1956	3020	10.01	54.40
72	Muktar Chhat	21.9	17	24	18	41.18	-25.00
73	Narayan	13.2	1119	1566	695	39.95	-55.62
74	Nembutari	27.4	1181	725	776	-38.61	7.03
75	Nirmmal	13.2	2311	2227	2557	-3.63	14.82
76	Nitu Bhita Chhat	22.2	443	-	-	-	-
77	Panauillar Chhat	19.9	47	193	309	310.64	60.10
78	Paschim Bansgaon Kismat	26.9	3728	2560	1644	-31.33	-35.78
79	Paschim Bansh Gaon	28	1665	1993	1313	19.70	-34.12
80	Paschim Madati	37.1	3916	10772	13523	175.08	25.54
81	Pathar Hir Hira	27.2	431	497	502	15.31	1.01
82	Pathar Hir Hira Chhat	26.2	980	3342	4039	241.02	20.86
83	Purba Bans Gaon	28.5	2224	2907	3859	30.71	32.75
84	Purbba Bansgaon Chakla	31.8	976	1302	1756	33.40	34.87
85	Purbba Bansgaon Kismat	22.1	2465	882	2184	-64.22	147.62
86	Purbba Madati	35.5	8926	6571	6424	-26.38	-2.24
87	Radha	14.4	596	1653	1932	177.35	16.88
88	Rahamu	11.8	557	709	702	27.29	-0.99
89	Rangali	31.4	368	455	617	23.64	35.60
90	Rupandighi	18.3	1488	1099	724	-26.14	-34.12
91	Sahananda	18.3	991	1212	1916	22.30	58.09
92	Sanga Tram	21.6	125	135	85	8.00	-37.04
93	Sannyasi Thaner Chhat	16.9	1424	915	930	-35.74	1.64
94	Sarcar Gachh	20.8	509	689	808	35.36	17.27
95	Sarcar Gachher Chhat	21.1	988	32	664	-96.76	1975.00
96	Sastu Gachh	32.5	448	552	634	23.21	14.86
97	Singi Jhor	18.1	966	643	1066	-33.44	65.79
98	Tarabari	15.5	-	-	289	-	-
99	Tar Bandha	15.7	1001	1271	1415	26.97	11.33
100	Tentul Guri	31.1	586	772	916	31.74	18.65
101	Tepu Tea Garden	22.2	660	2182	2438	230.61	11.73
102	Thakur Ganja	27.8	1441	1926	2571	33.66	33.49
103	Thuna	22.7	1150	1145	1070	-0.43	-6.55
104	Thunar Chhat	23.1	-	447	319	-	-28.64
105	Turi Bhita	20.4	1147	931	69	-18.83	-92.59
106	Uttar Bansgaon Kismat	23	1324	4199	5064	217.15	20.60

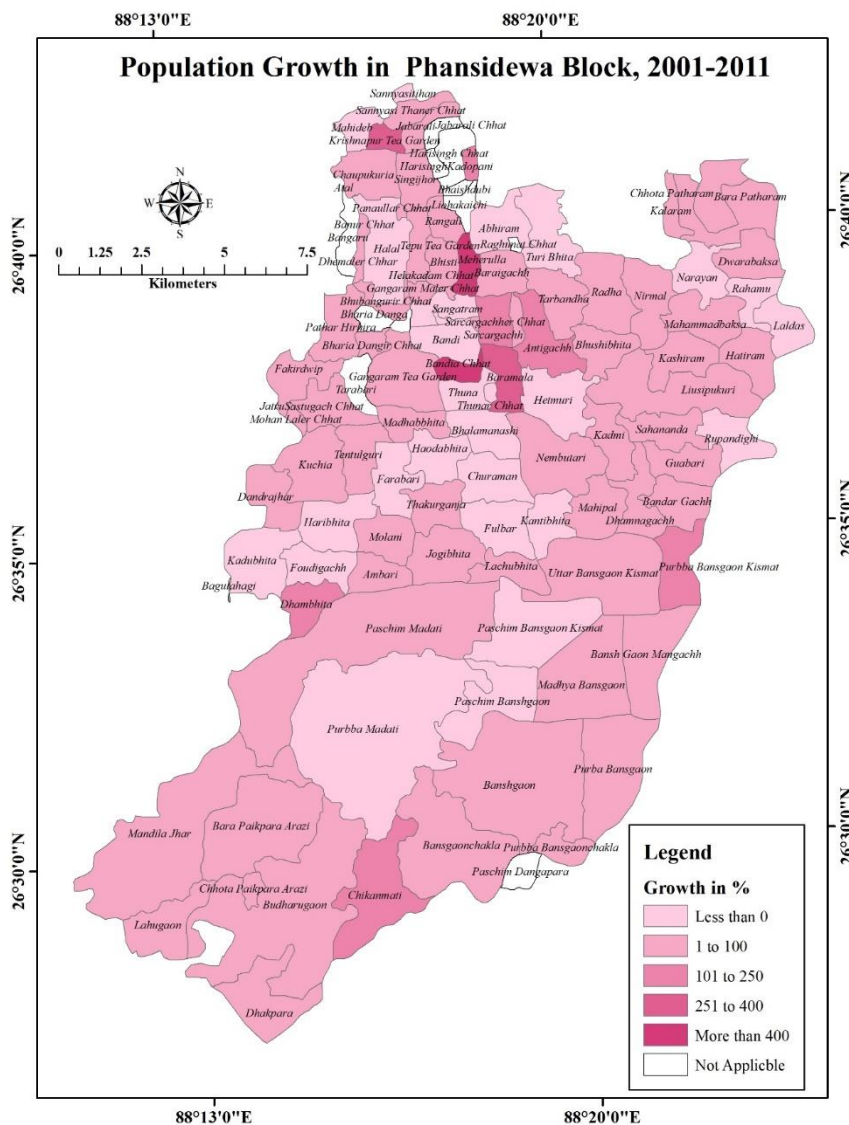
Source: Census of India 1991, 2001 & 2011, Calculated by the Researcher.

Map No. 5 Population growth in Phansidewa block, 1991-2001



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

Map No. 6 Population growth in Phansidewa block, 2001-2011



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

During 1991-2001 the highest growth rate in Phansidewa block was found in Panaullar Chhat village recording a population growth of 310.64% whereas the lowest growth rate was observed in Sarcargachher Chhat recording a growth of -

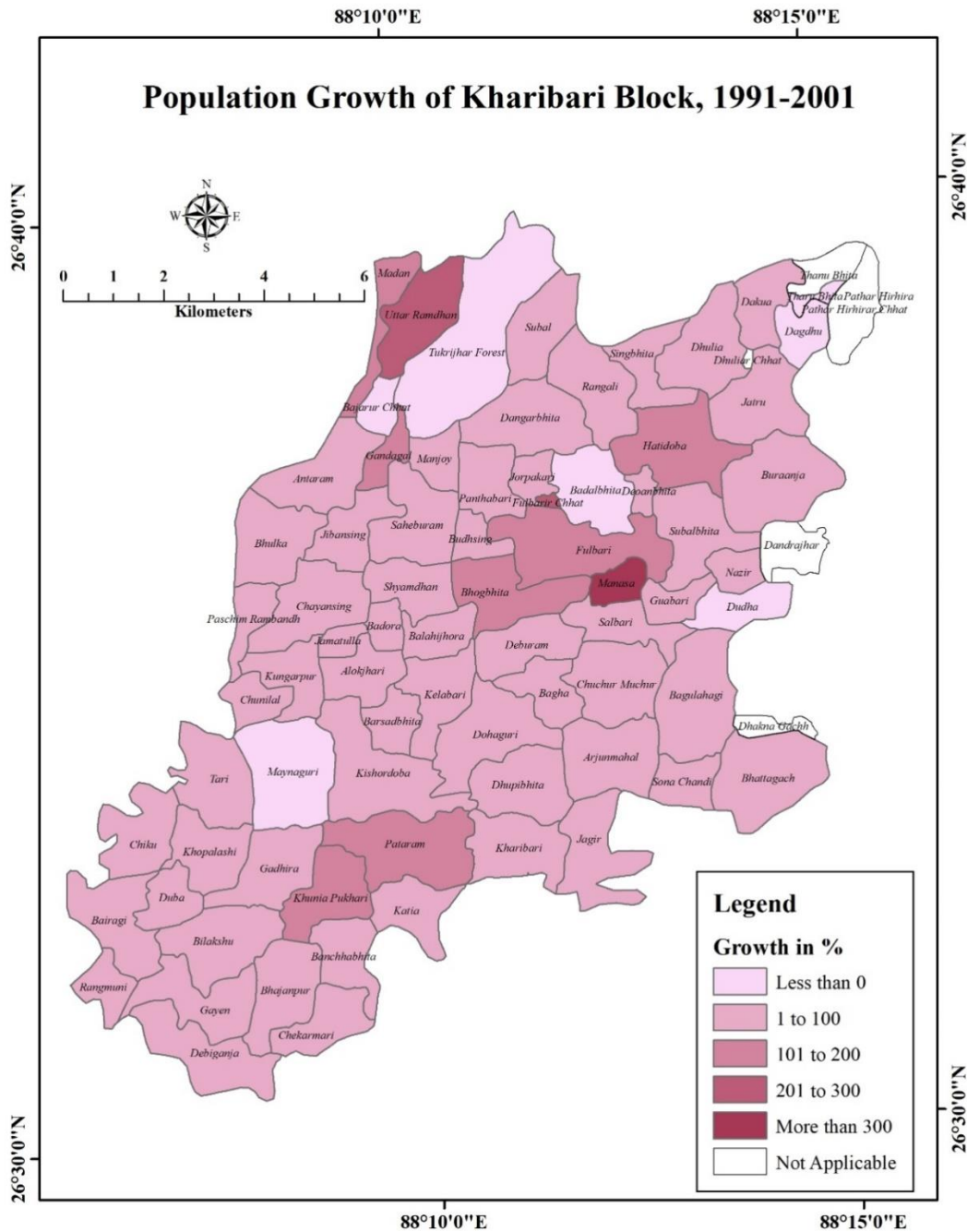
96.76%. On the other hand, in 2001-11, the highest population growth was observed in Helakadam Chhat with a growth rate of 4716.67 % and the lowest growth rate of -74.76% was recorded in Mahideb.

Sl. No	Name	Distance from SMC in km.	Population			Decadal Growth Rate %	
			1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Alokhari	38.5	279	395	529	41.58	33.92
2	Antaram	36.3	251	276	536	9.96	94.20
3	Arjanmahal	35.3	1016	1136	1488	11.81	30.99
4	Badal Bhita	35.7	785	501	408	-36.18	-18.56
5	Badora	37.6	209	264	329	26.32	24.62
6	Bagha	39.8	587	846	943	44.12	11.47
7	Bagula Hagi	35.2	586	692	813	18.09	17.49
8	Bairagi	47.8	1312	1514	1961	15.40	29.52
9	Bajarur Chhat	33.6	114	95	192	-16.67	102.11
10	Balahi Jhora	37.6	923	1301	1398	40.95	7.46
11	Banchha Bhita	42.4	710	1045	1463	47.18	40.00
12	Barsad Bhita	41.3	1781	2208	2671	23.98	20.97

13	Bhajanpur	44.2	1213	1774	2401	46.25	35.34
14	Bhatta Gachh	34.1	427	459	601	7.49	30.94
15	Bhog Bhita	36.4	1127	2535	2991	124.93	17.99
16	Bhulka	39.5	230	273	306	18.70	12.09
17	Bilakshu	45	361	454	762	25.76	67.84
18	Budh Sing	35.4	325	641	824	97.23	28.55
19	Bura Ganja	30.5	475	649	616	36.63	-5.08
20	Chayan Sing	37.4	1369	1871	2158	36.67	15.34
21	Chchur Muchur	38.4	997	1467	1682	47.14	14.66
22	Chekar Mari	43.8	630	709	876	12.54	23.55
23	Chiku	46.2	246	344	435	39.84	26.45
24	Chunilal	44.8	854	950	1192	11.24	25.47
25	Dagdhu	27.7	899	109	29	-87.88	-73.39
26	Dakua	27.3	318	447	508	40.57	13.65
27	Dangar Bhita	32.4	1327	1661	2207	25.17	32.87
28	Debi Ganja	47.1	1216	1837	2042	51.07	11.16
29	Debu Ram	38.3	890	1020	968	14.61	-5.10
30	Deoan Bhita	34.5	281	455	857	61.92	88.35
31	Dhulia	34.2	884	1126	1303	27.38	15.72
32	Dhupi Bhita	38.2	2179	3059	3518	40.39	15.00
33	Doha Guri	39.5	963	1135	1405	17.86	23.79
34	Duba	46.7	354	513	695	44.92	35.48
35	Dudha	34.3	621	322	379	-48.15	17.70
36	Ful Bari	36.7	125	266	810	112.80	204.51
37	Ful Barir Chat	34.9	84	260	171	209.52	-34.23
38	Gadhira	43.9	772	948	1164	22.80	22.78
39	Gandagal	34.4	1553	3120	4363	100.90	39.84
40	Gayen	45.9	997	1203	1469	20.66	22.11
41	Gua Bari	37.3	225	274	343	21.78	25.18
42	Hati Doba	33.5	853	1779	1962	108.56	10.29
43	Jagir	37.4	1108	1434	1662	29.42	15.90
44	Jama Tulla	38	400	442	506	10.50	14.48
45	Jatru	29.2	544	694	1008	27.57	45.24
46	Jiban Sing	37.1	516	866	1471	67.83	69.86
47	Jor Pakari	35.5	237	367	431	54.85	17.44
48	Katia	41	965	1592	1736	64.97	9.05
49	Kelabari	37.7	1520	2010	2562	32.24	27.46
50	Khari Bari	37.3	3943	5442	6660	38.02	22.38
51	Khopalashi	45.9	656	675	779	2.90	15.41
52	Khunia Pukhari	42	824	1955	2275	137.26	16.37
53	Kishor Doba	41.2	2427	2995	3653	23.40	21.97
54	Kungar Pur	39.8	403	444	498	10.17	12.16
55	Madan	32.2	82	213	236	159.76	10.80
56	Manasa	39.5	72	963	600	1237.50	-37.69
57	Manjaya	33.9	466	621	1906	33.26	206.92
58	Mayna Guri	42.8	2080	1325	1704	-36.30	28.60
59	Nazir	38.2	277	280	313	1.08	11.79
60	Pantha Bari	34.6	828	1000	607	20.77	-39.30
61	Paschim Ram Bandh	41	339	600	763	76.99	27.17
62	Pata Ram	40.4	1325	3276	4141	147.25	26.40
63	Rang Muni	48	693	1086	1411	56.71	29.93
64	Rangali	31.4	1536	1842	2425	19.92	31.65
65	Saheburam	35.9	1501	1724	1897	14.86	10.03
66	Salbari	38.9	268	344	538	28.36	56.40
67	Shyamdhan	37	2616	4708	5192	79.97	10.28
68	Sing Bhita	32.8	414	489	536	18.12	9.61

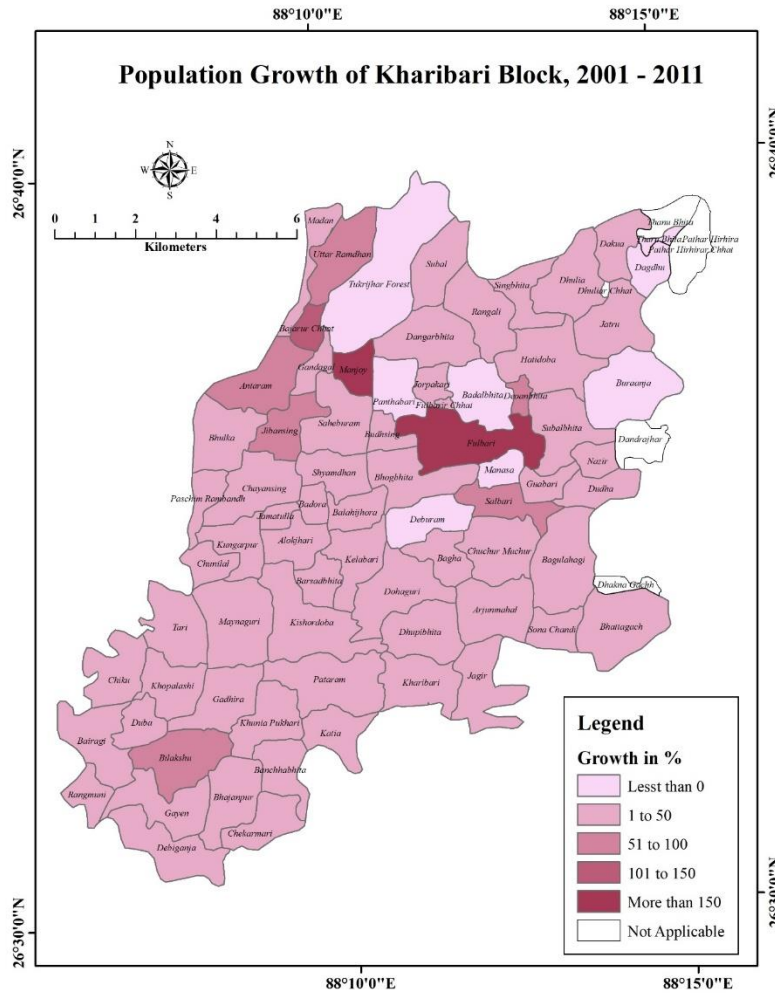
69	Sona (Chalani) Chandi	34.5	1450	1488	1751	2.62	17.67
70	Subal	30	246	280	394	13.82	40.71
71	Subal Bhita	35.6	677	959	1022	41.65	6.57
72	Tari	44.6	1064	1319	1736	23.97	31.61
73	Tharu Bhita	25.6	1216	242	89	-80.10	-63.22
74	Tukriajhar Forest	34.3	709	94	89	-86.74	-5.32
75	Uttar Ramdhan	32.3	1262	4528	6892	258.80	52.21
**village declared as census town in 2011							
Source: Census of India 1991, 2001 & 2011, Calculated by the Researcher.							

Map No. 7 Population growth of Kharibari block, 1991-2001



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

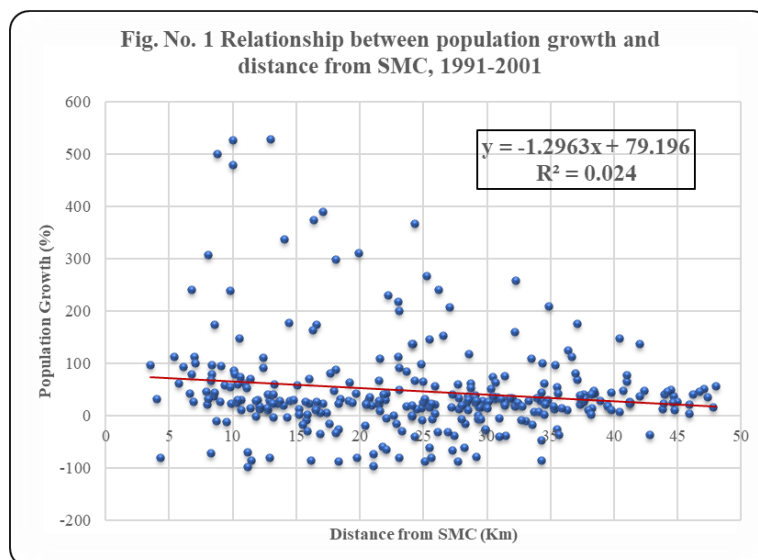
Map No. 8 Population growth of Kharibari block, 2001-2011



Source: Prepared by the Researcher

During 1991-2001 the highest growth rate in Kharibari block was experienced by Manasa village recording a population growth of 1237.50% whereas the lowest growth rate was observed in Dagdhu recording a growth of -87.80%. On the

other hand, in 2001-11 decade the highest population growth was observed in Manjaya recording a growth rate of 206.92 % and the lowest growth rate was found in Dagdhu recording a growth rate of -73.39%.



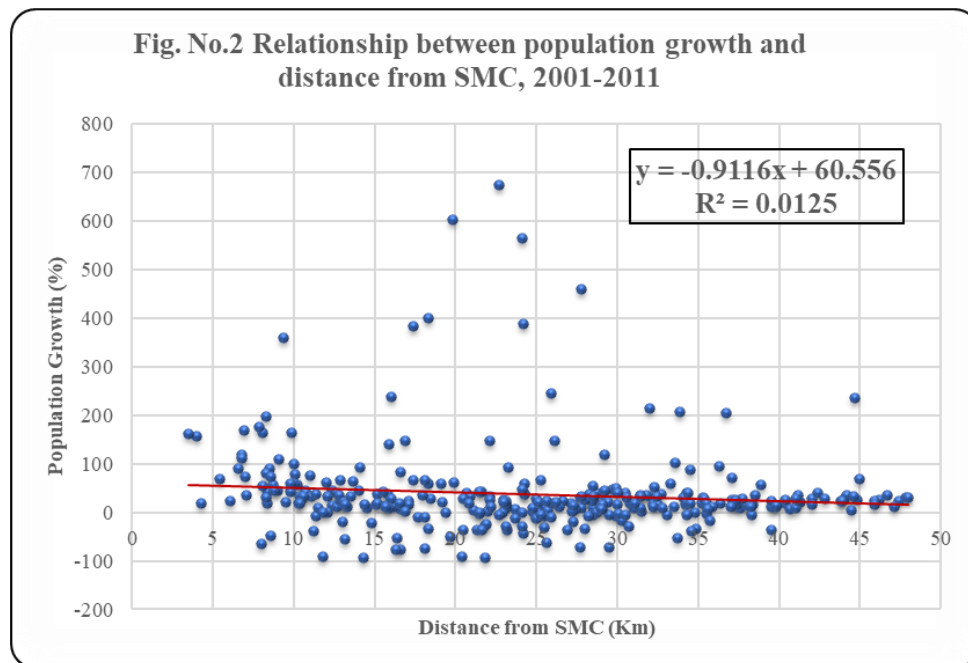


Figure 1 and 2 shows the relationship between distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation and decadal growth rate of population for each village within the study area during 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 respectively. While calculating the regression equation and determining the R^2 value some villages with abnormally high decadal population growth has been left out deliberately. From the figures it can be observed that in Siliguri sub-division during 1991–2001 and 2001-2011, the distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation and decadal growth rate of population for each village in the study area are independent of one another. The regression coefficient between these two variables validates the inference. Moreover, the coefficient of determination calculated was less than 2%, which means that less than 2% of variation in the decadal growth rate of population for each village can be explained by variation in distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation. Therefore, other factors are more important in determining the decadal growth rate of population among the villages of the study area and distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation does not have any significant influence in determining the population growth. Therefore, the first hypothesis taken for this study that with an increase in distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation the population growth in rural settlements decrease is rejected and it can be said that distance from Siliguri Municipal Corporation does not have any influence in determining the decadal growth rate of population of the rural settlements in the study area.

Conclusion

Therefore, the major objective of this chapter was to analyze the growth of rural and urban settlement within the study area. To full fill this objective, the population growth was analyzed from 1991 to 2001 based on census data. The analysis was done for the four blocks, i.e. Matigara, Naxalbari, Phansidewa, Kharibari as well as Siliguri Municipal Corporation. The analysis shows that population growth in the study area has been very rapid from 1991 to 2011. However, the decadal growth of population was not uniform for all the blocks. Matigara block located closest to Siliguri Municipal Corporation

witnessed very high population growth both during 1991- 2001 and 2001 -2011. This is due to the fact that population spillout from Siliguri Municipal Corporation to its surrounding areas has been taking place very rapidly from 1991 onwards. On the other hand, Phansidewa and Kharibari block located farthest from Siliguri Municipal Corporation have recorded relatively less population growth. Siliguri Municipal Corporation during 1991- 2001 more than doubled its population due to addition of adjoining area within its boundary but during the next decade it witnessed a very moderate population growth.

The size class classification of rural settlements within the study area was also done for each blocks. It was seen that Matigara and Naxalbari block saw a decrease in their total number of villages from 1991 to 2011, because during this period many villages were converted to census towns in these two blocks. However, for Phansidewa and Kharibari, the total number of villages from 1991 to 2011 did not change very much. Another interesting fact which requires attention is that the number of villages in the lowest four size classes have declined considerably in the study area in 2011 compared to 1991, but for the largest three size classes an opposite trend was visible.

At the village level there is a lot of variation in decadal population growth. Therefore, to analyze the growth of population for villages in the study area, decadal population growth of individual villages was computed for 1991-2001 and 2001-2011. While calculating the decadal population growth of villages, there was problem with some village which existed in one or two of the three census years under consideration. The village level population data shows there are some villages with very high decadal growth (over 1000%) in the study area. Negative population growth in villages of the study area is not uncommon. Some villages with very less population size has witnessed nearly 100% negative population growth which may be the result of a combination of factors like out migration and natural calamity. However, there is no significant relation between the distance of any village from Siliguri Municipal Corporation and their decadal population growth.

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