

Migration of Labour in Late Colonial Bengal: Urbanization and Socio-Economic Condition in Barrackpore Industrial Zone

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Barrackpore is the old township of north 24 parganas district. The people of this region are full of regional culture and tradition. Here the 'barracks' of the first sepoys were established in the British East India company rule. Barrackpore name originates from this 'barrack'. In fact it was the army camp area. From the mid-nineteenth century onwards, various industries like jute industry, cotton industry, paper mill etc. were developed in this region on the banks of Hoogly river. In Barrackpore industrial zone, especially in Khardaha, Titagarh, Shyamnagar, Kankinara, Bhatpara the monopoly of different industries has been noticed. Due to various industries, this sub-division of various state territories of Eastern India, due to large number of people being migrated. The main reason for the migration was economic. At first they build their own habitat for economic reasons, but gradually they started mixing with regional environment and culture. For this reason the area was initially forested, but the workers built slums permanent habitat. As a result, urbanization started slowly in this area. This immigration and urbanization took place from rural to urban changes in linear approach. As a result of industrialization of this place, due to the workers migrations from different parts of India, the population increased in 1890-1940. The subject of my paper is how workers migrated here, why did they migrate and what has changed in this area?