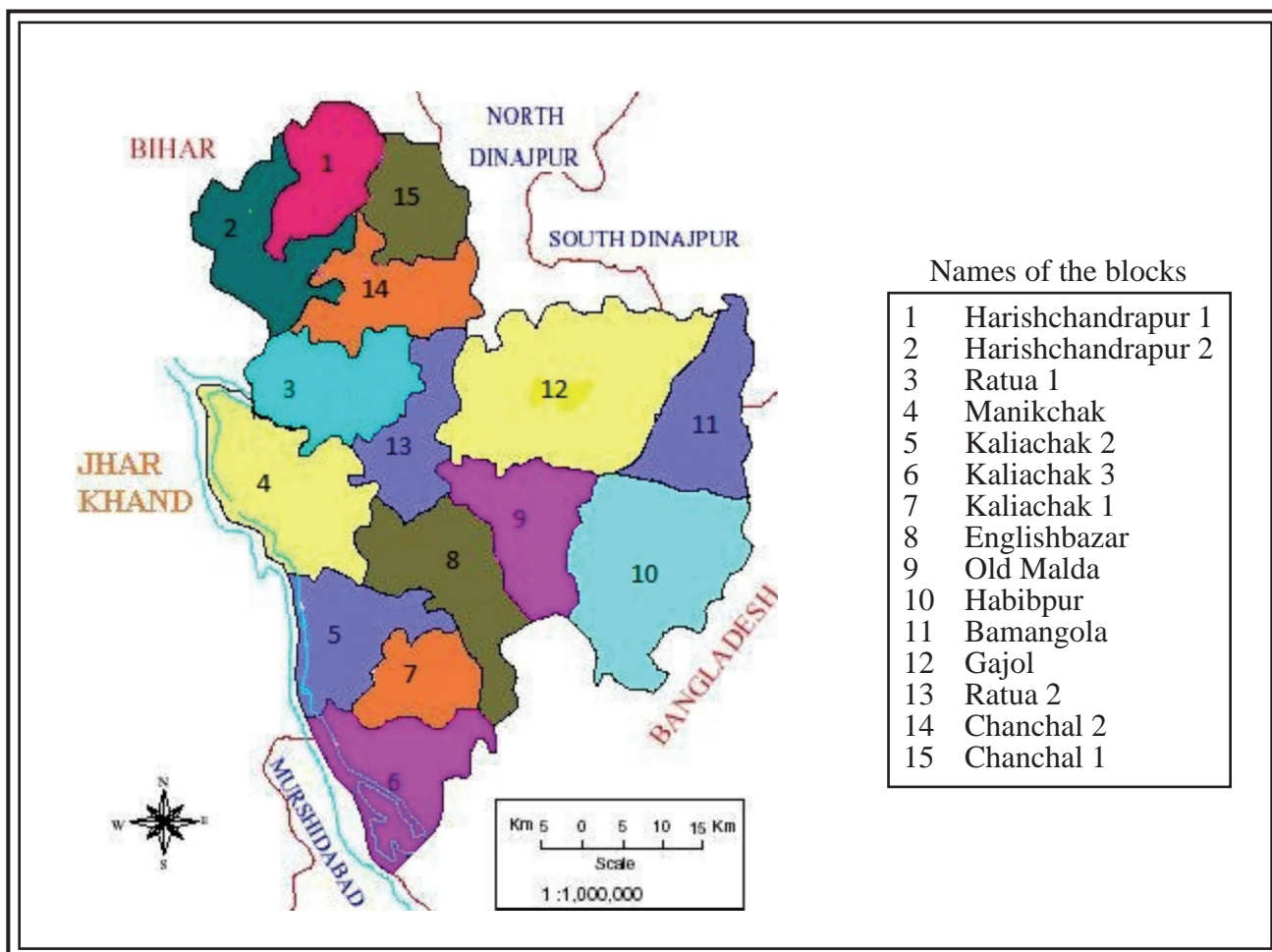


CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 District Profile

Malda District was formed in 1813 out of some portions of outlying areas of Purnia, Dinajpur and Rajshahi Districts. It is bounded by Bihar and Jharkhand States in the West, North Dinajpur District in the North, Murshidabad District in the South-West and South Dinajpur District and international border with Bangladesh in the East.



Headquartered at Englishbazar, the District spans over an area of 3733 sq km and accounts for about four *per cent* (39.98 lakh) of the population of the State (913.48 lakh), with 93 *per cent* of them residing in rural areas. The rate of literacy in the District is 62.71 *per cent*¹ as against 77.08 *per cent* at State level and the National average of 74.04 *per cent*. Out of 6.62 lakh families of the District, 39.17 *per cent* (2.59 lakh families) live below the poverty line (BPL) as compared to 34.12 *per cent* at the State level. The position of the Malda District *vis-à-vis* the State position and National average in respect of some demographic indicators are shown in **Table 1.1** below:

¹ As per Census 2011

Table 1.1: Some demographic indicators of Malda vis-à-vis State and National average

Indicators	Position as of Census 2001			Position as of Census 2011		
	Malda	West Bengal as a whole	National average	Malda	West Bengal as a whole	National average
Population density (population per sq kilometre)	881	903	325	1071	1029	382
Population growth rate (decadal) (percentage)	24.78	17.77	21.54	21.50	13.93	17.64
Percentage of rural population	92.68	72.03	72.18	86.20	68.11	68.84
Sex ratio (female population per 1000 male population)	948	934	933	939	947	940
Literacy rate (percentage)	50.28	68.64	64.83	62.71	77.08	74.04
Female literacy Rate (percentage)	41.25	59.61	53.67	57.84	71.16	65.46
Male literacy Rate (percentage)	58.80	77.02	75.26	67.27	82.67	82.14

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

1.2 Human development infrastructure and sectoral developmental schemes

The status of various infrastructures directly affecting human development and relevant sectoral schemes under implementation in the District are shown below:

Status	Scheme under implementation
Health: In Health sector, the District has a network of one District Hospital (now upgraded to Medical College & Hospital), one Sub-divisional hospital, 15 community Health Centres (CHCs), 35 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 511 Sub Centres (SCs). All these health facilities have a total of 1259 beds for indoor treatment.	u National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a flagship scheme of GoI, implemented as an umbrella schemes of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproductive Child Health • National Programme for Control of Blindness • National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme • National Leprosy Eradication Programme
Nutrition : Under Integrated Child Development Services, 5573 Anganwadi centres under 16 ICDS projects are running to cater the nutritional needs of children and pregnant women.	u Mid-day Meal u Integrated Child Development Services
Education : As regards Educational facilities, the District has 1889 primary, 481 upper primary/secondary and 119 higher secondary/multipurpose schools. Besides there are 12, 19 and 38 madrasah, junior madrasah and high madrasah schools respectively. There is one Central school in the District. There are three Government-run Engineering and Technical schools, one privately run Engineering college and 145 Vocational Training Centres.	u Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Status	Scheme under implementation
<p>Water Supply: The District profile depicts that 15.08 lakh population (44 <i>per cent</i> of the rural population) were covered under 45 existing piped water supply schemes (PWSSs), while 15889 spot sources (tube wells) were functional in the District to provide potable water to the people. The District has seven arsenic affected blocks, namely English Bazar, Kaliachak -I, Kaliachak -II, Kaliachak -III, Manikchak, Ratua-I and Ratua -II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> u Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), (modified to National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) with effect from April 2009) with component schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality Sub-Mission (WQSM) and • Swajaldhara schemes as component schemes
<p>Connectivity : There are 12 main Railway stations in the District. Out of total 2119 habitations in the District, 435 are connected through roads as of March 2012. As regards surface transport, 682.5 kms long road is under the control of PW Department, 849 kms under Malda Zilla Parishad/ Panchayats and 489 kms under various Municipalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> u Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
<p>Flood and Erosion : Malda is a flood prone district. Out of 15 blocks in the District, five (namely, Harischandrapur - I, Ratua -I, Manikchak, Kaliachak-II and Kaliachak-III) blocks are more vulnerable to flood. Major rivers in the District are Ganga, Mahananda, Fulahar, Punarbhava, Tangon and Kalindri. All rivers in the District are meandering in nature and cause huge damage to the lives and property by inundating at unprotected (non-embankment) areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> u During 2006-12, 24 anti-erosion schemes were taken up in the District.
<p>Agriculture : With an annual rainfall of 1485.2 mm, Malda District has an agrarian economy with about 65 per cent of the population being farmers. The main crops of the District are pulses, rice, jute, etc. Besides, 75000 hectare (ha) of land was under orchard and horticulture. As of March 2010, net area sown in the District was 2.16 lakh ha forming four per cent of the net area sown in the state. Food grains produced in the District represented five per cent of the total production of the State. Out of total area of 3.73 lakh ha land in the District, 2.60 lakh ha was net cultivable area. Out of the same, 1.20 lakh ha was irrigated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> u National Food Security Mission (NFSM) u Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
<p>Power : Out of 3701 villages in the District, 1773 villages are electrified. Out of total consumption of 1.44 lakh KWH electricity, domestic consumption accounted for 0.78 lakh KWH, agriculture /irrigation /dewatering accounted for 0.32 lakh KWH while 0.16 lakh KWH was consumed by the industries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> u Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)

Major schemes being implemented under other sectors in Malda include:

<i>Employment Generation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">u Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)u Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
<i>Housing and Sanitation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">u Indira Awaas Yojanau Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programmeu Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
<i>Need based local area development schemes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">u Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD)u Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prkalpa (BEUP)

1.3 *Administrative Set-up*

The District comprises of two Sub-divisions and 15 community Blocks ². To cater to rural development, the Blocks are further sub-divided into 146 Gram Panchayats (GP). The District Planning Committee (DPC) is the apex body at the district level for approving the shelf of schemes for development of the District. The District Magistrate (DM) is in the charge of overall administration and is the Secretary of the DPC. The DM ensures co-ordination between District Rural Development Cell (DRDC), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), field officers and all other departments of the State Government and monitors implementation of various schemes as shown in *Appendix 1.1*. DRDC is the agency which manages the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development in the District.

² Malda Sadar Sub Division comprise Bamangola, Englishbazar, Gazole, Habibpur, Kaliachak I, Kaliachak II, Kaliachak III, Manikchak and Old Malda, Chanchal Sub Division comprise Chanchal I, Chanchal II, Harishchandrapur I, Harishchandrapur II, Ratua I and Ratua II