

The Population of Kaibartta Caste in Undivided Midnapore District of Bengal Province According to the Census of India (1872-1931)

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Abstract

Undivided Midnapore district was the largest district in Bengal Province and India in terms of population during the colonial period. The total area of Midnapore district was 11,044 square kilometers. Later, on January 1, 2002, this district was divided into two parts. The eastern part of the district was known as East Midnapore and the western part as West Midnapore. East Midnapore has an area of 4736 square kilometers and West Midnapore has an area of 6308 square kilometers. Again, a decade ago, on April 1, 2017, Jhargram district was formed from West Midnapore district, including some parts, including Jhargram, Binpur, and Gopiballabhpur. That is, the undivided Midnapore district of the colonial period was divided and has now become three districts. But the main purpose of my article is to present a description of the changing population of the undivided Midnapore district of the Bengal province during the colonial period. In this study, I have used the Indian Census report as my primary material. Based on that, a clear numerology of the Kaibartta tribe will emerge in this article.

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Introduction

The name of the undivided Midnapore district comes to the forefront as one of the districts of West Bengal. This Midnapore is the largest and most popular district of the Bengal province. To its north is Bankura district; to its east are the Hooghly River and the Rupnarayan River, along with the 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly districts; to its south is the Bay of Bengal and to its west are the Balasore district and Mayurbhanj district of Odisha and to its northwest is the Purulia district. The rivers in this district of riverine Bengal are Hooghly, Rupnarayan, Haldi, Kansai, Rasulpur, Subarnarekha, Shilavati etc. The natural location of this district is so suitable that on one side it is connected to the plains and roads, and on the other side it has good arrangements for shipping trade and travel to foreign countries through the Bay of Bengal.

During the colonial period, Midnapore district was the largest district in Bengal and India in terms of population. The total area of Midnapore district was 11,044 square kilometers. Later, the area of East Midnapore was 4,736 square kilometers and the area of West Midnapore was 6,308 square

kilometers. This district was divided into Midnapore Sadar, Kharagpur, Jhargram, Ghatal, Tamluk, Kanthi and Haldia subdivisions. Deputations, petitions, etc. have been made at various times regarding the division of this district. Even Midnapore MLA Sukumar Das applied for administrative reforms in Midnapore in the 1994 assembly session and also requested to divide the district into two parts. ^[1] Finally, for administrative convenience, on 1 January 2002, the western part of this district was divided into West Midnapore and the eastern part was divided into East Midnapore. Midnapore Sadar, Kharagpur, Jhargram, Ghatal subdivisions are located in West Midnapore district. On the other hand, Tamluk, Kanthi, Haldia subdivisions are included in East Midnapore district. Later, these subdivisions emerged from a part of Kanthi subdivision. Near about a decade ago, on 4 April 2017, Jhargram district was formed with some parts of West Midnapore including Jhargram, Binpur and Gopiballabhpur. That is, the undivided Midnapore district was divided and has now become three districts. Although the area of the undivided Midnapore district has been annexed or annexed at different times during the colonial period.

The current traditional method of census was not prevalent in India in the past. During the time of Emperor Ashoka, the number of citizens of his capital Patliputra was counted. Similarly, during the colonial period, the British administrator Buchanan Hamilton made regional efforts to determine the population. The then George and Magistrate of the district, Sir H. Strachey, took a step in 1802 to determine the population of the undivided Midnapore district. In his report, the population of this district was about 1.5 million. No comparison of the later statistics with these statistics can be made. Because different parts of the district have been annexed or annexed at different times. Besides, some parts are in the present Hooghly or Balasore of Odisha. Similarly, the part of Hijli formed a separate collectorate. In 1837, the estimated population of the entire Midnapore district including Hijli was 13,60,699. In this case, the average population per house was taken as five. Again in 1852, the then Collector of Midnapore, Mr. H.V.Bayley, gave the same figure as 15,76,835. A few years later, in 1866, the Collector of Midnapore, Sir William Herschell, attempted to estimate the population based on the amount of cultivable land in the district. He estimated the total population at 1,169,600 for the 2,924 acres of cultivable land in the district at an average of four hundred people per acre of cultivable land, and 30,000 for Midnapore town. The total figure for the entire district is 1,199,600.

The first official attempt to collect detailed statistics, including caste, in British India was in 1871-72. At that time, Indians were mainly counted in four categories – Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Anglo-Indians. In fact, all citizens other

than Muslims, Sikhs or Anglo-Indians were counted as Hindus on average. The census work was also started in the Midnapore district simultaneously on 27 January 1872. That time the Chief Census Commissioner for this census was Mr. H. Beverly.

The zamindar and many of his agents extended their cooperation in this huge campaign of the first census of 1871-72. Besides, the mukhyas of various villages in the district were appointed for this great campaign of the census. At this time, most of the work had to be done by the police. In this census of 1872, the area of Medinapur district was 5082 square miles and the total population was 25,40,963. Of these, 1,257,194 were males and 1,283,769 were females. In 1872, the total population of the Kaibarttas in this district was 6,92,140. This district consisted of a total of 12,962 villages and 446,045 families. However, the most densely populated thana areas of the district were Chandrakona, Ghatal, Daspur, Panshkura and Tamluk. Each area had a population density of 850 people per square mile. Apart from these thana areas, the most populous areas in the south-west are Debra, Sabang and Patashpur. And in the north-west, most of the jungle areas are. Again, in Satahata, Nandigram, Khejuri, Kontai or Kanthi, Raghunathpur, the population density is about 400 to 500 people per square mile. While giving the population details of Midnapore district in the census of 1872, the Census Commissioner Mr. Beverly has beautifully presented the statistics of villages, police stations, number of houses, population density per square mile, subdivisions, etc. That informations are given below in the table format.

Table 1: The population, area etc. of each subdivision wise in Medinipore District, 1872.

Abstract of the Population, Area, etc. of each Subdivision and Police Circle (Thana) in Midnapore District, 1872.										
Subdivisions	Police Circle	Area in Sq Mile	No. of Village, Mouza	No. of House	Total Population	Persons per sq mile	Village, Mouza per sq mile	Persons per village mouza	Houses per sq mile	Persons per house
	Midnapore	3	1	32	1	478	3.	1	91	5.2
		6	1	,9	7		28	4		
		1	8	33	2			6		
			5		,					
					6					
					7					
					2					
Midnapore	Narayanagarh	3	8	23	1	432	2.	1	78	5.5
		0	2	,5	2		76	5		
		0	8	43	9			6		
					,					
					4					

Head					5					
					5					
Quarte					3					
r	Dan	2	5	19	1	518	2.	1	89	5.8
	tan	1	9	,3	1		73	9		
		7	2	29	2			0		
					,					
					3					
					7					
					2					
	Gop	5	1	24	1	233	2.	1	47	5.0
	iball	1	1	,0	2		16	0		
	avp	6	1	01	0			8		
	ur		3		,					
					3					

					1				
					0				
4	Jhar	1	4	8,		269	2.	9	48
	gra	6	9	13	5		92	2	
	m	9	3	3	,				
					5				
					6				
					0				
	Bin	4	6	13	7	159	1.	1	28
	pur	6	9	,3	4		49	0	
		7	8	03	,			6	
					2				
					7				
					1				
	Salb	2	5	9,	5	246	2.	1	44
	ani	0	0	19	0		43	0	
		7	5	4	,			1	
					8				
					6				
					0				
	Kes	2	8	19	1	476	3.	1	85
	pur	2	3	,3	0		66	3	

		9	9	81	8			0	
					,				
					9				
					2				
					9				
	Daspore	1	3	24	1	131	3.	3	231
		0	7	,0	3	1	64	6	
		4	9	44	6			0	
					,				
					3				
					5				
					9				
	Deb	1	6	20	1	101	6.	1	187
	ra	0	7	,3	1	6	23	6	
		9	9	32	0			3	
					,				
					4				
					7				
					4				
	Sab	2	4	38	2	759	1.	4	135
	ang	8	5	2	1		60	7	
		3	4	77	4			3	
					,				
					7				
					5				
					5				
Subdivisional Total		2	7	23	1	431	2.	1	78
		9	7	2,	,		62	6	
		6	6	47	2			4	
		2	5	0	7				
					6				
					,				
					3				
					8				
					8				

The Statistics of Tamluk Subdivision of Midnapore District are Given Below:

Sub divisions	Police Circle	Area in Sq Mile	No. of Village, Mouza	No of House	Total Population	Persons per sq mile	Village, Mouza per sq mile	Persons per village mouza	Houses per sq mile	Persons per house
	Ta	77	24	11	77,	10	3.	31	14	6.

Tamluk	mluk		9	,3 7 5	3 4 1	0 4	2 3	1	8	8
	Panchkura	1 6 4	5 5 9	2 4 ,3 3 2	1 6 3, 9 1 5	9 9 9	3 4 1	2 9 3	1 4 8	6 7
	Maslandpur	1 1 1	2 1 7	1 0 ,8 7 4	6 4, 1 8 8	5 7 8	1 9 5	2 9 6	9 8	5 .9
	Sutahata	1 1 1	2 2 9	8 ,4 7 9	5 3, 5 4 6	4 8 2	2 .0 6	2 3 4	7 6	6 .3
	Nandigram	1 5 8	2 6 8	1 7 ,3 7 8	1 0 8, 8 2 7	6 8 9	1 .7 0	4 0 6	1 1 0	6 .3
Subdivisional Total		6 2 1	1 5 2 2	7 2 ,4	4 6 7, 8	7 5 3	2 .4 5	3 0 7	1 1 7	6 .5

The statistics of Contai (Kanthi) subdivision of Midnapore district are given below:

Abstract of the Population, Area, etc. of each Subdivision and Police Circle (Thana) in Midnapore District, 1872.										
Sub divisions	Police Circle	Area in Sq Mile	No of Village, Mouza	No of House	Total Population	Persons per sq mile	Village, Mouza per sq mi	Persons per village mouz	Houses per sq mile	Persons per house
							l e	a		
Contain (Kanthi)	Contai (Kanthi)	2 2 6	6 9 9	1 9 ,5 3 8	1 2 2 ,8 5 7	5 4 4	3 .0 9	1 7 6	8 6	6 .3
	Raghunathpur	1 2 6	3 2 7	1 0 ,2 9 5	5 4 ,5 7 9	4 4 3	2 .6 0	1 6 7	8 2	5 .3
	Egra	1 2 2	3 2 0	1 1 ,4 4 5	5 7 ,8 9 8	4 7 5	2 .6 2	1 8 1	9 4	5 .1
	Kedgerie (Khejuri)	7 5	1 1 9	5 ,9 0 0	3 6 ,0 0 3	4 8 0	1 .5 9	3 0 3	7 9	6 .1
	Patas pur	1 1 7	3 8 7	1 2 ,8	8 1 ,1	6 9 3	3 .3 1	2 1 0	1 1 0	6 .3
				7 7	2 3					
	Bhag wan pur	1 8 4	3 4 9	1 7 ,5 7 1	8 9 ,8 1 2	4 8 8	1 .9 0	2 5 7	9 5	5 .1

	8	2	7	4					
Subdivisional Total	5	2	7	4	5	2	2	9	5
	0	0	,6	2	2	.5	0	1	.7
		1	2	7	0	9	1		
			6	2					

The statistics of Garbeta subdivision of Midnapore district are given below: [2]

Abstract of the Population, Area, etc. of each Subdivision and Police Circle (Thana) in Midnapore District, 1872.										
Subdivisions	Police Circle	Area in Sq	No of Vill	No .of House	Total Population	Persons per	Village, Mo	Persons per	Houses per	Persons per
		Mile	age, Mouza	e	n	sq mile	uza per sq mile	village mouza	sq mile	house
Garbeta	Garbeta	437	105	241	14564	332	230	145	57	58
	Chan drakona	121	28	201	16480	880	230	383	167	53
	Gha	91	19	18	101	11	23	53	20	5
	tal		1	396	2742	29	10	82	2	6
Subdivisional Total		649	144	635	35486	546	227	240	98	56
Midnapore District Total		5082	1296	4604	25633	5000	25	196	88	57

Source: W.W.Hunter, A Statistical Account of the District of Midnapore, D.K.Publishing House, Delhi, 1st reprinted in India, 1974, pp.42-43.

In the census of 1872, it is seen that 495 percent of the total population of the district is male. Among the Hindus, there are 405,604 males under the age of twelve and 321,292 females. Similarly, the number of males above the age of twelve is 727,686 and females is 8,30,986. That is, the total population of Hindus is 22,85,568. Again, the total population of Muslims in this district is 157,047. According to the 1872 census in Midnapore district, the total population of Midnapore Sadar is 31,491, of which 23,831 are Hindus and 7273 Muslims, 273 Christians and 155 others. There was a municipality in Midnapore city. Similarly, Chandrakona is the second largest city in the Chandrakona Fiscal Division of this district. Although it was previously under Hooghly district. This city was famous as a center of the textile industry even during the East India Company. The total population of Chandrakona is 31,311 including of these 20,933 were Hindus and 378 were Muslims. Most of these Hindus were from the Kaibartta class. Ghatal is an important town on the banks of the Shilai River under Chandrakona Fiscal Division, which

was formerly under Hooghly District. The total population of this town in the 1872 census was 15,492. Of these, 15,130 are Hindus, 361 are Muslims and 1 is Christian. Now we will talk about the ancient city of Tamluk, which is an important town in this district, which is located on the banks of the Rupnarayan River. The Chinese tourists Fa Hien and Hiu En Tsang have visited this town. The total population of this town is 5,849. Of these, 5,044 are Hindus, 400 are Muslims, 4 are Christians and 1 is others. This town has carried its ancient heritage for a long time. Like Saptagram in maritime trade, the importance of Tamralipta port is immense. Many Kaibartta kings ruled this Tamlu at different times. The ruins of the Kaibartta kings can still be seen in Tamlu. The holy Bargabhima temple, established under the patronage of the Kaibartta kings, is located in this city. During the reign of Garudadhwa, the king of the Mayuradhwa dynasty in Tamlu, fishermen used to provide daily meals with a dish of saltfish. There is also a story about this. Tamlu is also mentioned as a holy place in Sanskrit literature. It is known

that the founder of the Bargabhima temple was a Kaibartta king. There was a temple of Vishnu in this Tamlu. When the last king of the Mayura dynasty in ancient Tamlu, Nissankanarayana, died childless, a powerful tribal chief Kalu Bhuiyan sat on the throne. He is said to be the founder of the Kaibartta kingdom. The descendants of these ancient Bhuiyans began to assimilate into Hinduism. The Kaibartta king of Tamluk in 1872 was the 25th descendant. Apart from these towns in the Midnapore district, the towns of Narajol, Daspur, Keshiyari, Anandapur, Raghunathpur, and Kashijora were famous. In the 1872 census, the population of the four main towns of the Midnapore district was found to be 74,143. The rest lived in villages. Most of the population of these four main towns of the Midnapore district were people of the Kaibartta caste.

The population of the cities of Midnapore district is given in the table below:

Return of Population in Towns containing more than 5000 Inhabitants in Midnapore District.

Table 2: Population of Towns of Medinipore District.

Name of Towns	Hindus	Muhamme dans	Christians	Others	Total Population
Midnapore	23,831	7,232	273	155	31,491
Chandrakona	20,933	378	-	-	21,311
Ghatal	15,130	361	1	-	15,492
Tamluk	5,044	800	4	1	5,849

The village heads, as the population of the various villages in the district varied, established peace by resolving village problems, disputes and troubles. Sometimes the same person would act as the head of two villages. Again, if the population of the village was large, there would be two or three heads. And these village heads would be nominated by the villagers themselves. This practice was prevalent even before the British rule. Even during the Muslim rule, they were appointed by the government. All these heads were given considerable power and were not controlled by the landlords, but remained independent. At that time, the village heads held five titles. Such as - Barua, Mukhya or Mukhiya, Mandal, Amin and Pradhan. However, all these titles were honorary titles. Even in recent times, in many villages of different districts of Bengal, there are still village heads, Mukhiya or Mukhya, whose job is to resolve village disputes or think about village development work. Although the power of the village head or Mukhiya has been greatly reduced or their role has faded with the establishment of Panchayat Raj. But the existence has not disappeared yet. In 1873, the Deputy Collector of Midnapore district, Babu Kali Prasanna Roy Chowdhury, submitted a detailed report on this. He also gave detailed details of the village Chowkidar, Tahsildar, Sardar, Mahajan, Ganak, Barber, Washer, Blacksmith, Potter, Kansari, Malakar, Kirtaniya etc. In 1872, Mr. C.F. Magrath, while preparing the population report of Midnapore district, made a caste division. There he shows the number of Kaibarttas as 6,92,140. [3] Besides, he shows the number of Zelia Kaibarttas as 29,450, which is actually a branch of Kaibarttas. Even the fishermen named Malo, Majhi, Tiyor, Keot and their number is not very small, about one lakh. Again he shows the total number of people engaged in agriculture as 1,018,686. Then it is easy to guess that a large part of the total population of the district is the Kaibartta community. Then we will look at the next census, i.e. the census of 1881.

In accordance with the colonial government's law of census every ten years, an attempt was made to conduct the second census accurately in 1881. In this census, various statistics including caste, religion, and profession were taken. The main responsibility of this census was W.C. Plowden. He started the census of Bengal on 17 February 1881. Here he divided the castes into different classes and indicated their places. He divided them into names like Brahmins, Rajputs, socially developed castes, so-called aboriginal castes, etc. In this census, the total population of Midnapore stood at 25,15,565. That is, instead of increasing compared to 1972, it appears to be much less. Because this number decreased due to deaths due to Burdwan fever. There, the location and number of Kaibarttas were clearly highlighted. And the number of Kaibarttas in the whole of Bengal stood at 2,100,379. Plowden divided the total population on the basis of livelihood. He gave a detailed description of this in his article in the 'Journal of the Royal Statistical Society'.

The Commissioner for the 1891 Census was Jervo Athelstane Baines. He made some changes to the caste system used in the 1881 Census. He continued to divide on the basis of caste or caste, but kept religion separate. After 1891, the Kaibarttas, who were landlords, moneylenders and British subjects, were recognised as the farming Kaibarttas, and the poorest section of the Kaibarttas, or those associated with fishing, were identified as the fishermen or Jaliya Kaibarttas. In this census, the total population of Midnapore district was 2,631,466. Of these, 1,315,820 were males and 1,315,576 were females. Again, the population of Kaibarttas in Midnapore district was 8,03,998 including 3,99,746 were males and 4,04,252 were females. [4] And the number of Jelia Kaibarttas was about two lakh. This census shows the religious population separately on the basis of area and subdivision. [5] Again, we see that at this time 2,231,500 Kaibarttas were engaged in agriculture in Bengal. [6]

Table 3: Kaibartta population in some of the main districts of Bengal (1891)

District	Kaibartta Population	Male	Female
Midnapore	8,03,998	3,99,746	4,04,252
Howrah	1,78,155	86,259	91,896
24 PGS	1,63,970	83,312	80,658
Hooghly	1,43,780	71,158	72,622
Nadia	99,419	49,574	49,845

At the beginning of the 20th century, the person in charge of the census of British India in 1901 was Herbert Hope Risley (1851-1911), an accomplished expert on the subject. Risley was appointed Assistant District Collector in Midnapore from 1873-85. In 1885, he conducted a field survey known as the 'Ethnographic Survey of Bengal'. It was later published as 'The Study of Ethnography in India' in 1891. In the same year, another of his books was published in four volumes, 'The Tribes and Castes of Bengal'. [7] Two of them contain ethnographic glossaries and the other two contain ethnographic information. The 1901 report mentions a total of 1646 castes, which rose to 4147 castes in 1931. Rizle shows in his book that the Kaibarttas were known by such names as Kaibartta, Das Kaibartta, Chashi Das, Haliya Das, Parashar Das, Dhivar, Kheyen. He even mentions the surnames and clans of the Kaibarttas in Bengal.

The Kaibarttas of Midnapore district enjoyed a significant position in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Kaibarttas constituted the majority of the total population of Midnapore.

In 1901, the total population of Midnapore was 2,789,114. Of these, 1,390,233 were males and 1,398,181 were females. [8] The total number of Kaibarttas in the whole of Bengal was 2,036,129. And in Midnapore district alone, the number of Kaibarttas was about 850,000. Again, the Kaibartta population in the jail was 2,62,413. At that time, the population of the entire Bengal province was 42,881,776. [9] it will be easy to understand if we give a statistic of some of the main castes based on the 1901 census. [10]

Table 4: Important Caste Population of Midnapore District (1901)

Caste	Population	Caste	Population
Kaibartta	8,83,404	Karan	49,380
Bagdi	1,48,818	Bhuinmali	44,233
Santal	1,48,251	Kayastha	41,486
Sadgop	1,30,861	Napit	40,949
Baishnav (Bairagi)	92,908	Namashudra (Chandal)	36,857
Tanti	87,808	Pod	28,547
Goala	50,116	Kumar	27,932

Source: O' Mally, District Gazeteer, Midnapore District, 1911, p. 57

The census began in 1911 at the beginning of the second decade of the 20th century. Edward Albert Gait (1863-1950) was in charge of this census. In 1911, the total population of Midnapore was 2,821,201. Of them, 1,410,714 were males and 1,410,487 were females. And the Kaibartta population of Midnapore was 8,83,404. The number of Kaibarttas in the whole of Bengal was 2,484,655. The number of Kaibarttas in the jail there was 2,85,020. Besides, many statistics are given under the names of Tibor, Patni etc. Thus, it can be seen that the population of the entire Kaibartta caste is particularly significant.

The next census we see is in 1921. At this time, J.T. Marten was in charge of Bengal. The number of Kaibarttas here had increased a lot. In Medinipur, some of the Kaibarttas were considered as zamindars and talukdars. However, most of the Kaibarttas were dependent on agriculture. Since 1901, many of the farming Kaibarttas tried to identify themselves as Mahishya. Therefore, while giving the statistics of the farming Kaibarttas in the 1921 census, Chashi Kaibarttas (Mahisya) are mentioned. In fact, the farming Kaibarttas and Mahishya are the same caste. At the same time, another small section of the Kaibarttas, fishermen and those engaged in fishing, came to be known as Jelia Kaibarttas or Adi Kaibarttas. Therefore, their statistics are also shown separately. The total population of the entire Medinipur is 28,66,201. There, the population of Kaibartta in Midnapore is 8,56,047. And the total number of Kaibartta in the entire Bengal province is 25,94,733. Out of them, 13,11,932 are males and 12,82,801 are females and the number of Kaibartta in jail is 3,83,225. Here are the statistics of the three main population groups of Bengal. [11]

Table 5: The three main caste populations of Bengal (1921)

Caste	Total Population	Male	Female
Kaibartta	25,94,733	13,11,932	12,82,801
Namashudra (Chandal)	20,06,259	10,19,057	9,87,202
Rajbanshee	17,27,111	8,97,035	8,30,076

At the same time, we can discuss the social status of the Kaibarttas of Bengal in terms of numerology at this time. However, here the statistics of marriages of both the Chashi Kaibarttas and the Jelia Kaibarttas, irrespective of male and female, are presented on the basis of the census report [12].

Table 6: The social (married) position of the Kaibarttas in Bengal (1921)

Caste	Total Population	Male	Female	Unmarried	Married	Widow
Chasi Kaibartta (Hindu)	22,06,348	11,11,410	10,94,938	8,55,548	9,79,999	3,70,801
Jelia Kaibartta (Hindu)	3,83,225	1,97,767	1,85,458	1,54,312	1,69,527	59,386

The census of British India in 1931 was conducted by J. H. Hutton. At that time, the total population of Bengal province was 8,65,80,723. In this census, the name of Chashi Kaibartta (Mahishya) was first added in place of Chashi Kaibartta. In 1921, Mr. Thomson added them as a Depressed Class. But he protested against this to the Indian Statutory Commission. At the same time, he continued to claim Kshatriya status. [13] Their number was found to be 23,81,266. This is an increase of 7.7 percent over the population in 1921. And the population of Adi Kaibartta or Jelia Kaibartta is 3,52,072. At that time, the total population of Midnapore was 2,799,093. Of them, 1,417,025 were males and 1,382,068 were females. And the Kaibartta population of Midnapore is 8,83,367. The number of Kaibartta in the whole of Bengal is 2,484,655. The number of Kaibartta in the jail there is 2,85,020. Apart from this, many statistics are given under the names of Tivar, Patni etc. The 1931 census is particularly important to us because after that we do not get detailed information about all the castes. However, based on the information available till then, we can see that the farming Kaibarttas are the largest population in Bengal. We can find this out in the 'Report of the Age of Consent Committee -1928-29' published in 1929.

It mentions that- 'In Bengal the Chashi Kaibartta class is the largest caste among the Hindus, its population being over 2 million. The members belong to the Depressed Classes.' [14] some other things that can be noticed from this time are that before this time, the official documents of the Kaibarttas mentioned their caste-Kaibartta, profession, etc. From then on, they wrote as caste-Mahishya or Hindu. That is, after 1931, due to the instigation of the caste Hindus, they were forced to write as caste Hindu. The report of the Montagu Chelmsford Commission of 1923 also showed the Chashi Kaibartta and Zelia Kaibartta as backward classes outside the four castes. After that, we cannot easily get the number of the Chashi Kaibartta. However, we do find the number of Jale Kaibartta. If we take the average of the number of the Chashi Kaibartta in 1931, then it can be said that the number would be about three crores out of the current nine crore population of West Bengal. The caste-based statistics of Kaibartta in 1941 could not be given here due to insufficiency of information. Now, the number of Zelia Kaibartta is available in the subsequent censuses from 1941 to 2001.

Finally, since the census started showing only the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes after 1931, in this article I have tried to show only the population of the Zelia Kaibarttas of the undivided Midnapore district from 1941 to 2001. Then the Midnapore district was divided into two districts. Let us mention that in 2001 the total population of the undivided Midnapore increased to 9,610,788 people, while the total population of West Bengal in 2001 was 80,176,197 people. Out of them, 6164316 people were literate, including both males and females, and 3,446,472 were illiterate. Now, let us take a look at the population of the Jelia Kaibarttas in Bengal since 1941. [15]

Table 7: Population of Jelia Kaibartta in Bengal (1941-2001)

Year	Population of Jelia Kaibartta
1941	72,724
1951	84,218
1961	1,17,384
1971	2,04,679
1981	3,18,345
1991	4,42,783
2001	4,09,303

A statistic of population density per square mile based on subdivisions of Midnapore district can be seen from 1901 to 1951. ^[16]

Table 8: Population Density of Medinipore, subdivision-wise (1901-1951).

Subdivision	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901	1891
Average density (suare mile)	639	607	533	508	537	531	501
Sadar	519	471	422	411	458	450	441
Contai	812	829	694	673	678	662	598
Tamluk	1053	1005	859	795	803	779	714
Ghatal	845	800	742	732	818	882	890
Jhargram	389	359	328	295	309	304	274

A statistic of the male-female ratio in Midnapore district can be seen from 1901 to 1951. ^[17]

Table 9: Male-Female Ratio in Medinipore District (1901-01951).

	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
Total percentage	955	955	975	991	1000	1006
Village-wise	961	966	985	997	1006	1009
City-wise	885	798	803	829	847	935

The number of Kaibartta in the 1971 census in Midnapore was not available. However, at that time, the total population of Midnapore district was 5509236. The population density was 401 per square km. The female-male ratio was 945 females per thousand males. The literacy rate during this period was 32.87%. ^[18] in the 1981 census, the total population of Midnapore district was 6,742,796. The population growth rate in this district was 22.39% compared to the previous year. The population density was 479 per square km. The female-male ratio was 951 females per thousand males. The literacy rate during this period was 42.73%. ^[19] in the 1991 census, the total population of Midnapore district was 8,331,912. The population growth rate in this district was 23.57% compared to the previous year. The population density was 592 per square km. The female-male ratio was 944 females per thousand males. The literacy rate during this period was 69.32%. ^[20] in the next census i.e. 2001 census, the total population of Midnapore district was 9,610,788. The population growth rate in this district was 15.03% compared to the previous one. The population density was 683 per square km. The female-male ratio was 955 females per thousand males. The literacy rate during this period was 68.6%. ^[21] in this way, we have tried to present a statistical statistic of Midnapore district based on the census report. However, various information such as occupation, cultivation, irrigation etc. has not been given here.

Conclusion

The details of each caste in Bengal that were recorded for us on the basis of the census were not kept in that way after 1931. In 1935, through the Government of India Act and the

communal partition, the non-Hindu castes were separated and no longer got the benefit of elections. Recently, various states are trying to conduct a caste-based census again. Perhaps in the near future, the caste census will be started. I think that will be an advantage. The number of castes such as their economic situation, social status, education rate, etc. will come to us. Only then will it be easy to analyze the social and economic condition of that caste and take action by focusing on development or guiding it. This chapter especially highlights the numerology of the farming Kaibartta (Mahishya) caste. Due to the lack of later information, their numbers could not be given in detail. During the colonial period, the British rulers kept as much records as they needed to keep for the convenience of their administration. The biggest thing is that we have absolutely no reliable information to know the statistics of this period. After independence, the same information was collected. Therefore, this census report is very important to us historically. However, it can be said without a doubt that despite the absence of a racial census, the name of the Kaibartta caste as the majority caste in West Bengal is mentioned first.

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