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## STUDYING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SPECIFICITIES OF SELECTED GROUP OF URBAN POOR IN BURDWAN CITY, WEST BENGAL

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### Abstract

Urban centres are acting as engines of the country's growth. Rapid pace of urbanization & industrialization has led to a continuous influx of migrants from rural to urban areas in West Bengal. Most recent studies & publications on urbanization suggest that Asia is on the threshold of a major urban transformation and is expected to cross the 50 per cent benchmark by about 2021. The urban population in India at the beginning of the twentieth century was only 25.8 million, constituting 10.8 per cent of the total population in 1901. In 2011, the number had increased to 377.1 million, comprising 31.16 per cent of the total population. The growth & flow of urbanisation in West Bengal in comparison of the nation, has experienced a remarkable growth in last 20 years. The paper aims to explore the phenomenon of rapid mass urbanisation & its social consequences, the formation of huge urban slums & new forms of urban poverty in Burdwan City. It discusses the poverty and vulnerability focusing on the pattern of employment, income & asset vulnerability. The study is mainly based on primary data collected from slum dwellers in Burdwan City. Secondary data like Primary Census Abstract (2011), Census of India (2001), District Census Handbook Burdwan (2001), and other published & unpublished records have been used. It explores that slum communities of Burdwan City, experience the highest level of poverty & vulnerability in their everyday life. This paper describes that the urban poor experienced extreme form of poverty & vulnerability in term of their income, consumption and household assets.

**Key Words:** Urban poor, poverty, vulnerability, consumption

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