

## **Teaching and Research in Geography in India: Paradigms and Practices**

**R. B. Bhagat<sup>1</sup> and Mohammad Izhar Hassan<sup>2</sup>**

**Abstract :** *The dualism of physical vs. human geography has been a central concern for geography. This dualism has enormously affected teaching and research in the discipline. This paper argues that there is a need to humanise physical geography while, at the same time, physicalize human geography. The problem of geography rests with the geographers themselves, who need adequate acquaintance with the fundamentals of sister disciplines and make geographical research more theoretical. This process necessitates a rigorous interdisciplinary exposure of geographers with different specialisations to the respective social and physical sciences branches and updating the geographical syllabi accordingly.*

**Key Words:** *Geography, Geographers, Space, Time, Paradigm*

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## **History of Water Transport System in Kolkata-Howrah Twin City - A Deductive Rhetoric**

**Subham Pramanick<sup>1</sup> and Utpal Roy<sup>2</sup>**

*‘Whether there will be meat in the kitchen is never decided in the kitchen.’*

– **German Proverb**

*‘The history of Indian progress under British rule is unintelligible without a reference to the history of progress in England.’*

– **R.C. Dutt**

**Abstract :** *The hitherto known oldest mass transport system of Kolkata-Howrah twin city i.e. Water transport has been surviving till now even after transcending several step-motherly treatments from both colonial and post-colonial administrators. An evident trickle-down effect from the national to sub-regional (i.e. city) scale has been active since the initiation of the Railways in India. The evolution of the scenario, from the rail system initiation at the national level, boosted with the iron & steel production boom from the industrial revolution in the UK, towards the present misery of water transport in this twin city, despite having the potential to relieve road traffic, clearly depicts certain defunct elements and loopholes in the overall transport planning measures. The historic trajectory of confusion and contestation continued from colonial to post-colonial phase, subsequently directing upon the phases of its evolution and this is validated in this study by some multi-dated maps. The present inquiry attempts to collate these events and draw parallels with deprivations of a similar nature, faced by the ferry system at present, although due to different causalities.*

**Key Words:** *Waterways, Industrial revolution, ferries, Ghats, EIR*

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## **Ecological Degradation in a Small Town of the Sub-Himalayan Environ: Dhupguri**

**Bappaditya Biswas**

**Abstract :** *Earlier, ecologists simply defined ecology as the study of organism and their environment. But urban ecology has evolved as a unique field of study through the integration of several disciplines that investigate the ecological and human dimensions of urban ecosystems. The concept of creating sustainable cities has become a major focus of urban ecology research. This paper is an attempt to assess the ecological crisis in a small town located in the Sub-Himalayas in West Bengal, India.*

*The selection of the Dhupguri town in Jalpaiguri district has been made with a specific objective in mind. The Sub-Himalayan region constitutes a rich ecological heritage of the country. The changes in the ecological parameters of this town have never been studied in a holistic manner. This study is primarily aimed at the analysis of two major aspects, the status of ecological degradation and the rate of urban ecological degradation between core and periphery areas of the town and examines its spatial, social, economic and environmental impact by analysis of primary and secondary data as well as Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) techniques.*

**Key Words:** *Urban Environment, Urban Ecology, Urban Ecological Crisis, Ecological Footprint, Carbon footprint.*

## **Economic Resilience among Low-Income Groups in the Slums of Kolkata during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Ranita Karmakar<sup>1</sup> and Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan<sup>2</sup>**

**Abstract :** *The primary catalyst behind the worldwide proliferation of cities is the swift process of urbanization. The increase in urban population has led to an escalated need for the redevelopment of slums. A slum can be defined as a residential area characterized by substandard housing, inadequate access to basic services, and the low socio-economic status of its inhabitants. Individuals within this particular socioeconomic bracket experience financial constraints that prevent them from procuring basic necessities, resulting in instances of food insecurity. Despite being crucial for human survival, they are completely excluded from the advantages of our societal systems. The majority of individuals are employed in the roles of domestic service providers or administrative support personnel. Individuals are compelled to depend on the government for their fundamental necessities. Individuals with lower income were disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in a global economic downturn and hindering their capacity to cope with the challenges of everyday existence. The present study is centered exclusively on the epidemic's economic impact on individuals with low income and their constrained alternatives for coping with it. The selection of slums as a case study is based on a purposeful sampling methodology. The Baniatola slum, which has historical roots in the colonial era, and the Adhikary para slum, situated in the contemporary expanded Kolkata, were identified as the two slums with the highest susceptibility to the pandemic. The study employed composite score analysis and other qualitative indicators, along with a questionnaire survey and a focused group discussion, to establish comparisons. Ultimately, one could contend that the virus bolstered the resilience of both slums.*

**Key Words:** *Low-income groups, Economic resilience, Pandemic vulnerability, Susceptibility resilience, Kolkata.*

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## **Changing Pattern of Land Use and Landcover in Tamluk Subdivision of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal: A Spatio-Temporal Analysis**

**Soham Sinha<sup>1</sup>**

**Abstract :** *This study assesses the pattern of land use and land cover and the decadal changes in the Tamluk subdivision of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal. Based on the Landsat satellite image database of two different decades and secondary regarding agricultural land, settlements, business, and transport for the years 2004 and 2014, a comprehensive study has been carried out on land use land cover change through remote sensing and GIS technique. It has been found that the area under settlement, communication, and business sectors have grown rapidly as the cost of open land and agricultural land areas a drastic 19.58 per cent growth in built-up areas from 2004 to 2014 signifies a land use alteration in the study area and such changes due to growing population pressure through urbanization may harmful for agriculture land, vegetation cover, and water bodies.*

**Key Words:** *Land use, Landsat data, Change detection, Remote sensing and GIS*

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## **An Analytical Study on Issues Hindering Growth of the Silk Industry of Dangapara and Tantipara Villages of Murshidabad District, West Bengal, India**

**Abhirupa Chatterjee<sup>1</sup>and Sangyu Yaden<sup>2</sup>**

**Abstract :** *Silk also known to be as "Queen of Textile" adds an extra elegance to any outfit and is considered to be an indispensable part of Indian heritage and culture. Though the silk industry is mainly dependent on human power by including both industrial and agricultural aspect and it always be considered as a fruitful employment opportunity for the populated countries like India but, day by day it seems that people are losing interest in this field and as a matter of fact the number of weavers is decreasing. The district Murshidabad of West Bengal is self-sufficient in both production and weaving of mulberry silk. The silk producing districts of the state is mainly confined around the district Murshidabad and as a matter of fact sometimes the silk of West Bengal goes by the name of Murshidabad silk. This present study measures the income inequality among the weavers of the silk industry and also analyses the issues related with income determinants. The study also highlights the 4 major problems faced by the weavers and reveals that the weavers considered low wages as their major problem which is ultimately responsible for declining the silk weaving sector in the district.*

**Key Words:** *Declining, Income Inequality, Low Wages, Murshidabad, Weavers.*

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