Dichotomy of Migration in Kolkata City, Indian Bengal Delta
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Introduction

- Kolkata, the largest city of India until 1990, has been showing a persistent trend of outmigration over the last decade.
- Exacerbating impacts of Climate Change like accelerated sea level rise, impact of cyclones, rising temperature, high rainfall events and waterlogging, with high density of poor population in slums, Kolkata has been assessed as one of the most vulnerable cities of the world.
- This study attempts to explore reasons behind the present trend of depopulation in the erstwhile preferred migration destination.

Study Area

Kolkata City or District: The Old Kolkata City or the Census District ‘Kolkata’ (KMC) consists of 141 wards as in Census 2011.

Kolkata Megacity or Kolkata Metropolitan Area (KMA): The urban agglomeration of the city of Kolkata of 14 Million population.

Results & Discussion

- Kolkata City: 4.5 Million residents
- Growth Rate: 1.67% (2001-11)
- Kolkata Megacity: City+ Peri-Urban = 14.1 Million (Census 2011).

Dimensions of Out-Migration from Kolkata City

In-Migration to Kolkata Metropolitan Area (Megacity)

- Vulnerable areas of Sundarban (Rural)
- Kolkata City (Urban)

Possible Causes:
- Closure of labour intensive industries,
- Comparatively lower land prices,
- Availability of space and accommodation,
- Lower costs of living,
- Development of different modes of transportation and communication.

Conclusion

In spite of the declining population in Kolkata city, Kolkata megacity is emerging as a ‘major setting of human habitation’ in a 21st century world stressed by climate change.

Reference

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In-Migration to Kolkata Metropolitan Area (Megacity)