



## Growth and Distribution of Bidi Workers in India with special reference to the Indian Sundarban Region

Binod Kumar Sardar

Assistant Professor

Department of Geography, Y. S. Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Medinipur (E), West Bengal



### Article Info

#### Article History

**Received on:**  
30 June 2019

**Accepted in Revised Form on:**  
31 July, 2019

**Available Online on and from:**  
23 September, 2019

#### Keywords

Bidi Rolling  
Sundarban  
Unorganized Sector  
Backward Rural Area  
Tobacco Cultivation

### Abstract

*Bidi rolling is the major occupation of the women and children of the backward rural areas. It provides direct employment to about 4.8 million workers in India (Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India, 2018). West Bengal has the highest number of female bidi workers, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. The bidi industry is the fourth largest employers of workers in India and majority of them are home-based unorganized women workers. In West Bengal, distribution of bidi workers varies from one district to another, the highest being in Murshidabad district. The Sundarban region, comprising 19 CD Blocks has a total number of nearly 80,000 bidi workers with the largest concentration in the Kultali block. The study provides a brief account of the growth and distribution of the bidi industry in the Indian Sundarban region.*

© 2019 ISSS. All Rights Reserved

### Introduction

There was no authentic information regarding the introduction of bidi-making in India. The tobacco cropping which is closely associated with bidi industry began in Andhra Pradesh during the reign of the King Krishna Devaraya (Ramana, 2017). During the British period, the bidi industry was first set up in Gujarat in 1887; it is spread all over the country. However, bidi workers are mainly concentrated in 16 states and in about 12 of these, more than 70 are females. Tobacco for bidi is mostly produced in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telengana, Gujarat, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The bidi wrapper leaves or tendu leaves, on the other hand, are mostly grown in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand (ILO, 2001). Excepting the bidi workers, another 4 million people are engaged in tobacco cultivation and tendu leaf plucking in India. The majority of the bidi producing areas are located in the states of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh due to the availability of cheap

labour, large demand, vast market, and better transport facility.

### Indian Scenario

Bidi making is an agro-based cottage industry solely dependent on tendu leaves and tobacco. According to the Ministry of Labour, Government of India (2018), the total employment of bidi industry workers in India is estimated at 4.81 million (Table -1). Bidi is produced in the states of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, and Assam. Of these, more than 80 of the production comes from the states of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar. Majority of bidi workers are engaged in the bidi-rolling job as home-based activity in the rural areas. The activity belongs to the unorganized sector. Most of the bidi factories are located in the towns with branches spread all over the neighbouring rural areas. Presently, the bidi industry is the



largest source of employment in India after agriculture, cotton textiles and construction industries (Sen, 2005).

In the bidi industry, about 70.08% of the workers are women who are engaged in bidi rolling or bidi manufacturing-related jobs (2018). West Bengal has the highest number of female bidi workers (16.58 lakh), followed by Madhya Pradesh (10.54 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (4.50 lakh), Andhra Pradesh (4.12 lakh), Bihar (2.93 lakh) and Karnataka (2.44 lakh). On the other hand, the maximum male bidi workers are found in the states of Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh) followed by West Bengal (3.63 lakh), Bihar (0.92 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (0.90 lakh), Jharkhand (0.48 lakh) and Andhra Pradesh (0.41 lakh) (Fig.1). Gujarat is the only state where male and female bidi workers are almost the same. The tobacco for bidi is mostly produced in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telengana, and Gujarat and to some extent in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The bulk of the bidi wrapper leaves (Tendu Leaf) are presently grown in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand (ILO, 2001).

In India, the bidi industry grew as a traditional home-based activity from the beginning of the 20th century. In 2001, there were more than 4.4 million bidi workers in the country that increased to 5.12 million in 2012 with an annual growth rate of 1.48%. According to the Ministry of Labour and employment, Govt. of India, the bidi industry reached its crest in 2014, when the estimated total number of workers was 5.69 million and the annual growth rate was 5.48%. West Bengal tops in the total number of bidi workers (1.98 million) followed by Madhya Pradesh (1.50 million) Andhra Pradesh (0.45 million) respectively (Table -2). Assam showed the highest annual growth rate of 80.76% followed by Madhya Pradesh (23.44%) and West Bengal (18.82%). Growth rate declined significantly in the states of Tamil Nadu (- 43.63%) and Kerala (-34.00%) (Figure No. 2). Excepting Kerala, most of the state's bidi workers have gradually declined. Even the two major bidi producing states in India, viz. West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh also showed the same trend.

### **Bidi Workers in West Bengal**

Initially, bidi workers used to work under the factory-based system. But, today most of them are home-based and the majority of them are women and children (Raman, 2017). Socially, most of them belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community. Being unorganized, they are deprived of many welfare facilities like minimum wages, welfare schemes, social security benefits, etc. (Govt. of India, 1995). According to the Annual Report Labour in West Bengal (2014-15), West Bengal has the maximum numbers of bidi workers in India (about 19 lakh or 34.46% of the total). Table-3 shows that more than 79% of the workers are concentrated in the seven districts of West Bengal, viz. Murshidabad (38.40%), Maldah (14.65%), North 24 Parganas (5.60%), Uttar Dinajpur (5.58%), Purba Medinipur (5.61%), Purulia (5.51%) and South 24 Parganas (4.09%).

Murshidabad is the largest bidi producing district of West Bengal with more than 7.60 lakh workers that also includes child labourers. The CD Blocks of Aurangabad, Dhulian, Jangipur, Murshidabad, Domkal, Jiagunge-Azimungunge, Nabagram, Dadpur, Shaktipur, and Jalangi are famous for the bidi industry.

The district is one of the backward districts of West Bengal in terms of industrialization and socio-economic development. Bidi industry gives them adequate employment and earning in this border district. The second-highest numbers of bidi workers are found in Maldah district (2.90 lakh). Actually, the socio-economic backwardness of these two districts, especially the minority Muslim community has been forced to take up this hazardous occupation. Thus, more than half of the bidi workers of West Bengal are concentrated in these two districts. On the other hand, North 24 Parganas district have more than 1.10 lakh bidi workers and Barasat, Habra, Bongaon, Gobardanga, Basirhat, Hasnabad, Barun Hat, Nazat, Malancha, and Minakhan areas have a good concentration of bidi rollers with child labourers. The backwardness of Indo-Bangladesh border region, especially the Sundarban region is responsible for this huge number of bidi workers as their permanent job for livelihood. Uttar Dinajpur (1.10 lakh), Purulia (1.09 lakh), and Purba Medinipur (1.07 lakh) are the three other districts developed in this industry. Basically, it is a mono-crop area and socio-economically backward. Tendu leaf is grown substantially in Puruliya. The main bidi rolling areas of Puruliya districts are located at Scheduled Caste community dominated blocks of Raghunathpur, Jhalda, and Balarampur. In Purba Medinipur district, most of the bidi workers are from either from Muslim or from Scheduled Caste community. Mecheda, Contai, Digha, Bhogpur, Panshkura, Patashpur are the major bidi producing areas of Purba Medinipur district. About 80,000 bidi workers are concentrated in the South 24 Parganas district covering the blocks of Magrahat-I, Kultali, Joynagar-II, Kakdwip, and Mathurapur-II. Actually, the backward people of the entire Sundarban region are engaged in bidi rolling job in this district.

The female workers dominate the bidi-rolling job both in India as well as in West Bengal. According to the Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal (2014-15), out of the 19.79 lakh about 15.70 lakh bidi workers are females. The maximum female bidi workers are found in Murshidabad and minimum in Bankura (Figure No. 3). Generally, women are more suited to bidi-rolling. Men are relatively less interested because of the low wage rate. But, with domestic activity in between, women can pursue this to add extraincome to their household. There are nine districts where more than 70% of the bidi workers are women. Excepting Bankura, all other districts have more than 50% of female bidi workers.

In 2001, there were more than 4.5 lakh bidi workers in West Bengal. The figure reached its peak in 2014 when the total number was more than 19.74 lakh with an annual growth rate of 26.06% (Table-4). In Murshidabad district, bidi workers increased from 160,000 to 760,000 with an annual growth rate of 28%. Similarly, In Maldah, bidi workers increased from 66,000 to 290,000 with an annual growth rate of 20.10% (Figure No.4). It was the highest in Uttar Dinajpur, followed by the undivided Medinipur, Birbhum, and Burdwan districts. Bankura is the only district that showed a steady decline in the annual growth rate. The socio-economic backwardness has pushed the local poor people to engage with the bidi-rolling job. On the other hand, huge numbers of Minority women (basically the Muslim community) have been forced to take this hazardous job. Their life and livelihood are totally are bondage with the bidi related



work. Many bidi making company such as 'Pataka Bidi Industry' has set up their bidi factories in this district. The same reason also exists in the district of Maldah. Although Kolkata district has more than 10,000 bidi workers with an annual growth rate of 0.39%. Basically, the slum areas have a huge number of bidi workers. The annual growth rate of bidi workers in the districts of North 24 Parganas district and South 24 Parganas district is 15.47% and 8.26% respectively. Sundarban area falls under the jurisdiction of these two districts where bidi workers are rapidly growing in number since the Aila disaster (2009).

### Bidi Workers of Sundarban Region

Table -5 shows the number of estimated bidi workers in the Indian Sundarban region which identified by the District Labour Department and the Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal. There are about 79,218 bidi workers in the Sundarban region. It is a predominant activity in the interior part of the inhabited Sundarban region. About 13 blocks of South 24 Parganas district account for 66.87% of bidi workers (Kultali, Jaynagar-II, Kakdwip, Sandeshkhali II, Sandeshkhali-I, Namkhana, Mathurapur-I, and Minakhan) while 6 blocks of North 24 Parganas district especially, Hasnabad and Hingalganj blocks account for the remaining 33.13%. The lowest concentration of bidi workers is found in the CD blocks of Canning-I, Canning-II, Gosaba, Basanti, Haroa, and Sagardwip.

In fact, people from Canning I, Canning-II and Haroa CD blocks have easy access to the Kolkata Metropolitan region by railways. They are mostly engaged in various informal jobs in Kolkata. The Sagardwip CD block is separated from the mainland of Sundarban region by the river Muriganga. People of this block are mostly engaged in the fishing-related job. In Basanti and Gosaba CD blocks, people are mostly dependent on the Sundarban forest.

There are about 80,000 bidi workers in the 19 CD blocks of the Indian Sundarban region. Out of this, about 72% are women (almost the same as the national average). The proportion of male bidi workers varies with season, e.g. during the post-monsoon season when agricultural activity is limited, their share increases (28.06%).

More than 80% of female bidi workers are concentrated in Sandeshkhali-I, Sandeshkhali-II, Hasnabad, and Jaynagar-I. On the other hand, 30-40% male bidi workers are concentrated in Gosaba, Kakdwip, Namkhana, Patharpratima, Mathurapur-II, Canning-II, Jaynagar-II, Basanti, Hingalganj and Kultali (Fig.5). Actually, the lack of job opportunities has forced them to engage in bidi rolling job.

Table-6 depicts that the bidi industry has rapidly grown during the period of 2001-2014. The total numbers of estimated bidi workers increased from 26,240 in 2001 to 79,218 in 2014 with an annual growth rate of 15.53%. The annual growth of most of the blocks of Sundarban was more than 15%. In North 24 Parganas district, Sandeshkhali-II, Minakhan and Haroa blocks recorded 20-25% annual growth rate. In South 24 Parganas district, Jaynagar-II block, Kultali, and Mathurapur II blocks recorded annual growth figure of 15-17%/year (Figure No.6). After the Aila disaster (25 May 2009), the land use pattern and also the occupational pattern have been drastically changed in the entire the Sundarban region. People lost agriculture-oriented jobs. As a result, they have been compelled to take the bidi-rolling job for survival.

### Conclusion

Bidi making activity is one of the major informal works which accounts for a sizeable number of workers in India. The available statistics on both bidi workers and growth at national or district or block level is based on the estimation. Excepting some region, overall the numbers of bidi workers are gradually decreasing in our country as well as the state of West Bengal. This sign of hope to the bidi workers proved that the socio-economic conditions of the bidi workers are gradually uplifting by the generation of alternative employments. The different welfare schemes and also the skill development programmes launched by both central and state govt. have played a pivotal role to eradicate the poverty of this vulnerable section of people in our country.

### References

1. Adhikary, M. and Hajra, C., (2016) : A Study of Water Crisis and Occupational Health Hazards Among Bidi Workers of Purulia, West Bengal, International Journal of Scientific and Research, Vol. 7, No. 10, pp. 683-705.
2. Anil, M., et al, (2012): Study of Morbidity Pattern of Female Beedi Workers in the Urban Field Practice Area of Mangalore, Southern India, International Journal of A J Institute of Medical Sciences, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 41-46.
3. Bagchi, J, and Mukhopadhyay, A., (1996): Child Labour in Beedi Industry: Murshidabad district in West Bengal, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Calcutta, p.90.
4. Chakraborty, A., (2013) : Beedi Bundling as a Means of Women Employment Generation in Backward Rural Area: A Case Study on Char Areas of Bhagawangola II Block, Murshidabad District, West Bengal, Journal of International Academic Research for Multidisciplinary, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 90-103.
5. Das, G.K. (2006): Sunderban: Environment and Ecosystem, Sarat Book Distributors, Kolkata, p.254.
6. Das, C.S, and Bandopadhyay, S., (2012): Sharing Space: Human Animal Conflicts in Indian Sunderban, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, p.246.
7. Giriappa, S., (1987): Bidi Rolling in Rural Development, Daya Publishing House, New Delhi, p.128.
8. Hunter, W.W., (1875) : A Statistical Account of Bengal, (District of 24 Parganas and Sundarbans ), 1998 reprint, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata,
9. Issac, T.M, Frankee, R.W, and Raghavan .P.(1998): Democracy at Work in An Indian Industrial Cooperative: The Story of Kerala Dinesh Beedi, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, p.255.
10. Gangier, S.V, and Ranganatha, B., (2014) : Empowerment of Beedi Workers Through Personality Development Programmes, EPRA International Journal of Economic and Business Review, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 14-19.
11. Ghosh, D.K., (2006): Women's Autonomy in Rural West Bengal: A Case Study, Journal of Rural Development, Vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 103-130.
12. Jahangir, S., (2018): Life Worlds of the Bidi Workers in Murshidabad District of West Bengal: A Qualitative Assessment, International Journal of Innovative Studies in Sociology and Humanities, Vol. 3, No. 6, pp. 21-26.
13. Madheswaran, S. et al, (2006): Production Relations, Employment and Wages: A Study of Beedi Industry in Karnataka, The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol. 49, No. 4, pp. 643-660.
14. Ramana, p. (2017): Development of Beedi Industry in



- Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, Published Thesis, Dept. of Economics, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.
15. Sen, V. (2008): Labour in the Bidi Rolling Industry: A Study of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Unpublished Thesis, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
16. Varma, U.K. and Rehman, M.M. (2005): Tobacco, Tendu Leaf and Beedi Workers in India: Problems and Prospects, Shipra Publications, Delhi.

Table – 1: State-wise Male and Female Bidi Workers in India (As on 06.08.2018)

Sl. No.	State/Uts	Number of Bidi Workers					
		Male		Female		Total	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41,298	10.00	371,686	90.00	412,984	8.58
2.	Assam	4,010	43.80	5,144	56.20	9,154	0.19
3.	Bihar	92,913	31.69	201,003	68.69	293,916	6.12
4.	Jharkhand	48,213	42.55	65,195	57.45	113,308	2.35
5.	Gujarat	22,324	53.14	19,684	46.86	42,008	0.87
6.	Karnataka	30,975	12.67	213,437	87.33	244,412	5.08
7.	Kerala	2,005	6.26	30,027	93.74	32,032	0.67
8.	Madhya Pradesh	632,791	60.00	421,861	40.00	1,054,652	21.92
9.	Chhattisgarh	6,776	36.13	11,981	63.87	18,757	0.39
10.	Maharashtra	16,945	8.99	171,605	91.01	188,550	3.91
11.	Odisha	39,439	25.00	118,314	75.00	157,753	3.28
12.	Rajasthan	3,854	9.00	38,959	91.00	42,813	0.89
13.	Tripura	3,132	23.40	10,253	76.60	13,385	0.27
14.	Tamil Nadu	5,967	7.47	73,938	92.53	79,905	1.66
15.	Uttar Pradesh	90,046	20.00	360,182	80.00	450,228	9.36
16.	West Bengal	363,581	21.92	1,294,820	78.08	1,658,401	34.46
	India Total	1,404,269	29.18	3,408,089	70.82	4,812,358	100.00

Source: Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India, cited from Lok Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 3198 answered on 06.08.2018.

Table -2: Growth of Bidi Workers in India (2001 - 18)

States	Bidi Workers (2001)	Bidi Workers (2012)	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Bidi Workers (2014)	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Bidi Workers (2018)	Annual Growth Rate (%)
Andhra Pradesh	625050	354429	-3.94	458040	14.62	412984	-2.46
Assam	7725	7265	0.54	19000	80.76	9154	-12.96
Bihar	391500	255876	-3.15	303580	9.32	293916	0.80
Gujarat	50000	46269	-0.68	47000	0.79	42008	-2.66
Karnataka	360876	231943	-3.25	272754	8.78	244412	-2.60
Kerala	136416	60534	-5.06	19366	-34.00	32032	16.35
Madhya Pradesh	750000	1021259	3.29	1500000	23.44	1054652	-7.42
Maharashtra	256000	247349	-0.31	196759	-10.23	188550	-1.04
Odisha	160000	228909	3.92	160000	-15.05	157753	-0.35
Rajasthan	100000	40316	-5.43	50000	12.01	42813	-3.59
Tripura	5000	12380	13.42	20000	-30.76	13385	-8.27
Tamil Nadu	620950	627251	0.10	79905	-43.63	79905	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	450000	423761	-0.53	450000	3.10	450228	0.01
West Bengal	497758	1440108	17.21	1982067	18.82	1658401	-4.08
Jharkhand	-	106929	-	113408	3.03	113408	0.00
Chhattisgarh	-	23598	-	18757	-10.26	18757	0.00
Total	441125	5128206	1.48	5690636	5.48	4812358	-3.86

Source: Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India



Table – 3: District-wise Male and Female Bidi Workers in West Bengal (as on 31.12.2013)

District	No. of Bidi Workers					
	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Darjeeling	463	33.97	900	66.03	1363	0.07
Jalpaiguri	2625	24.14	8250	75.86	10875	0.55
Cooch Behar	14438	22.25	50549	77.75	64987	3.28
Uttar Dinajpur	50432	45.67	60000	54.33	110432	5.58
Dakshin Dinajpur	6323	21.86	22598	78.14	28921	1.46
Malda	49950	17.22	240050	82.78	290000	14.65
Murshidabad	60000	7.89	700000	92.11	760000	38.40
Burdwan	15825	32.25	33250	67.75	49075	2.48
Birbhum	11050	30.62	25034	69.38	36084	1.83
Bankura	10875	54.72	9000	45.28	19875	1.00
Purulia	49070	44.98	60030	55.02	109100	5.51
Nadia	8042	10.22	70640	89.78	78682	3.98
North 24 pgs.	30000	27.09	80745	72.91	110745	5.60
South 24 pgs.	30250	37.40	50640	62.60	80890	4.09
Howrah	9625	38.69	15250	61.31	24875	1.26
Hooghly	4000	11.64	30375	88.36	34375	1.74
Paschim Medinipur	16875	35.76	30313	64.25	47188	2.38
Purba Medinipur	35430	31.89	75670	68.11	111100	5.61
Kolkata	3150	30.00	7350	70.00	10500	0.53
Total	408423	20.64	1570644	79.36	1979067	100.00

Source: Annual Report, Labour in West Bengal: 2014-15

Table – 4: Growth of Bidi Workers in West Bengal (2001-14)

Districts	Bidi Workers (2001)	Bidi Workers (2014)	Difference	Annual Growth (%)
Bankura	21000	19875	1125	-0.41
Burdwan	6000	49075	43075	55.22
Birbhum	4400	36084	31684	55.39
Coochbehar	21000	64987	43987	16.11
Darjeeling	322	1363	1041	24.87
Uttar Dinajpur	8000	110432	131353*	126.30*
Dakshin Dinajpur	-	28921		
Howrah	8000	24875	16875	16.23
Hooghly	9000	34375	25375	21.69
Kolkata	10000	10500	500	0.39
Jalpaiguri	2500	10875	8375	25.77
Malda	66000	290000	224000	26.10
Paschim Medinipur	18000	47188	140288#	59.95#
Purba Medinipur	-	111100		
Murshidabad	160000	760000	600000	28.85
Nadia	22000	78682	56682	19.82
Purulia	18000	109100	91100	38.93
24 Parganas (North)	36778	110745	73967	15.47
24 Parganas (South)	39000	80890	41890	8.26
Total	450000	1,974,238	1524238	26.06

Source: Department of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal (2014).  
District.

\*Both Uttar Dinajpur & Dakshin Dinajpur

# Both Paschim Medinipur & Purba Medinipur District.



Table - 5. Block-wise Male and Female Bidi Workers in Sundarban, 2014

Sl. No.	Block	Number of Bidi Workers					
		Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
South 24 Parganas District							
1.	Kultali	3981	30.00	9286	70.00	13267	16.75
2.	Jaynagar-I	1015	19.96	4070	80.04	5085	6.42
3.	Jaynagar-II	2786	32.32	5835	67.68	8621	10.88
4.	PatharPratima	2498	36.99	4254	62.01	6752	8.53
5.	Kakdwip	1590	37.15	2690	62.85	4280	5.40
6.	Mathurapur-I	470	21.02	1766	78.98	2236	2.82
7.	Mathurapur-II	1491	32.95	3034	67.05	4525	5.71
8.	Sagar	471	25.60	1369	74.40	1840	2.31
9.	Canning-I	178	22.06	629	77.94	807	1.02
10.	Canning-II	293	32.48	609	67.52	902	1.14
11.	Namkhana	936	37.03	1592	62.97	2528	3.19
12.	Basanti	356	32.13	752	67.87	1108	1.40
13.	Gosaba	390	38.20	631	61.80	1021	.29
North 24 Parganas District							
14.	Haroa	331	26.21	932	73.79	1263	1.45
15.	Minakhan	483	21.49	1765	78.51	2248	2.58
16.	Hingalganj	1863	30.13	4320	69.87	6183	7.80
17.	Hasnabad	1875	19.85	7570	80.15	9445	12.43
18.	Sandeshkhali-I	450	14.73	2604	85.27	3054	3.98
19.	Sandeshkhali-II	770	19.00	3283	81.00	4053	4.89
	Total	22227	28.06	56991	71.94	79218	100.00

Source: Office of the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Baruipur, Kakdwip, Basirhat.

Table – 6: Growth of Bidi Workers in the Sundarban Region (2001, 2014)

Blocks	Bidi Workers,2001	Bidi Workers,2014	Annual Growth (%)
Kultali	4280	13267	16.15
Jaynagar-I	1986	5085	12.00
Jaynagar-II	2776	8621	16.20
Pathar Pratima	2254	6752	15.35
Kakdwip	1788	4280	10.72
Mathurapur-I	906	2236	11.29
Mathurapur-II	1508	4525	15.39
Sagar	635	1840	14.60
Canning-I	453	807	6.01
Canning-II	315	902	14.33
Namkhana	870	2528	14.66
Basanti	383	1108	14.56
Gosaba	352	1021	14.62
Haroa	328	1263	21.93
Minakhan	560	2248	23.17
Hingalganj	1935	6183	16.89
Hasnabad	3042	9445	16.19
Sandeshkhali-I	941	3054	17.27
Sandeshkhali-II	928	4053	25.90
Total	26240	79218	15.53

Source: Office of the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Baruipur, Kakdwip, Basirhat.

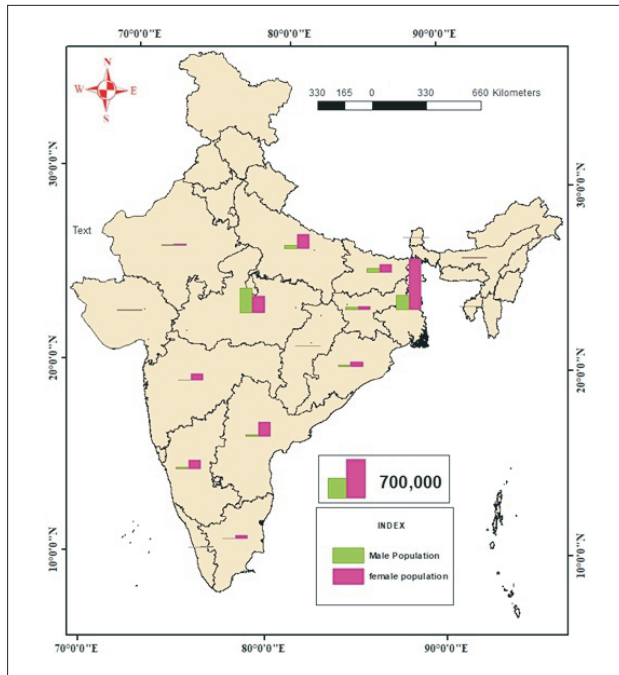


Fig. 1: Distribution of Male and Female Bidi Workers, India

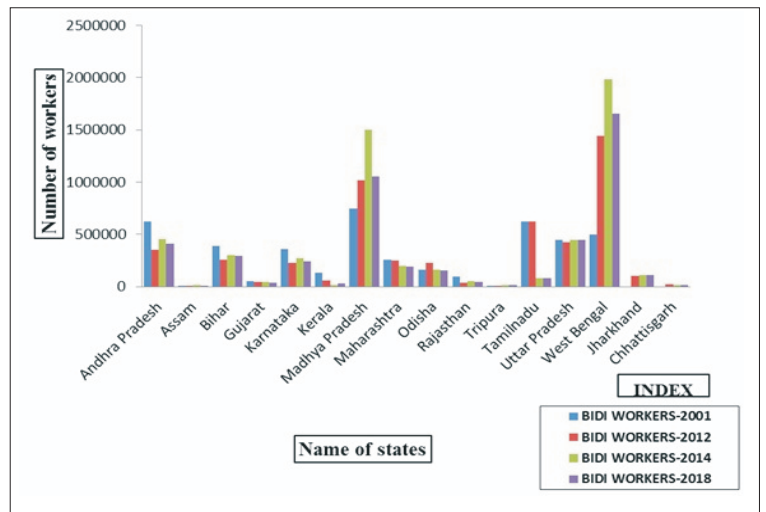


Fig. 2: Growth of Bidi Workers in India

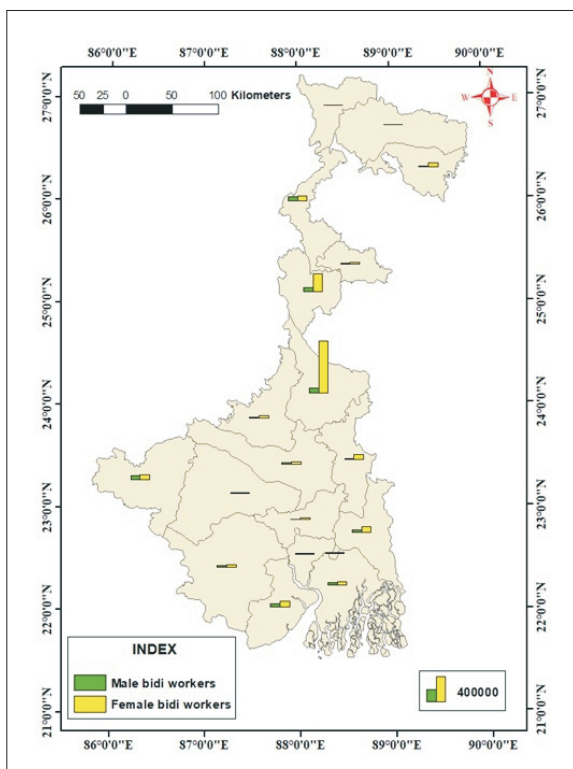


Fig. 3: Districtwise Distribution of Male and Female Bidi Workers in West Bengal

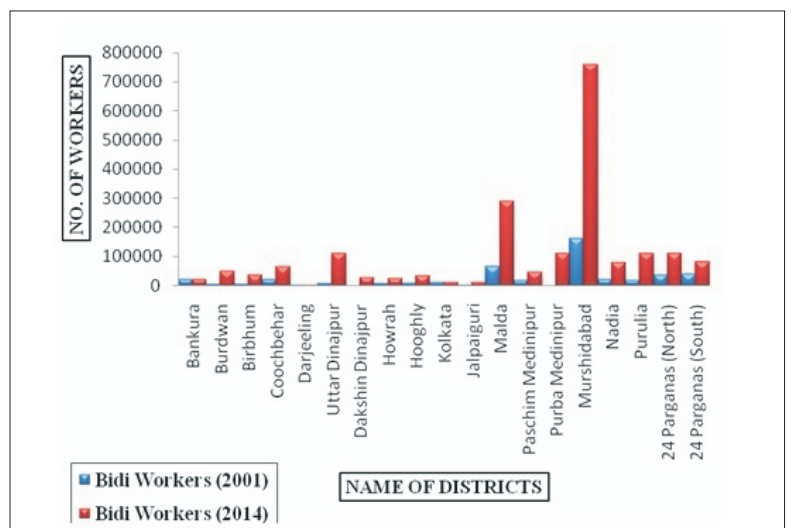


Fig. 4: Growth of Bidi Workers in West Bengal, 2001 - 14

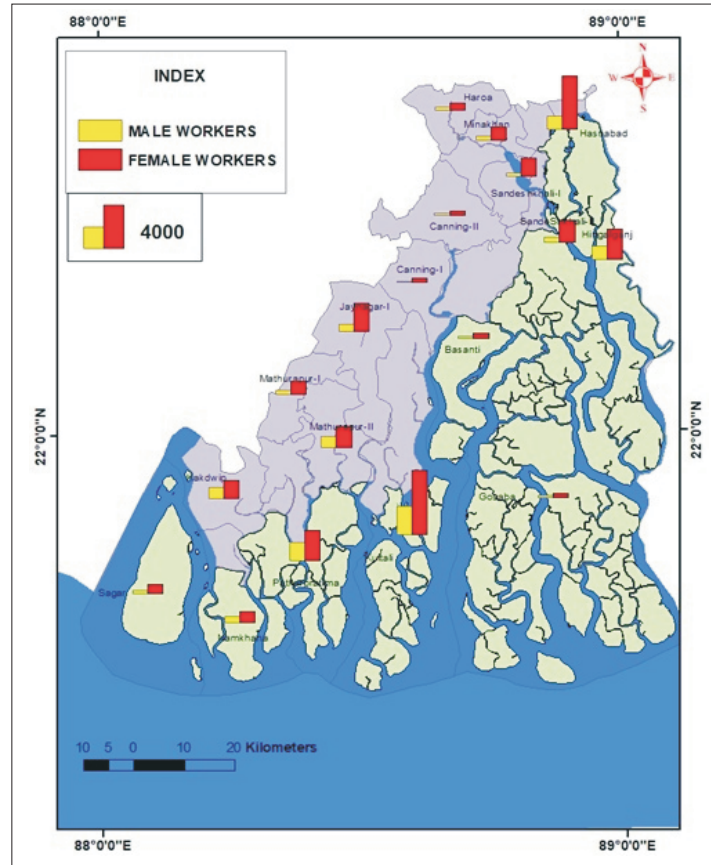


Fig. 5: Blockwise Distribution of Male and Female Bidi Workers in the Indian Sundarban Region

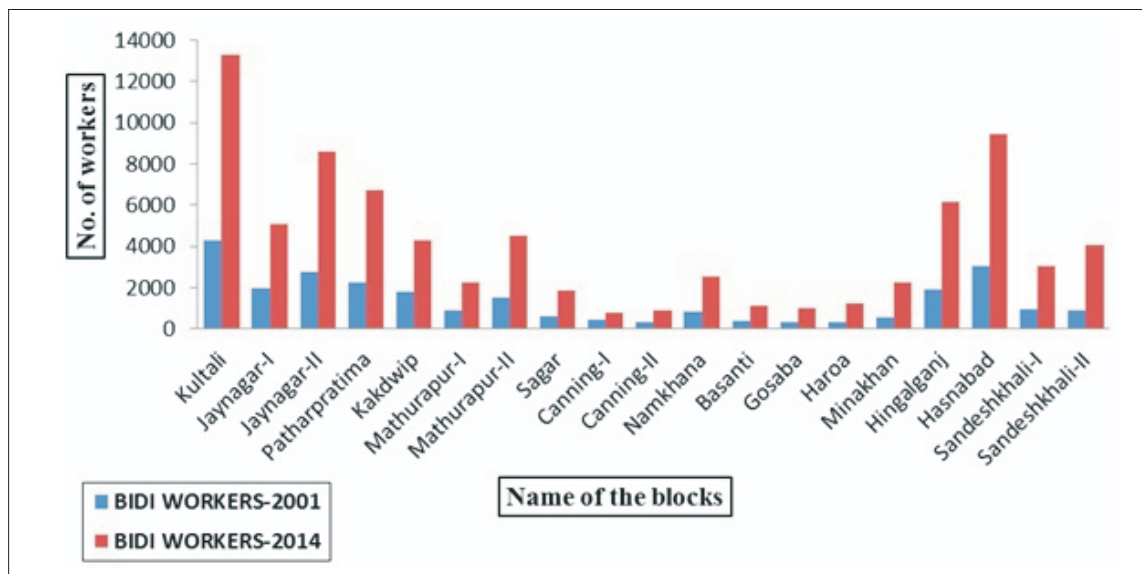


Fig. 6: Growth of Bidi Workers in the Indian Sundarban Region, 2001 - 14



Binod Kumar Sardar  
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography  
Y. S. Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India  
Email: bksardar05@gmail.com