

CHANGING NATURE OF OCCUPATIONAL
STRUCTURE AND SECTORAL TRANSFORMATION OF
WORKING POPULATION AND STATUS OF
EMPLOYMENT- A CASE STUDY OF CHANDITALA C.D
BLOCK – II, HUGLI DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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I. Abstract:

In every progressive economy there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities..... to secondary activities to all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyze the changes in the structure of economy and sectoral transformation of occupational structure during last three decades in Chanditala C.D block – II of Hugli district of West Bengal. Emphasis also given to examine the nature of employment status and enumerate the pattern of employment among different social groups by religion, education and economic status. Present study reveals that though Chanditala II C.D block is a rural block but its economy is changing in nature. As time progresses occupational structure shifts primary to secondary and tertiary sectors.

Keywords: *Employment Status, Occupational Structure, Sectoral Transformation*

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II.Introduction:

Broadly we can divide the different occupations into three types- Primary, Secondary and Tertiary. Agriculture, forestry, pasturing, mining, fishing are known as Primary activities as their products are essential or vital for human existence. Manufacturing industries, trade and commerce, transport and communication are known as secondary activities whereas all types of services are under tertiary activities which directly or indirectly help to mention other two types of activities. West Bengal is an agro based economy but secondary and tertiary based economy are also dominating in some parts of the state. Out of 19 districts of West Bengal Hugli is one of the main districts whose economy is developed and stands upon mainly agriculture and industries. The occupational structure of a country refers to the distribution or divisions of its population according to different occupations.

Colin Clerk, in his work “Conditions of Economic Progresses” argues that there is a close relationship between development of an economy on the one hand and occupational structure on the other hand and economic progress of any region is generally associated with certain distinct changes in occupational structure. A.G.B Fisher said that **“In every progressive economy there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities to secondary activities of all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production.** It is true that in case of West Bengal industrialization and urbanization are imparting new values on rural areas of West Bengal. Improvement of communication and transport on the existing agrarian economy have led to better exchange of ideas between the villages and towns and thus resulted in occupational mobility in rural society.

III.Study Area:

The study area covers the Chanditala – II C.D block of Serampur sub division of Hugli district of West Bengal, India. The area is located in the southern part of West Bengal. Its latitudinal extension is 22° 39’ 32” N-22° 01’ 20” N and longitudinal extension is 87°30’ 15” E - 88° 30’ 20” E. The study area is bounded on the north by parts of Haripal and Singur C.D block. Jangipara and Chanditala – I C.D block is located in the eastern portion and in the southern portion Haora district is situated. The total area of is 63.44 Sq. Km. It Has 9 Gram Panchayet and 56 villages. According to 2011 Census total population of Chanditala – II C.D block is 213485

with male population of 108953 and female population of 104532 so the male female ratio is 51:49

IV.Objectives:

The main objectives of the study are as follows-

1. To bring into light the transformation of working population.
2. To depict the pattern of employment status.
3. Analyze the changes in the structure of economy and work force during last three decades.
4. To enumerate the pattern of employment among different social groups by religion, education and economic status.

V.Methodology:

Methodology is the way of achieving the goal through the drawing of inference by observation, collection and differential analysis of relevant data relating to the study of sectoral transformation of working population and nature of employment status in Chanditala – II C.D block. In order to achieve the aforesaid objectives, the methodology of work has been divided into several phases:

- a. Collection of secondary data – At first choice of study area, then secondary data was collected from different government and non government agencies.
- b. Sample size: Total 50 families are surveyed on the basis of questionnaire schedule. Among them males and females surveyed individually.
- c. Sample Design: At first out of 9 Gram Panchayet 5 Gram Panchayet are selected by their location, one Gram Panchayet was selected from each direction i.e. north, south, east, west and central position. With the help of the systematic formulated questionnaire schedule primary data regarding nature of employment and sectoral transformation were collected by door to door survey.
- d. Calculated data was tabulated and analyzed based on different cartograms and quantitative techniques which are followed by interpretation.

VI.Findings and Analysis:

From the analysis of the primary data it is clearly seen that out of the 5 rural mouza 86 percent are Hindu and 14 percent are Muslim (mainly concentrated in Begampur). Majority of the people belongs to general category (63%), SC (20%) and OBC (16%). Literacy rate is very high (100%) among the surveyed population only no one are illiterate. Recent study shows that 8%

population engaged in primary sectors. 70% are in secondary sectors and remaining 22% are belongs to tertiary sectors. Analysis of the data related to status of employment shows that 96% are regular workers and engaged in full time work during last one year whereas 4% are casual workers who are not engaged in full time work rather engaged in part time work. The workers who are engaged in different types of activities i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary satisfied 64% of their current employment or job. In the surveyed area 54% of the employed people are permanent, 12% are contractual employee, 34% are temporary workers. (Fig-1). In the surveyed area 22% workers are skilled, 20% are semi skilled and 58% workers are unskilled who are engaged in different types of activities. (Fig-2)

20% employed people are in government service (12% are central government employee and 8% are state government employee). Most of them are private employee (40%). The point is to be noted that many people get their job by their own effort and becomes self employed (32%). Rests of the persons are casual labours (2%), industrial workers (2%) and only 4% is engaged in cultivation. (Fig-3)

Through the analysis of the economic data related to income condition 64% people earned less than Rs/- 5000 per month, 16% people earned 5001-10000, 4% earned 10001-15000, 2% earned 15001-20000 and 14% people earned more than 20000 per month. The above table indicates that with hard work of more than 8 hours in a day they get their minimum wages. (Fig-4) Despite of 22% skilled workers the situation is too worse. Most of the workers received their salary monthly (50%).

The ratio between main and marginal workers is 66:34 (Fig-5) The workers in the surveyed area of Chanditala – II C.D block both organized and unorganized sectors expect the state to look after their problems by instituting appropriate social security benefits according to them? The results suggest that very little benefit is reach to them. Among these few benefits like provident fund, pension, and gratuity, health care. Accident benefits, co-operatives, loan facility etc. (Fig-6) only 44% workers enjoyed bonus and 56% workers enjoyed yearly increment facility. Labour management conflict prevails in those sectors where most of the workers are worked in factories or industries as industrial workers.

Changing character of working population: Main working force is composed of three groups: primary, secondary and tertiary workers. Before going to village wise analysis, the changing

character of working population in three decadal years for Chanditala – II C.D block as a whole have been done.

The percentage of different working population with respect to total working population is given below: From the above Diagram (Fig-7) it is clear that the area is mainly dominated by tertiary activities (other workers). During the last three decades proportion of workers engaged in tertiary sectors decreased 50 % in 1981 to 22% in 2012. It is surprising that being a rural block proportion of workers engaged in primary sectors (cultivators and agricultural labourers) dropped down 19% in 1981 to only 4% in 2012 in case of cultivators and 21% to 0% in case of agricultural labourers. Percentage of secondary workers are increasing in nature. There is less impact of primary activity in the region in recent time. Analysis based on village level primary data also stated that have a rapid growth of secondary and tertiary workers which is expressed by positive and negative bargraphs which also reflects the facts of transformation

Growth of working population:

A. Growth of primary workers:

From the census data it is clear that during last three decades growth of primary workers is negative. Out of five surveyed villages i.e. Begmpur, Janai, Tisha, Naiti and Garalgcha. In every villages proportion of primary workers are less than other two types of workers. Here cultivation is the main economic activity so positive growth of primary workers is expected. On the other hand all over the block growth of primary workers is negative. In 1981 proportion of workers engaged in primary sectors are 40% which decreased 16% in 1991 and again in 2001 the rate decreased 15% and present primary survey shows that decreasing trend of primary sectors continues and it comes down to 8%. So it can be said that in these regions agrarian economy is gradually turned into industrial and service sectors economy which is focused by participation of people in secondary and tertiary activities.

B. Growth of secondary workers:

During the three decades growth of secondary workers reflects a mixed picture. In 1981 percentage of workers engaged in secondary sector is 10% which enhanced to 63% in 1991 so 53% positive growth was observed. But surprisingly in 2001 the rate decreased to 8% so 55% negative growth was observed but the primary survey conducted in 2012 over five villages tells different story that is again the proportion is increasing in nature and the rate is 70% which

means 62% of positive growth was observed. The point is to be noted that out of five villages in every village proportion of secondary workers are more than other two sectors. In Begampur, Tisha and Gralgacha village the engagement rate is too high compare to other sectors and the remaining two villages are also reflects more than 60% engagement in secondary sector.

C. Growth of Tertiary workers:

It is a surprising fact that all over the C.D block the growth of workers has surpassed the growth of secondary workers which sign of the development of the economy of the region. Since 1981 there is a positive growth of tertiary workers has been observed. In 1981 half of the total workers engaged in tertiary activities which decreased of 37% in 1991. But in 2001 the growth was high and 70% of positive growth was observed. Recent survey shows the opposite picture that 61% negative growth in this sector (Fig-8)

From the primary data collected through household survey tells some other story. Among the five villages only in Janai and Naiti 30% workers engaged in tertiary activities. Other villages show less dominancy of tertiary sector. As Janai and Naiti is a main centre in this region having good transportation and communication network enables the workers to reach far distance from their home for work purpose (Fig-9)

Sectoral Transformation of Working Population:

The objective of the study is to ascertain whether there is any change of transformation in the working population over three decades. If there is any static growth of different working sectors then it is clear that no transformation has occurred in the existing economy, but if there is any shifting scenario from primary to secondary, secondary to tertiary then it can be said that transformation is properly happened. It is true that in case of Chanditala C.D block- II. In case of primary workers the decadal growth rate is negative. In case of secondary and tertiary workers the growth is positive. Hence it can easily remark that the working population has shifted from primary to secondary and secondary to tertiary activity. To show the transformation some cartographic and quantitative techniques has been used.

A Ternary diagram has been prepared to show the sectoral transformation of economy from 1981 to 2012. This diagram shows the relative importance of different sectors in the region. From the diagram it is clearly said that in every decade the processes of transformation goes on which intend more tertiary in recent time (Fig-10)

VI. Conclusion:

All over the Chanditala C.D block- II existence of three types of economic activity primary(cultivators and agricultural labourers), secondary(household industry) and tertiary(other workers) can be perceived in every census year 1981 to 2011 but the ratio of dependency of people on these types of economic activities are changing gradually. Only because of the development of transport network mainly Kolkata- Durgapur Expressway, Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojona, Belgharia Expressway, construction of flyover in Dankuni Station, eastward extension of Kolkata Metro Railway most of the habitants can travel much more distance and come to Kolkata and its surrounding areas daily for their working purpose and return home safely in the night. Weaving and spinning of rope become the main occupation of few places in and around Begampur. Thus most of the area under study shows the dynamism in the transformation of their occupational structure.

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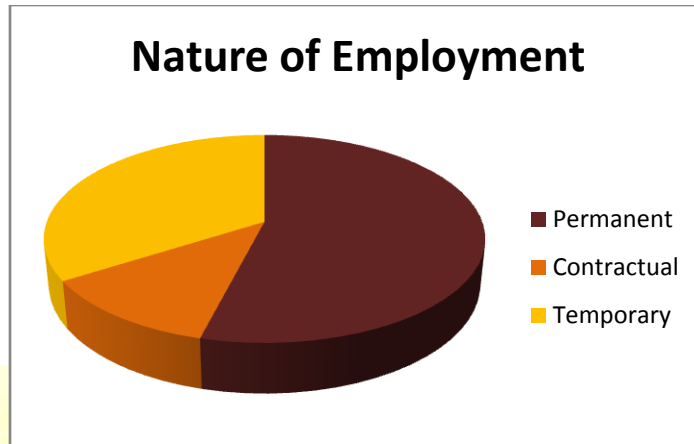


Fig-1 Nature of Employment

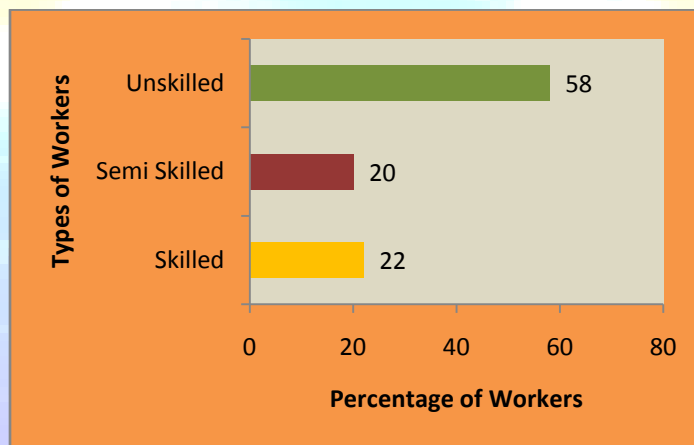


Fig-2 Types of Workers

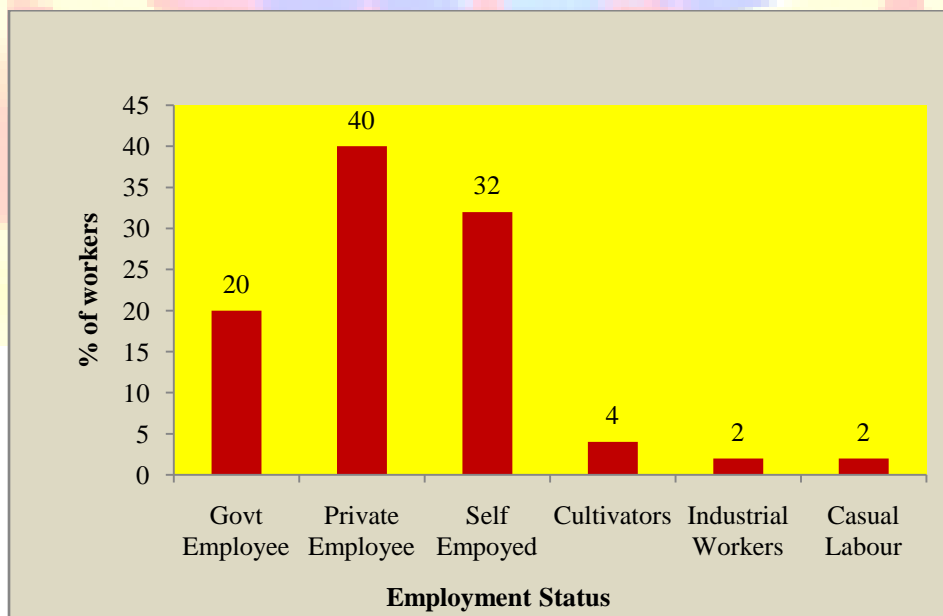


Fig-3 Status of Employment

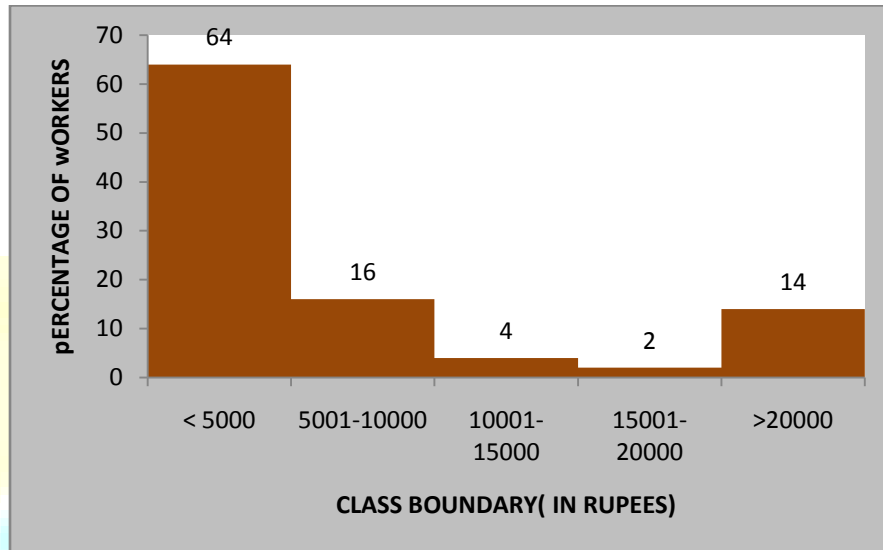


Fig-4 Income Condition

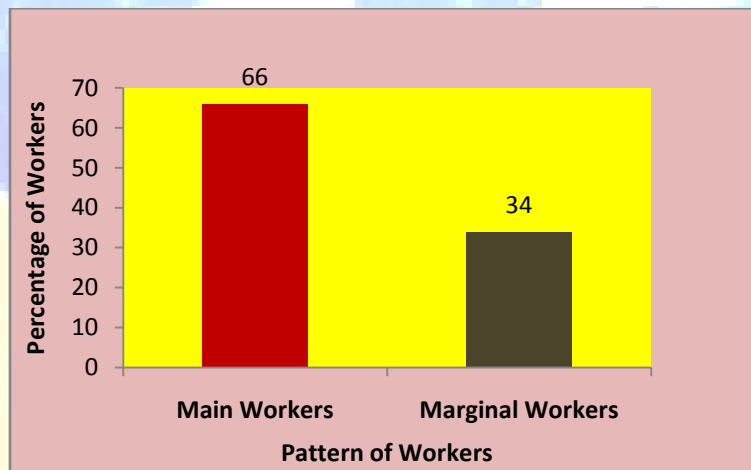


Fig-5 Pattern of Workers

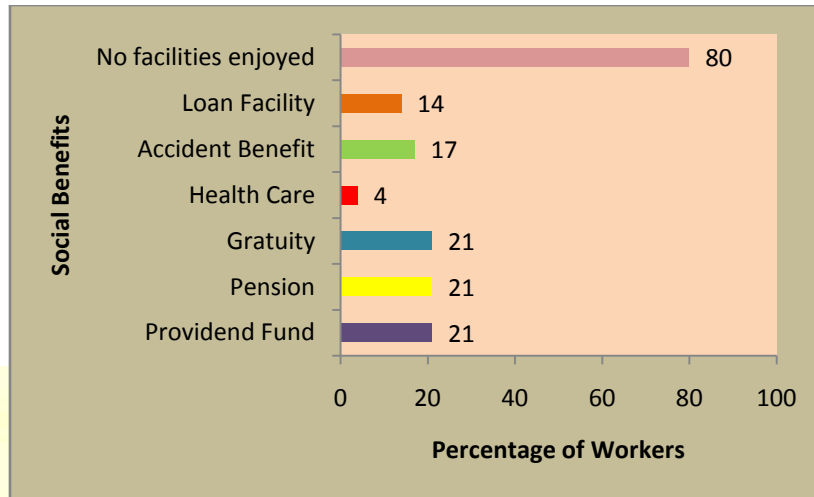


Fig-6 Social benefits Enjoyed by the workers

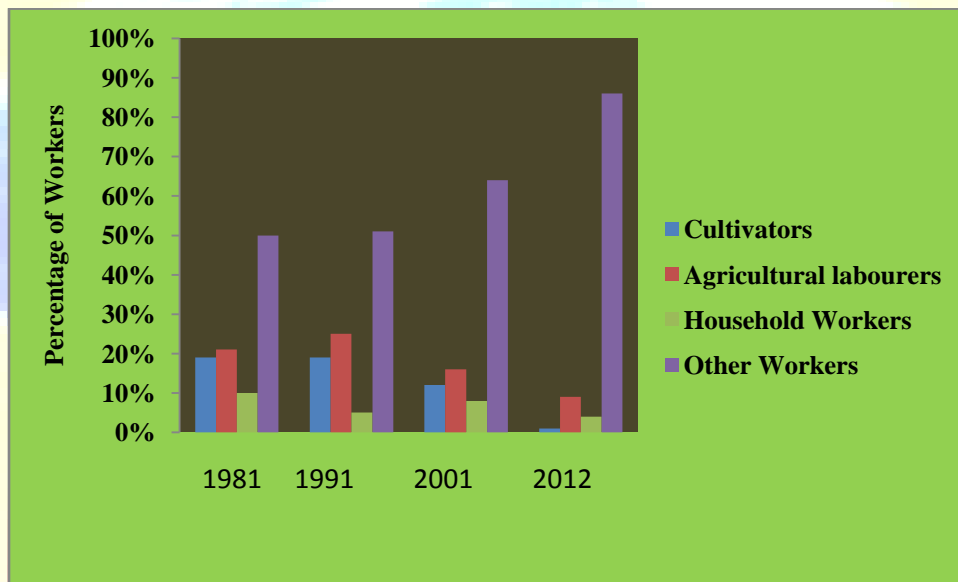


Fig-7 Occupational structure

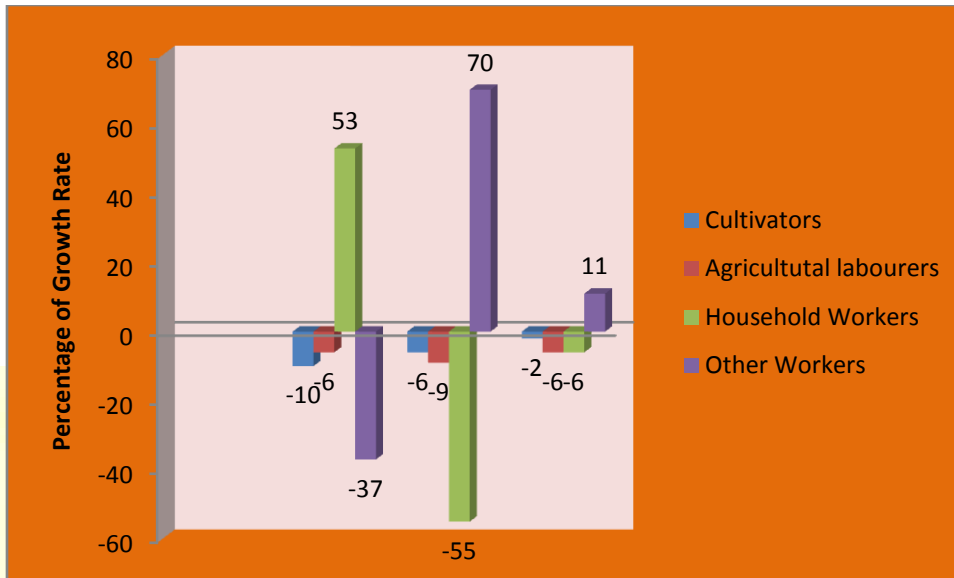


Fig-8 Pattern of growth of workers

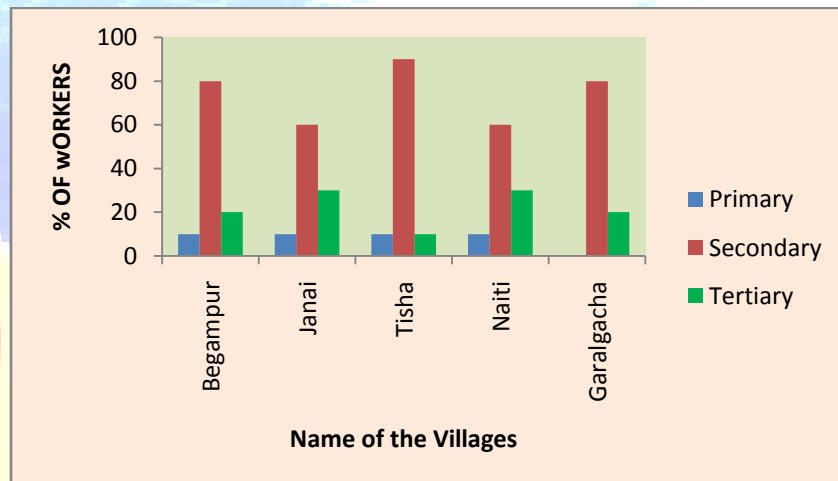


Fig-9 Occupational structure of the surveyed villages.

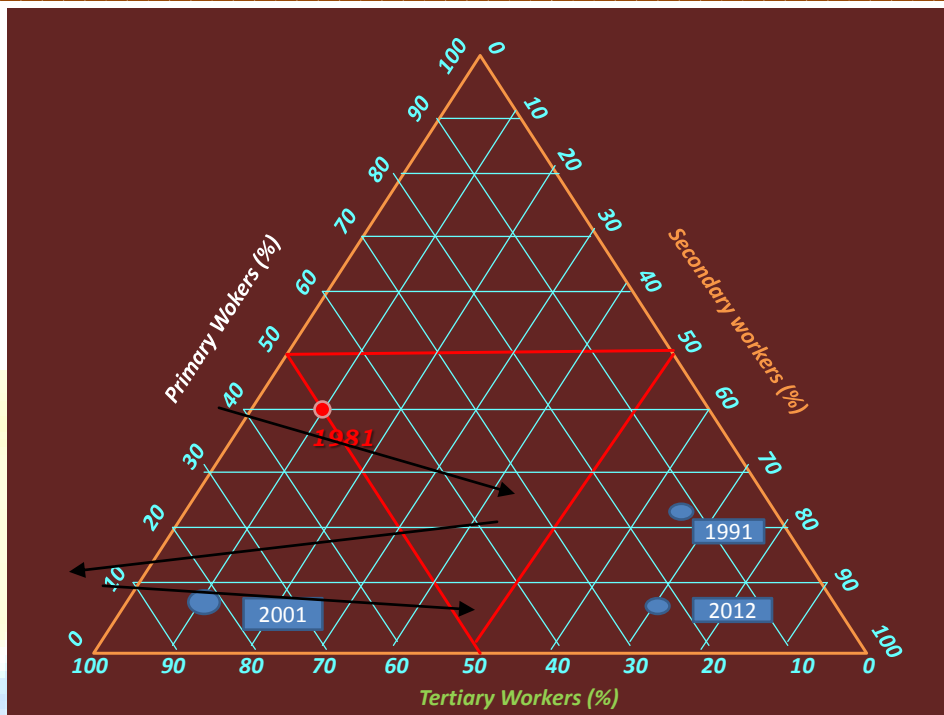


Fig-10 Shifting of occupational structure