



Exploring the Regional and Social Profile of Bengal in the Gupta period (c. 4th - 6th C.C.E): An Epigraphic Study

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Abstract:

The secret period (fourth to 6th CE) is often considered as the golden age in Indian history, it was characterized by political stability, cultural development in the Gupta era. Both political and socially located on the eastern border of the Gupta Empire experienced significant transformations in this era. The goal of these studies is to explore the regional and social profile of Bengal through the analysis of Epigraphic proofs during the Gupta period, focusing on the inscriptions as the primary source of historical understanding. The study investigated the political mobility of Bengal under the Gupta Empire, examining political relations between the local rulers, the land grants and the central Gupta and the center. Further, it encourages the social structure of the region, highlighting the role of the Brahmins in the nation system, social classification and administration and religious patronage. Epigraphic records of land grants and religious grants provide valuable insights in the region, including the integration of religion with the agricultural economy and political forces. Besides, the position of the women will be highlighted at that time.

By examining these epigraphic sources, the research tried to restructure the regional and social identity of Bengal by providing new insights to its political autonomy, social organization and cultural interaction. This study contributes to the wide understanding of ancient Indian history, especially the role of the Gupta Empire, through the lens of epigraph, as well as the procedures to use inscriptions as an important historical resource.

Keywords: *Gupta Era, Epigraphics Sources, Social Structure, Women, Gupta Empire.*

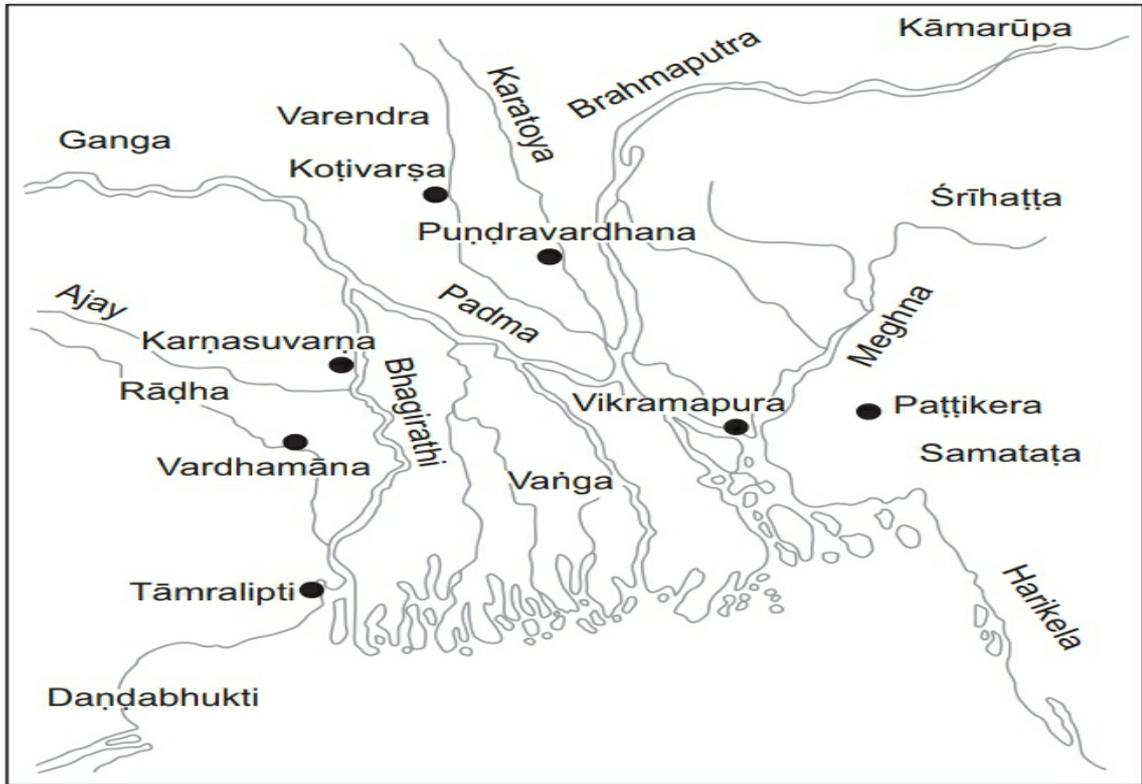
Introduction:

The natural border of Bengal has developed from the Himalayas to the north to the Bay of Bengal to the south. The Tripura hills on the eastern border, northeast of Assam Sikkim and Bhutan, Orissa to the southwest, Jharkhand and Bihar to the west and Nepal to Nepal.

Among the characteristics of the geography of Bengal, the rivers are very important and notable and notable rivers like Padma-Meghna, Brahmaputra and Bhagirathi, some of the geographical fields of Bengal are divided or arranged. In the meantime, one of the regions or geographical fields, as well as the geographical

unit of the geographical single, is developed by the water border. Ghosh 20; Chowdhury and Alam 20: 1, 5)]. Which is identified as BM. Morison Sub-Region (Morrison 1980).

We have taken two words in the sub-region of the current and geopolitical unit of the current research in the supporter sense and used the word town in the field.



The Pundravardhana region was subsequently identified as Barendra. This area is originally located in North Bengal. This sub -region is composed of geographical Padma, Mahananda, Karatoya, Atrai, Teesta, Flood Plains of the river Punabha. Padma, Karatoya and Brahmaputra indicate the boundary of the ancient Pundravardhana. This Pundravardhan is currently believed to be the same with the question field of the ancient Pundravardhan Nagar Mahasthangarh Nagar district of Bangladesh. To the west of the Radha town is the Chhota Nagpur Plateau and Forest Zone. In the sixth century, it is mentioned that the southern part of the Radha city was mentioned and the Baleshwar of Orissa, along with Midnapore district, belonged to the southern part of Bengal. Northern Padma indicated the geographical boundary of Meghna on the east and Bhagirathi to the west. The area limited by these three rivers was the main area of Bengal. The boundaries of Bengal are often changed. The division of the century century is found in the name of the Navi Abakashira. The southern part of the present Dhaka Division points to Gopalganj district. The sub-region is located on the east side of Bengal. In reply to Shri Hutt and Harikel were attached to the south. This area was Meghna Surma, from the geological structural direction. The ancient Harikel was located in the present Chittagong or Chittagong district. The Meghna Brahmaputra used to indicate the western boundary of Padma Samatat which was separated with Bengal. But it is not possible to clearly point the boundaries of the Samatat with Shri Hutt and Harikel.

2. The Gupta rule of ancient Bengal:

In the fourth century AD, the direct or indirect evidence of the secret regime on the part of Bengal and the part of Bengal is found in four writings. Copperplate.

In the Allahabad Prashasti of Samudragupta, the context of the five eternal dancers mentions Samatat (fleet 1888: 8, 14). The devotees are obedient to the Gupta Emperor. Thus, as a state -of -the -art state of Samudragupta, Samatat is considered to be. From the writings of Shushunia, a king named Chandravarman is mentioned (Mukherji and Maitya: 40-1).

Another notable writing is the Gunagir copperplate issued during the reign of Venuins (Furui 2020: 658). The purpose of this copperplate was to redeem a land -led letter issued during the reign of the previous ruler Nathchandra. It is known from Nathchandra, the Gupta, in the 5th century AD. This Nath Chandra was probably the ruler under any senior authority. If the senior political secret is the emperor, then the Gupta emperor will be the second Chandragupta. In that case it is assumed that during the second Chandragupta period, the Samatat came under the guides.

During the first Gupta kings of the second Chandragupta, from the first Kumaragupta to the middle of the sixth century, there was evidence of the capture from different areas of Bengal, which is continuously the evidence of the political rights of the Gupta (Note 1).

Besides, keeping an eye on coin theoretical elements, the secret coins of almost all the secret rulers of different rulers from the first Chandragupta to Vishnugupta have been found from different regions of Bengal (Mukherjee 1992: 49- 62). It also indirectly proves that the secret was under the influence of different regions of Bengal.

Vishnugupta, the last Gupta king, who is the last secret king of Bengal, is probably (Vanu)-Gupta and the last Gupta King mentioned in the monotonous elements.

3. Purpose and Material of the Project:

The main purpose of the current project is to try to investigate the social groups of Bengal, especially on the basis of landlords, especially in Bengal. Before the fourth century, the number of the records from Bengal is very small and the mention of agriculture is very limited. From the fifth century AD, the tradition of issuing the Bhumidan letter in Bengal was originally started in Bengal - that is, so far, it is said on the basis of information obtained so far. During the Gupta period, the expansion of landing system expanded, as well as the expansion and parallel of the agricultural economy and the state society. We have chosen the episode in the laundering system to understand the social differences of Bengal in the project. Because in the fourth to the sixth century, the history of socio -economic evolution is considered as a twilight. First of all, the reason for choosing the Abhilek formula as the primary element for reviewing the agricultural economy of this episode is that the verses are more unlucky than any other source as an element of information on the social-vision of this transformed episode. And (2) the field and date of issuing the records in the case of the acts are specifically mentioned in the time or date of the field, which helps to understand the social status of a particular area of a particular area.

However, since the copperplates are the documents of land donations and sale, the issues related to the transfer of land are the main livelihoods, so it is important to say that the very limited part of the whole society and the short side of the whole society will be reflected. Again, since the distribution of copperplates is unequal in space and timely, the information obtained from the writing elements does not equally illuminate us about every sub-region. Keeping this unequal and inadequate presence of information and its limits, the current project has tried to investigate social elements.

4. From the fourth century to the sixth century Inscriptions :

The duration of our project is from the fourth to the sixth century, but the number of writings obtained in the fourth century is limited and no copperplate has been found yet. Therefore, writing about social-vision

will be limited to the fifth and sixth centuries. In the fifth and sixth centuries, the total number of lands or copperplates from Bengal is twenty. These are originally written in Sanskrit and Gupta Brahmi script. Of these, thirteen from Pundravardhana, four from Bengal, one from Radha and two from the plane are found. Most copperplates are found in the Pundravardhana region in the fifth century - twelve. A copperplate was found in the sixth century from Pundravardhana. Again, four copperplates are found in the Bengal region that belong to the entire sixth century. On the other hand, two copperplates are found in the Samatath region that the first decade of the sixth century. On the other hand, the copperplate found in the altru episode in the Radha region is the fifth century. Since the distribution of landlords is unequal in the past and tomorrow, all social analyzes are incomplete in the light of copperplate / landlord.

Time period (Century)	Pundra	Banga	Rarh	Samatath	Horical
5th Century	12	-	1	(1*)	-
6th Century	1	4	-	2	-
Total inscription	13	4	1	2	-

The fifth-century landlord of Bengal or the format of the copperplate or the format of the copperplate in the sub-region and timely division

List of Bengal verses issued in copperplate Inscription the fourth to the sixth century:

Names of inscription	Time period
1. Dhanaidahocopper plate inscription(Mukherji and Maity 1967: 41-44)	113Gupt era, 433AD
2.Kaaliakuri sultanpurcopper plate inscription(Sircar 1943: 12-26)	120 Gupta era, 440AD
3.Damodarpurcopper plate inscription-1(Mukherji and Maity 1967: 45-46; Basak 1982: 113-134)	124 Gupta era, 444AD
4.Damodarpur copper plate inscription-2 (Mukherji and Maity 1967: 47-48, Basak 1982: 132-134)	128 Gupta era, 448AD
5.Jagodeshpur copper plate inscription (Sircar 1974: 8-14)	128 Gupta era, 448AD
6.Bahigram copper plate inscription(Mukherjee and maitya 1967: 49-53)	128 Gupta era, 448AD
7. Paharpur copper plate inscription(Mukherjee and maitya 1967: 53-57)	১৫৯ Gupta eraগুপ্তাব্দ, ৪৭৯সাধারণঅব্দ
8.Damodarpur copper plate inscription-3 (Mukherji and Maity 1967: 53-57; Basak 1982: 134-137)	159Gupt era, 479AD
9.Tabir district copper plate inscription (Griffiths 2018: 30-36)	159 Gupta era, 479AD

10.Roktamala copper plate inscription-1 (Griffiths 2017: 20-24)	159 Gupta era, 479 AD
11.Damodarpur copper plate inscription-2(Griffiths 2018: 25-30)	Transcribed
12.Damodarpur copper plate inscription-4 (Mukherjee and Maity 1967: 58-60; Basak 1982: 137-141)	176 Gupta era,496AD (?)
13.Mallasarulcopper plate inscription (Mukherji and Maity 1967: 87-94)	5th century
14.Bhainagupta gunehgar copper plate inscription-1 (-nathachandra) (Furui 2020: 659-665)	184 Gupta era, 504AD
15.Bhainaguptagunehgarcopper plate inscription -2 (Mukherjee and Maity 1967: 65-69)	188 Gupta era, 508 AD
16.kotalipara(DevdasAdityaDhakamuseum copper plate inscription) (Furui 2013: 89-98)	Mid 6th century
17. Dharmaditta Faridpurcopper plate inscription 1 (Mukherjee and Maity 1967: 74-78)	In the second half of the 6th century
18. Dharmaditta Faridpur copper plate inscription-2 (Mukherjee and Maity 1967: 79-82)	In the second half of the 6th century
19. GopaChandra Faridpur copper plate inscription (Mukherjee and Maity 1967: 83-86)	In the second half of the 6th century
20.Damodarpur copper plate inscription- 5 (Mukherjee and Maity 1967: 70-73; Basak 1982: 134-146)	224 Gupta era,544 AD

5. Bengali social format in the light of copperplates issued in the sixth century from the fourth century:

Kayastha community-

We see the continuous presence of the Kayasthas of the Palas for almost a century from the 124 to 214 Gupta Era of four Damodarpur copper plate inscription. Damodarpur first and second copperplate is the first Kayastha of the same person-Mukherji and Maity 1967: 46; Basak 1982: 131-133). The Bippal (Mukherji and Maity 1967: 71; Basak 1982: 144) and Skandal (Mukherji and Maity 1967: 71; basak 1982: 144) are probably the next generation of Shambupal. It can be assumed that, in the respective areas, a class of Kayasthas or an organization of the Gilt nation was present.

Brahmin community:

In the Gupta era, the Brahmins acquired identity in various ways such as Ghachata, Bhatt, Gami Dutt Swami, Bhatt Brahmani's husband, Bhatt Anhanlaan Swami (Roy 1959: 221). The Brahmabir, Ulmilal, Baman and Mahasena, who were in their Swami rank, were used before or after their name 'Bhatt'. Or the word 'Bhatt' may be used in the sense of scholar or achayah many times. The meaning of the next period is considered acceptable. Trinitors Bhat, Srinhetravatta and Bhatt have been used in this regard after the name. Bhatt has not been forced to say anything.

Apart from the Brahmins, the guns from the third to the sixth century have found the identity of the royal staff, villagers, household chiefs and other people. They are- China Dutt, Betarvarma, Dhatri Pal, Friend Mitra, Dhriti Mitra, Rishi Dutt, Bibu Pal, Shambhu Dev, Gopa Dutt, Bhatt Nandin, Bhatra Barman, Dhatri Pala, Samba Pala, Jaza Duta, Bibha Duta, Bibha Duta, Bibha Duta, Bibha Duta, Bibha Duta, Bibha Dutt, Biba Dutt. Basumitra, Bhara Dutt, Sri Dutt etc. Analyzing these names is a few information available. First, these names are almost in Sanskrit. Secondly, these names are identified as the end name that are still used as a name-man in Bengal. Such as -Dutta, armor, pal, friend, god, Nandi, Barman etc. Third, all these end names were cracked today but not so much in the third to the sixth century, but Brahmins probably used these under the caste. It is believed that the Brahmins used to identify Bhatt Chittagong. Among the names of the Brahmins of Bengal, ie our so -called gentle breed, the name of the Lunar, Nandi, Dutt, etc., from the time of the name of the Hindu community, the name of the Bengali poets of the Sadukrikanamrita book (Roy 1958: 222). None of these names used in these scripts of Bengal cannot be considered a Brahmin.

Conclusion:

The presence of Brahmins in the transfer document is that the Brahmin identity here as a landowner farmer has become secondary. Although the Brahmin was found here, Vaishya Shudra could not develop till then. The Gupta era is the era where the Brahmins are infiltrating the king and other people through the zamindars to settle the Brahmins by donating land. It has not been seen that the huge Brahmins are still entering. The caste and race system has not yet tied the grains. As a result, Brahmins are available but others are farmers, but no one is saying that he is now a landlord. Another aspect noticed that the king was in the third phase in the first phase, the administrative office under the king was seen in the third phase, buying the land and selling the land and the level of the land that can be mentioned in the inscriptions. Of these couples, only the Brahmin and his wife who are applying for the donation of the Brahmin at PaharpurTamrapat are mentioned (Mukherji and Maity 1967: 56). Besides, no mention of women was found in any other script. It has been proved that if they do not get the land as donations, it is not known whether the rights of women are being recognized in any way. So what women were owned by land property, it is assumed that the girls may have been deprived of the ownership, but the script can be understood through the script. From the scripts we can reach one hypothesis that women's property rights were largely rejected.

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