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THE ROLE OF GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS IN THE EXPANSION OF THE ECONOMY IN HALDIA , WEST BENGAL

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Abstract:

This Study is about evaluating the roles played by the geographical factors of Haldia in the path of expansion of the economy of this region. Throughout this thesis, the overall things like the ways various geographical factors of the entire region of Haldia contributed to industrialisation in this region along with economic expansion in this region. Moreover, it has also focused on exploring the benefits of the geographical location of Haldia along with the concerns over the land and climate condition of this region. Various articles, books, journals and respective administrative authentic websites have been used for having the data regarding these articles. In addition to this, other research available on the West Bengal Site has deplored the fact that the Haldia industry has expanded its industry to Haldia Industrial Park, “the industrial park is spread over 334 acres of land at Haldia, under District PurbaMedinipur” in addition to this, “The project site is well connected through roads. The National Highway 41 connects the port city with National Highway 6 (part of the Golden Quadrilateral) at Kolaghat.” With this, it can be further stated that the industrial zone of Haldia has truly expanded its industry.

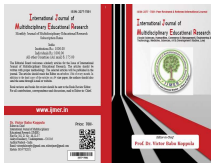
Keywords: Geographical, Economy, Industrialisation, Expansion, Location

Introduction:

As per the book authored by Paliwal (2014), it has come to the observation that Haldia, a town located in PurbaMedinipur has evolved over the last few years and has established itself as one of the most popular industrial towns in the lands of West Bengal. With a thorough analysis of the book it has further deplored that, with its approach to becoming the land of industry, it has become a crucial economic hub within the town, in addition to this, the economic expansion within the town has not only helped then town, but also has benefitted the economy of *India's maritime trade and industrial development*. Haldia as an industrial zone, has diverse industrial zones, specifically *petrochemicals and oil refinery*. With thorough research, it has come to the observation that the petrochemicals approach of Haldia stands as one of the hubs of the largest petrochemical in India, and the oil refinery on the other hand, again stands as one of moist crucial oil refineries which has benefitted the other parts of Bengal. In addition to this, other research available on the West Bengal Site has deplored the fact that the Haldia industry has expanded its industry to *Haldia Industrial Park*, “the industrial park is spread over 334 acres of land at Haldia, under District PurbaMedinipur” in addition to this, “The project site is well connected through roads. The National Highway 41 connects the port city with National Highway 6 (part of the Golden Quadrilateral) at Kolaghat.” With this, it can be further stated that the industrial zone of Haldia has truly expanded its industry.

The role of Haldia as an economic hub:

As per the article authored by Rajkarnikar (2014), Haldia has been considered one of the most prominent Industrial zones, which has achieved various economic facilities within the town. Earlier it was discussed that Haldia was especially known for its agricultural values. However, with time, with the rise of industry, the economic value has also achieved its place. With a thorough analysis of the article, it was observed that “A cross-border economic corridor promotes regional economic cooperation through enhanced trade, investment, and production. A typical economic corridor covers a geographic space usually straddling a central transport artery. Transport infrastructure provides physical connectivity for trade between countries.” in addition to this, one of the primary reasons for the economic flourishing of Halida, is its strategic location near the Hooghly River, due to this reason, the industry of Haldia has been able to expand its market



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across the river as well. Since Haldia, over the years have been standing as the most prominent industrial zone, therefore Government has also invested in terms of infrastructure named **Sagarmal Project**, which has further benefited the economy of Haldia. In spite of having challenges, the industrial zone of Haldia has been thriving ever since it has taken its place in the industrial zone.

Natural resources and economic growth of Haldia:

As per the view of Degnan (2015), the rise of petrochemicals and oil refineries has expanded its market majorly over the past few years. With thorough research, the growth of petrochemicals has been found will reach a higher position within the 2040s. The IEA has stated that, within 2030, this industry will have a high growth and by 2050 it will further develop. Therefore, with this, it can be further stated that the petrochemicals and oil refinery of Haldia fosters a bright future in this market zone. Haldia is profoundly known for its services in the oil refinery and petrochemicals, therefore this sector of the industry highlights a better opportunity for the government and the industry workers to invest more efforts in it.

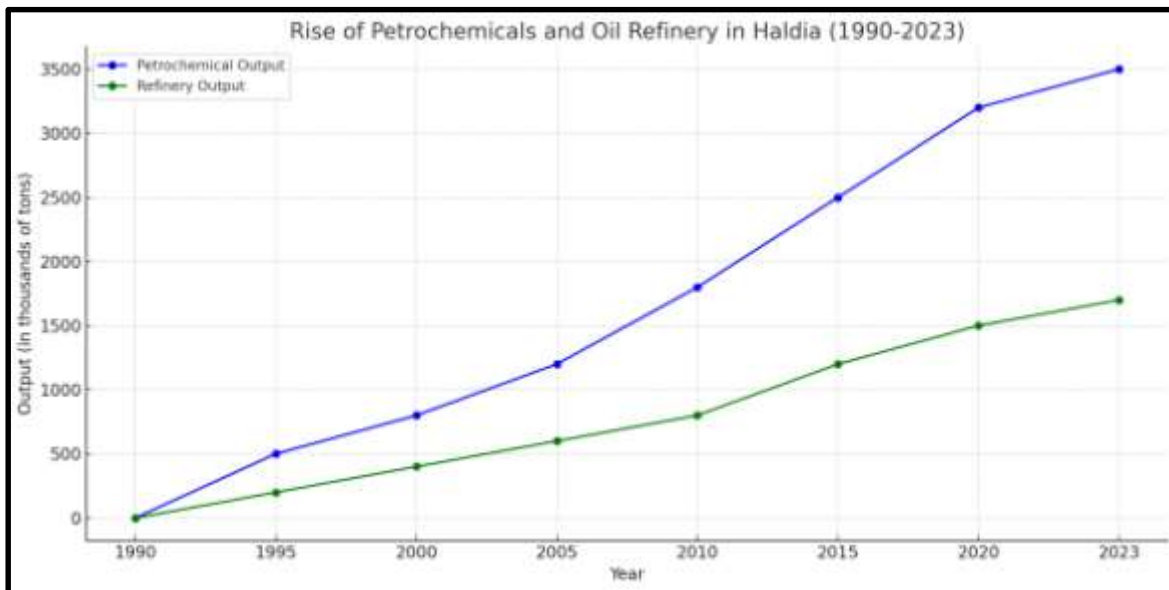


Figure 1: Graph of Oil Refinery and Petrochemicals in Haldia

(Source: Statista, 2015)

Catering to this concept, a book authored by Gupta (2015), has deplored the fact that the rise of the oil industry in Haldia, has benefited and transformed the industry into a better industrial zone within Eastern India. This refinery project played an important role in the process of importing petroleum from the Haldia Port. This, however, created demands among investors and market analysts for petroleum products. This was an influential contribution of porting oils from Haldia to the other parts of the Petrochemical industries in India. Considering all of these factors together it can be further stated that Haldia and its Industrial history is as rich as its inventions are. Considering all of these factors together, it can further be evaluated that the Oil Industry of Haldia has boosted the economic growth of the town and also the local businesses. The above graph showcases the oil refinery and petrochemical outputs in Haldia from the years **1990-2024**.



Impact of Energy Resources on the Economy of Haldia:



Figure 1.2,: Haldia Energy sources
(Source: haldiaenergy.co.in)

As per the book authored by Shukla *et al.*, (2015), it has been observed that the industrial growth of Haldia has been beneficial in many ways. The rise of industry has not only benefitted the town but has also percolated into other parts of Bengal. In addition to this, with a thorough analysis of the book it has come to the observation that much of the economic vibrancy of Haldia has its origin in the energy resources. The availability of energy resources with the country's largest riverine ports, ***Haldia Dock Complex, enables the importation of coal and petroleum among other energy resources.*** This access caters to local industries such as petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing.

Conclusion:

The establishment of Haldia Petrochemicals Limited has become essential in generating employment and giving a boost to the economy at the grass-roots level through direct employment and ancillary services. On the other hand, the energy resources of Haldia have given an impetus to infrastructural development. As the energy requirement has surged, power generation facilities have been underway, thus augmenting the energy security and reliability of the region. This further attracts investment by various companies, both local and international, towards economic diversification. However, the related risks of fossil fuel dependency include environmental issues, as well as energy price fluctuations, necessitate balancing these factors for sustainable economic growth. Diversifying the energy sources may also mitigate some adverse effects on the environment and stabilize economic growth over longer periods.

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