Methodology:

The methodological principles adopted for the study is based on primary and secondary sources of data obtained from conducting field survey and visiting various offices and agencies such as Geological Survey of India, Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics- West Bengal, Office of the Census of India, Office of the District Irrigation and Agriculture, District Library, District Head Post Office, Office of the District Animal Resource and Development and National Library- Kolkata. All the statistics are meant for the year 2001.

The secondary data have been used to analyse the spatial organisation of settlements, distribution of facilities and to arrange the central places in hierarchical order at district level whereas the primary data have been used to delineate the complementary region and to identify the spatio-functional gap of facilities.

Both the qualitative and quantitative methods have been used in the present study.

Physico-cultural and socio-economic factors have been described as a background to examine and assess their impact on the organisation of settlement system and their hierarchical development as well as regional disparities pertaining to socio-economic development.

To examine the distribution and spatial variation of settlements and socio-economic facilities standard statistical techniques like 'Nearest-Neighbour Index', ‘Mather's model of mean spacing, Gini’s technique of coefficient of concentration has been adopted.

9. CHAPTER SCHEME:

In view of the aforesaid problems, objectives and methodological principles the present study has been organised under the following chapters.

The entire research work is divided into eight chapters. In an introductory part, selection of area and topic, importance and significance of the study, work review, objectives of the study, hypotheses, data base and methodological principles are given.

Chapter-1 contains theoretical concept of regional planning and development

Chapter-2 presents an account of physico-cultural and socio-economic characteristics of geographical dimension of the study area. The explanation of all these attributes is made
to assess their effects on the spatial organisation and evolution of settlement system.

Chapter-3 explains the analysis of spatial variations of settlements in terms of area, population, size, spacing and concentration using standard statistical techniques. It further deals with the causal relationship between mean spacing and mean size of settlements.

Chapter-4 contains an analysis of spatial distribution of socio-economic facilities in the district.

Chapter-5 deals with the analysis of existing regional imbalances in the levels of socio-economic development at the district level. The levels of development of each variable viz., education, health, communication and transportation, market-electricity-drinking water, agro-economy, finance and veterinary and recreational development have been examined. The overall levels of regional disparities taking into account the composite index of all said variables pertaining to socio-economic development have been examined at block level. The analysis helps in ranking the component areal units in term of index of development.

Chapter-6 describes the basic concepts of central place theory and measures the Median Population Threshold (MPT) of each facility. Based on the computed MPT a certain weightage value has been assigned to each facility and composite of weightage score of all functions rendered by a settlement referred its centrality score. It further deals with the arrangement of central places in hierarchic order on the basis of centrality score. It also explains the nature and extent of relationship between the availability of socio-economic facilities and distribution of population among the size group of settlements and another relationship between centrality score of central places and their total population.

Chapter-7 deals with the spatial analysis of settlements, socio-economic facilities and levels of socio-economic development at gram panchayat level in Harishchandrapur-II block (pilot study area). It further deals with the analysis of spatial interaction and organisation of central places in the case study block. Based on the consumer’s movement to a particular central place to obtain the goods and services to sustain their needs, the complementary region of each central place have been delineated. A causal relationship between centrality score of central places and their dependent population and dependent area, has been quantified with simple correlation and linear regression technique.

Chapter-8 examines the existing spatio-functional gap of each function in 2001 and likely to exist in 2021 based on the projected population of the year 2021. It also proposes a
diagnostic planning model suggesting required number of facilities and their optimal location in the pilot study area to achieve balanced regional socio-economic development in the district keeping pace with estimated increase of population till 2021.

Last part presents the summary of findings and conclusion for balanced regional development at micro-level in the district.

**Note:** Regarding this study in between if there require any change during the research work so there will be changes in chapters.