

# The Kanakshar Estate of Faridpur, East Bengal

—A Case Study of a *Bhadralok* Landlord  
at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century—

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This paper attempts at a detailed study of a medium-sized estate called Kanakshar. The Kanakshar estate was situated in a corner of an alluvial plain in the Palong *thana* of the Madaripur sub-division, southern Faridpur. This region formed part of the famous Bikrampur tract, and naturally was densely populated by the *bhadraloks*. The proprietors of Kanakshar, the Chatterjees, also belonged to this class. Their estate yielded an annual rental of about Rs. 20,000, 90 per cent of which came from various intermediate tenures in their possession. Kanakshar, therefore, provides a good example of land management by *bhadralok* intermediate tenureholders in eastern Bengal. Moreover, in view of the fact that a few excellent case studies published so far have only dealt with gigantic landlords, it is hoped that this study will be regarded as a new contribution to the literature of this field.

The Kanakshar estate was placed under the charge of the Court of Wards from 1891 to 1906. The present study is mainly based on the manuscript files drawn up by the Court during these fifteen years.

This paper consists of four sections: 1. Origin and Growth of the Estate, 2. Land Property, 3. Establishment, Raiyat and Rent, and 4. Financial Affairs; and is a Japanese translation of chapter 11 of my Ph. D. dissertation written in English, i.e. 'Agrarian Structure in the Dacca Division of Eastern Bengal 1870-1905' (University of Calcutta, March 1985).