

Rural Gender Disparity In Literacy In West Bengal

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Abstract: Female literacy is important for making future generation. In our culture, we see, female literacy follows male literacy and some time difference is very high. It could not denote good for society. West Bengal is not escape from the situation. This difference find out with help of Sopher's Disparity Index in West Bengal by the researcher. With help of this statistical application researcher find out Rural Gender Disparity in Literacy of different Districts of West Bengal. This disparity found relatively low in plain, land and High in Hill and Plateau area. Different cultural practices are also responsible for high Gender Disparity in Literacy in West bengal.

Keyword: Literacy Rate, Women Literacy, Sopher's Disparity Index, Rural Gender Disparity Index In Literacy

I. INTRODUCTION

Female literacy is an important indicator for social development of any region. Literate female could develop the cultural of family and socio economic infrastructure of a nation. It reduces the gender division. Female literate plays an important role to abolish gender bias and to build up female human resources. Female literates are the key for the post modern socialization. Literacy generates patriotic air among the female against male dominated society. Literacy provides one ability to give woman own identity which contribute much to build up a good society for them and next generation. Literacy enables woman to set up a good interaction in the society. It also enhances woman's capability of building a good economic infrastructure. Female Literacy is also a good indicator of the backwardness or forwardness of women development. Where there is good female literacy rate compare to male literacy it indicates that there is development and where there is less female literacy rate compare to male literacy indicates the underdevelopment. So literacy rate is used as the good indicator or measurement of the development in rural area. Good female literacy rate is seen in the urban areas and less female literacy rate in rural areas but the cases generally female literacy less than male literacy.

II. CONTEMPORARY GENDER LITERACY ISSUES IN WEST BENGAL

Male female difference is very important thing for human development. There are 23 districts, no one introduce the higher literacy of female than male. According to census 2011 data, in west Bengal male literacy is 81.69% and female literacy is 70.54%. Difference between them is 11.15%. 11 District out of 19 districts (Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Paschim Bardhaman, and Jhargram districts are not created at that time) is above this state Gender disparity point. If we consider state data in rural West Bengal male and female literacy goes down to respectively 78.44% and 65.51% where disparity of literacy is 12.93%. In rural situation, 10 districts out of 18 districts are above the state rural gender disparity of literacy where Kolkata not included. 4.28% gender disparity of literacy rate found on Kolkata which is totally urban based. Lowest rural male female disparity of literacy among the districts is Murshidabad but both literacy rates are comparatively low. Over all literacy situation is poor for both gender, so disparity is low. Rural male female disparity is highest in Purulia district that is 28.77%.

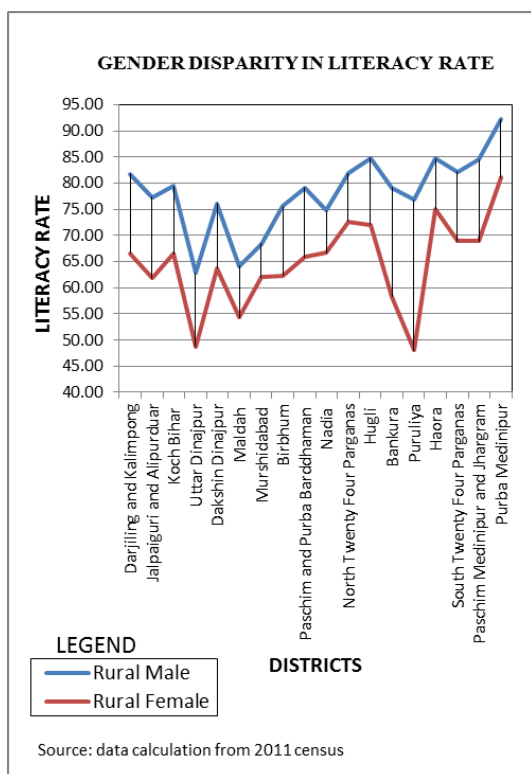


Figure 1

III. SOPHER'S DISPARITY INDEX

Only gender difference is not enough for complete analysis. To find out the specific disparity of literacy researcher use statistical formula. The present research aims to analysis the disparity of literacy of the rural male female of the districts of West Bengal according to the secondary data collect from District Census Hand Book. Literacy rate has been computed for the population above 6 year. For the measurement of male-female disparity in literacy, Sopher's Disparity Index (1974) modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been employed –

$$Ds = \log(x_2/x_1) + \log\{(100 - x_1) / (100 - x_2)\} \text{ (I)}$$

Kundu and Rao's modified disparity index formula, as follows:

$$Ds = \log(x_2/x_1) + \log\{(200 - x_1) / (200 - x_2)\} \text{ (II)}$$

x₂ is considered for male and x₁ is considered for female literacy rate.

This method of calculating disparities has been developed by David V. Sopher. In case of perfect equality that is no disparity at all, the value of Ds will be zero. If gender disparity index in literacy is below zero that means female literacy higher than male literacy.

IV. RURAL GENDER DISPARITY INDEX IN LITERACY

All the study goes on accordingly 2011 census data. But newly Kalimpong District is formed in 2017. So Darjeeling and Kalimpong Data jointly is analyzed. In Darjeeling and Kalimpong District, there are 7 villages below 0 disparity

index. Their individual village female population is very low. Jauguri chat village of Matigara CD Block has 74 and 73 respectively male and female population and their literacy respectively 58.11% and 63.01%. Disparity Index of this village is -0.02014. Trihana Tea Garden of Naxalbari CD Block has 0.22654 gender disparity index of literacy where male and female literacy respectively 68.49% of 1003 male and 42.25% of 1033 female. Mean rural gender disparity Index of literacy of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts is 0.11446.

In 2011 Alipurduar District was part of Jalpaiguri District. In Jalpaiguri District, only 3 villages are in minus value of gender disparity index. 2 villages have individually one house hold. Tandu village of Nagrakata CD Block is third village who's male and female population respectively 162 and 136 are with 63 household. Female literacy of Tandu is 46.32%, creates disparity index -0.04872. 0.24372 Gender disparity index of literacy of Ngaisuri Tea Garden come from 65.87% of 2335 male and 39.03% of 2475 female. Mean rural gender disparity index of Jalpaiguri District is 0.11782. 0.10696 is gender disparity index of literacy of newly created district Alipurduar in 2014. There is no village in minus disparity index. Tasti Tea Garden has 1106 homes, out of them 2765 male and 2803 female. There literacy rates are respectively 55.95% and 36.25%. Gender disparity index of literacy of Tasti is 0.20389.

In Kochbihar District, 7 villages present in this district that are getting higher female literacy rate than men. That means, it is minus Disparity Index. One of them is Makliganj CD Block's Madhya Upanchauki Kuchlibari village of 54 household. 54 houses were taking 98 males and 102 female populations with literacy rate respectively 6.12 % and 6.86% which create Disparity Index -0.03778. Another village is Malerjhar of Coochbihar I CD Block having 20 household but 63.33% literacy rate out of 60 male and 68.85% literacy rate out of 61 female. It created -0.02079 Disparity Index of gender literacies. Haldibari CD Block's Dakshin Samilabas village is 69.11% male literacy rate and 35.25% female literacy which create 0.30999 Disparity Index of gender literacy rate. There are 152 houses with 406 male and 383 female populations. Average Disparity Index of gender basis literacy is 0.10029.

In Uttar Dinajpur District, 25 villages of this district were Disparity Index of gender related literacy rate in minus form. Itahar CD Block's Ghritatala village has -0.06474 Disparity Index. There was 34.84% of 1085 male and 41.70% of 1048 female literacy rate. Kaliagunj CD Block's Tharais village has -0.0504 Disparity Index. There was 30.43% of 1173 male and 35.21% of 1136 female. Male and female literacy rate of Hariano village of Goalpokhar I CD Block were 21.66% literacy rate of 1663 male and 11.22% literacy rate of 1506 female which create disparity index 0.29831. Median of Disparity Index distribution is 0.13049 of Taherpur village of Raigunj CD Block had 71.74% literacy rate of 1207 male and 55.23% literacy rate of 1090 female.

Dakshin Dinajpur District have 48 villages whose Gender Disparity Index in literacy was in below zero, but no village among them was reach 500 female population. Hariharpur village of Kushmundi CD Block had -0.00154 GDIL with 74.28% literate among 556 male and 76.53% literate among

537 female. Jagdalla village of Harirampur CD Block had 0.25794 GDII with 70.19% literate among 563 male and 40.28% literate among 566 female. Baldu I of Harirampur CD Block had 0.20814 GDIL with 51.76% literate among 1020 male and 33.18% literate among 1091 female. Mean GDIL of district was 0.09833.

Below zero Gender Disparity Index in Literacy found in 79 villages of Malda district. Solmari village of Chanchal II CD block was 40.05% and 48.51% respectively male and female literacy rate of this village with 1211 male and 1044 female population which create -0.06597 GDIL. GDIL of Santapur village of Ratua I CD Block was -0.05192 where 39.04% and 45.40% respectively male and female literacy rate out of 2679 male and 2643 female. -0.03329 GDIL was found on Khanpur village of Chanchal II CD Block where 40.65% and 45.31% respectively male and female literacy rate out of 3468 male and 3452 female population. Harischandrapur I CD Block's Gochia village of 2146 male and 2065 female population got 0.27727 GDIL with 43.38% and 23.68% male and female literacy rate. Average GDIL of district was 0.11291 and modal class of GDIL was 0.10 to 0.11. Sanjib village of Chanchal I CD Block had median of GDIL distribution with 0.10493 GDIL. Sanjib had 53.46% and 43.46% respectively male and female literacy.

143 villages were below zero in Gender Disparity Index in Literacy in Murshidabad District. Mean GDIL of district was 0.069515. Fatepur village of Farakka CD Block had -0.09577 GDIL with 34.71% and 44.64% literates of 763 male and 784 female respectively. Jalangi CD Block's Udaynagar Khanda village got -0.07839 GDIL when among 1461 male and 1307 female were 28.95% and 35.73% literate respectively. Jhikra village of Beldanga II CD Block was -0.06152 GDIL where 38.12% of 1970 male and 45.31% of 1867 female were literates. Bhagabangola II khamar Diar village had 42.46% of 4307 male and 49.85% of 4078 female were literate which create -0.05583 GDIL. Charmahula village of Baharampur CD Block had 57.14% of 2364 male and 37.20% of 2161 female literates create 0.21088 GDIL. Kandi CD Block's Ranipur village got 0.25244 GDIL which represent 29.57% of 1789 male and 16.94% of 1594 female literates. Median was 0.06787 GDIL which belongs to Kuluri village of Bharatpur II CD Block. This village had 56.01% of 1039 male and 49.60% of 1022 female literate.

In Birbhum District, 14 villages were there who got Gender Disparity Index in Literacy in minus, that means female literacy rate higher than male literacy rate. Average disparity Index of Birbhum district was 0.114241. Hariharpur village of Sainthia CD Block had 49 household with 132 male and 117 female. 84.84% male and 89.74% female literates were present in villages which presented the -0.00662 GDIL. Rampurhat I CD Block's Ekpara village had 59.75% and 32.33% literates among 1774 male and 1575 female respectively which create 0.28262 GDIL. Calculated GDIL of Mahammad Bazar CD Block's Hatgachha village was 0.20873 where 50.32% and 32.20% respectively of 2784 male and 2773 female were literate. GDIL of Haridaspur village of Nalhati I was 0.104924 which is median of distribution. Haridaspur village had 64.28% of 280 male and 52.38% of 273 female.

From 2017, Bardhaman District is Purba and Paschim Bardhaman. Here two Bardhaman are jointly analyzed. In Bardhaman District, 6 villages were below zero Gender Disparity Index in Literacy. Angarson village of Kalna II CD Block had -0.01279 GDIL for 73.84% and 79.08% respectively male and female literates out of 543 male and 562 female. Maniari village of Raina II CD Block was found 0.20408 GDIL when 81.02 % of 369 male and 52.82% of 354 female were literate. Salanpur CD Block's Radhaballavpur was reached to 68.53% and 43.33% of respectively male and female literacy rate out of 1252 male and 1170 female population which got 0.21578 GDIL. Median of GDIL distribution was 0.09773 GDIL of Maszidpur village of Galsi II CD Block. Average GDIL of this district was 0.10414 GDIL.

In Nadia District, 25 villages of Nadia district were below zero in Gender Disparity Index in Literacy. Digha village of Karimpur II CD Block had 49.27% of 2131 male and 57.38% of 2105 female literate with GDIL -0.05192. Barbakpur village of same CD Block was received -0.02061 GDIL of 48.16% out of 3995 male and 52.19% out of 3744 female literates. Ramchandrapur village of Nakashipara CD Block had 0.242756 GDIL with 52.03% of 1528 male and 30.79% of 1513 female literate. Mohisunra village of Nabadwip CD Block had 0.217054 GDIL with 42.95% of 8074 male and 26.92% of 7836 female literates. Mukundupur village was Median of GDIL distribution with 0.09075 GDIL of 60.85% of 539 male and 53.57% of 504 female literate. Average GDIL of district was 0.07177.

In North Twenty four Parganas, 11 villages present in this district whose Gender Disparity Index in Literacy was below zero. Mean GDIL of this district is 0.070634793. Bajit Nagar village of Deganga CD Block was represented -0.00739 GDIL which was responsible for 70.98% of male out of 448 male and 74.94% of female out of 419 female literates. GDIL of Dhanikhali village of Hingalgunj CD Block was 0.17955 with 84.12% literate of 693 male and 58.06% literate of 632 female. Swarupnagar CD Block's Kapileshwarpur village was central tendency (median) of GDIL distribution that is 0.06665 where 84.73% of 1251 male and 75.78% of 1152 female were literates.

In Hugli District, below zero in Gender Disparity Index in Literacy, total 5 villages were found. -0.01061 GDIL was found on Paigachhi village of Balagarh CD Block which represent 59.53% male literate and 60.56% female literate in respect to 912 male and 918 female population. Jatrasudi village of Chinsura Magra CD Block had 0.27381 GDIL with 61.63% male and 34.04% female literate where 709 was male population and 702 female populations in this village. Mean GDIL of Hugli district was 0.09164. 0.08833 GDIL was median central tendency of GDIL distribution belongs to Bhurkul village of Jangipara CD Block who's out of 487 male and 487 female literacy rates were 68.58% and 58.11% respectively.

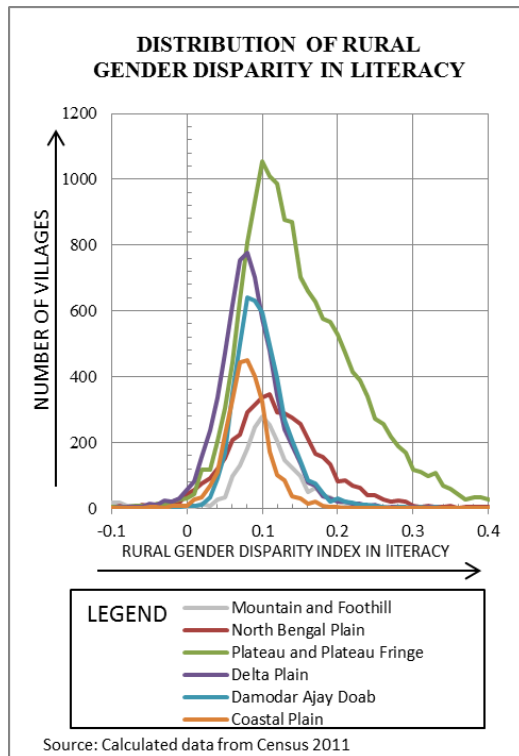


Figure 2

In Bankura District, total 17 villages were their who's Gender Disparity Index in Literacy below zero. Baitalkuli village of Kotulpur CD Block had -0.00652 GDIL when population were 271 male and 230 female and literacy were 82.28% for male and 86.95% for female. 0.20092 GDIL was found on Nidhirampur village of Gangajalghati CD Block where out of 1732 male and 1532 female 70.20% male literate and 45.95% female literate. 0.30544 GDIL of Dightor village of Saltora CD Block represent 59.52% male literate and 30.55% female literate out of 845 male and 842 female. 0.15891 GDIL of Baraamlatora village of Sarenga CD Block was represented as median of GDIL distribution of district. Average GDIL of this district was 0.16791.

In Purulia District, there were only 6 villages whose Gender Disparity Index in Literacy was below zero. Suaria village of Kashipur CD Block had -0.01015 GDIL with 83.33% of 180 male and 88.81% of 161 female literates. 0.50517 GDIL was found on Kolyagara of raghunathpur II CD Block where 41.93% of 899 male and 13.54% of 945 female literates. Adardi village of Jhalda II CD Block had 0.42332 GDIL when 72.17% male and 28.35% female literate out of 1010 male and 970 female. Barbenda village of Jaipur CD Block had 0.38748 GDIL which represent 52.14% of 2635 male and 22.12% of 2472 female literate. 0.31775 GDIL was found in Genrua village of Balarampur CD Block where 64.46% male and 32.20% female were literate out of 3402 male and 3052 female. Average GDIL of district was 0.23176. 0.22307 GDIL was median of distribution related to Damera village of Jaipur CD Block with 53.14% of 1464 male and 32.92% female 1382 female literates.

In Howra District, Only three villages there that were below zero in Gender Disparity Index in Literacy. -0.08378 and -0.01077 GDIL were related with Chak Kadamtala village of Domjur CD Block and Ghuteghari village of Amta I CD

Block respectively. Chak Kadamtala village had 38.06% of 155 male and 47.61% of 168 female literate. Ghuteghari village had 63.57% of 151 male and 67.54% 151 female literate. Madhubati village of Ulluberia II CD Block got 0.17038 GDIL with 57.22% of 685 male and 40.05% of 739 female literates. 0.07139 GDIL was median of distribution and average GDIL was 0.07374. Median belongs to Puras village of Amta I CD Block where 78.07% of 1081 male and 68.94% of 1069 female literate.

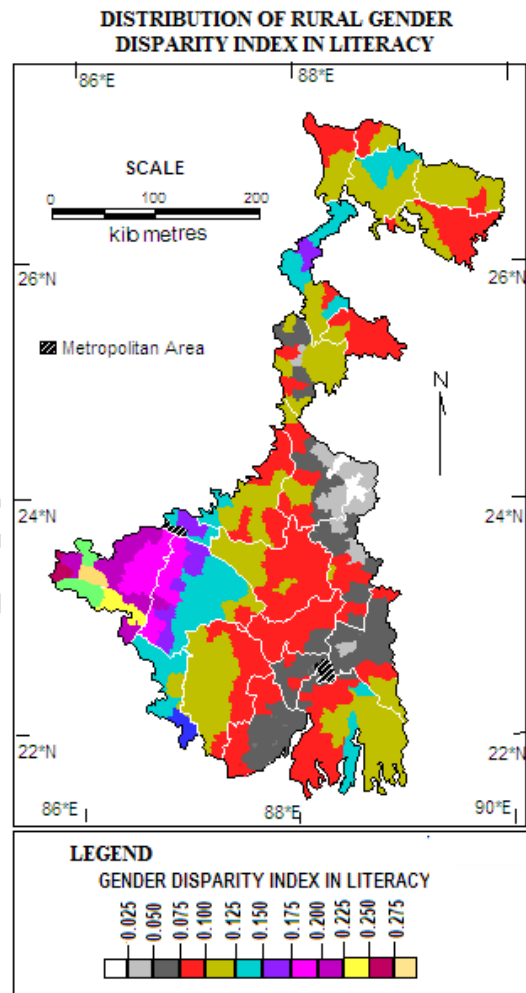


Figure 3

In South Twentyfour Parganas, only 10 villages were below zero in Gender Disparity Index in Literacy. Ramjannagar of Kulpi CD Block had -0.01420 GDIL for 48.38% of 620 male and 51.67% of 658 female literates. 0.27732 GDIL found in Moktarpur Village of Canning II CD Block with 67.26% male and 36.90% female literates out of 834 male and 783 female. Dongajora Village of Kultuli CD Block had 57.69% male literate out of 5328 male and 35.41% female literate out of 4947 female which create 0.22752 GDIL. Median of GDIL distribution was 0.09022 belong to Dayapur village of Gosaba CD Block with 81.90% male literate and 69.23% female literate out of 2570 male and 2402 female population. Average GDIL of district was 0.09539.

Now Paschim Medinipur is dived in two parts. Newly created district is Jhargram from 2017. There two district are jointly analyse. In Paschim Medinipur District, 59 villages

were there who was below zero in Gender Disparity Index in Literacy. With 264 each male and female and 93.56% and 96.21% literacy rate respectively of Bhalki Sol Village of sankrail CD Block create -0.00680 GDIL. Bairat village of Keshpur CD Block formed by 245 male and 218 female among them respectively 71.02% and 75.22% literates which show -0.03941 GDIL. Bagargeryaasti village of Midnapore CD Block had 72.09% of 301 male and 35.38% of 308 female which show 0.32634 GDIL. Tapaban village of Nayagram CD Block created with 383 male and 390 female populations and among them respectively 49.60% and 26.41% literates which were introduced 0.28867 GDIL. Median of GDIL distribution was 0.109929 and average GDIL was 0.123580918.

In Purba Medinipur District 33 villages that's Gender Disparity Index in Literacy was below zero. Bar Jamtalya village of Nandigram I CD Block had GDIL -0.00479 with 75.72% of 519 male and 79.57% of 514 female literate. - 0.00854 GDIL was found in Jhawamanu Rautbar village of Deshopran CD Block for 82.64% of 242 male and 87.74% of 204 female literates. Fate chak village of Panskura CD Block had 0.20212 GDIL where 62.13% and 40.47% respectively male and female literacy rate out of 412 male and 420 female populations. 0.07461 GDIL was represent median of the GDIL distribution which related with Andaria village of Moyna CD Block which had 68.00% of 500 male and 59.45% of 476 female. Average GDIL of district was 0.07577.

RURAL GENDER DISPARITY INDEX IN LITERACY OF DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL

Districts	Disparity Index	Remark
Darjeeling	0.11446	Moderate
Jalpaiguri	0.11782	Moderate
Alipurduar	0.10696	Moderate
Kochbihar	0.10029	Moderate
Uttar Dinajpur	0.15374	High
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.09833	Slightly Low
Malda	0.11291	Moderate
Murshidabad	0.06951	Low
Birbhum	0.11424	Moderate
Bardhaman	0.10414	Moderate
Nadia	0.07177	Low
North 24 Parganas	0.07063	Low
Hugli	0.09164	Slightly Low
Bankura	0.16791	Very High
Purulia	0.23176	Exceptionally High
Haora	0.07374	Low
South 24 Parganas	0.09539	Slightly Low
Paschim Medinipur	0.12358	Slightly High
Purba Medinipur	0.07577	Low

Data Source: Calculated from Indian Census 2011 Data

Figure 4

V. CONCLUSION

Polarized high gender disparity in rural literacy was found in western part of West Bengal which is dominated by tribal community. Purulia, Bankura, Western part of Burdhaman, Uttar Dinajpur and Northern Jalpaiguri are belonging to high

gender disparity in rural literacy. Centralized low gender disparity in rural literacy was found in south east part of West Bengal. Lowest rural gender disparity in rural literacy found in Murshidabad and another part was Purba Medinipur, Haora, North 24 Parganas and Nadia. In northern West Bengal upper part of Darjeeling, Alipurduar sadar, Kochbihar Sadar and Dakshin Dinajpur relatively low rural gender disparity in rural literacy found. In this study researcher found that where male rural literacy relatively, their gender disparity in rural literacy were relatively low. If male rural literacy low, it was vice versa.

There is disparity of rural female literacy rate from rural male literacy rate of different districts of West Bengal. Muslim dominated north Bengal district Uttar Dinajpur and tribal dominated districts Purulia and Bankura had relatively high gender disparity in rural literacy. Muslim dominated district Murshidabad was low gender disparity because of low rural literacy rate of male and female. Paschim Medinipur had received same tribal impact on rural gender disparity in literacy. North Bengal other district was Moderate in this case. Kolkata oriented district were low in this situation because of impact of touch of metropolitan urban culture.

In this, researcher found that there is positive relationship between Male literacy rate and Female literacy rate of rural west Bengal. Male rural literacy rate was positively correlated with female rural literacy rate. That means male rural literacy rate was increased then female rural literacy rate increased.

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