



ASSESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURAL AND ACADEMIC STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT:

This Paper examines the prime data, related to primary education of Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore using the data of the census 2011 and census 2001. This paper also finds out the present condition of the infrastructural facilities and academic status in the schools of these said two Districts. Basic data related to primary education include literacy rate, trends of literacy rate, enrollment etc where the infrastructure includes availabilities of drinking water, girl's toilet, boy's toilet, electricity etc. Pupil teacher ratio, enrollment less than or equal to 50 in primary schools, single teacher schools, total enrollment in schools are considered as parameters to find out the condition of government primary schools in Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore. Where the total enrollment in schools, average students' numbers in schools etc are considered to understand the overall condition of the primary education system in these two districts. Data in many cases are collected from the data of district information system for education (DISE).

KEYWORDS:

ENROLLMENT, LITERACY, POPULATION DENSITY, SEX RATIO, DISE, MDM ETC.

INTRODUCTION:

On January first 2002, the most populated district of then India, Medinipur was divided into two parts: Purba Midnapore -the Eastern part and Paschim Midnapore- the western part. This partition of Midnapore district of West Bengal state was an administrative break-up. Once again after 15 years, on 14th April 2017, Jhargram District was formed after bifurcation of Paschim Midnapur District. Now if we eye on some highlighted points of census 2011 some important facts and aspects come out. As per census report 2011 the population of Purba Midnapore is 5095875 with male population of 2629834 and female population of 2466041 while these figures in Paschim Midnapore are 5913475, 3007885 and 2905572. The sex ratio of Purba Midnapore and Paschim Midnapore are 938 and 966 respectively.

Purba Midnapore which covers an area of 4736 square kilometer has higher population density of 1076 than Paschim Midnapore which covers an area of 9368 square kilometer. The later district has low population density of 636 while state population density is 1028. One important point of census 2011, which is also a key factor of discussion of our topic is literacy rate. Purba Midnapore has better literacy rate than Paschim Medinipur, that is 87.66 and 78, while the state literacy rate is 76.30. One important factor of such difference is scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe population. Paschim Midnapore has scheduled caste population of 19.10, Schedule tribe population of 14.90 while Purba Midnapore has 14.62 and 0.54 respectively.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Soumendu (2014), on his study "Status of educational performance of tribal students, a study in Paschim Midnapore District, West Bengal", states that most of the schools are disadvantaged because of poor infrastructural facilities like no library room, no maintained playgrounds, poorly maintained toilets and lavatories, large feeder area. And poor student-Teacher ratio, Classroom- pupils ratio are the cause of poor level of academic achievement among the tribal students in Paschim Midnapore.

Rukhsana and Alam (2014) found on their studies "Literary Differentials among Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste in West Bengal, India: A District Wise study" that literacy rate of scheduled caste is extremely low than the non-scheduled caste population of state of West Bengal. Literacy differences between scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste population of West Bengal have wide gender gap in literacy rate. Socio economic background, political background and employment are considered the reason behind the low literacy rate among scheduled caste population in West Bengal. Many scholarships are given to the scheduled caste students from State Government and Central Government to improve the overall condition of this community.

Karmakar (2016), on his paper, "Assessing the enrollment and primary Educational infrastructure of rural west Bengal, India: A district level Analysis" found a high correlation between enrollment and school physical infrastructure. Mid-day meal, drinking water and presence of a teacher at the school is a criterion for high enrollment at rural primary school.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To find out the academic status of primary education in Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore.
2. To find out the infrastructural status of primary education in Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore.

METHODOLOGY: This paper is formed by secondary data collected from census report 2001 ,census report 2011, district report cards 2016-17 ,district report cards 2015 -16, various journals and reporting.

ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

Literacy, one of the most important indicators of educational status of any society, is examined here. From

the study of Dr. Kuntal Chakraborty and Sushanta Chanda "Literacy trends in West Bengal and its differentials: A district level analysis" for Major sections are-

- Geographical distribution.
- Male and female differentials.
- Literacy difference due to caste and tribe.
- Rural and urban differentials.

We will consider the former three sections to find out the status of Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore district in the field of primary education. To assess the status of primary education of Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore we will introduce some tables in this part of the paper.

TABLE: 1: COMPARATIVE LITERACY RATE BY SEX, WEST BENGAL, PURBA MIDNAPORE AND PASCHIM MIDNAPORE (1951-2011)

Year	West Bengal			Paschim Medinipur			Purba Mednipur		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
1951	25.0	34.7	13.2	21.3	29.5	12.2	21.3	29.5	12.2
1961	34.5	46.6	20.3	32.3	49.0	14.5	32.3	49.0	14.5
1971	38.9	49.6	26.6	38.5	53.0	22.9	38.5	53.0	22.9
1981	46.3	57.0	34.4	48.5	62.9	33.3	48.5	62.9	33.3
1991	57.7	67.8	46.6	69.3	81.3	56.6	69.3	81.3	56.6
2001	68.6	77.0	59.6	70.4	81.3	59.1	80.2	89.1	70.7
2011	76.3	81.7	70.5	78.0	85.3	70.5	87.0	92.3	81.4

Source: District census handbook, Purba Midnapore, District census handbook, Paschim Midnapore

(Till Census 2001 Paschim Midnapore was under undivided Midnapore district. The figures up to 1991 are the figures of undivided Midnapore district and from 2001 it has been re-casted.)

ANALYSIS: From the data it is observed that the literacy rate of Purba Midnapore is in a better position in all the three categories. The difference of literacy rate is 9.8, 7.8,

11.6 and 9.0, 7.0, 11.9 for person, male and female in census report 2001 and 2011 respectively.

Before assessing the literacy rate of Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore in respect of Scheduled caste, Scheduled tribe and total literacy rate, it is very important to note that there is a huge gap of percentage of scheduled tribe population in these two districts.

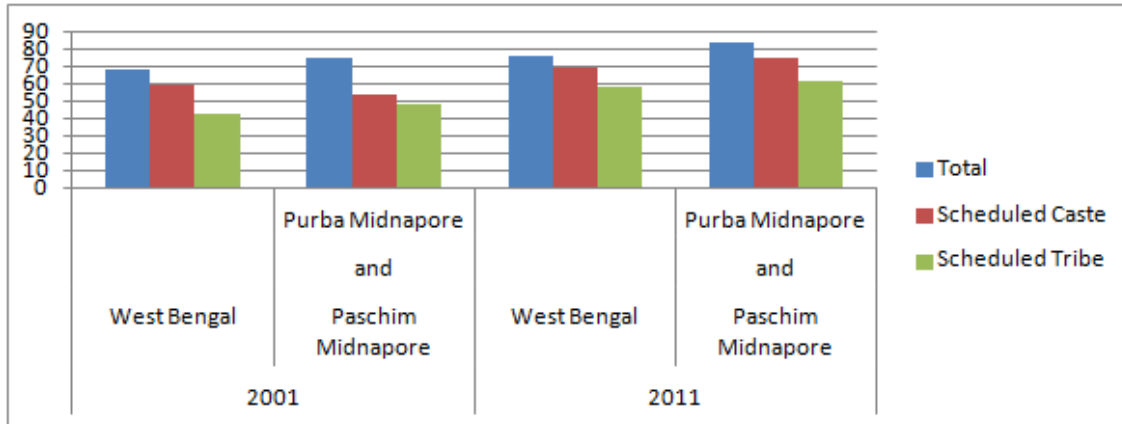
TABLE: 2: COMPARATIVE LITERACY RATE BY CASTE, WEST BENGAL, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE (2001 AND 2011)

	2001		2011	
	West Bengal	Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore	West Bengal	Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore

Total	68.64	75.17	76.3	83.35
Scheduled Caste	59.04	54.32	69.43	75.52
Scheduled Tribe	43.40	47.97	57.92	62.15

Source: District census handbook, purba Midnapore., District census handbook, paschim Midnapore.

GRAPH: I: COMPARATIVE LITERACY RATE BY CASTE, WEST BENGAL, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE (2001 AND 2011)



Source: District census handbook, Purba Midnapore, District census handbook, Paschim Midnapore.

(Till Census 2001 Paschim Medinipur was under undivided Midnapore district. The figures upto 1991 are the figures of undivided Midnapore district and from 2001 it has been re-casted.)

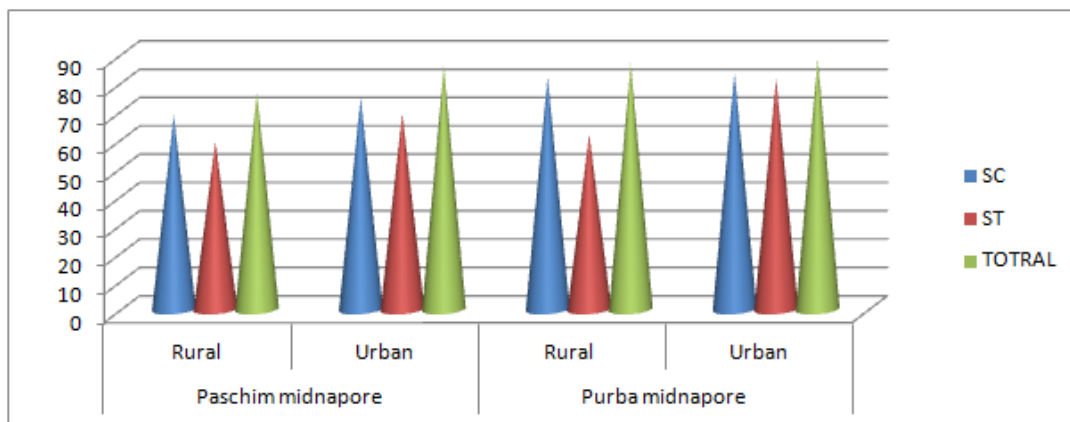
ANALYSIS: Literacy rate is in a increasing order for SC, ST and GENERAL respectively in both the census reports. This is clear that literacy rate is going upward day by day in both the districts. Literacy rate in Purba Midnapore is in a better position than Paschim Midnapore with 4.48 and 14.36 less SC AND ST population respectively.

TABLE: 3: COMPARATIVE LITERACY RATE BY CASTE AND AREA, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE.

District	Paschim Midnapore		Purba Midnapore	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
SC	68.60	74.86	82.18	83.56
ST	59.25	69.30	61.88	81.41
TOTAL	76.9	86.0	86.8	88.6

Source: District census handbook, Purba Midnapore, District census handbook, Paschim Midnapore

GRAPH -II (COMPARATIVE LITERACY RATE BY CASTE AND AREA, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE)



**SOURCE: DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK, PURBA MIDNAPORE,
DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE**

(Till Census 2001 Paschim Medinipur was under undivided Medinipur district. The figures up to 1991 are the figures of undivided Medinipur district and from 2001 it has been re-casted.)

ANALYSIS: Rural area is in a disadvantaged class in respect of literacy rate in both the districts. The gap is maximum for ST in Purba Midnapore in between rural and urban area.

The following information are from the unified district information system for education (UDISE) , which reflects the academic status of primary schools in question in Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore. Total number of primary schools increased by 41, that is 7973 to 8014 in Paschim Midnapore, where the number is only 6 for Purba Midnapore. The number of Total schools in this district is 5394. Enrollment in only primary schools decreased in both districts by 20605 and 14290 respectively in Paschim Midnapur and Purba Midnapore

TABLE: 4: ACADEMIC STATUS OF SCHOOLS IN PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE.

Indicators	Paschim Midnapore			Purba Midnapore		
	Gov primary	Private primary	Unrecognized and Madrasa	Gov primary	Private primary	Unrecognized and Madrasa
Total school (2016-2017)	7286	569	159	4735	658	1
Total school (2015-2016)	7254	562	157	4735	652	1
Total enrolment (2016-2017)	362242	37652	7072	274244	52923	86
Total Enrollment (2015-2016)	380736	38522	8313	285765	55684	94
Total Teacher (2016-2017)	22387	4297	955	16749	4932	13
Total Teacher (2015-2016)	22887	4221	932	16414	5135	13

Source: district report cards 2015-2016, District report cards 2016-2017

ANALYSIS: In both the districts and in all 03 classes, the number of total students is decreasing where the total number of schools is increasing or remaining same. Total teachers' number is decreasing only for government

primary schools and for private schools in Purba Midnapore for the year 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 respectively.

TABLE 5: ACADEMIC STATUS IN RESPECT OF RURAL AND URBAN AREA.

Indicators of Academic status		2015-2016			2016-2017		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Paschim Midnapore	School	7254	6884	370	7286	6914	372
	Enrollment	380736	354560	26176	362242	337724	24518
	Average student in a school	52.48	51.50	70.74	49.71	48.84	65.90
Purba Midnapore	School	4735	4523	212	4735	4523	212
	Enrollment	285765	268246	17519	274244	257588	16656
	Average student in a school	60.35	59.30	82	57.91	56.95	78.56

Source: District report cards 2015-2016, District report cards 2016-2017

ANALYSIS: For both the districts, the number of average students in a particular school is more than 50 in both rural and urban area. On the other hand, number of schools with students less than 50 is huge. The number is

62.40 and 49.7 percentage for Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore respectively. Number of average students in a school is decreasing day by day for government school.

TABLES 6: INFRASTRUCTURAL STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE

Performance Indicators	Paschim Midnapore		Purba Midnapore	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
Approach road	96.8	96.7	78.5	79.5
Play ground	54.6	55.3	36.7	37.9
Boundary wall	31.6	32.6	21.5	21.1
Girl's toilet	95.5	94.9	97.1	96.8
Boy's toilet	95.0	97.3	98.8	99.9
Drinking water	98.6	98.6	97.7	97.5
MDM	98.9	98.7	99.7	99.7
Electricity	83.7	86.8	70.2	70.9
Kitchen shed	87.6	91.00	94.5	95.1
Computer	2.9	2.8	4.5	5.0
ramp	53.5	34.8	58.8	33.1

Source: District report cards 2015-2016, District report cards 2016-2017

ANALYSIS: This has been observed from the data that in many cases the infrastructure available in schools is not satisfactory. There is shortage of very necessary facilities in many cases. Although The statistics is ascensive. Now a

day's facility of computer in primary section should be one of the very important factor to compete with the students from other background.

TABLES 7: ENROLLMENT AND TEACHER RELATED STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PASCHIM MIDNAPORE AND PURBA MIDNAPORE

Performance indicator	Paschim Midnapore		Purba Midnapore	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
Single class room	11.9	9.5	9.8	8.6
Single teacher	4.3	5.5	1.7	2.6
Average teacher per school	3.5	3.4	4.0	4.0
Student class room ratio	17	16	18	17
Pupil : teacher	15	15	16	17
Enrollment<=50	58.8	62.4	46.6	49.7

Source: district report cards 2015-2016, District report cards 2016-2017

ANALYSIS: Enrollment and teacher related data is satisfactory than the facilities available in schools. Some problems in this section can be solved by rearranging teachers as per need of school and students.

many areas of primary education, there are ample scopes and need for further development in both the Districts.

CONCLUSION: We have discussed some important infrastructural and academic points of primary education in Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore. It is observed that Purba Midnapore is in better position than Paschim. Midnapore in many areas in our discussion like Literacy Rate, Literacy Rate for SC and ST, average Literacy Rate for SC, ST in rural and urban area etc.It should be noted that Paschim Midnapore has large SC and ST population than Purba Midnapore. Our discussion has also found out that Paschim Midnapore has more number of government schools and students than Purba Midnapore. Paschim Midnapore is also in better position in some infrastructural areas like approach road,play ground, boundary wall in school, availability of electricity , availability of drinking water in school etc. However in

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