



CHANGES OF EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SOUTH 24-PARGANAS DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL BETWEEN 2013 AND 2016

KEYWORDS

Educational Status, Social and Political Instrument, Economic development

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ABSTRACT

In order to implement universal elemental education, proper schooling facilities must be provided within walking distance. Schooling facilities include set up of schools as well as proper infrastructure of school. People are becoming more and more conscious to send their children to educational institutions. It is generally known to all that quantity and quality are contradictory to each other. Enrolment of students in educational institutions has increased manifold all over the country due to rapid increase of population. But the lack in quality of education is very prominent in the regions which are geographically backward. Using primary and secondary data, this study explores the scenario of location of educational institutions, infrastructure of the educational institutions and progress of learners in the educational institutions of South 24-Parganas district of West Bengal. The study finds that progress of learners in educational institutions is very much related to quality of the educational institutions. Authors have tried precisely to describe through this study about the educational status of South 24-Parganas in West Bengal and the statistical analysis of the same. They observed that education varies due to change of sex of the students as education is a social instrument through which we can fight against the social evils. The related studies and the other studies of the author exclusively showed that education is a political and economic instrument to upgrade the standard of life for a particular population.

INTRODUCTION:

India is a country with the second largest population in the world. India is a country of diversities in its geographical features, in terms of its mountain ranges, valleys, desert regions, forests, coastal areas, fertile plains and dry plateaus. The density of population is increasing every year all over the country. It leads to much population pressure even in the remote geographical areas of the country also. Socially deprived sections inhabit in these remote geographical areas and the performance of learners is much below the levels elsewhere.

Education is a life-long process. It has made mankind the best among all animals in the world. On the other hand, man is a social animal. Man has been striving for his own existence from time immemorial. It is the only instrument to succeed in life-battle against the social evils. Education is also a political instrument because through it man can acquire his political rights such as right to vote, to represent in the Legislative Assembly etc. Education is also an economic instrument because through it woman and man can run her or his livelihood throughout the life.

The RTE Act, 2009 of Govt. of India ensures that all children must have access to primary school within one km of their habitation and all children must have access to upper primary school within three Kilometers of the habitation. By modifying the RTE norm, the Govt. of West Bengal ensures that all children must have access to primary school within one km of their habitation and all children must have access to upper primary school within two km of the habitation in rural areas. There can have more than one primary school within the radius of one km from the habitation. The maximum number of student strength shall be within 300 for a primary and 500 for an upper primary school. This means that each school may accommodate maximum sixty students per Class or grade with two sections up to class VIII. To implement this policy, residential pattern and geographical accessibility of the location is needed.

The term schooling refers to, having a school in a nearby location as well as the quality of infrastructure in the schools and most important whether the school can attract children or not. However, having educational institutions within the stipulated distance cannot attract learners for education. Parental decision to send their children to school is determined largely by the supply related variables like provision of physical infrastructure in educational institutions. Several studies have shown that poor quality of schools

is pushing children out of the folds of formal learning (Lewin, 2007; Sinha and Reddy, 2010; Govinda and Bandyopadhyay, 2011). Some of the basic facilities for the effective education in an institution are classroom, library, drinking water facility, toilet facility and other ancillary facilities. The RTE Act, 2009 and Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhijan (RMSA) have mandated some of the infrastructural factors for implementing quality education in schools.

This paper is a part of a broader study that aims to investigate educational status of South 24-Parganas district of West Bengal. The objective of the study is to understand the actual spread of educational institutions, infra structural quality and learner's progress in different educational institutions of this district of West Bengal which is very close to Kolkata, capital of West Bengal and educationally well framed and extended upto Sundarban area i.e. Bay of Bengal.

DISCUSSION:

General Information:

In 1813 the British East India Company has decided to spend Rupees One Lakh for the purpose of education. In 1835 English was introduced as a medium of education by Lord William Bentinck. In 1844 it was announced by the British East India Company that English - knowing candidates would be given preference to get government service. All these decisions were taken by the then British Government in capital Kolkata under south 24- Parganas. Therefore, education began to flourish in South 24- parganas long time ago.

Several factors in recent years are affecting the spreading of education throughout the district. In 1854 the Woods Despatch was passed. This is the Magna Carta of Indian Education System. According to the Woods Despatch, three universities were established in 1857. The first university of India was the University of Calcutta. This university covers the area of South 24-Parganas. The establishment of the University of Calcutta led to the spread of education in South 24-Parganas to a great extent. Although education in this district of West Bengal has evolved slowly and had little early development, it is now the primary tool for prosperity in every walk of life.

South 24-Parganas was created from 24-Parganas on 1st March, 1986. The total area of this district is 9960 Sq. Km. The total population of

this district according to census of India, 2011 is 81,53,176 out of which males are 41,82,758 and females 39,70,418. The rate of increase of population from 2001 to 2011 is 18.05%. At Present, the Literacy Rate of the district is 78.57 out of which male literacy rate is 84.72 and female literacy rate 72.09 (source: Census of India, 2011). Density of population is 819 per sq. km. Sex ratio (female per thousand male) is 949. Number of sub-divisions are 5. Number blocks are 29. Number of Panchayet Samities are 29 and Municipalities are 7 and educationally backward blocks are 4.

Data and Methodology:

Data for the present study have been collected from District Report Cards, School Report cards published by District Information System on Education (DISE) for the years of 2013-14 and 2014-15 and census of India report, 2011.

Study Area:

The Area selected for the study is the South 24 - Parganas District of West Bengal. This district stretches from the metropolitan Kolkata to the remote riverine villages up to the mouth of the Bay of Bengal. The district covers almost 9 percent of the total landmass of the state of West Bengal. The southern part of the district is covered by thick mangrove forest named 'Sundarban'. This region is mainly a delta region of Hoogly River and contains 37 islands. South 24-Parganas was created from 24- Parganas on 1st March, 1986. 27.02 Percent of the population in this region is in 0 to 14 years of age group. So it is imperative to investigate its educational status especially elementary education.

Growth of Educational Institutions in the Study Area:

Government and Government aided educational institutions in West Bengal are mainly run by the Department of School and Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal. Some of the educational institutions are run by the NGOs and private organizations. Primary education is mainly serving by two types of institution – regular primary schools and Sishu Siksha Kendras. The SSKs, a special programme, run by the Department of Panchayet and Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal in 1997-98 cater to the disadvantaged children. The SSKs are located in Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and Muslim inhabited areas. A Glimpses of this picture for South 24- Parganas is being shown from the following tables.

Table -1
Number of Primary, Upper-primary Schools, SSK and MSK (Circle -Wise) in South 24- Parganas in the year 2016-2017

Sl. No.	CLRC Name	No. of Primary Schools	No. of Upper Primary Schools	Total No. of Schools for elementary education	SS Ks	MS Ks
01	BARUIPUR	109	32	141	20	5
02	BARUIPUR SOUTH	85	15	100	18	0
03	BASANTI	72	31	103	56	3
04	BASANTI SOUTH	88	18	106	33	5
05	BHANGORE	99	33	132	57	4
06	BHANGORE NORTH	93	26	119	13	3
07	BISHNUPUR-1	56	17	73	1	1
08	BISHNUPUR-2	60	14	74	22	0
09	BISHNUPUR-3	71	16	87	13	0
10	BISHNUPUR-4	50	20	70	2	0
11	BUDGE BUDGE	74	26	100	19	2
12	BUDGE BUDGE SOUTH	99	33	132	20	0
13	CANNING	100	20	120	57	4
14	DIAMOND HARBOUR NORTH	70	13	83	17	0
15	DIAMOND HARBOUR SOUTH	80	23	103	17	0
16	DIAMOND HARBOUR WEST	66	15	81	21	2
17	FALTA	72	16	88	17	2

18	FALTA WEST	76	20	96	18	2
19	GHUTIARI SHARIF	112	47	159	54	7
20	GOSABA	80	22	102	11	1
21	GOSABA NORTH	82	24	106	22	0
22	JOYNAGAR	82	18	100	32	0
23	JOYNAGAR EAST	70	21	91	8	0
24	JOYNAGAR NORTH	55	15	70	19	0
25	KAKDWIP	68	17	85	32	4
26	KAKDWIP SOUTH	84	27	111	14	5
27	KARANJALI	77	12	89	17	0
28	KULPI-1	69	14	83	9	1
29	KULPI-2	69	14	83	12	1
30	KULPI-3	62	12	74	9	0
31	KULTALI	64	14	78	6	1
32	KULTALI SOUTH	67	18	85	35	1
33	MAGRAHAT CENTRAL	65	13	78	11	1
34	MAGRAHAT EAST	70	12	82	14	2
35	MAGRAHAT SOUTH	55	11	66	10	1
36	MAGRAHAT WEST	58	20	78	21	0
37	MAHESTALA	61	21	82	6	0
38	MAHESTALA WEST	56	26	82	0	0
39	MANDIRBAZAR	62	20	82	10	0
40	MATHURAPUR EAST	70	24	94	21	2
41	MATHURAPUR NORTH	56	14	70	10	5
42	MATHURAPUR SOUTH	65	21	86	27	0
43	MATHURAPUR WEST	69	20	89	34	5
44	NAMKHANA	103	34	137	80	2
45	PATHARPRATIMA	84	19	103	37	1
46	PATHARPRATIMA EAST	72	22	94	26	0
47	PATHARPRATIMA NORTH	65	19	84	65	1
48	SAGAR	62	20	82	37	1
49	SAGAR NORTH	63	19	82	21	0
50	SONARPUR	84	35	119	26	3
51	SONARPUR WEST	79	27	106	4	2
TOTAL		3748	1043	4791	1212	80

Source: As per DISE 2016-17

Table-2
EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SOUTH 24- PARGANAS IN WEST BENGAL FOR THE YEAR 2014-2015

Source: As per DISE 2014-15

Item	Prim ary scho ol	Upper Prima ry School	Junior High School	High Scho ol	Higher Second ary School	Only XI & XII	General Degree College	B.Ed. Colle ge	Unive rsity
Number	3748	1043	253	275	499	1	36	1	1

Table-3
EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SOUTH 24- PARGANAS IN WEST BENGAL FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

Source: As per DISE 2013-14

Item	Prim ary scho ol	Upper Prima ry School	Junior High School	High Scho ol	Higher Second ary School	Only XI & XII	General Degree College	B.Ed. Colle ge	Unive rsity
Number	3748	1043	253	265	475	1	36	1	1

Table-4
Information of Elementary Education at a Glance(DISE-2014-

2015)

Sl. No.	Subject	Primary	Upper-Primary
1.	Number of Schools	3748	1043
2.	Gross Enrolment including Madrasah	435614	544945
3.	Boys Enrolment	218470	258215
4.	Girls Enrolment	212144	288710
5.	Total Pre-Primary Enrolment	73995	0
6.	Pre-primary Boys enrolment	36648	0
7.	Pre-primary Girls enrolment	37347	0
8.	General Enrolment	246881	279010
9.	SC enrolment	131784	185657
10.	ST enrolment	8592	8182
11.	OBC enrolment	48357	72096
12.	Muslim enrolment	21073	199259
13.	Total teacher including Para-teacher	13519	9437
14.	Regular Teacher	11540	7595
15.	Para-Teacher	1979	1842
16.	CWSN	8010	4607
17.	Repeater	3716	3664
18.	Number of Classrooms	15804	11072
19.	1 Classroom	85	37
20.	2 Classroom	301	52
21.	3 Classroom	2844	917
22.	School with Drinking water facilities	3734	1022
23.	School with no drinking water facilities	4	21
24.	School with Toilet facilities	3729	1021
25.	School with no Toilet facilities	19	21
26.	School with Girls Toilet facilities	3524	972
27.	School with no Girls Toilet facilities	224	71
28.	School with Boys Toilet facilities	3388	852
29.	School with no Boys Toilet facilities	360	191
30.	Pupil teacher Ratio (PTR) including Para Teacher	32.22	57.75
31.	School Teacher Ratio(STR)	3.61	9.65
32.	Student Classroom Ratio(SCR)	27.56	47.92
33.	Number of Private Schools	689	134
34.	Enrolment of Private Schools	73484	27884
35.	Number of SSK	1212	0
36.	Enrolment in SSK	91256	0
37.	Number of MSK	80	0
38.	Enrolment	18129	0
39.	Number of local body school	1607	0
40.	Number of Central Schools	2	0
41.	Enrolment in central Schools	144	0
42.	Number Madrasah Siska Kendra	57	0

Findings:

From Table 1-

It is observed that: at Present

1. All together there are 3748 number of Primary Schools and 1043 numbers of Upper Primary Schools distributed in 51 Circles of South 24-Parganas. i.e. 4791 number of schools are running in the district for implementation of elementary education.
2. Out of all the 51 circles maximum number (112) primary schools are running at Ghutiari Sharif circle and minimum (50) are at Bisnupur -4 Circle.
3. In case of Upper Primary Schools Maximum number (47) are running at Ghutiari Sharif Circle and Minimum number (11) of schools are at Magrahat South circle.
4. Total Number of SSKs and MSKs running are 1212 and 80 respectively in S-24-Parganas.
5. Out of 1212 SSKs 80 SSKs are at Namkhana Circle and there is no SSKs at Mahestala West Circle.
6. In case of MSKs Maximum (5) numbers are running at Baruipur, Basanti south Kakdwip South, Mathurapur north and Mathurapur West circles. But no MSKs at twenty circles.

From Table-2 and Table-3-

It is observed that: at present

7. No changes of numbers of schools for Elementary Education from 2013 to 2016 i.e. 4791 number of schools enrolled 980559 number of students.
8. No changes of number of Junior High Schools in South 24-Parganas between 2013 to 2016 which is 253.
9. Number of High schools upto Class-X changes in South 24-Parganas by 10 between these periods.
10. Number of Higher Secondary schools changes by 24 number from 2013-2016.
11. No changes of number of only one XI-XII school in between this year.
12. In case of Higher Education no changes of numbers of Non-Government/ Govt. aided General Degree Colleges which is 36 and only one Govt. aided B.Ed. department attached to a general Degree College is running on.
13. A newly set up Women University was established in between this year which is not at all a full-fledged university in this district.

From Table -4-

It is observed: at present

14. Gross enrolment At Primary schools upto Class -IV is 4, 35,614 whereas that is at upper Primary schools is 5, 44,945. The increase of number of enrolment by 1, 09,331 may be due to new students enrolled from Private or NGO run Primary Schools.
15. Girls enrolment are higher than boys by 30495 number at Primary schools that may be due to private schools where is more girls students enrolled for better learning and security.
16. Pre-Primary boys' enrolment is to some extent lower by 699 numbers than girls enrolment may be due to higher death rate of girls babies.
17. All Kind of Upper Primary enrolment (General, SC, OBC & Muslim) is higher than Primary enrolment. But in case of ST enrolment it is observed that Upper Primary enrolment is lower than Primary enrolment. That indicates dropout occurs only in ST enrolment at Upper Primary level.
18. From the data available it is observed that Pupil-Teachers ratio in case of Primary is 32.22 where as that of in Upper Primary is 57.75. i.e. almost double which indicates more upper Primary teachers are to be appointed to maintain quality of education.
19. Children with special need(CWSN) in primary school are 8010 and that of at upper primary schools is 4607, which indicates that a remarkable number (3403) may not continued their education at upper primary level.
20. Numbers of Repeater students in both Primary and upper primary level are 3716 and 3664 respectively which is less than 1% with respect gross enrolment.
21. A Primary school and a upper Primary School must have four classrooms each for teaching Learning of Class I to IV and V to VIII respectively and one Hall for midday meal arrangement and one teachers room cum office room. But so far data available from Table-4 it does not express any such school rather than schools with 1,2 and 3 classroom schools are running presently.
22. Drinking water facilities have already been reached at every school. But have to complete remaining 4 Primary and 21 upper Primary schools.
23. All most all schools have toilet facilities, very few are yet to construct. Such Number of Primary schools are 19 and Upper Primary schools are 21. Girls toilets are to framed for 224 Primary schools and 21 Upper Primary Schools.
24. School-Teacher Ratio for Primary schools is 3.61 and that for Upper Primary schools is 9.65 which indicates more primary teachers are to be appointed to maintain the quality primary Schools which need 5 teachers at least.
25. Enrolment in Private Primary and Upper Primary schools is 73,484 and 27,884 respectively for which enrolment at Upper Primary at govt. schools is increased.
26. More than one lakh students enrolled in SSKs and MSKs and Local Body schools beyond regular Govt. Primary and Upper Primary

schools.

27. Number of central schools is 2 where 144 students are enrolled.

28. There are 57 Madrasah Siskha kendras are running in South 24-Parganas.

CONCLUSIONS:

In South 24-Parganas the number of Schools, Colleges, and University going students are about thirty lakh i. e. one third of total population (81,53,176) of the district, which indicates per Class per year have to enrolled 1.50 lakh students if there is no detention is occurred. This need more schools of every level (Pre-Primary, Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary) to accommodate them for quality school education and general degree colleges for higher education also. There is no Govt. Medical College and Engineering college and there is only one Govt. aided B.Ed. College. Only one Govt. aided Women University, is not a full-fledged university till now. Therefore, to impart quality education for each and every level both infrastructural and human resources are to be judiciously framed for south 24-Parganas within a stipulated time frame. Limitation of this study is that in this study polytechnic colleges and CTIs or ITIs are not included and non govt. educational institutions are not taken undertaken intensively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We convey our deep sense of gratitude to Sarba Siksha Mission, South 24-Parganas for providing the data of schools of South 24- Parganas.

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