

Preface

Education is the vertebral column of the nation. There are plenty evidences that economic growth of country is severely slowed down the lack of proper education of its nation. Economic Development means the development of the common mass. Education has the unique power to combat poverty and accelerate the pace of economic development policy of a country. Education may be viewed as investment, education is not end by itself but it is a means to get something or desired goal. This is not a mere saying; it is true to every word for the reason that literacy is the prime mover of economic development. As a matter of fact, literacy rate' in any region increases the human resource of that region. Literate persons are more versatile than illiterate ones in so far else economic development is concerned. This is because literate persons have the ability to work in all the sectors of economy while illiterate persons may contribute their physical labour only in the primary sector of the economy. Literate persons are at the root of physical, mental and intellectual labour required for economic development of any region. Literacy rate is a excellent estimator of the educational standard of any constituency. In the present thesis the relation between literacy rate and economic development has been studied with relevance to northern part of West Bengal; India. The study is basically exploratory in nature and apart from that the observation at micro and macro level of northern districts of West Bengal, it is based on extensive field survey, conducted in selected northern five district head quarter towns of West Bengal. There is no doubt that North Bengal as a region is economically more backward than South Bengal. In this dissertation however, the economic backwardness of North Bengal is being gauged by number of selected economic indicators at different level of the study. The levels of educational development and educational infrastructure development have been determined for different levels. Parally, selected demographic factors have been scrutinized to recognize the rationale behind it. Suggestions towards the solution of problem have been made here taking into consideration the local situations comprising available resources and overall socio-economic-cultural environment. The policy recommendations have been made in view of the idea that there is a vise-versa relationship between 'Literacy Rate and Economic Development'