

CHAPTER 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF MUSLIMS IN WEST BENGAL

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CHAPTER-3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF MUSLIMS IN WEST BENGAL

3.1 INTRODUCTION

West Bengal was created as a constituent state of the Indian union on 15th August 1947, as a result of partition of the undivided British Indian province of Bengal into West Bengal. West Bengal covers the bottleneck of India in the east, stretching from Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. It is bounded on the north by Sikkim and Bhutan, on the east by Assam and Bangladesh, on the south by the Bay of Bengal and on the west by Orissa, Bihar and Nepal. Therefore West Bengal has three international frontiers to the north, east and west.

In 1947, when India became independent Bengal was partitioned between India and Pakistan. West Bengal was remained in India's share and East Pakistan (presently Bangladesh) became the part of Pakistan.

The state of West Bengal has an area of 88,752 sq. km. and a population 80.18 million. The state has 18 districts, 341 blocks and 40,782 villages. Population density is 904 (767 in 1991) per sq. km. as against the national average of 324 in 2001.

The Muslims having a brilliant history of independence, governance and political freedom along with economic prosperity before independence, are now facing economic deprivation. Bengal had been under the rule of Nawab Murshid Quli Khan, Ali Wardi Khan and Nawab Siraj-ud-daulah.

Bengal possessed fertile land suitable for production of crops like jute and paddy. The economic success and prosperity gave birth to the well known humanitarian and philanthropist of district Hoogly of West Bengal, Haji Mohammad Mohsin whose invaluable contribution and devotion to the educational progress of Indian Muslims is even memorable today in the mind of people of India, especially in the mind of Bengali. Even if of this glorious past, Muslims of West Bengal are facing from extreme poverty and they are fit for ordinary labours. Muslims of West Bengal are reeling under poverty and

deprivation even though they are hard worker and skilful in various artistic activities or professions.

M. K. A. Siddiqui (1974) writes: in Calcutta (presently Kolkata) which is one of the biggest cities of India and where Muslims are 15 percent of the population, 60 of rickshaw and handcart pullers, 90 percent of bidi workers and 100 percent of those engaged in embroidery work are Muslims. Their disproportionate employment in ordinary profession and extremely low representation in profitable arts, crafts, and services is indicative of their social and economic condition. The number of Muslim capitalist in West Bengal who can manage their own trade is extremely low.

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF MUSLIMS IN WEST BENGAL

Muslims constitute the second largest religious group in India and the largest religious minority. According to the 2001 Census, Muslim population in India is at over 138 million and Muslim population in West Bengal stands is 20.2 million. Thus, West Bengal's Muslim population constitute 14.6 percent of Muslims in India.

The total population of West Bengal is around 80.18 millions of which 72 percent are living in rural areas and 28 percent are urban population. Sex ratio of females per 1000 of males is 934 in 2001.

According to 2001 Census, West Bengal is the fourth largest populated state after Uttar Pradesh (166.2 million), Maharashtra (96.9 million) and Bihar (83 million).

Table 3.1 shows the decadal trends in share of Muslim population in India and some large states since 1961 and Muslim population and total population of those states in 2001 and table 3.2 depicts the Muslim population of West Bengal since 1951 along with decadal growths of Muslims and all SRCs

Table 3.1: Trends in share of Muslim population, India and large states, 1961-2001

India/State	%age of Muslim population					Muslim population (in million)	Total population (in million)
	Years						
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2001	2001
India	10.7	11.2	11.7#	12.6#	13.4	138.19	1028.61
West Bengal	20.0	20.5	21.5	23.6	25.2	20.24	80.18
Kerala	17.9	19.5	21.3	23.3	24.7	7.86	31.84
Uttar Pradesh incl. Uttaranchal	14.6	15.5	15.9	17.3	18.2	31.75	174.69
Bihar incl. Jharkhand	12.5	13.5	14.1	14.8	15.9	17.45	109.94
Assam	24.7	24.6	N.A.	28.4	30.9	8.24	26.66
Jammu & Kashmir	68.3	65.9	64.2	N.A.	67.0	6.79	10.14
Karnataka	9.9	10.6	11.1	11.6	12.2	6.46	52.85
Delhi	5.8	6.5	7.7	9.4	11.7	1.62	13.85
Maharashtra	7.7	8.4	9.2	9.7	10.6	10.27	96.88
Andhra Pradesh	7.5	8.1	8.5	8.9	9.2	6.99	76.21
Gujarat	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.7	9.1	4.59	50.67
Rajasthan	6.5	6.9	7.3	8.0	8.5	4.79	56.51
Madhya Pradesh incl. Chhattisgarh	4.1	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.2	4.25	81.18
Tamil Nadu	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.6	3.47	62.41
Orissa	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1	0.76	36.80
Punjab incl. Haryana, Chandigarh	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.7	3.5	1.64	46.40
Uttar Pradesh	*	*	*	17.7	18.5	30.74	166.20
Uttaranchal	*	*	*	10.0	11.9	1.01	8.49
Bihar	*	14.5	15.1	15.7	16.5	13.72	83.00
Jharkhand	*	10.3	11.3	12.2	13.8	3.73	26.95
Madhya Pradesh	*	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.4	3.84	60.35
Chhattisgarh	*	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.0	0.41	20.83
Punjab	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.6	0.38	24.36
Haryana	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.6	5.8	1.22	21.14

for computing Muslim population shares for all-India, interpolated values for Assam for 1981 and Jammu & Kashmir for 1991 were used.

* Not shown, as breakdown for the state is not available.

N.A. Census was not conducted in the state in the year.

Source: Sachar Committee Report (Appendix Table 3.3 p 273)

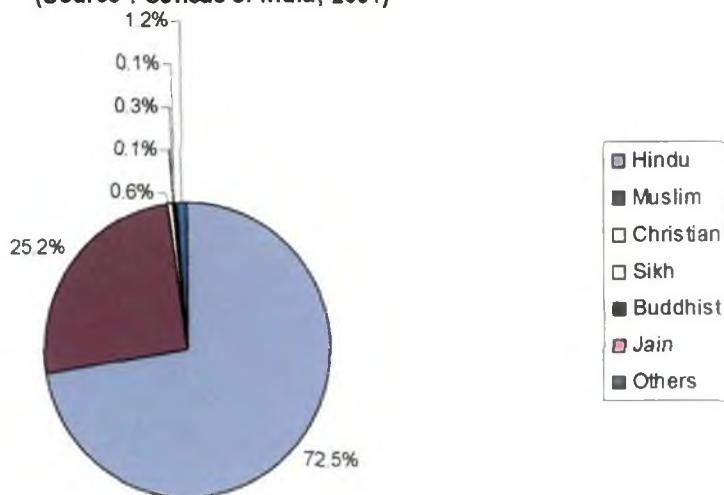
Table 3.2: Basic population statistics of Muslims of West Bengal

Year	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Muslim population (in million)	4.93	6.99	9.06	11.74	16.08	20.24
Percentage of Muslims to total population	19.85	20.00	20.46	21.52	23.61	25.25
Decadal growth rate (Muslims)	-	41.8	29.6	29.6	37.0	25.9
Decadal growth rate (All)	-	32.80	26.87	23.17	24.73	17.77
Variation Decadal growth rate (West Bengal Muslims against all population of West Bengal) percentage points	-	+9	+2.73	+6.43	+12.27	+8.13

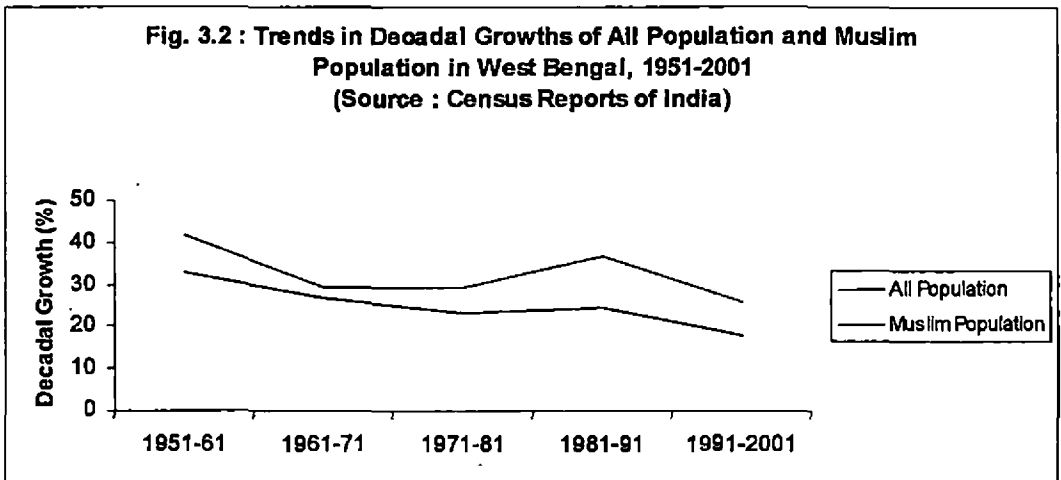
Source: Census Reports of India (1951 to 2001)

The break up of population in West Bengal is as Muslims 25.2 percent (20.2 million) of its total population, Christians (0.64 percent), Sikhs (0.08 percent), Buddhists (0.30 percent) and Jains (0.07 percent). Proportion of Muslims in West Bengal is the highest than any other state of India. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) population is about 25 percent almost equal to the Muslims and Scheduled Tribe (STs) at about 6 percent

Fig. 3.1 : Population according to SRCs in West Bengal in 2001 (Total Population 80.18 millions)
(Source : Census of India, 2001)



It is evident from tables 3.1 and 3.2 that decadal growth of Muslim population in West Bengal is more than national growth for Muslim and even more than some other Muslim concentrated states except Assam and Kerala etc. Muslim population in West Bengal in 2001 is 25.2 percent compared to 20 percent in 1961; an increase of 5.2 percentage point, whereas national increase Muslim population stands at 2.7 percentage points during the corresponding periods. Decadal growth of West Bengal's Muslims were acute since 1981 and increased the share during 1981 to 1991 by 2.1 percentage points (21.5 percent to 23.6 percent); an increase between 1991 and 2001 was 1.6 percentage points (23.6 percent to 25.2 percent) whereas, Uttar Pradesh (+Uttaranchal), the hugely Muslims' state had increased the share by 1.4 percentage point (15.9 percent to 17.3 percent) and 0.9 percentage point (17.3 percent to 18.2 percent). Even rate of increase were lower in Bihar than West Bengal. This is noteworthy that decadal growth of West Bengal Muslims (1991 – 2001) is decreased by (37 – 25.9) 11.1 percentage points where as state average is lowered by (24.73 – 17.77) 6.96 percentage points during the corresponding period.



Appendix 2.2 (page 57-8) shows, comparatively a lower population of Muslims of West Bengal live in urban areas (16.8 percent) as compared to the national average of Muslims at 35.7 percent.

In spite of urban trend of Muslims being significant in almost all the states as highest as Delhi (96 percent) perhaps because of more urban

landing Delhi, Maharashtra (70 percent), Uttar Pradesh (36 percent), the trend in West Bengal does not change significantly. In 1961, the proportion of urban Muslims was 14.1 percent comparing to all population of 24.5 percent and in 2001, the share of urban Muslim population is 16.8 percent as against 28 percent for all population.

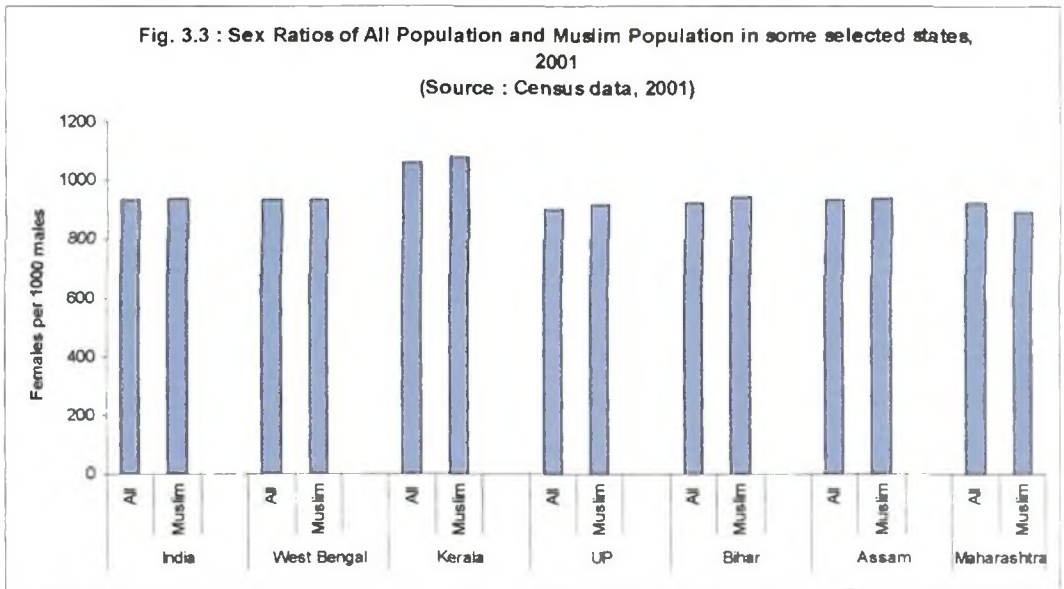
The low trend of urbanisation among the Muslims in the state may be due to the fact that they prefer to engage themselves in self-employment in rural areas, perhaps because of low availability of works for Muslims in urban areas. This is a fact that urban trend cannot remain to be accepted as good indicator for economic development. Urban trend in India's Muslim community is due to the fact of dearth of employment opportunity in rural areas.

It is found from Appendix 3.1 (page 102-3) that crude fertility rate (CFR) amongst Muslims in West Bengal is seen at 6 as against the India's average for all SRCs of 4.5 and as against India's Muslims at 5.7. Thus, CFR of West Bengal is even higher than CFR at national level for Muslims. Total fertility rate (TFR) among Muslims in West Bengal is 3.3 which is marginally higher than the national TFR of 2.9.

Appendix 3.2 (page 104-5) shows low mortality among Muslims. It is comparatively better in all India bases. The infant mortality rate (IMR) among Muslims in West Bengal is very encouraging as 52 (per 1000) against the national infant mortality for all is 73 and the mortality among Muslims children under the age of 5 years (U5MR) is 77 against 101 of India's population. Perhaps all these factors are liable for the high growth rate of Muslim population in West Bengal.

It appears in Appendix 2.3 (page 59-60), sex ratio of Muslims in West Bengal (933) is lower than the sex-ratio for all population in West Bengal (934) and even lower than the national ratio for Muslims of 936 in 2001. Under the age group 0 to 6, sex ratio of Muslims in West Bengal (968) is far better than the ratio at national level (927) and national ratio for Muslims (950). It indicates that Muslims in general and Bengal's Muslims in particular, are not gender biased against female child. Perhaps this is due to the fact,

that Muslims are not allowed by religion to feticide and they are mostly indifferent about gender because of socio- cultural environment among Muslims in the society. This is obviously an encouraging factor for the Muslim community.



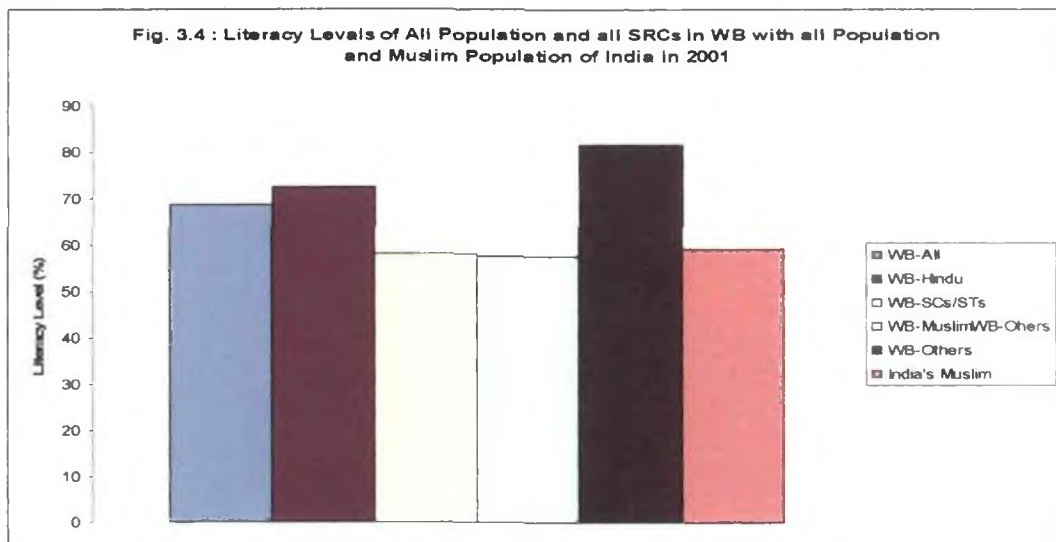
The districts of West Bengal in which the proportion of Muslims exceeds the state average of 25.25 percent in 2001 are Murshidabad (63.67 percent), Malda (49.72 percent), Uttar Dinajpur (47.36 percent), Birbhum (35.08 percent) and Nadia (25.41 percent). Proportion of Muslims is significant in the districts of Dakshin Dinajpur (24.02 percent), Burdwan (19.78 percent), Cooch Behar (24.24 percent), Jalpaiguri (10.85 percent), North 24 Parganas (24.22 percent), and Hooghly (15.14 percent).

3.3 EDUCATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE STATE

Muslims in India are facing two major problems – education and employment which are essential for the socio-economic development of human beings. It is evident that Muslims in India as well as Muslims in West Bengal are lagging behind in terms of quantitative and qualitative education.

The poor performance of Muslims is observed in almost all the Muslim concentrated states. It is observed from Appendix 2.5 (page 63) that literacy rate in West Bengal is 68.6 percent compared to national literacy rate of 64.8

percent. The share of Muslim population in West Bengal is around 25.2 percent, the highest share amount all states. The 2001 census data reveal that literacy rate among Muslims in West Bengal (57.5 percent) is lower than the national literacy for Muslim (59 percent) by 1.5 percentage points. This is worth noting that at national level, Muslims literacy rate is 59 percent whereas overall literacy rate of the nation is 64.8 percent i.e., co-efficient rate is $(59.1 \times 100) / 64.8 = 91.2$ and the co-efficient of Muslims literacy in West Bengal is $(57.5 \times 100) / 68.6 = 83.8$. It depicts a poor performance of Muslims in West Bengal in the field of education. Literacy rate of Muslims in Muslim concentrated states like Uttar Pradesh 47.8 percent (state average 56.3 percent), Bihar – 42 percent (47 percent), Assam 48.4 percent (63.3 percent), Jammu and Kashmir 47.3 percent (55.5 percent) and Uttaranchal 51.1 percent (71.6 percent)—all show a poor performance. The performance of Muslim education in some states is better than the state average such as Maharashtra 78.1 percent (state average is 76.9 percent), Jharkhand 55.6 percent (53.6 percent), Karnataka 70.1 percent (66.6 percent) and Gujarat 73.5 percent (69.1 percent).



The literacy among Muslims in West Bengal (57.5 percent) is below than Hindus (72.4 percent) and other minorities (81.6 percent) but marginally higher than SCs/STs (56.1 percent). It appears in Appendix 2.4 (page 61-2) that the urban literacy among Muslims in

West Bengal is showing a gloomy picture. The literacy rate of urban Muslims in West Bengal is 66 percent which is lower than the national level for all SRCs at 80 percent and even lower than the national level for Muslims at 70 percent. In West Bengal, literacy of SCs/STs (68.1 percent) is higher than Muslims (66 percent). Muslims' literacy in West Bengal is far lower than all SRCs (81 percent) and Hindus (84 percent) in the state. Muslims in Kerala is the best performer in this field, as their achievement rate reaches to 91 percent. The literacy rate of Maharashtra (80 percent) and Assam (72 percent) are better than West Bengal. Success rate in education in West Bengal is better than the states like Uttar Pradesh (55 percent), Bihar (64 percent) and Jammu and Kashmir (64 percent).

Literacy among the male Muslims in West Bengal is 64.6 percent which is well below the state average of 77 percent and far below the Hindus of 81 percent in the state. Female education amongst Muslims in the state is only 49.75 percent as against state average for female of 59.6 percent and is extremely lower than Hindu females of 63 percent.

Table 3.3 shows the rural literacy position of socio religious communities of India and some selected states

Table 3.3: State-wise literacy levels by gender (rural) - 2001

State	Rural All					Rural Male					Rural Female				
	All	Hindus	SCs/STs	Muslims	All Others	All	Hindus	SCs/STs	Muslims	All Others	All	Hindus	SCs/STs	Muslims	All Others
India (13.4)	59	59	49	53	64	71	72	61	62	77	46	46	36	43	52
West Bengal (25.2)	63	67	54	56	78	73	77	67	63	86	53	56	41	48	68
Kerala(24.7)	90	89	80	89	93	94	93	85	93	95	87	85	74	85	90
Uttar Pradesh(18.5)	53	54	44	44	58	67	69	59	55	72	37	38	28	32	41

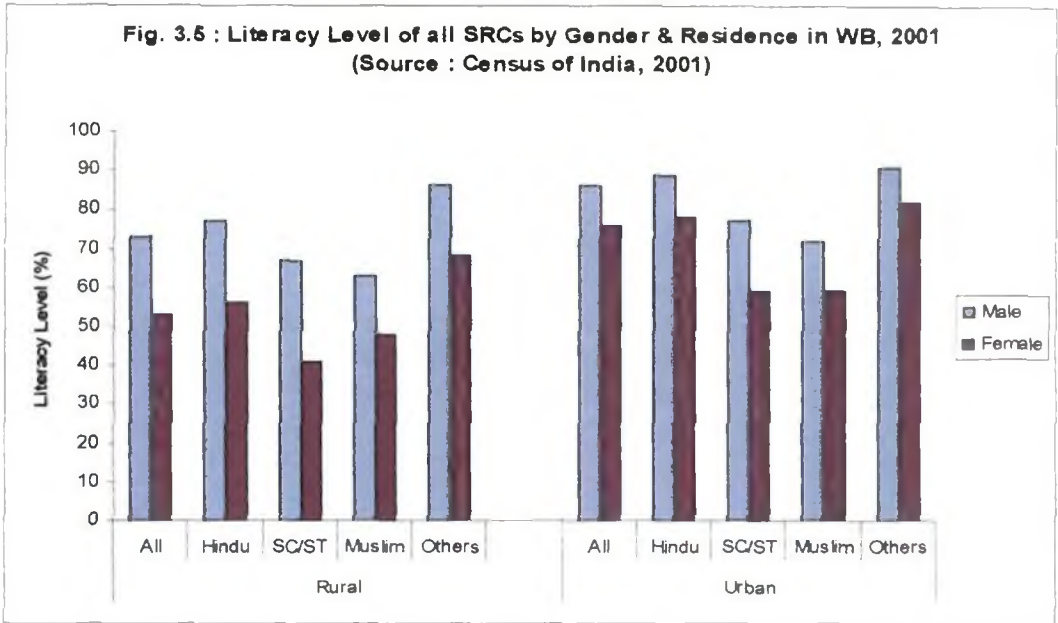
Bihar (16.5)	44	45	27	39	49	57	59	39	49	64	30	30	14	28	34
Assam(30.9)	60	66	62	47	67	68	75	72	54	76	51	57	52	38	58
Jammu & Kashmir(67)	50	65	57	43	69	62	77	68	54	60	37	52	45	30	55
Jharkhand (13.8)	46	46	37	47	54	61	62	50	61	71	30	29	23	33	36
Karnataka (12.2)	59	59	47	62	64	70	70	58	72	75	48	47	35	52	53
Uttaranchal (11.9)	68	70	62	46	73	82	85	76	56	88	55	57	46	34	60
Delhi (11.7)	78	79	71	61	81	87	88	82	70	89	67	68	57	49	72
Maharashtra (10.6)	70	70	59	73	74	82	82	72	83	85	58	58	47	62	62
Andhra Pradesh (9.2)	55	54	46	61	57	65	65	56	73	68	44	43	35	48	46
Gujarat (9.1)	61	61	51	69	65	74	74	63	81	78	48	47	39	57	51
Rajasthan (8.5)	55	55	47	50	60	72	72	64	67	77	37	37	28	31	43
Madhya Pradesh(6.4)	58	57	46	64	66	72	71	59	77	80	43	42	32	49	50
Haryana(5.8)	63	65	54	38	68	75	77	66	55	80	49	51	41	19	54
Tamil Nadu (5.6)	66	65	58	79	68	77	76	69	88	80	55	54	48	72	57
Orissa (2.1)	60	60	44	69	71	73	73	58	79	83	47	47	29	60	59
Himachal Pradesh(2.0)	75	75	69	55	78	85	85	79	65	87	66	66	58	43	69
Chhattisgarh (2.0)	60	60	54	76	67	74	74	67	87	80	47	47	40	64	53
Punjab (1.6)	65	68	54	48	70	71	76	62	54	76	58	60	46	40	64

Source: Census of India, 2001. Note: Figures in parentheses are %ages of the Muslim

Literacy in rural Bengal among male Muslims is around 63 percent, far lower than the state average of 73 percent and even lower than SCs /STs (67 percent) and among female Muslims is 47.9 percent as against 53.2 percent of the state level and far lower than the female Hindus of the state of 55.7 percent but higher than SCs/STs (41 percent).

Literacy rate of urban male Muslims is around 72 percent is lower than Bengal's average of 86.1 percent and 89 percent of Hindus and even substantially lower than SCs/STs of 77 percent. Literacy among urban female Muslims is around 59.2 percent which is alarmingly low against the state

average of 75.7 percent and Hindus of 78.3 percent; and at par with SCs/STs. The rates are precariously lower than other minorities.



Therefore, overall performance of Muslims in West Bengal in the field of education is very poor. In some cases even the literacy levels are lower than SCs/STs.

Table 3.4 shows the average duration of Schooling of children aged 7-16 Years in India and West Bengal

Table 3.4: Mean Years of Schooling of children aged 7-16 years - 2001

States	Group	State			Urban			Rural		
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
India	Total	3.95	4.18	3.69	4.82	4.85	4.79	3.65	4.00	3.34
	SCs/STs	3.35	3.67	2.98	4.33	4.44	4.21	3.16	3.53	2.75
	Muslims	3.26	3.40	3.11	4.02	4.01	4.03	2.86	3.08	2.62
	All Others	4.39	4.61	4.15	5.21	5.22	5.19	4.08	4.38	3.75
West Bengal	Total	3.58	3.72	3.44	4.38	4.45	4.31	3.33	3.49	3.16
	SCs/STs	3.12	3.41	2.80	3.73	3.91	3.54	3.02	3.34	2.68
	Muslims	2.84	2.86	2.83	3.36	3.35	3.38	2.74	2.76	2.72
	All Others	4.51	4.62	4.39	4.89	4.96	4.83	4.28	4.41	4.13

Source: Census of India (2001) - Tables C9, C8-SC and C8-ST

Note: The age group 7-16 years corresponds to class X level of education.

Mean Years of Schooling (MYS) in the age group of 7–16 years (Table 3.4) of Muslims in West Bengal is very low at 2.84 against MYS of Muslims at national level of 3.26, all SRCs at national level of 3.95 and even lower than SCs/STs at 3.35. MYS of SCs/STs in West Bengal is more than MYS of Muslims in the state. Duration of MYS of school going children in West Bengal is lower than almost all states except few Muslim concentrated states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. MYS of Muslim children in rural Bengal (2.74) is further lower than urban MYS (3.36).

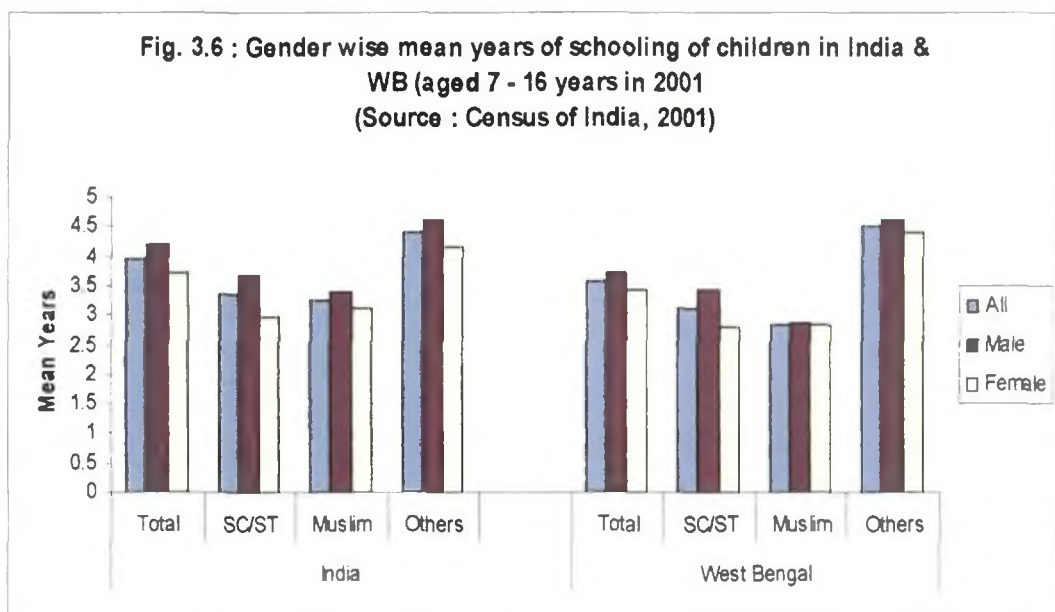


Table 3.5 represents the enrolment rate of children in schools in the age group of 6 to 14 years in India and in some selected states.

Table 3.5: Proportion of children aged 6-14 years enrolled by SRCs, 2004-2005

States	Total	SCs/STs	H-OBCs	H-Gen	Muslims	All Others
All India	85.3	79.7	86.0	94.9	81.8	89.9
West Bengal	85.7	83.6	91.4	91.9	82.8	70.8
Kerala	98.4	95.7	99.3	99.6	99.0	96.9
Uttar Pradesh	82.2	80.2	85.9	93.5	69.4	82.2
Bihar	70.9	56.3	74.7	91.8	65.8	78.5
Assam	90.9	93.1	92.9	94.5	87.0	86.0
Jammu & Kashmir	91.8	90.0	95.9	96.3	90.6	98.0
Jharkhand	79.4	73.8	86.5	89.2	69.2	78.6

Karnataka	88.3	82.2	90.3	93.5	90.7	94.3
Uttaranchal	90.4	90.3	86.1	97.4	61.4	97.8
Delhi	94.1	85.1	95.5	98.4	95.1	97.4
Maharashtra	90.2	80.1	91.0	94.8	91.0	94.0
Andhra Pradesh	86.5	84.1	86.6	91.8	83.4	92.3
Gujarat	84.8	85.4	81.7	94.9	78.9	73.5
Rajasthan	81.1	75.1	83.0	92.1	77.1	83.8
Madhya Pradesh	88.5	78.6	87.6	99.0	88.0	98.8
Haryana	88.8	79.4	92.1	95.5	59.7	90.6
Tamil Nadu	96.3	95.8	96.2	96.3	98.5	98.4
Orissa	82.6	73.8	87.3	93.7	90.6	82.4
Himachal Pradesh	97.3	97.3	97.9	98.7	73.7	87.1
Chhattisgarh	84.7	83.6	84.2	91.5	97.9	93.0
Punjab	90.2	89.0	90.6	94.2	89.0	89.6

Source: NSSO, 61st Round (2004-2005)

It is evident from Table 3.5 that enrolment rate in the age group of 6–14 years in West Bengal is 85.7 percent which is lower than Kerala, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Maharashtra etc. but higher than some Muslim concentrated states like Uttar Pradesh (82.2 percent) and Bihar (70.9 percent).

Appendix 2.6 (page 64) shows that the proportion of school going children among Muslims in West Bengal who complete primary level of education in 2001 is 50.3 percent is lower than SCs/ STs of 54.4 percent which is lower by 4.1 percentage points. Even in 1986, the school-completion rate of Muslims (29.8 percent) in West Bengal was marginally higher than SCs/Sts (29.7 percent) and it was even far better before 1986. Better performance of SCs/STs in this area may be due to the effect of affirmative action.

Table 3.6 and table 3.7 show the similar gloomy picture of Muslims in West Bengal for the attainment and completion of middle school which is 26 percent as against all others of 58.1 percent and SCs/STs of 29.9 percent. The percentage of completion of class-X examination in West Bengal by Muslim student was 11.9 whereas all other SRCs attain 38.0 percent. Muslims in West Bengal are also lagging behind SCs/STs of 13.1 percent. Graduation attainment rate of Muslims in West Bengal is also not different.

Table 3.6: Percentage who completed at least middle school, 2001

States	Year	Total			Male (Urban)			Female (Urban)			Male (Rural)			Female (Rural)		
		Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others
All India	2001	40.5	41.3	62.7	49.6	59.8	76.7	51.1	56.3	76.7	37.3	43.7	62.0	29.4	29.3	49.0
	1999	39.9	38.8	60.4	50.5	60.4	76.2	49.9	52.4	73.7	37.8	43.2	61.3	26.9	24.5	43.8
	1996	37.3	34.2	57.1	52.1	61.0	77.0	44.7	45.7	69.4	37.5	41.1	60.1	21.3	18.4	36.3
	1991	30.5	27.1	50.0	49.4	55.7	74.3	34.8	34.8	61.4	32.1	34.6	54.0	14.8	12.4	27.6
	1986	25.3	21.0	44.2	45.2	50.3	71.9	27.7	26.5	56.0	27.3	27.5	47.5	10.2	7.6	20.5
	1971	19.3	13.2	35.0	39.8	40.9	67.2	18.5	15.9	45.2	20.6	16.4	35.7	4.9	3.2	11.2
	1948	8.6	3.8	15.7	25.5	19.2	50.3	5.2	3.3	18.8	9.4	5.1	15.2	0.9	0.5	2.2
West Bengal	2001	26.0	29.9	58.1	34.2	43.8	68.6	35.7	38.3	66.6	24.5	31.9	53.6	22.7	22.4	48.5
	1999	25.2	28.5	57.8	36.2	46.1	70.2	35.1	37.3	66.8	25.4	32.2	54.4	19.3	19.0	45.1
	1996	22.8	25.5	56.7	37.2	47.7	72.2	31.0	35.6	66.6	25.2	30.7	53.8	14.9	14.8	39.9
	1991	19.0	21.5	53.0	35.8	44.4	70.9	24.2	30.1	63.0	22.6	26.9	51.1	10.9	11.1	33.7
	1986	16.7	18.4	51.1	33.5	41.8	70.2	19.4	26.4	60.8	20.5	23.0	48.7	8.5	8.2	29.5
	1971	14.2	13.8	46.6	30.4	36.2	68.8	12.7	18.1	53.5	18.7	17.3	44.4	4.9	4.5	19.3
	1948	7.5	6.4	30.3	23.1	26.1	65.4	4.7	4.9	27.5	11.4	9.8	29.3	0.9	0.8	3.7

Source: Computed from Census reports of India

Table 3.7: Percentage who completed at least class-X, 2001

States	Year	Total			Male (Urban)			Female (Urban)			Male (Rural)			Female (Rural)		
		Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others	Muslim	SCs/STs	All Others
All India	2001	23.9	21.1	42.5	36.1	42.1	63.0	32.2	31.8	57.9	22.0	24.5	41.8	11.2	10.2	23.8
	1996	19.5	16.7	37.2	34.9	38.7	61.1	24.3	23.5	49.9	19.3	20.9	37.8	7.3	6.7	17.5
	1991	16.1	12.9	32.5	31.9	35.0	59.0	18.8	17.3	44.4	16.5	16.5	32.8	4.8	3.9	12.4
	1976	12.5	7.9	25.5	28.7	28.6	55.5	12.3	9.8	34.6	12.2	9.3	23.7	2.1	1.5	6.1

	1953	5.4	2.1	11.0	18.3	12.8	41.0	3.2	1.8	12.4	5.0	2.6	9.3	0.4	0.2	1.0
West Bengal	2001	11.9	13.1	38.0	22.5	29.5	55.1	18.2	20.8	49.2	13.7	16.0	33.5	5.9	6.0	20.5
	1996	9.4	10.2	34.1	21.2	26.0	52.5	13.5	16.8	45.0	11.8	12.8	30.1	3.8	4.0	15.6
	1991	8.2	8.7	32.9	19.5	24.3	51.8	10.5	14.6	42.9	10.6	10.8	28.8	2.7	2.8	13.1
	1976	7.0	6.2	30.6	18.1	21.0	52.1	6.6	9.3	36.9	9.5	7.5	25.4	1.3	1.3	7.7
	1953	3.5	2.7	19.7	13.6	14.9	50.6	2.3	1.9	15.5	4.7	3.7	14.8	0.2	0.2	1.1

Source: Computed from Census reports of India

3.3.1 SUMMING UP

It is evident that the condition of Muslims in West Bengal in the field of education is very poor, even poorer than SCs/STs. Again, women's education among Muslims in the state is lower than men. It is seen that the educational status of Muslims in West Bengal, like other parts of the country, is also depressing. Among various reasons, the major reasons for educational backwardness amongst the Muslims are poor economic condition, limited number of government and government aided schools in Muslim areas and lack of job opportunities of the educated people in the community. Perhaps Muslim women are lagging behind in education because of socio-cultural pattern of the family and the society, the negative attitude towards girls' education and are lack of infrastructural facilities for education in Muslim concentrated areas. Muslims have limited access to far off school. Need of the hour is to provide job oriented education and also to set up sufficient number of technical schools for male and female separately in the Muslim concentrated areas.

3.4 ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, CONSUMPTION AND STANDARD OF LIVING

The Muslims of West Bengal are economically backward. In rural areas, they are mostly peasants, agricultural workers, bidi workers, petty traders and craftsmen while in urban areas they are traditional artisans, workers, petty traders, shopkeepers, mechanics,

street vendors, drivers & helpers, rickshaw pullers, bungle makers, barber, dyers and other wage earners in medium and large scale industries. Muslims are primarily engaged as unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers. In both rural and urban areas Muslims are usually engaged in self employment and their economic activities are of marginal nature. It is evident from different reports that the Muslims have been at the lowest rung in terms of basic category of socio-economic indicators of development.

The issue of economic backwardness of Muslims of West Bengal has received more attention in recent times following the submission of Sachar Committee Report (2006) to the Central Government. The State Government has taken initiatives to redress the problems in the state.

3.4.1 DATA USED AND METHODOLOGY

Employment status of the Muslims in the state of West Bengal are being compared and analysed with other SRCs of the labour force. Workforce indicates workers engaged in both principal and subsidiary works. Our analysis on economic and employment conditions are based on data available from the Census Report-2001 and the latest survey report in the 61st round (2004-05) of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Sometimes data have been used from the 50th round (1993-94) and 55th round (1999-2000) of survey reports of NSSO for deriving a better result.

3.4.2 WORK PARTICIPATION RATE (WPR)

It is observed from table 3.8 below that Work Participation Rate (WPR) for Muslims in West Bengal is 55.8 percent which is significantly lower than India's average and even lower than SCs/STs at national level of 71.4 percent. WPR of Muslim of West Bengal is even lower than the state average of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh (56.5 percent), Gujarat (61.1percent) and Assam (56.2 percent). Total workforce in West Bengal is 2,94,81,690 of which

Muslims are 66,56,283 i.e., 22.58 percent. The share of Muslim workers in rural areas is 25.4 percent of total rural workers and the share in urban areas is 14.5 percent (Census 2001). It is evident from the above figures that urban Muslims in West Bengal are lagging behind more than the rural Muslims. The WPR of male Muslim workers of the state workers is 23.63 percent.

Table 3.8: Work participation rates in selected states by SRCs (%), all workers, 2004-05

State	All	All Hindus	Hindus			Muslims			Other Minorities
			SCs/ STs	OBCs	UC	All Muslims	OBCs	General	
All India	64.4	65.8	71.4	67.3	57.4	54.9	53.9	55.6	64.5
Andhra Pradesh	72.5	73.7	79.3	75.5	64.9	59.4	55.3	60.3	69.8
Assam	59.8	61.4	63.3	66.0	55.9	56.2	54.3	56.3	61.7
Bihar	54.2	55.3	63.7	54.9	41.2	47.1	48.2	45.3	44.8
Delhi	47.9	48.1	50.8	54.9	45.5	52.0	50.5	52.4	40.4
Gujarat	70.0	71.2	80.1	74.5	59.8	61.1	62.3	60.6	56.4
Haryana	62.4	62.3	64.6	63.8	60.1	68.0	72.0	52.9	61.0
Himachal Pradesh	76.1	76.1	75.6	78.5	75.8	84.0	87.4	82.7	66.7
Jammu & Kashmir	57.0	65.7	66.9	57.7	66.6	53.2	58.0	52.2	45.0
Karnataka	69.9	71.7	77.8	71.8	66.3	59.4	60.4	58.3	55.1
Kerala	55.0	59.1	64.1	58.1	57.0	40.4	40.4	44.0	60.1
Madhya Pradesh	69.8	71.0	79.9	71.0	54.0	57.7	58.8	56.8	55.4
Maharashtra	68.1	69.6	72.2	71.5	66.6	56.0	59.0	55.6	66.2
Orissa	64.8	64.7	75.6	60.9	50.9	51.9	48.5	52.3	73.1
Punjab	61.9	55.4	59.0	61.4	50.7	71.3	70.0	72.8	65.5
Rajasthan	71.1	71.9	76.2	74.5	58.5	56.5	59.1	53.1	78.2

Tamil Nadu	68.6	70.3	73.4	70.4	51.3	45.2	45.1	46.4	59.6
Uttar Pradesh	60.6	61.6	67.9	63.1	50.1	56.5	57.8	54.5	47.6
West Bengal	55.9	55.7	59.6	55.2	52.7	55.8	55.6	55.8	64.8

Table 3.9 represents Muslim employees in high and low position in selected State Governments.

Table 3.9: Position-wise share of Muslim employees in selected State Governments (No. of employees: 44, 52,851*)

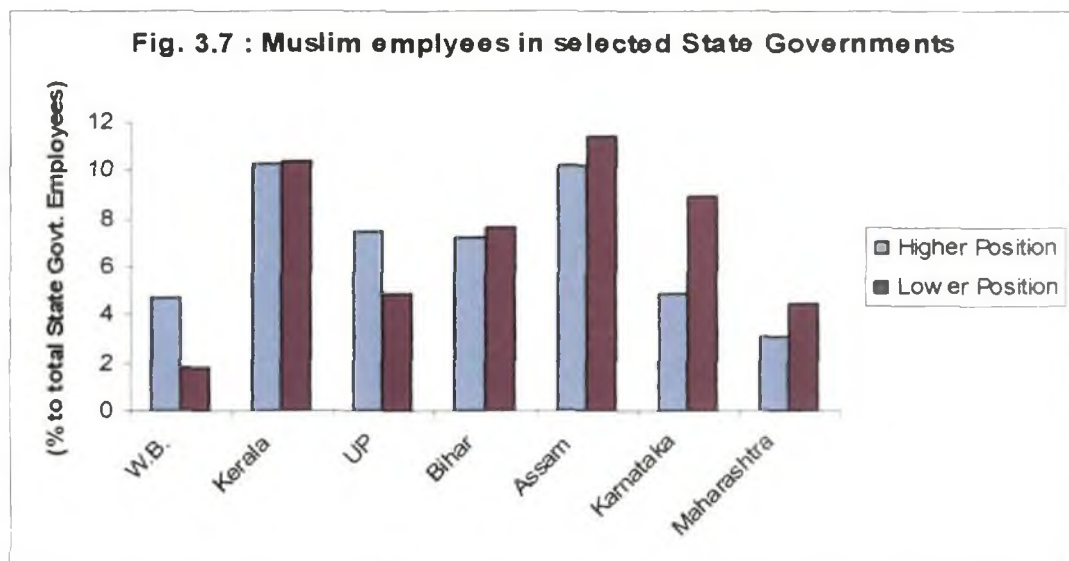
States	Total number of Employees	Muslim Population (%)	Higher Position	Lower Position	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Others
West Bengal	134972	25.2	4.7	1.8	6.7	3.9	2.1	2.5	1.4
Kerala	268733	24.7	10.3	10.4	11.8	10.1	11.1	9.1	10.5
Uttar Pradesh	134053	18.5	7.5	4.9	4.6	8.0	4.3	5.4	6.7
Bihar	78114	16.5	7.2	7.6	7.9	7.0	7.3	8.4	5.2
Assam	81261	30.9	10.2	11.4	9.2	10.7	11.5	9.9	10.5
Jharkhand	15374	13.8	3.8	7.2	4.0	3.7	9.0	4.5	-
Karnataka	528401	12.2	4.9	8.9	4.7	5.1	9.3	6.0	-
Delhi	135877	11.7	2.1	3.3	3.5	1.4	3.9	1.1	1.6
Maharashtra	915645	10.6	3.1	4.5	2.3	3.4	4.4	4.6	-
Gujarat	754533	9.1	3.4	5.5	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	529597	5.6	4.2	2.9	4.0	4.2	3.1	2.5	-
Sum of States	4452851	16.0	5.7	5.6	5.8	6.1	5.9	5.1	3.3

Source: Sachar Committee Report (2006), Table 9.5, p 170)

*876291 employees from Andhra Pradesh are included in the Sum of States; further breakup of these data is not available.

The Sachar Committee collected data on employment of Muslims in different departments and PSUs of different states. It appears from table 3.9 that the total employees in West Bengal are 1,34,972 of which, share of Muslims in higher positions is only 4.7 percent and in lower positions it is 1.8 percent only in spite of a quarter population of the state is Muslims. The corresponding shares of Kerala (Muslim population is 24.7 percent) are 10.3

percent and 10.4 percent, Uttar Pradesh (18.5 percent) has 7.5 percent and 4.9 percent, Bihar (16.5 percent) has 7.2 percent and 7.6 percent, Assam (30.9 percent) has 10.4 percent and 11.4 percent, Gujarat (9.1 percent) has 9.1 percent and 3.4 percent. Therefore, Muslim in West Bengal are lagging behind Bihar, another backward state, in respect of employment in State Government departments.



It is noteworthy that Muslim representation in lower level position is relatively more in almost all the states except West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu where Muslim representation is more in higher level position. The state (WB) has no Muslim representation in PSUs while the share of Muslims in Kerala has 9.5 percent in the state PSUs and Maharashtra has 1.9 percent. Muslim representation in judicial services is consistently low in West Bengal and it is only 5 percent as against 12.3 percent of Kerala.

Table 3.10 indicates the share of Muslims in different departments in West Bengal and in some selected State Government departments like home department, health department, and other departments.

Table 3.10: Share of Muslim employees in selected State Government departments (No. of employees: 44,52,851)

States	Muslim Population (%)	Education Dept.		Home Dept.		Health Dept.		Transport Depts.		Other Dept.	
		Higher Position	Lower Position	Higher Position	Lower Position	Higher Position	Lower Position	Higher Position	Lower Position	Higher Position	Lower Position
West Bengal	25.2	-	-	14.1	5.1	1.3	0.9	-	-	4.3	2.2
Kerala	24.7	13.0	11.7	10.8	10.7	11.2	10.2	9.4	9.2	8.9	10.5
Uttar Pradesh	18.5	-	-	8.1	9.9	4.3	5.6	1.9	4.9	7.6	4.8
Bihar	16.5	14.8	11.8	5.9	7.1	-	2.6	8.3	10.9	7.5	7.6
Assam	30.9	-	-	9.3	11.5	8.0	11.1	13.9	11.5	12.2	11.4
Jharkhand	13.8	-	-	5.7	7.6	6.0	3.2	-	-	3.7	7.8
Karnataka	12.2	6.0	12.4	3.6	4.2	4.7	5.0	16.8	7.0	6.1	7.3
Delhi	11.7	5.9	7.2	1.5	2.3	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.9
Maharashtra	10.6	2.9	4.7	4.2	4.2	2.6	3.3	-	-	2.2	3.9
Gujarat	9.1	1.7	4.6	5.6	5.6	2.2	1.5	9.4	16.3	-	-
Tamil Nadu	5.6	5.8	5.3	0.0	2.6	4.8	3.3	1.0	2.6	2.9	2.1
Sum of States	16.0	5.7	6.2	6.7	5.6	4.4	3.5	1.5	6.9	5.5	5.1

Source: Sachar Committee Report-2006 (table 9.6 p 171)

Lakhs of Muslims have registered themselves in employment exchanges but their presence in government jobs has become nominal. In 1972, 4.8 percent Muslims were in government jobs but now the share of Muslims in the state employment is just 2.1 percent. Nearly 10 lakh Muslims have registered themselves with employment exchanges in the state. In 1996, 10385 persons found jobs through employment exchange, of them only 497 (4 percent) were Muslims. In 1997, 10971 persons got jobs of whom only 531 (4.8 percent) were Muslims. In 1998, Muslims were only 215 (2.6 percent) out of total employment of 8251 persons. In 1991, 14465 people got jobs of whom 717 (5 percent) and during 2000 to 2003 the percentage of Muslims getting employment was on an average only 0.70 percent.

The above statistics show that representation of Muslims in government job present a dismal picture which indicates a poor performance of the employment exchanges and the State Directorate of Employment, West Bengal. (Anwar Alam Khan, The Milli Gazette, 1-15 Jan, 2005).

Table 3.11 depicts the rural poverty incidence of socio- religious communities of West Bengal and some other selected states.

Table 3.11: State-wise rural poverty incidence (%) across SRCs in 2004-05

States	All	Hindu				Muslim	Other Minorities
		All	SCs/ STs	OBCs	Gen		
Total	22.7	22.6	34.8	19.5	9.0	26.9	14.3
West Bengal	25	21	27	16	14	33	32
Kerala	9	9	19	7	4	11	4
Uttar Pradesh	28	28	39	26	10	33	40
Bihar	35	34	56	29	13	38	33
Assam	18	12	14	16	7	27	20
Jammu & Kashmir	3	3	4	0	2	4	0
Jharkhand	38	38	49	32	17	36	46
Karnataka	14	14	21	14	7	18	1
Uttaranchal	11	12	17	19	7	8	21
Maharashtra	23	22	44	16	13	21	36
Andhra Pradesh	8	8	16	6	2	7	4
Gujarat	14	15	24	14	3	7	6
Rajasthan	16	16	28	9	6	11	15
Madhya Pradesh	30	31	45	22	6	25	2
Haryana	9	9	21	7	2	24	6
Tamil Nadu	17	17	23	14	14	10	18
Orissa	41	40	60	30	16	22	70
Himachal Pradesh	8	8	16	7	4	4	6
Chhattisgarh	33	33	40	27	26	40	11
Punjab	6	4	4	7	3	4	6
All Other States	12	18	29	12	10	22	3

Source: NSSO, 61st round (2004-05)

It is observed that Muslims as a whole face significantly high levels of the incidence of poverty. In West Bengal rural poverty for Muslims is very high as 33 percent against 25 percent of all SRCs. Poverty level of Muslims in West Bengal is much higher than SCs/STs (27 percent), Hindu OBCs (16 percent) and even higher than national poverty level for Muslims(26.9 percent). The poverty among Muslims in West Bengal is higher (33 percent) than most of the states except Bihar (38 percent), Jharkhand (36 percent) and Chattisgarh (40 percent).

Poverty among urban Muslims of West Bengal (27 percent) is better than rural poverty (33 percent) but this poverty level is higher than other SRCs (12 percent) and even significantly higher than SCs/STs (22 percent), Hindu-OBCs [H-OBC] (13 percent) and Hindu-General [H-Gen] (6 percent).

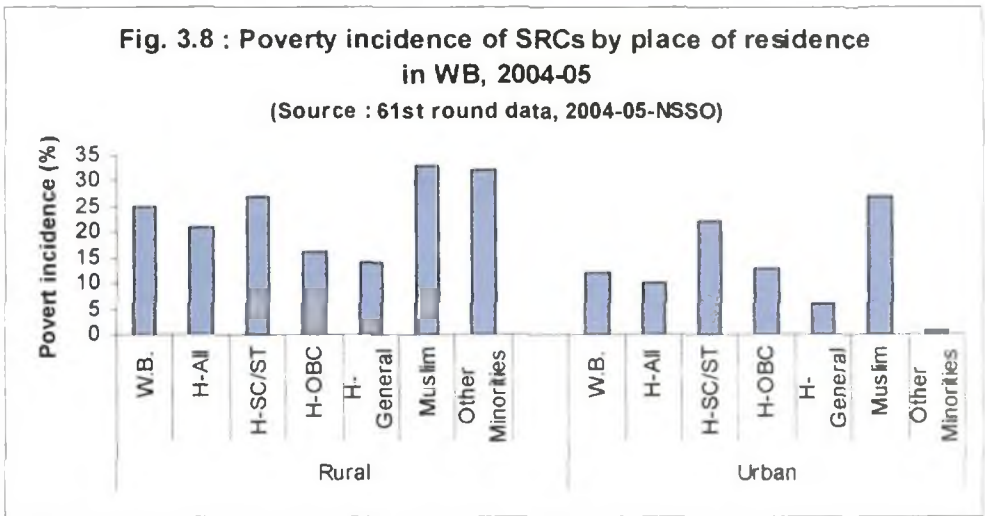


Table 3.12 below shows the urban poverty incidence of socio-religious communities in West Bengal and in some other selected states.

Table 3.12: State-wise urban poverty incidence (%) across SRCs in 2004-05

States	All	Hindu				Muslim	Other Minority
		All	SCs/STs	OBCs	Gen		
Total	22.8	20.4	36.4	25.1	8.3	38.4	12.2
West Bengal	12	10	22	13	6	27	1
Kerala	18	19	32	21	8	24	9
Uttar Pradesh	31	24	42	28	11	44	6
Bihar	36	34	65	39	8	45	4
Assam	3	3	4	5	1	5	0
Jammu & Kashmir	9	4	9	5	2	12	2
Jharkhand	18	16	37	15	5	32	27
Karnataka	30	27	52	30	13	45	9
Uttaranchal	15	14	29	20	8	24	0
Delhi	12	12	24	24	4	22	1
Maharashtra	26	20	33	25	12	49	27
Andhra Pradesh	26	25	41	27	11	35	16
Gujarat	11	10	17	18	3	24	0
Rajasthan	29	27	47	28	11	41	15
Madhya Pradesh	41	38	64	46	13	58	6
Haryana	5	5	16	5	1	6	0
Tamil Nadu	18	18	37	16	5	18	15
Orissa	43	42	69	49	22	48	49
Himachal Pradesh	2	3	3	10	1	1	0
Chhattisgarh	38	38	48	47	13	61	10
Punjab	1	2	3	2	0	0	0
All Other States	5	6	14	6	3	9	1

Source: NSSO, 61st round (2004-05)

3.4.3 RESERVATION FOR OTHER BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

Muslims have no reservation quota in West Bengal. Only 9 Muslim groups are in the state list for OBCs (State Govt. is planning to include 30 Muslim groups in the list) whereas in Uttar Pradesh 30 Muslim groups (M-groups) are included in the list. In Delhi 19 M-groups, In Gujrat-50, in Rajasthan-30 and in Madhya Pradesh 37 are included in the list of OBCs. In Tamil Nadu-, Muslim groups in the OBC list constitute nearly 95 percent of the Muslim population (Source: Sachar Committee report, Table 10.1 page 198).

It appears that the government of West Bengal has not taken proper steps to include Muslim population in OBC list though there are numerous groups entitled to be included. Further, the process is also very slow on to issuing OBC certificate to the eligible Muslim groups who have applied for certificates. Muslim groups In West Bengal have been included in OBC list for all SRCs, but the government of Kerala, Bihar, Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have classified OBCs in different categories.

3.4.4 MEAN PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE (MPCE)

Level of consumption is one of the indicators which exhibit levels of living in economic terms.

The all India average of MPCE for the year 2004-05 is Rs.712 whereas Muslim MPCE is 635 which is marginally higher than Rs.520 for SCs/STs (Source : NSSO, 61st Rural Survey).

State level rural MPCE is represented in table 3.13 and that of urban MPCE in table 3.14.

Table 3.13: State level rural MPCE according to SRCs, 2004-05 (current prices/Rs)

States	All	Hindus				Muslims	All- Others
		All Hindus	SCs/STs	OBCs	General		
All India	579	568	468	567	739	553	823
West Bengal	576	610	534	652	705	501	492
Kerala	1031	970	722	986	1165	968	1286
Uttar Pradesh	539	544	465	544	696	509	620
Bihar	445	448	371	456	571	426	543
Assam	577	615	578	606	675	511	524
Jammu Kashmir	805	840	796	863	873	776	1095
Jharkhand	439	448	407	462	571	423	405
Karnataka	543	526	440	538	599	532	1539
Uttaranchal	649	652	579	632	697	600	718
Delhi	1056	1023	796	781	1146	1696	1960
Maharashtra	597	603	459	614	693	576	520
Andhra Pradesh	604	604	490	593	786	610	572
Gujarat	645	644	527	594	932	668	600
Rajasthan	598	593	506	635	690	611	853
Madhya Pradesh	461	458	373	492	640	475	1011
Haryana	905	913	604	794	1225	605	965
Tamil Nadu	602	597	492	632	940	724	640
Orissa	422	424	340	455	562	447	312
Himachal Pradesh	836	834	672	776	949	798	997
Chattisgarh	445	445	408	471	555	473	451
Punjab	905	852	732	802	1103	777	921
All other States	707	650	535	684	774	621	782

Source: National Sample Survey Organisation, 61st Round (2004-05)

It is evident that the MPCE of Muslims in rural areas of West Bengal is only Rs.501 compared to the state MPCE of Rs.576, Hindu OBCs of Rs.652 and Hindu General of Rs.705. The MPCE of Muslims in West Bengal is even lower than SCs/STs—Rs. 524. The MPCE of Muslims in West Bengal is lower than the MPCE of Muslims in Kerala (Rs.968), UP (Rs.509), Assam (Rs.511), J & K (Rs.776), Delhi (Rs.1696 is even higher than the state average of Rs.1056) and Gujarat (Rs.668 is higher than the state average of Rs.645).

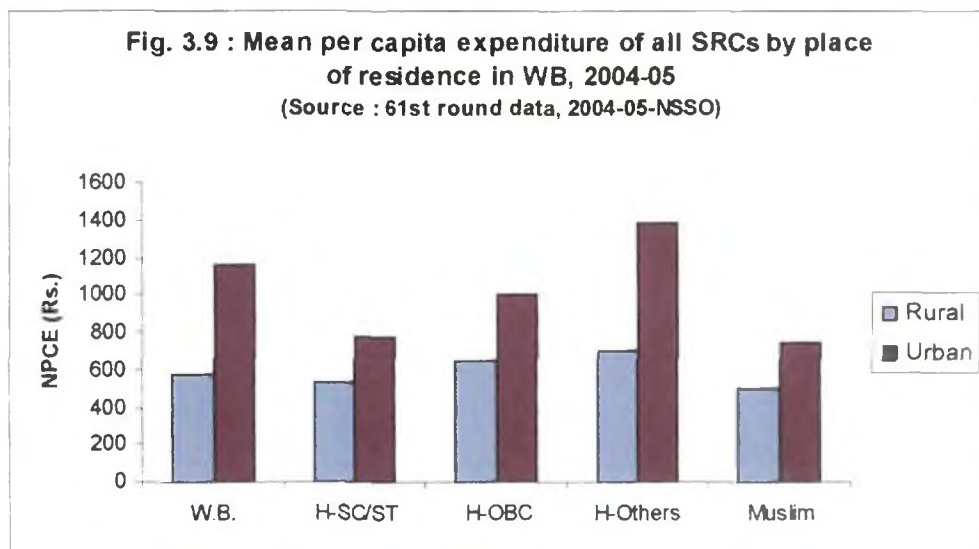
Table 3.14: State level urban MPCE according to SRCs, 2004-05 (current prices/Rs)

States	All	Hindus				Muslims	All- Others
		All Hindus	SCs/STs	OBCs	General		
All India	1105	1139	793	955	1469	804	1485
West Bengal	1159	1214	784	1008	1385	748	2585
Kerala	1354	1363	836	1221	1883	1081	1670
Uttar Pradesh	880	976	668	796	1311	662	1405
Bihar	726	768	681	662	1027	559	708
Assam	1131	1113	888	994	1265	1199	1198
Jammu Kashmir	1115	1323	949	943	1489	991	1572
Jharkhand	1017	1038	681	877	1433	727	995
Karnataka	1138	1201	729	1007	1580	837	1501
Uttaranchal	1028	1033	768	785	1175	753	2657
Delhi	1419	1423	879	985	1788	1051	1924
Maharashtra	1228	1278	934	1061	1548	921	1399
Andhra Pradesh	1091	1134	851	970	1605	803	1195
Gujarat	1206	1227	1045	905	1470	875	1754
Rajasthan	945	979	744	871	1262	685	1254
Madhya Pradesh	893	902	599	782	1232	669	1801

Haryana	1183	1155	744	896	1420	1105	2151
Tamil Nadu	1166	1166	739	1123	2311	1020	1355
Orissa	790	795	558	697	1009	785	701
Himachal Pradesh	1422	1487	1151	1116	1658	869	1393
Chattisgarh	963	956	754	813	1396	590	1545
Punjab	1306	1241	919	961	1483	811	1469
All other States	1309	1294	908	994	1676	1112	1395

Source: National Sample Survey Organisation, 61st Round (2004-05)

The MPCE of Muslims in urban areas in West Bengal is Rs. 748 as compared to the state average of Rs.1159, SCs/STs of Rs.784, Hindu OBCs of Rs.1008 and Hindu General of Rs.1385.



The MPCE of Muslim in West Bengal is significantly lower than the MPCE of Muslims in Kerala (Rs.1081), Assam (Rs.1199), J & K (Rs.991), Delhi (Rs.1051), Maharashtra (Rs.921) and Gujarat (Rs.875). It appears that discrimination is more acute among urban Muslims than rural in West Bengal.

3.4.5 SUMMING UP

It is evident that the economic profile of Muslims in West Bengal is gloomy aggregating all these contributing factors. In respect of MPCE, the

situation of the community in urban areas is worst among all the states in India except few states like UP, Bihar, MP, Chattisgarh. The position of rural Muslims of Bengal is somewhat better but poverty levels among them are higher than other SRCs except SCs/STs. If we consider MPCE, Muslims in West Bengal are even lagging behind the SCs/STs both in urban and rural areas.

3.5 SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO MUSLIMS OF WEST BENGAL

Quality of people in any area, rural or urban, is determined somewhat by availability and accessibility of social and infrastructural facilities. It can be observed that the availability, accessibility and utilisation of these facilities across the SRCs are differential.

Physical access to educational institutions, health, communication and transport services are important determinants for determining the quality of individuals and households. The degree of not having these facilities is shown in table 3.15.

3.5.1 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

It appears in table 3.15 that all sizes of villages having larger proportion of Muslims are lacking educational facilities. The villages in West Bengal having less than 1000 habitants were 40 percent or more Muslim population live have not educational institutions in 827 villages compared to total villages of have not in India are 4240. The percentage of such villages in West Bengal comes to 19.5 percent comparing to all India level of 8.5 percent. The percentage of medium size (1000 – 2000 population) where Muslims are 40 percent or more come to 21.9 percent (236/1078) as against national level of 9.7 percent (573/ 5931) and the percentage for large (more than 2000 population) villages having Muslim population of 40 percent or more, the villages not having educational institution is 18.3 percent as against national average of 9.4 percent.

3.5.2 POST AND TELEGRAPH

It appears in table 3.15 that small villages in West Bengal for Muslim constitute 40 percent or more population having no post and telegraph facilities for 17.7 percent villages as against national average of 7.1 percent and the corresponding figures for medium and large villages having 40 percent or more Muslim population are not different.

3.5.3 MEDICAL FACILITIES

Table 3.15 depicts a dismal picture about the medical facilities available to all sizes of villages in West Bengal where Muslims are 40 percent or more. Small villages of the above category having no medical facilities are 13 percent which is almost 3 times' percentage state's non-availability against the national of 4.9 percent. The similar gloomy pictures exist in medium and large villages of Muslim concentrated areas.

3.5.4 PUGCA APPROACH ROAD

Table 3.15 shows the similar increasing trend for lacking pucca approach roads in villages of West Bengal where sizable Muslims live.

Table 3.15: Number of villages not having social, infrastructural facilities-2001

Villages	Educational Institution			Post & Telegraph			Medical Facilities			Pucca Approach Road		
	India	West Bengal	percent of villages in West Bengal to villages in India	India	West Bengal	percent of villages in West Bengal to villages in India	India	West Bengal	percent of villages in West Bengal to villages in India	India	West Bengal	percent of villages in West Bengal to villages in India
Small village: (less than 1000 population)	53458	4546	8.5	217884	10638	4.9	190771	13515	7.1	149469	10524	7
Muslim- <9 %	44542	3344	7.5	193640	8398	4.3	168088	10630	6.3	133063	8198	6.2
Muslim- 10-39%	4676	375	8.0	13051	784	6.0	11670	1039	8.9	8496	822	9.7
Muslim- 40% and above	4240	827	19.5	11193	1456	13.0	11013	1946	17.7	7910	1504	19
Medium village: (1000 - 2000 population)	5931	573	9.7	73378	3455	4.7	58908	4917	8.3	44843	4037	9
Muslim- <9%	3667	251	6.8	56813	1935	3.4	43838	2647	6	34124	2316	6.8
Muslim- 10-39%	1186	86	7.3	8435	555	5.9	7959	766	9.6	5749	612	10.6

Muslim- 40% and above	1078	236	21.9	7130	955	13.4	7111	1504	21.2	4970	1109	22.3
Large village: (> 2000 population)	1711	160	9.4	29052	1905	6.6	20040	2678	13.4	17773	2671	15
Muslim- <9%	906	51	5.6	18181	645	3.5	11194	808	7.2	10627	972	9.1
Muslim- 10-39%	423	39	9.2	6191	411	6.6	4398	598	13.6	3644	575	15.8
Muslim- 40% and above	392	70	18.3	4680	849	18.1	4448	1272	28.6	3502	1124	32.1

Source: Computed from Census Report of India- 2001

3.5.5 SUMMING UP

It is evident from the above data and analysis that Muslims in West Bengal are lagging behind in all fronts particularly in education and economy.

Availability and accessibility of social and infrastructural facilities develop the quality of human beings. It appears that Muslims in West Bengal are lacking such facilities to a great extent. Similar gloomy pictures do exist in case of availability of pucca approach roads. (Source: Census of India- 2001)

APPENDICES

Appendix 3.1: Religious differentials in India and large states, NFHS-2, 1998-99

India/State	Measure	All	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh
India	TFR	2.9	2.8	3.6	2.4	2.3
	CF	4.5	4.3	5.7	3.5	3.6
West Bengal	TFR	2.3	2.0	3.3	-	-
	CF	4.2	3.7	6.0		
Kerala	TFR	2.0	1.6	2.5	1.9	-
	CF	3.0	2.6	4.3	2.6	
Uttar Pradesh incl. Uttaranchal	TFR	4.0	3.9	4.8	-	(2.3)
	CF	5.8	5.6	6.8	-	
Bihar incl. Jharkhand	TFR	3.5	3.4	4.4	(1.9)	-
	CF	5.3	5.0	6.4	-	
Assam	TFR	2.3	2.0	3.1	1.7	-
	CF	4.4	4.0	5.3	-	
Jammu & Kashmir	TFR	2.7	2.7	2.7	-	-
	CF	4.8	4.7	4.9		
Karnataka	TFR	2.1	2.0	2.8	1.6	-
	CF	4.2	4.0	5.8	(3.0)	
Maharashtra	TFR	2.5	2.5	3.3	2.5	2.1 B

	CF	3.5	3.7	4.6	(2.9)	4.0
Andhra Pradesh	TFR	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.5	-
	CF	4.0	3.9	5.8	4.0	
Gujarat	TFR	2.7	2.7	3.1	-	-
	CF	4.0	4.0	4.7		
Rajasthan	TFR	3.8	3.7	4.9	-	1.8 J
	CF	5.4	5.3	6.5		
Madhya Pradesh incl. Chhattisgarh	TFR	3.3	3.4	3.4	-	(2.5)
	CF	5.1	5.1	5.8	-	
Haryana	TFR	2.9	2.8	6.0	-	2.5
	CF	4.4	4.4	-	(4.1)	
Tamil Nadu	TFR	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.1	-
	CF	3.5	3.5	4.2	3.3	
Orissa	TFR	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.4	-
	CF	4.2	4.1	-	-	
Punjab	TFR	2.2	2.3	(3.3)	-	2.1
	CF	3.8	4.0	-	-	3.6

B: Buddhist; J: Jain.

TFR: Total Fertility Rate

CF: Cumulative Fertility = Mean Children Ever Born to Women of age 40-49.

The estimate of the TFR refers to the three-year period preceding the survey.

Figures in parentheses are based on 125-249 woman years or 25-49 women.

- indicates that the number of woman years is less than 125 or number of women is less than 25.

Sources: Sachar Committee Report (2006), Appendix table 3.12 p 284

Appendix 3.2: Religious differentials in child mortality, India and selected states, NFHS-2, 1998-99

India/State	Measure	All	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh
India	IMR	73	77	59	49	53
	U ₅ MR	101	107	83	68	65
West Bengal	IMR	51	50	52	-	-
	U ₅ MR	71	68	77		
Kerala	IMR	21	22	19	(22)	-
	U ₅ MR	26	28	26	(22)	
Uttar Pradesh incl. Uttaranchal	IMR	95	100	76	-	-
	U ₅ MR	132	138	108		
Bihar incl. Jharkhand	IMR	76	77	71	-	-
	U ₅ MR	110	112	99		
Assam	IMR	62	57	68	-	-
	U ₅ MR	80	76	87		
Jammu & Kashmir	IMR	63	63	78		
	U ₅ MR	79	81	63		
Karnataka	IMR	62	66	50	-	-
	U ₅ MR	83	88	66		
Maharashtra	IMR	53	58	28	-	(55) B
	U ₅ MR	70	76	42	(68)	
Andhra Pradesh	IMR	71	76	(30)	-	-
	U ₅ MR	91	97	(40)		
Gujarat	IMR	64	68	(34)	-	-
	U ₅ MR	91	96	(50)		
Rajasthan	IMR	88	91	74	-	-
	U ₅ MR	125	126	122		

Madhya Pradesh incl. Chhattisgarh	IMR	93	94	78	-	-
	U5MR	145	149	99		
Haryana	IMR	59	61	(52)	-	(39)
	U5MR	79	80	(90)	(61)	
Tamil Nadu	IMR	51	50	(51)	-	-
	U5MR	71	64	(56)		
Orissa	IMR	90	NA	-	-	-
	U5MR	116				
Punjab	IMR	57	57	-	-	52
	U5MR	70	71	64		

B: Buddhist. NA: Not available.

IMR: Infant Mortality Rate. U5MR: Under Five Mortality Rate = 1000x probability of death before completion of 5 years of age. The estimates refer to the 10-year period preceding the survey.

Figures in parentheses are based on 250-499 births.

-Indicates that the number of births is too small (less than 250) to estimate the rate.

Sources: Sources: Sachar Committee Report (2006), Appendix table 3.11 p 283