

CHAPTER-IV

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

4.1: Introduction

Gender inequality is a multidimensional issue and can be measured by many indicators (Li, 2005). Only a few dimensions, however, are believed to be crucial to fertility studies, and they include the extent of men's control over women within the household, the relative control of household economic resources, women's autonomy in the household, and the kinship institutions in place (Mason, 1986; Yadava and Yadava, 1999; Hindin, 2000). These dimensions can be measured by a number of quantitative indicators including age gap and other spousal differences, post-marital locality, family complexity and the householderhood.

Demographic and Socio-economic profile of Jalpaiguri district measures indirectly the status of men and women. The socially and economically backward areas also confirm the existence of gender bias (Lancaster, Maitra and Ray, 2008). Demographic attributes such as sex ratio, birth rate, infant mortality rate, life expectancy, distribution of population and other demographic variables are all related to gender inequality. Further, the socio-economic characteristics such as literacy rate, illiteracy rate, distribution of SC and ST population also measures the status of women.

Studies have shown that women's status and the variables considered in this chapter are closely related. The status of women is a multidimensional concept and therefore it is a difficult concept to quantify. Previous studies have typically measured married women's autonomy using educational status, work participation rate, occupational structure, employment status, and age differences between spouses as proxies (Rammohan and Johar, 2009).

In Pakistan, decision making within the household is predominantly regarded as a male prerogative. That is why women labor force participation is ranked lowest in South Asia. Conceptually the women labor force participation in developing countries has a number of implications. Firstly, it results in an increased strengthening of women's position in the family and society due to their financial capacity, which in turn contributes to economy. The female labor force participation in Bangladesh is 42.4 %; India 32.4 %; Myanmar 43.4 %; Nepal 42.5 %; and Sri Lanka 36.8 %. Labor Force Participation of

Married Women in Punjab (Pakistan) development. Women's participation in the labor force reduces the established gender inequalities. Their participation in agricultural production reduces poverty and enhances economic growth. General models of gender inequality tend to emphasize the importance of women's economic roles in determining their position in other spheres, from household bargaining to representation in state governance. Empirical research has found that women's labor force participation is associated with less bias against girls in child mortality and better health for girls and with more say in some household decision-making. (Sundaram and Vanneman, 2008).

It has by now been established through various studies in different parts of the world that literacy has beneficial effects for women in all crucial areas of life. It empowers them, improves their mobility, and strengthens their decision-making capability for themselves, for their health, and for the needs of the households at their charge. But a recent study carried out in India, Cambodia and Bangladesh indicates that literacy also seems to protect women from abuse. Rene Raya, who represents the Asian South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) as its Lead Policy Analyst, lists the details.

These factors contribute to women's status. The status of women is relative and has many aspects. Household decision-making being one of the aspects of women's status greatly depends upon the demographic and socio-economic profile of a district. Further, these socio-economic statuses of women have a significant bearing for both the quality of women population and ability to make decision within the household. Nadel (1969) asserts that that the socio-economic status of women generally refers to the life style that a woman is entitled to lead out within the family or society.

The economic status of women and the system of social organization in it can be understood by considering the nature and characteristics of economic activities, precisely for women and their occupational pattern in different regions of the economy. There is a positive correlation between an individual's participation in household decision-making process and his/her economic contribution to household income in addition to 'pure gender biases. In other words, a person makes various household decisions not only because the person is a male or female, but because he/she contributes more to the household income. That is if a person contributes more to household income he/she participates more in household decision-making irrespective of his/her gender.

Demographic attributes such as birth rate, dearth rate, infant mortality rate and life expectancy at birth indicate both the physical quality of human population and the socio-

economic development of any region. These attributes are also important to understand the physical well-being of women population of a region. Further, an understanding of the demographic profile of women in the region is essential to understand the relationship between women empowerment and the participation in the household decision-making. Sex-role norms impact on almost all aspects of family consumption behavior including the buying process tasks, finance handling, purchase behavior, brand specification, store choice, and types of products purchased.

The examination of sex roles and their relationship to family purchase behavior of complete families has received relatively little emphasis in consumer-behavior issues. The sex-roles influence the factors which influences household decision-making (Buss and Schaninger, 1983). Further, we find that as female contribution rate to household income increases, its participation rate in household decision making also increases almost proportionately (Alam,1998). Paid work has attained a prominent position among a handful of policy measures advocated for enhancing women's wellbeing in India and the Asian countries in general – is partly related to, among other things, their lack of direct access to an independent income and decision-making freedom. It has been therefore, argued that women's participation in paid work, by offering them access to an independent income and bestowing them some decision-making, would enhance their well-being. The work participation rate, the employment indicators like female work participation rate and proportion of female main and marginal workers and literacy rate of state/ district and chosen blocks and the prevalent gender disparity in different economic pursuits definitely reveal the economic status of women.

4.2: Physical, Demographic and Socio-economic profile of survey villages in the Jalpaiguri district

Jalpaiguri is a part of West Bengal which is situated in North Bengal. The district is situated in the northern part of West Bengal and has international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh in the north and south respectively and district borders with Darjeeling hills in the west and northwest and Alipurduar district and Coochbehar district on the east. According to the 2011 census Jalpaiguri district has a population of 3,869,675, roughly equal to the nation of Liberia. This gives it a ranking of 66th in India. The district has a population density of 621 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 33.77. Jalpaiguri has a sex ratio of 954 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.79 percent. It is well connected by rail, road and air from any part of the country. One can avail train up to Jalpaiguri station. By road it is well

connected with rest of the country. Air travel is available up to Bagdogra Airport, and from there it is well connected by a 50 km road.

Settlement 1-Parpatlakhawa

Parpatlakhawa village is situated in Alipurduar-1 block of Jalpaiguri district. Jurisdiction List No. of the village is 21. The village is located within 31.36 hectares of land. There are 76 occupied residential houses. It is connected with the Block Head Quarters (Alipurduar) by all-weather road which passes through Alipurduar to Guhati. It belongs to Falakata Development Block. The village comprises of 517 people belonging to different religion and groups. The village is situated near the Kunjunagar forest. Parpatlakhawa village is connected with Alipurduar town by a metalled road. The surrounding villages are also connected by fair-weather roads only. Transportation facilities are quite adequate. Although, van rickshaws are also available. This facility is not available during rainy season because few wooden bridges over the streams and rivers on the road on the metalled road are damaged. The village is mostly inhabited by the Hindu Bengalis, the Rajbhansis and the Oraon, Mundas and Santhals Tribals. Most of the Bengalis have migrated from Bangladesh and Tribals from Bihar and Chottanagpur. The village has been electrified. There are two primary schools. The nearest high school is in Falakata town. There is SBI Bank branch and nearby primary health centre (Falakata Gramin Hospital). Facilities for cultivation is not adequate. Mostly the farmers use tube wells for irrigation purposes. For worshipping and performing Pujas, the SCs and STs Communities possess a separate small hut made out of straw mostly and are known as Temples. During the pujas, they worship there.

Settlement 2- Uttachakwakheta

Alipurduar-1 Block encompasses the Uttachakwakheta village. This village is connected by same road which connects Parpatlakhawa village and all-weather road connects it to Block Head Quarters (Alipurduar). The village is 5 km far away from the metalled road which connects Alipurduar and Falakata. The village is situated very close to Chilapata forest. There are also forest resort restaurants and lodges for the tourists. This is the forests where tourists go and enjoy the elephant riding. The village is situated very near to the border of Bhutan. Village is surrounded by the forests. The road which runs very close to this village connects the village with NH which passes through Hasimara and crosses the border of West Bengal and enters into Assam through Srirampur and reaches Guhati. Uttachakwakheta is mostly inhabited by Hindu Bengali, Rajbhansis, and Tribals. Christian communities are also residing in this village. Most of the villagers are tea garden

workers. Cultivators are in other part of the village. There are narrow roads within the villages. As far as transportation facilities are concerned, it is quite adequate. There are quite many as migrants to different parts of the country. Mostly they have migrated to Siliguri city for their livelihood. The village is inhabited by the Hindu Bengalis, and Tribals. These SCs and STs Communities live in villages. As it has been revealed through the interview of Gram Panchayat member, education attainment and literacy levels among these village households have been very low. Thus, the compulsion to seek work for economic livelihood was felt by the respondents across different categories of social groups. There are four primary schools in whole area of Uttarchakwakhetai village in the village itself there is a high school by the name of Natwatari high school very near to the metalled road. There is also a primary health centre for people to be treated. Village is completely electrified.

Settlement- 3 Uttarmarichbari

Uttarmarichbari village is situated in Maynaguri Block of Jalpaiguri district. The village is around 3 km away from the Maynaguri town. The village is connected with the Maynaguri town by metalled road. It is very close to the NH which runs from Alipurduar to Siliguri city. The study area was the two villages under Maynaguri block bordering Bhutan were chosen for the study. These villages namely Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal surrounding the Maynaguri town generally have important role in supplying the manual workers for urban town with nearly lowering the costs of transport. The physical nature and characteristics of these two villages is determined by combination of factors which include the economic and infrastructural base of the Maynaguri town. The villages particularly Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal are characterized by limitations in the land availability for agriculture and other rural activities, and thus, greatly influenced by urban characteristics with easy access to markets, services and other inputs. Due to the constraints in the regular rural activities, these villages form ready supplier of manual labors for the town.

Uttarmarichbari is completely inhabited by Hindu Bengalis and Rajbhonsis. There are SCs communities in both the villages. Most of the SCs communities have migrated to Bhutan and Siliguri city for their livelihood. Uttarmarichbari village is adjacent to Dohmohini railway station. Broadguage passes through this station. The villagers in this village are characterized by extreme poverty, backward in other aspects. As revealed by the survey and interview with the Panchayat member, Hindu SCs by far, is the largest

religious group in this area. A certain percentage of Bengalis were also found but very few of them were among the categories of cultivators and manual laborers.

Settlement- 4 Khaerkhal

Khaerkhal is situated in Maynaguri block of Jalpaiguri district. The village is around 3 km away from the metalled road which passes through Maynaguri. This village is also connected by metalled road. Khaerkhal is entirely inhabited by Hindu Bengali, and Rajbhansis. Most of the households belonging to this village are engaged in cultivators. Quite a good number of the residents migrate out in search of their livelihood.

Among the respondents in the two villages under Maynaguri block, a large number of households were found to be engaged in cultivation. Mostly women from few households were engaged in non-agricultural manual labor like shoveling sand from the bed of Jaldhaka River. The men in this same category of women were engaged in loading the sand onto the trucks. Some of the women were also employed to crush the big stones into small stone –chips, used for building purposes. Other women workers were engaged in paid domestic work, and also in construction work. The survey was conducted in the months of October, November and December, 2009, and the sampling procedure adopted was a stratified, purposive random sampling. One twenty households belonging to these villages were questioned with the help of tested questionnaire. Stratification was necessary to ensure the representation of farm and non-farm households from different categories of households found to live in these villages. In this chapter the attempt has been made to study the demographic and socio-economic profile of the Jalpaiguri district.

4.3. Total Population:

Table-4.1: Distribution of population by sex in West Bengal, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar-1, Maynaguri blocks and villages (in percent)

State/Dist/ Block/Village	2001					2011			
	No. Hhs	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ra
West Bengal	15872083	51.72	48.28	100	933.5414	51.28	48.72	100	949.97
Jalpaiguri	688139	51.48	48.51	100	942.2566	51.20	48.80	100	952.96
Alipurduar-I	40269	51.50	48.50	100	941.84	51.34	48.66	100	947.70
Uttarchakwakheta	241	51.24	48.76	100	951.64	52.61	47.39	100	900.82
Patlakhawa	98	53.57	46.42	100	866.42	51.61	48.39	100	937.50
Maynaguri	58804	51.69	48.31	100	934.71	51.68	48.32	100	935.14
Uttarmarichbari	1000	52.14	47.86	100	918.10	51.34	48.66	100	947.63
Khaerkhal	428	52.67	47.33	100	898.54	53.22	46.78	100	879.09

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001, 2011

It has been observed from the Table 4.1 that the male population of West Bengal has declined from one census year to another. However, the female population has increased. While the share of male population has declined by forty four percent, from 2001 to 2011, the percentage of female population has increased by forty four percent

during the same period, the percentage share of the population is same among the males and females in West Bengal.

Similar trend has been observed in Jalpaiguri district, where the percentage share of male population decreased by point twenty eight percent from 2001 to 2011 as against point twenty nine percent increase of female, although percentage of male is lower in the Jalpaiguri district than the average figure of West Bengal in 2011.

Among the chosen blocks of Alipurduar-I and Maynaguri, the percentage of female population increased more rapidly in Alipurduar-I. While the percentage of female population increased slightly by point zero one percent in Maynaguri.

Among the villages, the percentage of female population decreased rapidly by 1.37 percent in Uttarchakwakheta. The percentage of female population increased by one point nine seven percent in Parpatlakhawa, followed by Uttarmarichbari by point eight zero percent. The percentage of female population decreased in Khaerkhal by point five five percent.

4.4: Sex Ratio

The ratio which is defined as number of females per thousand males, as defined by the state of India is important in population study in many ways. Sex ratio has three basic components: sex ratio at birth, sex ratio at death, and sex selective migration. Sex ratio reveals the socio-economic condition of the population in an area. As far as socio-economic indicator is concerned, it has a profound impact demographic structure of any region such as growth of population, working force and employment pattern. Further, an imbalance in sex ratio may lead to the emergence of many evils in the society. Moreover, differentials in sex ratios are connected to variations in well-being are vitally related to biological and social reproduction and also economic production (Townsend, 1987). It is in this respect that an analysis of the pattern of sex ratio in West Bengal in the light of national average is analyzed to reveal the status of women population in the region.

Table-4.2: Percentage of female population and sex ratio

Year	West Bengal	India	West Bengal	India
1951	46.4	48.48	946	946
1961	46.7	48.52	941	941
1971	47.1	48.17	930	930
1981	47.7	48.27	934	934
1991	47.8	48.25	926	926
2001	48.3	48.26	933	933
2011	48.71	48.54	950	943

Source: Census of India, West Bengal 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001.

The data relating to the trend in sex ratio from Table 3.0, for West Bengal during 1951-2001 shows that it has always been lower than the national average. The prevalence of higher rate of mortality among females than that of males and the immigration of males in excess of females from outside the state may be the reasons behind the shortage of the females throughout the period 1951-2011.

4. 5: Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate

Fertility which is expressed in different ways is one of the important measures of natural increase of population in any region. It may be expressed in terms of general fertility rate, age-specific fertility rate, marital fertility rate and crude birth rate. The fertility rate is also considered as an important indicator of physical well-being of women population. It is closely associated with the health conditions of child bearing women, and educational advancement, economic condition and socio-cultural background of the population of a region.

Like fertility, mortality is another important determinant of natural increase of population of any region. It has also been considered as an indicator of physical well-being of the population. As fertility rate is very closely associated with the mortality rate, the physical well-being of the women particularly of the child bearing age is also indicated by the mortality pattern of population of any area. However, the influence of other associated socio-economic factors in this regard cannot be overlooked. In similar way, the quality of human population and health status of women population can be judged by looking into the infant mortality pattern. It is because the fertility rate of any population is directly related to the infant mortality pattern. The data obtained from Sample Registration

Bulletin published by the Registrar General of India (Table-3.2) depicts some features about the trend in birth and death rates, and infant mortality rate in the state.

Data presented in the Table 3.2 indicate that the birth rates of West Bengal is lesser than all India average during the period 2005-2009, but there has been a gradual decline of birth rate from 2005 to 2009. According to SRS Bulletin, 2009, the birth rate West Bengal as 17.2 is higher than the birth rate of many states.

Not only that the birth rate is high, it has remained almost stable at a high level during the five years period from 2005 to 2009. In five years or since 2005 onwards, there has not been significant decline. For example, it fell from 18.8 in (2005) to 17.2 in (2009). There is a fall in the birth rate during these periods. High birth rate in any region is a typical feature of under development. There are many economic and non-economic factors accounting for this high birth rate. But among them, the important ones are poverty, marriage at early age, illiteracy and a large ignorance of family planning.

Table-4.3: Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate of India and West Bengal

Year	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	West Bengal	India	West Bengal	India	West Bengal	India
2005	18.8	23.8	6.4	7.6	38	58
2006	18.4	23.5	6.2	7.5	38	57
2007	17.9	23.1	6.3	7.4	37	55
2008	17.5	22.8	6.2	7.4	35	53
2009	17.2	22.5	6.2	7.3	33	50

Source: Sample Registration Bulletin, R.G.I., New Delhi, Demographics of India

The birth rate and death rate has registered a decline that also resulted in the natural growth rate of population in West Bengal as well as in India during 2005 -2009. But, the birth rate exceeded the death rate in the whole period.

The infant mortality rate which is an index of health status of women has been declining in West Bengal and in India during the period 2005 to 2009. But, the rate of decline of IMR in West Bengal is slower than the national level during this period. During

2005-2009, the IMR in West Bengal fell from 38 to 33 per mil. There is thus a fall of only 5 per mil as against 8 per mil at all India level. However, the IMR has remained lower than the national average during the period 2005 to 2009 indicating high health status of women population of West Bengal than the national level.

4.6: Total Work Participation Rate

In many developing countries, decision making within the household is predominantly regarded as a male prerogative. That is why women labor force participation is ranked lowest in South Asia. Further, conceptually the women labor force participation in developing countries has a number of implications. Firstly, it results in an increased strengthening of women's position in the family and society due to the financial capacity, which in turn contributes to economic development (Khan and Khan, 2009). The study reveals that women's lower status in the household is attributed to lower market productivity or lower returns from women's labor. This implies that an improvement in a women's economic status will improve her bargaining position in the household and also her outside options should the union break up (Rammohan and Johar, 2009). Work participation and economic activity: For formulating strategies and schemes for development and growth of female cultivators in the economic activities, it is important to know where and in what capacity they work. As pointed out in many policy planning schemes that netting of the female work participation in economic activities, especially, in the agricultural and informal sectors had been one of the major planks of the gender sensitization process in the previous censuses.

In census, work is defined as in any economic productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit. Such participation may be physical or mental in nature including effective supervision or direction of work. It also includes part time help or unpaid work in farm, family enterprise or any other economic activity. The definition of work was further amplified in 2001 Census by including unpaid work in family based cultivation, milk production, and household industries like gur making, bidi rolling ,etc. India, with surplus labor and predominantly agricultural economy shows considerable variation in male-female work participation rate.

Table-4.4: Male-Female work participation rate of West Bengal, Jalpaiguri, Maynaguri blocks and chosen villages, 2001 and 2011

State/District/Blocks/Villages	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal(T)	22,388,044 (54)	7,093,646 (18)	26,716,047 (57)	8,040,308 (18)
Jalpaiguri(T)	915,400 (52)	387,736 (23)	1,091,361 (55)	421,549 (22)
Jalpaiguri(R)	750,766 (52)	355,523 (26)	778,252 (54)	344,525 (25)
Jalpaiguri(U)	164,634 (52)	32,213 (11)	313,109 (57)	77,024 (15)
Alipurduar-I(T)	54,845 (54)	23,939 (25)	63,307 (57)	25,917 (25)
Alipurduar-I(R)				
Uttarchakwakheta(R)	384 (60)	334 (55)	420 (57)	304 (46)
Parpatlakhawa(R)	115 (42)	2 (1)	193 (60)	68 (23)
Maynaguri(T)	81,010 (56)	30,095 (22)	95,414 (56)	24,877 (16)
Maynaguri(R)	81,010 (53)	30,095 (22)	95,414 (56)	24,877 (16)
Uttarmarichbari(R)	1,361 (53)	440 (19)	1,767 (56)	340 (11)
Khaerkhal(R)	617 (56)	52 (5)	794 (60)	168 (15)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

Table-4.1: Female work participation rate (FWPR) of West Bengal revealed by the Table-4.3 shows that it is lower than the male work participation rate. Similar feature is observed in case of Jalpaiguri Total, Rural and Urban work participation rates in 2001. Further, the Table also indicates that female work participation rate of Jalpaiguri (Total) is higher than

the West Bengal Average. The Female work participation rate of Alipurduar block is still higher than the district and state average in 2001. Moreover, the female work participation of West Bengal remained the same as against 1 percent decrease in Jalpaiguri (Total). Although the FWPR of Uttarchakwakheta village decreased by 9 percent during 2001-2011, it is much higher than the average figure of the district. While in Parpatlakhawa village, the FWPR increased by 22 percent, which is much more than the district average. The FWPR of Maynaguri block is lower than the district average but much higher than the state average. The female work participation rate of Uttarmarichbari and Khaerkhal villages are 19 percent and 5 percent, which is much lower than the district and state average.

Table-4.5: Male-female work participation rate of main workers in West Bengal, Jalpaiguri district, Development Blocks and chosen villages under the district.

State/District/ Blocks/Villages	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal(T)	19,494,971(87)	3,528,612 (50)	21,678,279(81)	4,008,351(50)
Jalpaiguri(T)	816,528(89)	208,905(54)	922,182(84)	231,583(55)
Jalpaiguri(R)	660,430(88)	183,246(52)	634,019(81)	178,387(52)
Jalpaiguri(U)	156,098(95)	25,659(80)	288,163(92)	53,196(69)
Alipurduar-I(R)	49,825(91)	12,384(52)	55,068(87)	12,442(48)
Uttarchakwakheta (R)	291(76)	57(17)	343(82)	66(22)
Parpatlakhawa(R)	100(87)	1(50)	174(90)	54(79)
Maynaguri(R)	73,589(91)	10,818(36)	84,239(88)	11,596(47)
Uttarmarichbari(R)	1,170(86)	158(36)	1,463(83)	140(41)
Khaerkhal(R)	608(99)	43(83)	738(93)	84(50)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

Table-4.2: depicts the Male-female work participation of main workers. The Table-4.4 shows that the percentage of male main workers decreased while the percentage of female main workers remained the same in West Bengal during period 2001-2011. But there were substantial male-female gap of main workers. It was almost 37 percent in 2001 which declined to 31 percent in 2011. There was no gap of female main workers during the same

period. Which indicates that females were also engaged in more productive activities. The percentage of male main workers decreased while the percentage of female main workers increased in Jalpaiguri district during the period 2001-2011. The percentage of female main workers remained same in rural area of Jalpaiguri district. While in Urban area of Jalpaiguri district it decreased. The percentage of female main workers decreased by 4 percent in Alipurduar block. Village wise, the percentage of female main workers in Uttarchakwakhetai increased by 5 percent during the period 2001-2011, which is higher than the district average. The percentage of female main workers increased by 29 percent in Parpatlakhawa village, which is much higher than the district average. The percentage of female-male workers to the total population decreased by 13 percent in Maynaguri Block during the period 2001-2011. The percentage of female main workers to the total female population increased by 11 percent in Maynaguri block during the period 2001-2011. The percentage of female main workers to the total female population increased by 5 percent in Uttarmarichbari. The percentage of female main workers decreased by 33 percent in Khaerkhal village.

Table-4.6: Male-Female work participation rate of marginal workers in West Bengal, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar-I, Maynaguri blocks and the chosen villages (in percent)

State/District/Blocks/ Villages	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal(T)	2,893,073(13)	3,565,034(50)	5,037,768(19)	4,031,957(50)
Jalpaiguri(T)	98,872(11)	178,831(46)	169,179(16)	189,966(45)
Jalpaiguri(R)	90,336(12)	172,277(48)	144,233(19)	166,138(48)
Jalpaiguri(U)	8,536(5)	6,554(20)	24,946(8)	23,828(31)
Alipurduar-I(T)	5,020(9)	11,555(48)	8,239(13)	13,475(52)
Uttarchakwakhetai(R)	93(24)	277(83)	77(18)	238(78)
Parpatlakhawa(R)	15(13)	1(50)	19(10)	14(21)
Maynaguri(T)	7,421(9)	19,277(64)	11,175(12)	13,281(53)
Uttarmarichbari(R)	191(14)	282(64)	304(17)	200(59)
Khaerkhal(R)	9(1)	9(17)	56(7)	84(50)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

Men migrate for engaging themselves in paid work. While the women take over agricultural work. In spite of lower wages, hard work and long duration of working hours they

work in this sector. Figures from the Census show that amongst women, the percentage of marginal workers has decreased by 1 percent in Jalpaiguri district during 2001-2011 period. During the same period, there was increased by 1 percent in percentage of main workers. While in Alipurduar block, the percentage of marginal female workers has increased by 4 percent during the period 2001-2011. The percentage of female marginal workers has decreased by 5 percent in Uttarchakwakheta during 2001-2011.

Table-4.7: Distribution of main workers by industrial categories (in percent) of West Bengal, Jalpaiguri, selected blocks and villages

		2001		2011	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal	Cultivators	4,182,888(21)	373,138(11)	3,940,399(18)	263,368(7)
	Agri- Labors	3,744,905(19)	778,029(22)	4,943,086(23)	962,412(23)
	Household Industry	778,046(4)	658,332(19)	869,039(4)	649,089(16)
	Others	10,789,132(55)	1,719,113(49)	11,925,755(55)	2,169,482(54)
Jalpaiguri	Cultivators	185,349(23)	24,481(12)	167,234(18)	13,870(6)
	Agri- Labors	102,902(13)	31,458(15)	166,901(18)	45,756(20)
	Household Industry	13,027(2)	5,837(3)	13,334(1)	4,781(2)
	Others	515,250(63)	147,129(70)	574,713(62)	167,176(72)
Alipurduar-I	Cultivators	15,146(30)	2,657(21)	12,457(23)	1,346(11)
	Agri- Labors	8,125(16)	3,537(29)	13,309(24)	4,624(37)
	Household Industry	536(1)	354(3)	503(1)	161(1)
	Others	26,018(52)	5,836(47)	28,799(52)	6,311(51)
Parpatlakhawa	Cultivators	72 (0.72)	0(0)	67(39)	16(30)
	Agri- Labors	7(0.07)	1 (100)	77(44)	37(69)
	Household Industry		0(0)	7(4)	0(0)
	Others	4(0.04)	0(0)	23(13)	17(2)
	Others		0(0)	23(13)	17(2)
Uttarchakwakheta	Cultivators	231(79)	37(65)	136(40)	7(11)

	Agri- Labors	19(7)	3(5)	160(47)	31(47)
	Household Industry	2(1)	2(4)	0(0)	0(0)
	Others	39(13)	15(26)	47(14)	28(42)
Maynaguri	Cultivators	29,271(40)	3,320((31)	29,993(36)	1,702(15)
	Agri- Labors		3,273(30)	23,265(28)	5,300(46)
		13,809(19)			
	Household Industry	1,378(2)	753(7)	1,033(1)	315(3)
	Others	29,131(40)	3,472(32)	29,948(36)	4,279(37)
Uttarparichhbari	Cultivators	385(33)	59(37)	446(30)	13(9)
	Agri- Labors	130(11)	23(15)	261(98)	37(26)
	Household Industry	17(1)	8(5)	7(0)	3(2)
	Others	638(55)	68(43)	749(5)	87(62)
Khaerkhal	Cultivators	418(69)	18(24)	495(67)	40(48)
	Agri- Labors	89(15)	11(26)	88(12)	27(32)
	Household Industry	1(0)	0(0)	1(0)	1(1)
	Others	100(16)	14(33)	154(21)	16(19)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

Table-4.4 shows the distribution of main workers by industrial categories. This would reflect the poor economic conditions and landlessness to a large section of population. The Table-4.8 depicts that majority of female main workers are either cultivators or agricultural laborers. As many as 6 percent of female main workers in Jalpaiguri district is cultivators and 20 percent as agricultural laborers. In Alipurduar block, 11percent of female main

workers are cultivators and 36 percent as agricultural laborers. In fact, the percentage of both cultivators and agricultural laborers are higher than the district average indicating poor economic condition and landlessness.

4.7: Literacy Rate

One aspect of literacy rate is important as a tool towards social mobility. Other, literacy rate is an index for human development. Women's autonomy is also linked to the level of education a woman has received. Women need to have a considerable education to have a say in important household decisions (Jejeebhoy,1995).

Table-4.8: Literacy Rate of West Bengal and India by sex (in percent)

Year	West Bengal			India		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1951	34.2	12.2	24	24.9	7.9	18.3
1961	40.1	17	34.5	34.4	12.9	28.3
1971	42.8	22.4	33.2	39.5	18.7	34.5
1981	59.9	36.1	48.6	56.4	29.8	43.6
1991	67.8	46.6	57.7	64.1	39.3	52.2
2001	77	59.6	68.6	75.3	53.7	64.8
2011	82.7	71.2	77.1	82.1	65.5	74

Source: Census of India

Table -4-.4 depicts literacy rate of males and females during different census period. It has been observed from Table 3.7 that the total literacy rate has been increasing in West Bengal and India, with sharp increase in rate of 2001. Although female literacy rate in West Bengal is higher than the national level since 1991, yet there is male-female differential of literacy rate. As per Census Report of 2011, the literacy rate at 71.2 in West Bengal and 74 in India marks around 11.5 percent rise in West Bengal and 9.2 percent in India over the previous differentials of literacy have been reducing over the period 1951-2011 both in West Bengal and India. Government has taken a step to expand the educational facilities and right attitude towards girl children. These are some of the important factors behind in literacy the reduction of gender gap rate.

Table-4.9: Male and Female Literacy Rate of West Bengal, Jalpaiguri district, selected blocks, and villages, 2001 and 2011

State/District/Block	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal	27,452,426(77)	19,743,975(60)	33,818,810(82)	27,719,47(71)
Jalpaiguri	1,082,575(73)	727,508(52)	1,396,622(80)	1,102,158(66)
Alipurduar-I	67,008(77)	47,202(58)	81,191(82)	65,511(70)
Uttarchakwakheta	327(62)	200(38)	505(78)	362(63)
Parpatlakhawa	174(75)	113(55)	235(84)	180(67)
Maynaguri	94,600(77)	62,861(55)	121,785(82)	95,574(69)
Uttarmarichbari	1,760(80)	1,143(58)	2,369(83)	1,829(68)
Kherkhal	606(66)	340(42)	978(85)	681(68)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

Table 4.5 depicts the male- female literacy rate. The female literacy rate is lower than the male literacy rate. The female literacy rate of Jalpaiguri district is lower by 21 percent during 2001 period. The female literacy rate is lower by 17 percent in Alipurduar block which lower than the district average but equal to state average during 2001. While the percentage of female literacy rate of Uttarchakwakheta is lower by 24 percent, which is higher than the district and state average. The percentage of female literacy rate is lower by 20 percent which is lower by district average but higher than the state average.

4.8: Illiteracy rate

The definition of illiteracy employed in the present study is taken by the Census of India (1961-1991). As per the definition, a person who has the ability to read and write with understanding in any language is termed as literate. To be classified as literate, a person need not have received any formal education or passed any minimum standard to qualify as literate. While a person who could merely read but not write was not defined as a literate.

Table- 4.10: Male- Female illiteracy rate by sex of West Bengal, Jalpaiguri, chosen blocks and villages, 2001,

State/District/Blocks	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal	14,013,559(39)	18,966,237(1)	12,990,217(31)	16,747,617(43)
Jalpaiguri	668,570(45)	922,520(1)	586,442(34)	787,624(47)
Alipurduar-I	34,561(40)	48,460(1)	30,187(31)	40,042(43)
Uttarchakwakheta	314(59)	410(1)	231(36)	301(52)
Parpatlakhawa	103(44)	127(1)	85(30)	120(45)
Maynaguri	51,003(41)	73,236(1)	48,245(32)	63,428(46)
Uttarmarichbari	804(36)	1,211(1)	801(28)	1,175(44)
Khaerkhal	488(53)	643(1)	337(29)	475(47)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

It has been observed from the Table-4.6 that the female illiteracy rate of West Bengal has decreased from 2001 to 2011 period. West Bengal records 57.51 percent of female literacy rate and 56.32 percent during 2011. However, Jalpaiguri district has a similar trend. The illiteracy rate of female has decreased from 2001 to 2011 period. The female illiteracy rate of Maynaguri block has declined. The female illiteracy rate of Maynaguri block is lesser by 0.52 percent. While the female literacy rate of Khaerkhal village has increased during 2001- 2011 period. This is due to less educational infrastructure. In addition to this factor, the village is far away from Siliguri city. The reasons for increasing female illiteracy rate of female members are due to lack of spread of educational facilities and negative attitude about education towards girl child.

4. 9 : Distribution of SCs and STs population by sex

Table-4.11: Percentage distribution of SC male-female population in West Bengal, Jalpaiguri, chosen Blocks and villages 2001 and 2011

State/District/Block/Village	Male	Female	Male	Total
West Bengal	9,469,659(23)	8,982,896(23)	11,003,304(24)	10,459,966(24)
Jalpaiguri	642,828(37)	605,749(37)	750,841(38)	707,437(37)
Alipurduar-I	47,554(47)	44,909(47)	54,241(49)	50,776(48)
Uttarchakwakheta	239(37)	225(37)	283(38)	242(37)
Parpatlakhawa	79(29)	79(33)	96(30)	99(33)
Maynaguri	103,023(71)	96,506(71)	121,477(71)	112,810(71)
Uttarmarichbari	1,956(76)	1,052(79)	2,453(77)	2,317(77)
Khaerkhal	1,030(94)	924(94)	1,203(91)	1,060(92)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

The percentage of male and female SC population has increased by 1 percent in both the cases in West Bengal. Similar feature is observed in case of male population in Jalpaiguri district during the period 2001-2011. While the percentage of female SC population has remained the same during period 2001-2011. The percentage of SC male population has increased by 2 percent in during the period 2001-2011. The percentage of SC female population has increased by 1 percent in Alipurduar-I block. The percentage of SC female to total female population.

Table-4.12: Percentage distribution of ST male-female population in West Bengal, Jalpaiguri district, chosen Blocks and villages, 2001 and 2011

State/District/Block/Village	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
West Bengal	2,223,924(5)	2,182,870(6)	2,649,974(6)	2,646,979(6)
Jalpaiguri	324,250(19)	317,438(19)	365,868,(18)	365,836(19)
Alipurduar-I	16,773(17)	15,662(16)	18,774(17)	17,831(17)
Uttarchakwakheta	394(61)	375(61)	442(60)	408(62)
Parpatlakhawa	33(12)	25(10)	36(11)	29(10)
Maynaguri	1,842(1)	1,703((1)	2,217(1)	2,111(1)
Uttarmarichbari	18(1)	8(0)	29(1)	34(1)
Khaerkhal	5(0)	3(0)	0(0)	0(0)

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001 and 2011

The percentage distribution of ST population is given in Table no. 4.15. It is observed from the Table 4.14 that the percentage male population decreased by 0.44 percent. While the percentage of female population increased by the same magnitude in West Bengal during 2001- 2011. In Jalpaiguri district, the same trend is observed. In Alipurduar-I block, the percentage of ST population decreased by 1.06. While the percentage of female population increased by the same magnitude. In Uttar Chakwakheta village the percentage of male population increased marginally but the percentage of female population decreased. In Parpatlakhawa village, both the percentage of male and female ST population increased during 2001-2011. In Maynaguri block, the percentage of male ST population has decreased by 0.74 percent. Also the percentage of female population has increased by the same magnitude. In Uttarmarichbari village, the percentage of male population has increased by 23.20 percent. While the percentage of female population has increased by the same magnitude. In Khaerkhal village, the percentage of male and female population was same during 2001-2011.

4.10: Health Infrastructure

Table-4.13: Health Facilities in West Bengal, 2001

Year	Hospitals	Health Centres	Sub-Centres
1995-96	402	1263	1263
1996-97	404	1263	1263
1997-98	405	1263	1263
1998-99	406	1262	1262
1999-00	415	1268	1268
2000-01	416	1269	1269
2001-02	429	1266	1266
2002-03	434	1268	1268
2003-04	434	1268	1268
2004-05	433	1268	1268
2005-06	2016	1256	1256
2006-07	2081	1269	1269
2007-08	2290	1273	1273
2008-09	2291	1272	1272
2009-10	2311	1257	1257
2010-11	2312	1257	1257

Source: State Bureau of Health Intelligence, Govt. of West Bengal

It has been observed from Table- 4.9 that the numbers of health centres and sub-centres were more till 2004 -2005 in West Bengal. While the number of hospitals increased from 1996 to 2004-2005. The Table-3.16 revealed the dependence of the chosen population mostly on the health centres and sub-centres. The high degree of dependence on the public health care system might be due to the poor economic condition of sample population. Also, this indicates greater reliance on public health care system due to subsistence level of living for sample population.

4.11: Medical Facilities available at Block Level in Jalpaiguri district

Table-4.14: Blockwise distribution of Health Infrastructure in Jalapiguri district, 2001

Blocks	Hospitals	Health Centres	Clinics	Dispensaries
Sadar Sub-division	27	19	24	24
Raiganj	4	3	40	4
Jalpaiguri	3	6	7	7
Jalpaiguri (M)	1	-	1	1
Maynaguri	1	6	7	7
Dhupguri	17	4	4	4
Dhupguri (M)	1	4	0	4
Mal Sub-division	45	10	11	11
Mal	20	4	4	4
Mal(M)	1	-	1	1
Metiali	12	3	3	3
Nagrakata	12	3	3	3
Alipurduar Sub-Division	41	17	21	21
Kumargram	7	3	3	3
Falakata	5	2	3	3
Madarihat-Birpara	12	4	5	5
Kalchini	10	2	2	2
Alipurduar-I	5	3	3	3
Alipurduar-II	1	3	4	4
Alipurduar (M)	1	-	1	1

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001

Medical Facilities available at block level in Jalpaiguri district, is given in Table-4.11.

Table- 4.11 shows the distributions of hospitals, health Centre, Clinics, and dispensaries for the sample population in respective blocks. These health institutions serve as health care service providers. Moreover low percentage of hospitals were available for the sample population to seek medical health-care followed by Health Centres, Clinics and Dispensaries.

4.12: Educational Infrastructure

Table-4.15: Educational institutions in the Jalpaiguri district, 2003-04

Blocks	Educational Institutions			
	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher Secondary
Sadar Sub-division	885	33	84	50
Rajganj	171	5	26	9
Jalpaiguri	233	11	20	8
Jalpaiguri(M)	73	4	5	11
Maynaguri	205	7	15	7
Dhupguri	186	6	13	11
Dhupguri(M)	17	-	5	4
Mal Sub-division	280	11	19	8
Mal	155	6	8	3
Mal (M)	10	2	1	3
Metiali	62	2	1	3
Nagrakata	53	1	6	1
Alipurduar-Sub-division	803	30	73	38
Kumargram	119	3	8	5
Falakata	154	4	11	7
Madarihat-Birpara	90	6	9	5
Alipurduar-I	134	4	16	4
Alipurduar-II	160	3	14	4
Alipurduar(M)	40	3	2	9
Total	1968	74	176	96

Source: Census of West Bengal, 2001

Table4.12 shows the distribution of educational facilities in the Jalapiguri district.

Table-4.12 Shows the distribution of educational institute in Jalpaiguri district. With regard to the above educational institutions it is found that there has been an uneven distribution of institutions in the district under different blocks in Jalpaiguri. The number of primary schools are more in respective blocks than the middle, secondary and higher secondary schools. Almost the blocks, Mal (M) has the lowest number of primary schools, followed by Dhupguri (M) while Dhupguri has 17 primary schools, followed by no middle schools and 5 secondary schools and 4 higher secondary schools.

4.13: Life Expectancy

Life expectancy reflects the physical well-being of population in a region. The life expectancy at birth is influenced by number of demographic and health factors. It is also related to infant mortality rate of any population. It is generally negatively correlated related infant mortality rate. Also in most of the cases, the life expectancy is directly associated with the level of economic development.

Despite the improvement of medical facilities and significant fall in the infant mortality rate, the life expectancy at birth(LEB) in West Bengal has been as low as 64.2 years in 2002-06 as against 65.8 years at national level for the same year(Table-4.18).

Table-4.16: Life Expectancy at Birth in India and West Bengal

	1999-2003		2000-2004		2001-2005		2002-2006	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
India	63.5	65	63.7	65.2	63.9	65.5	64.1	65.8
West Bengal	61.8	63.5	62.1	63.7	62.3	63.9	62.6	64.2

Source: SRS, based Abridge Life Tables, 2002-06

Table- 4.12 shows that there exists a male –female differential in life expectancy. Table-4.17 depicts the life expectancy at birth in India and West Bengal. In the 5 year period (1999-2003) the female life expectancy of West Bengal was higher than males. The male-female gap in the life expectancy was more than one year during 2001-2005. It has been observed from Table-4.19 that there exists a male –female differential in the projected levels of LEB during (1999-2003), the female life expectancy was higher than males West Bengal. In subsequent period, West Bengal as well as India has witnessed higher female LEB as compared to males. It is evident from Table that there exists a male- female differential in life expectancy. In the year period (1999-2003) the female life expectancy of West Bengal was higher than the male. The male-female gap in life expectancy was 1.6 during 2000-2004 periods. However, the life expectancy increased by 1.6 percent during 2001-2005. The life expectancy was lower in West Bengal than national level during all the periods considered.

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