

Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Castes Population - A Case Study of Maldah District of West Bengal

**Thesis Submitted for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Geography**



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Preface

The study is an attempt to understand the socio-economic condition of scheduled castes population of Maldah district of West Bengal. In the Vedic time all men were equal. In that time there was no trace of untouchability as we see it today. But in course of time Aryans divided the society into four divisions based on qualities and actions. This four fold division has been a pre-dominant feature of Hindu social fabric. This is clear from the various studies prior to independence and even sometime latter, the scheduled castes had been poorest of the poor and socially and economically most backward castes in the society. Many social problems like illiteracy, unemployment, child labour, gambling, superstitions, discrimination by higher castes, inferiority complex against other castes, child marriage, lack of awareness ect. are found among them. After independence the scheduled castes are going under social and economic changes both in rural and urban areas.

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The secondary data have been collected from census reports, various Govt. reports and from different books on scheduled castes. The primary data have been collected from house hold survey of fifty villages / urban areas of Maldah district. The collected data have been processed and analyzed by statistical techniques.

The study is divided into seven chapters including introduction and conclusion. Chapter 1 is introductory chapter, chapter 2 deals with the geographical profile of the study area and chapter 3 gives the idea about Indian social order and scheduled castes of Maldah district. Chapter 4 and 5 are the core chapters of this study. The former deals with the social status of scheduled castes of Maldah district while the chapter 5 is deals with the economic status of the scheduled castes. Chapter 6 highlights the suggested strategies for the development of scheduled castes and the last chapter summarizes the research work and represent logical conclusions.

Pradip Chouhan
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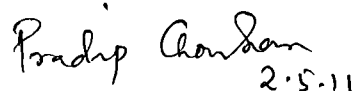
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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

The *Varna* system that was established in ancient India functioned as the larger framework within which the caste society was formed. Membership of a caste is compulsory and not a matter of choice, a person born into it. It is practically impossible for individuals to change their caste.

Indian society is a great complex of diversified population which is unique in the world for its mosaic of caste structure. In no large country of the old or new world, do we find such an amazing of castes and sub-castes, besides various races and tribes, religions and creeds, languages and dialects.

The caste system of India is deep-rooted, having its origin in the Vedic times. The institution of caste, depicted in four varnas, i.e. Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Sudra, can be traced in the early culture and literature of the Indo-Aryans who migrated to India circa 2500 B.C. The Brahmins, who made up the highest ranked Varna, monopolized the position of priest and teacher of the Vedas; the Kshatriyas took charge of politics and the military; the Vaishyas formed the commoner ranks of cultivators, herders and merchants; and the Sudras were relegated the position of servants.

Several Castes in Hindu society have been associated with unclean occupations and social restrictions and suffered from low socio-economic, educational and cultural condition. Various names have been used to refer to these sections. The names that one comes across for these people are 'Untouchable', 'Chandala', 'Avarna', 'Antyaja', 'Harijan', 'Depressed class', 'Scheduled castes' and 'Dalits'.

Scheduled Caste (SCs) population constitute about one-sixth of the total population of Maldah with a lot of spatio-temporal variations ranging from negligible (2.68% of Kaliachak – I) to as high as 49.87% of the total population of Bamangola block of the district.

Prior to independence and even later, scheduled castes had been the poorest of the poor, and socially and economically backward caste of the district. Their socio-economic condition is very bad compared to the general caste population of the

district. In spite of many socio-economic safeguards provided to them in the constitution and by the government, they are still comparatively less educated, backward and in the dilemma of privilege and exploitation. Majority of them are not aware of constitutional laws and safeguards provided for them. This could be attributed to a variety of reasons such as illiteracy, social evils like gambling, liquor and litigation, superstition, dominance of higher caste, deprivation from socio-economic status due to their treatment as 'Sudras in the Society' stratification on menu system, inferiority complex against other castes and misuse of privileges and rights constitutionally provided to them.

After independence the scheduled castes of Maldah are going under social and economic changes in urban and rural areas. Various constitutional amendments gave rights to them. They are also given reserve quotas in various organisations in order to uplift their socio-economic status. Many of them are appointed under open category due to the educational development. All these have led to changes in their attitude towards society and social values and norms. They are gradually not only accepting but have also started practicing measures of family planning. They are now more conscious about the study centre, education and job of their children. Their attitude towards religion, child marriage, superstitions etc. are changing day by day.

There are a lot of spatio-temporal variations in the modes of socio-economic status and their standard of living with regard to structural relationship among sub-caste and social contacts with other castes of the region of their habitation. The scheduled castes residing in urban areas or in urban fringe or even in immediate surrounding urban village are more dynamic in their social change in comparison to their own counterpart living in remote and rural areas. The urban scheduled castes are educationally forward and politically aware of their rights and privileges provided in the constitution for the welfare of their community compared to rural areas. They are sending their sons and daughters to the other districts and other states for higher education.

The scheduled caste of both rural and urban areas of Maldah district are now willingly adopting the practice and measures of family planning in order to provide better food, clothes, education and medical facilities to their children. Socially they

are adopting modernity and now they believe more in adult marriage, remarriage, and love marriage and even in freedom of women but less in litigation, superstition, gambling, drinking and such other social mysticism. But the rural scheduled castes are in slow process of moving out from the grip of old and traditional bound social values like child marriage, widow hood, superstitions etc.

Though the social parameters of these scheduled castes are changing and are making a new shape, yet conservatism is still prevalent in their society. Hence, their social change is slow as compared to that of urban scheduled castes. The effect of such conservative ideas may be observed in their large size of family as a measure for social and economic security. But the new and educated generation of rural scheduled castes which are in contact with their own community in urban areas or in the contact of higher castes does not believe in the conservative values regarding size, structure and system of the family.

The educated scheduled caste women are revolting against traditional social values. They are now motivated by the glamour, customs and costumes of urban life. The broad changes affected by politico – social power and the infiltration of urbanization to rural areas.

The scheduled castes are no more bonded, permanent and landless laborer. They have become more conscious about the economic gain and return from their various pursuits. Many of them after getting land by government under different schemes of land distribution to landless, have started agricultural practices and hence, have become marginal farmers and have started working in non-agricultural sectors too.

At present scheduled castes community are now working in non-agricultural sectors like building construction, factories, road construction and in private shops in urban areas. The educated scheduled castes are engaged in banking, marketing, education, administration and judicial services. The rigorous implementation of SC reservation policy not only in employment but also in promotional avenues has given additional incentives to them for white collar jobs. A large number of scheduled castes have been benefited with various schemes of the government such as SCP (Special Component Plan), NSFDC (National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation), MSY (Mahila Samridhi Yojana), NSKFDC (National

Safai Karmachari Finance Development Corporation) etc. which in turn have brought economic prosperity among them. Presently SCs students are availing the facilities like Ashram Hostel, Book Grant, Scholarship, Education loan etc.

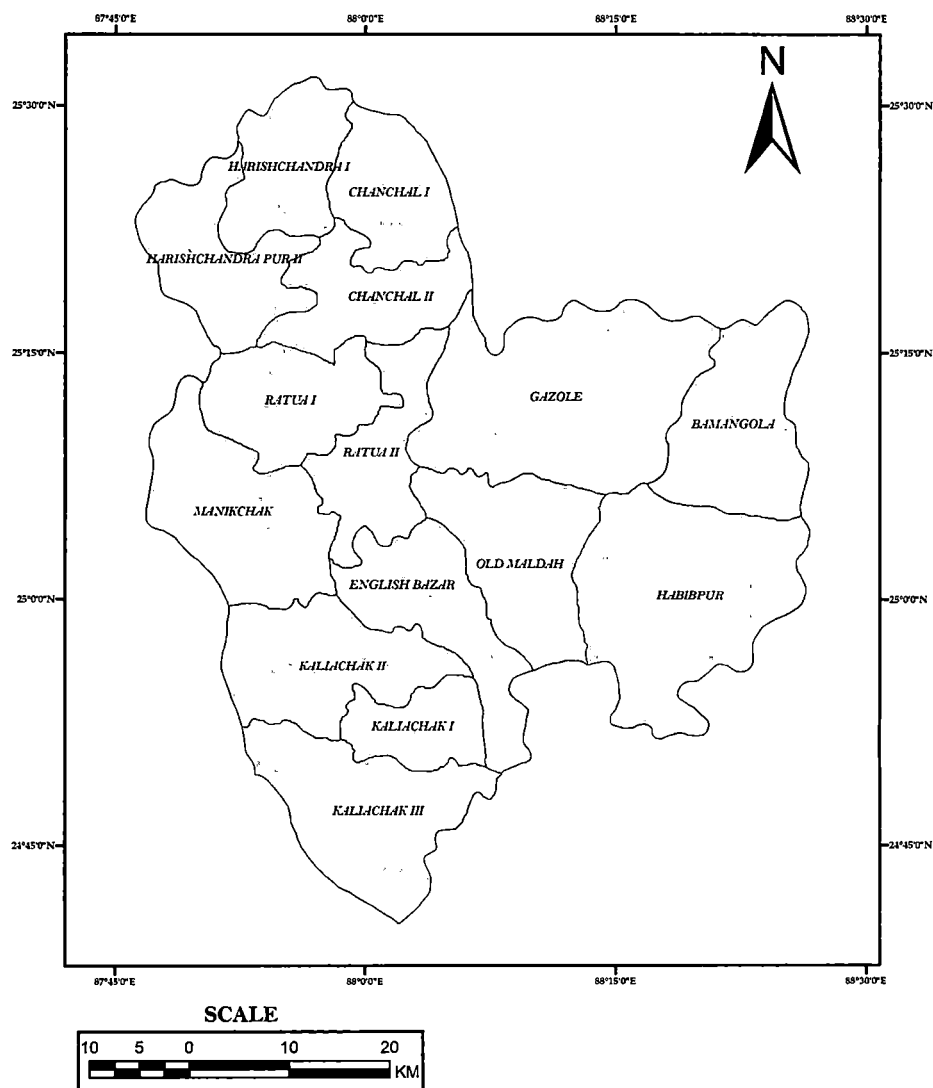
1.1 Study area

Maldah district has been selected for in depth study on 'Socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes population'. Maldah district of West Bengal lies between 24°40'2" North to 25°32'08" North latitude and 87°45'50" East to 88°28'10" East longitude. Bihar and Jharkhand lie in the West and Bangladesh in the East of Maldah district. The Ganga River lies in the South and separated the district from South Bengal while Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal lie in the North of Maldah district.

There are two sub-divisions in Maldah district, Maldah (Sadar) and Chanchal Sub-Division. The area of Sardar sub Division is 2496 sq. km and Chanchal Sub-Division is 1082 sq. km. So, the total area of the district is 3578 sq. km. According to 2001 Census total population of Maldah Sardar sub-Division is 2212367 and Chanchal Sub-Division is 1078101. The total population of the district is 32, 90,468. The district has population density of 881 persons/sq.km. There are 554165 Scheduled Castes population which is 16.84% of total population of the district.

There are 11 police stations, 14 out posts, 15 Block Development Offices (Panchayat Samities), 146 Gram Panchayats, 2011 Gram Sansad, 02 municipalities (English Bazar and Old Maldah), 1814 mouzas and 3701 villages. There are 6 wholesale markets, 2 regulated markets, 5 jute purchasing centers and one mango research centre.

C.D. BLOCK MAP OF MALDAH DISTRICT



MAP 1.2

1.2 Problems of the Study Area

The Scheduled Castes were kept apart from the rest of the society due to the prevalent practice of untouchability. The Indian caste system based on the notion of purity and pollution believed that the Scheduled Castes were impure and polluted. The scheduled castes are comparatively backward in occupational, educational, social, cultural, religious and political sector. The Scheduled Castes of Maldah District are not evenly distributed. There are wide gaps between scheduled castes & higher Caste in terms of level of income, standard of living, fertility & mortality, social parameters like education, marriage, family planning programmes, superstitions etc.

The following problems are present among the scheduled castes of the study area-

The literacy rate is very low among the Scheduled Castes compared to the general castes of Maldah district. The disparity in the literacy and the level of educational attainment is also observed in rural and urban Scheduled Castes. Gender disparity in males and females are also observed among Scheduled Castes. The dropout rates among the Scheduled Castes students are very high compared to general castes. Enrolment rate of student is low in rural areas compared to urban areas. The literacy rate in rural areas is very low than urban areas. Majority of Scheduled Castes are concentrated in rural areas and are illiterate. Therefore, general awareness about the facilities for development is very low. Consequently, the facilities mostly go unutilized or are utilized at minimal level. The urban Scheduled Castes use major share of these facilities. Early age at marriage (< 18 years) is still prevalent in rural areas. All most all the Scheduled Castes feel discriminated by the higher castes. Scheduled Castes discriminated by higher castes in work place and in marriages with higher castes. In 7 blocks (46.67%) majority of Scheduled Castes are below poverty line. Majority of the cultivators practice agriculture on subsistence basis. Number of Scheduled Castes beneficiaries is low than general castes in different government schemes. The consumption pattern for food and education of rural Scheduled Castes is very low compared to the urban Scheduled Castes. Nearly 50% rural Scheduled Castes respondents have no savings for future. Majority of the Scheduled Castes respondents join their first job below 14 years age. Lack of

sanitation facility is observed in rural areas. Though their socio-economic conditions developed in last one decade but still they are backward compared to the general population.

From the foregoing discussion regarding problems of Scheduled Castes of Maldah District it can be observe that the illiteracy among Scheduled Castes is very high. Due to poor economic condition their consumption pattern for food, cloth, housing, education, medical etc. are very low and they are forced to live in unhygienic environment.

1.3 Overview of Literature

There are many books and articles written by many scholars on various aspects of scheduled castes like, history of origin and evolution, untouchability, various social reform, movements for betterment, role of national leaders in upliftment of scheduled castes.

The study is an attempt to investigate the socio-economic status of scheduled castes of Maldah district. The study of scheduled castes and their socio-economic parameters has been the basic theme of research and investigation of many disciplines such as History, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology and Economic since long. But during this century specially after Independence more studies have been conducted on scheduled castes and their various socio-economic characteristics. These studies are mainly concentrated on distribution, density and few socio-economic parameters of scheduled castes, poverty and backwardness of scheduled castes.

The studies are entitled as 'Dalits – Role of Education (ed.) by Mamta Rajawat (2005); Caste, Race and Discrimination (Ed) by Thorat Umakanta (2004); Changing Patterns of Scheduled Castes by J.K. Pundir (1997); Struggle for Economic Freedom & Social Justice of Scheduled castes in South India (Ashok Kumar-2005) give us general ideas about their poor socio-economic conditions. The book entitled 'Who Were the Sudras', written by Ambedkar in 1946 give the definition of 'Sudras' and highlighted their deplorable condition. Ambedkar's other book 'The Untouchables' (1948) give description of lower status and poor socio-economic condition of the

scheduled castes. After a discussion on basic issues and problems he has also suggested several measures to achieve these goals.

H.H.Risley (1891) while working on the Tribes and Castes of Bengal has highlighted the origin of the castes and prevalence of infant marriage in Bengal. Patwardhan(1973) has made a significant contribution in his study on 'Changes among Indias Harijans' in which he highlighted on various aspects of socio-economic changes of scheduled castes. In 1958 Alexander has highlighted the social mobility among scheduled castes of Kerala.

Books on various aspects of scheduled castes (Shabir-1997,Mandal,J.C. 1999,Dantwala-1998,Massey,1999) have been written in nineties. In 1977 Sinha in his book-The Harijan Elite has made a commendable study on scheduled castes wherein he has not only examined the social and economic changes in this caste but has also accounted its determinants. The book 'Caste system, Untouchability and the Depressed' edited by H. Kotani (1997) describes social discrimination in ancient India and economic changes in untouchables. While studying the socio-economic problems and the impact of Sanskritisation on the social changes, Mukherjee A.B., in his book 'The Chamars of Uttar Pradesh' (1980) has described and explained the distribution of scheduled castes and their socio-economic status. He has identified the determinants of their backwardness and has done a comparative analysis of the socio-economic condition of scheduled castes with other castes of the society and also suggested practical measures for their upliftment.

R.B Singh (2003) in his book 'Scheduled Caste Welfare – Myth of Reality' describes various government schemes for the upliftment of scheduled caste and effect of Panchayati Raj on upliftment of Scheduled Casts. R.V.K. Naidu (2004) while working on 'Empowerment of Scheduled Castes' has highlighted the various socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes

The awakening of Scheduled Castes towards their rights and privileges has created a lot of interest among the scholars of various disciplines in eighties and a large number of books come up during this decade (Pandey, A.K.,-1989,Kumar,V.,-1986 ,Parvatamma and Satyanarayana – 1984; Mathew – 1986; and Roy and Singh – 1987). There are many studies deal with social status, awakening, socio-economic

change and certain schemes of poverty elevation among Scheduled Castes (Joshi, R.B., – 1982; Yadav, S.K., – 1983; Sharma, N., – 1985; Prakash, N., – 1989). Similarly, many studies have been done in nineties dealing with almost with similar aspects of Scheduled Castes (Kumar, P., – 1991; Zellion, E., – 1992; Tripathi, R.B., – 1994 and Massey, J., – 1995). Bhatnagar's study on Jatav-chamars of Dehra Dun city highlights a comparative study of rural and urban Scheduled Castes and has described their changing socio-economic scenario.

G.G. Wankhede (1999) in his book *Social Mobility and Scheduled Castes* have described Socio-demographic profile and occupational mobility of Scheduled Castes. Many welfare departments have also conducted several studies, which have been published in the form of booklets, report and monographs. These studies based on demographic characteristics of Scheduled Castes with emphasis on their socio-economic conditions and their determinants.

In the book entitled, *Protection of Minorities and Scheduled Castes* (New Delhi, 1980) by S.K. Ghosh evaluated the impact of constitutional, legal and other government measures for the protection of scheduled castes and their social upliftment. Both the writers concluded that various measures taken by government for the upliftment of scheduled castes made very little contribution to improve the conditions of SC people. Majority of them (above 50%) were still living below poverty line (BPL).

The rural SCs, particularly landless labourers remained most vulnerable to social and economic oppression. Suvderaj, V., (2000) also pointed many specific hurdles; important among these were their illiteracy and backwardness, besides the poor implementation of laws, in his book *Scheduled Castes of Rural India*.

In the book, *Harijan- Upper caste conflicts*, D. Venkateswarlu (1990) makes a different study about the conflicts between the upper class and Harijan class. This research study shows that there is a new level of awareness and consciousness among them and has not only enhanced their aspirations and ambitions but also made them assertive. This is not tolerated by the socially and economically dominant caste Hindus.

To examine how the educational facilities and 'Welfare Schemes' has acted as a catalyst of change M. Showeb conducted a field study on Education and Mobility among Harijans (Allahabad, 1986). It was an empirical study of the chamars residing in the city of Varanasi. By studying the personal, educational and economic profile of their families he discussed the impact of education on modern behaviour pattern, and pragmatic attitude towards life. Under reservation many of them got government jobs and their income and economic status has improved. Their thinking has become more positive since they are aspiring for a better future for their children, it is more important.

Noor Mohammad (2006) in his book 'Socio-Economic Transformation of scheduled castes in Uttar Pradesh' – have highlighted on Socio-Economic Structure of scheduled castes, their level of social transformation, level of Economic transformation etc. The study of Noor Mohammad is based on both primary and secondary data. The secondary data related to caste, patters of land use, climate etc. have been collected from census publications, Directorate of Economics and statistics and Meteorology Department, where as primary data have been collected from field study from 30 villages.

The author describes, evaluates and explains the social transformation based on meaningful indicators such as education, marriage, family planning religiosity, political awareness and involvement and social mobility. It deals with various aspects of economic transformation selecting income standard of living, housing conditions etc., and presents logical conclusion, and gives suggestions and remedial measures for further improvement in the socio-economic conditions of scheduled castes for the country as a whole with particular reference to Uttar Pradesh.

In the book 'Struggle for Economic Freedom & Social Justice of Scheduled Castes in South India', Y. Ashok Kumar (2005) highlighted on the paleru system and Socio-Economic and cultural profile of sample. The book deals with employment outside the country, Dearth of farm Labour, Advent of Aquacultures and migration of Agriculture Labour, Migration of Labour from East to West etc. He has suggested few measures for the upliftment of socially and economically backward palerus.

Dr. M.N. Sivaprakasam (2002) in his book 'Dalits and Social Mobilisation' tried to trace the Origin and Development of Dalit Community and their role in socio-political and economic system of India. In his book he described names and terms used for Dalits, Atrocities against Untouchables, background and choice of education of weaker section women, Dalit women and the changing development scenario, literacy levels of female workforce in India, etc.

Narayan Mishra (2004) in his pioneer work entitled 'Exploitation and Atrocities on the Dalits in India' has highlighted the cases of exploitation of the Dalits in Mithila belt, which is fearless and atrocity almost nil as compared to the Magahi belt. In this book he also described Atrocities on Dalits of Gaya, Economic and Political Area of Dalit Exploitation of Gaya, Social, Economic, Religious and Political Area of Dalit exploitation of Darbhanga and Atrocity on Dalits of Darbhanga.

In the book 'The Mobile Scheduled Caste – Rise of a New Middle Class', (Delhi, 1988), Nandu Ram have explored the magnitude and the causes and consequences of social mobility among scheduled castes population in Kanpur city. The study of the author was based on assessment of religious and other public places, integration of caste groups in schools, colleges and universities occupational mobility, share of political power, and residential desegregation.

Nesiah, D., (1997) has contributed a lot on Harijans in his book 'Descrimination with Reasons'. J.K. Pundir's book Changing Patterns of Scheduled Castes (Jaipur, 1997) highlights the social Development of Scheduled castes, Varying consequences of Rural Development on Scheduled Castes, participation in political process and decision making of S.Cs, S.C students in a Hostel in an urban setting, Panchayati Raj, Development and Alcoholism in S.Cs Rural Youth, Laws and the S.Cs. In his book pundir also described technology, production and social Justice to S.Cs. Ambedkar and changing patterns of Scheduled Castes in North India. In the last chapter of his book he highlighted the social change among S.Cs. in North India.

R. Chandra and K.L. Chanchreek in their book 'Shudras in Ancient India' (New Delhi, 2004) have described about origin and development of Indian Caste in Part I and Varna and Untouchability in Part II. The Part II of this book is core chapter of this book. In this section they highlighted on Varna (Position of Shudras, Brahmanas,

Kshatriyas, Various crafts in Vedas, Chandala and disabilities of the sudras and and Dasas.

In his book 'Deprived Castes in India' N.J. Usha Rao (Allahabad, 1981) evaluated the success of various measures adopted by the state for their upliftment. According to N.J. Usha Rao, the success or failure of these measures largely determined the extent to which the SCs have been assimilated in the mainstream of Indian society. This book also highlighted that the funds sanctioned by government for various schemes had not been utilized fully due to administrative lapse.

Through a comparative field study in two villages of Orissa, in the book *Dalit: A Sub-Human society*, Rabati Ballav Tripathy (1989) tried to find out the types of political means adopted by Dalits. The study raised many questions like how social disabilities acted as constraints in their way and how held political power. Whether atrocities are merely law and order problem? The study also brings out the empirical evidence of the exposure to mass media and participation of the Dalits in panchayats and general elections and how this prompted them to resort to protest political action against their socio-economic disabilities. The study of R.B. Tripathy focused on the impact of their membership in different parties and elections to different bodies and the shape of different types of protests launched by them like public meetings, picketing, hunger strike, rallies etc.

The book edited by K.S. Singh (Calcutta – 2008), *People of India- West Bengal* (Part I & II) is based on origin, characteristics, distribution and socio-economic-political and religious conditions of SCs of West Bengal.

Prof. Ramesh Chandra and Dr. Sangh Mittra in their book *Caste System in India* (New Delhi 2003) highlighted on the caste systems in India, Evolution of Castes, Nature of Hindu Society and Untouchability, Constitution of India and need for legislation and pioneers of dalit awakening on caste system. In this book they also tried to find out the weak points of the Untouchability (Ofences) Act, 1955.

James Massey's book *Dalits in India* (1995) is divided into three parts. Part I highlights the historical roots of Dalits and historical background of the Christian Dalits. The Part II highlights the Dalit identity and basic rights and part III deals with the Dalits and enabling strategies and also discusses about the Dalit as a political

force, Factors responsible for the Emergence and Dalit politics in post-Independence India.

The book edited by Om Prakash Sangwan (1996), *Dalit Society and the challenge of Development* highlights on social structure and the evolution of classes, Depressed Classes: A Socio-economic profile, constitution and politics of Reservations, bonded labour in India, educational development of Scheduled castes and Dalits struggle for liberation.

S.K. Chatterjee (1996) in his book *The Scheduled castes in India* (Vol. I-IV) give detailed accounts on S.Cs. In Vol.-I Mr. Chatterjee described about origin and growth of caste in India, reformatory movements and effects of British rule on the caste system. In appendix B of this book he mentioned the occupations of the untouchables according to the Samhitas and Puranas and in appendix C, a scheme of political safeguards for the protection of the depressed classes in the future constitution of a self governing India has been described. The Vol. II deals with the framing of the constitution provisions relating to the scheduled castes. The Vol. - III deals with the genesis, growth and demographic pattern of the SCs, lastly, the Vol.: IV deals with the tables related to the SCs in India.

S.K. Chatterjee(2000) in his study entitled 'Educational Development of Scheduled Castes Looking Ahead' described the constitutional provisions for educational development for SCs literacy, special facilities for educational advancement of the SCs, advancement of SCs in Higher education, educational inequalities, and reservation for SCs in educational institutions and educational development and social integration. In his book he highlighted on enrolment ratio, disparities among SCs in the educational attainments, eradication of child labour and effect of education on marriage of SCs.

Dalits and Law edited by Mamata Rajawat (2005) highlights on statutory protection like justice under statute, social justice, right to equality, the safeguards for SC & ST, and role of court in reducing untouchability. In this book Rajawat described SC & ST orders (Amendment) Act, 1976 and SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Reserved vacancy recruitment, concessions and relaxations and promotions in job are also described in this book for SCs and STs.

Premlata Sharma(2002) in her book The Problems of Dalits and OBCs discussed the historical roots of the problems of dalits, the problems of scheduled Castes Development and social justice, role of Nehru on caste and reservation and the role of SCs in politics.

The book edited by S.Thorat and Umakant(2004), entitled Caste, Race and Discrimination gives idea about dalit intervention, caste, race and discrimination, dalit intervention, caste, race and internationalization and about discriminated groups in Asia and Africa. H.Kotani's edited book Caste system, Untouchability and the Depressed (1997) highlights the history of untouchability in India, depressed castes under British Colonial rule and liberation movements of the Depressed Castes.

A different kind of study was conduction by Dahiwale (1979) on Emerging Entrepreneurship Among scheduled Castes: A contemporary study of Kolhapur city in Maharastra to examine the emerging entrepreneurship among scheduled castes of Kolhapur city. The focus of the study was on the occupational mobility of self employed individuals, those who had chosen the occupation where they could work independently as masters of their activities as against the beneficiaries of reservations. In this study it is clear that the growth of industry, modern education, various egalitarian laws and special measures etc. encouraged the scheduled castes to abandon their traditional, degraded occupations.

G.W. Brigg (1920) in his book The Chamars highlighted the cultural account of the chamars of Uttar Pradesh. J.M. Mahar (1972) has studied about untouchables in his famous book; The Untouchables in Contemporary India.' He described the role of the untouchables in rural economy religions reforms, government efforts to abolish untouchability and the social and psychological response to the change of status.

The book 'Scheduled Castes' written by Kamble (1982) highlights the constitutional safeguards and observed legislative measures to abolish untouchability and bring them at par with other sections of Indian society by providing educational facilities and reservations in political, educational, occupational spheres which constitute the biggest core of welfare schemes for the SCs.

Anjali Verma (2004) in her book 'Harijan Students in Modern India' described the educational position of schedule castes after the British rule and analysed the results of attitude and level of aspiration.

The book edited by Rajni Kothari (1970) entitled "Caste in Indian Politics" highlights on the confrontation in India between the age-old caste system and the parliamentary form of government based on universal form of government based on universal suffrage vividly illustrates the manner in which old and historical societies get involved in, and provide content to, the modernizing process. The aim of the book is to examine the phenomenon of modernization in varying contexts in different national and sub-national setting, and through different methods of empirical investigation.

Om Prakash Sangwan (1996) in his book Dalit society and Challenge of Development (ed), described the social structure and the evolution of classes, Socio-economic profile of depressed classes, constitution and the politics of reservations and issues and problems of bonded labour in India. In this book Sangwan described the educational development of scheduled castes and their struggle for liberation.

Caste, Class, Gender edited by Manoranjan Mohanty (2004) focuses on the interface of social forces, Political institutions and processes. This book is divided into three parts. Part-I deals with caste and agrarian class of Bihar, the political economy and the working class movement in India. Part II of this book describes the caste system of India and reservation policy in India. Part III of this book deals with the gender inequality and social change.

The book, 'Caste Hierarchy and Individualism', edited by R.S. Khare (2006) highlights on Louis Dumont and the study of society in India and on elementary structure of castes in India. Susan Bayly in his book 'The New Cambridge History of India' described the caste, society and politics in India from the Eighteenth century to the modern age. This book highlights on historical origins of a 'caste society', the Brahman Raj, state policy and 'reservation', the politicization of caste based social welfare schemes in the every day life of Independent India and 'Caste Wars' and the mandate of violence.

J.K. Pundir's (1997) book on 'Changing Patterns of scheduled castes' has been designed to facilitate a factual understanding of the changing patterns and stages in the lives of the so far neglected sections of our Society. In this book pundir highlighted on the social development of scheduled castes, consequences of rural development on scheduled castes, Ambedkar and changing patterns of scheduled castes in North India and Social changes among Scheduled castes in North India.

Devanesan Nesiah's (1997) book 'Descrimination with Reason?' is based on the policy of reservation in the United States, India and Malaysia. The book deals with inequality and discrimination, India: Homo Hierarchicus', India : From 'Homo Hierarchicus' to 'Homo Equalis' and some recommendations.

B. Goswami (2003) in his book 'Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' described about different laws and acts made for scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This book highlights on 'The Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955(Act no.22 of 1955)' and The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (Act No. 33 of 1989) , and on 'The Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

Dr. M.N Sivaprakasham (2002) in the book 'Dalit and social Mobilisation' tried to trace the history of dalit community and their role in socio- political and economic system of India. The book is based on the Origin and Development of Dalit Community, Identification of Dalit Community, 'The Depressed : Dalit Women and described about the Dalit Politics and Christian participation.

The book 'Dalit Society and Upliftment' (Volume I), written by Sanjay Prakash Sharma (2004), described about social customs, welfare of Harijans, temple entry of sudras and social background of Scheduled Castes.

The book 'Caste in Question: Identity or Hierarchy?', edited by Dipankar Gupta (2004) highlights on the culture and institutions among 'Untouchable' Scheduled Castes in Karnataka, Dalits and their Politics in contemporary Punjab, Dalit mobilization and nationalist past and on caste system in rural Bihar.

K.L. Sharma's edited book ' Caste and Class in India' (2005) is based on the Caste, class and Politics in colonial Bengal, caste and power in West Bengal, caste-class situation in rural West Bengal, Caste- class situation in India etc. This book also

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describes about caste, land and political power in Uttar Pradesh, caste and class in Rajasthan, Caste and class in Maharashtra and caste, class and Social Consciousness: Reflections Contemporary Indian Situation.

In the book, 'Dalits in India' James Massey (1999), described about dalit history, dalit identity and Basic Rights, and dalit enabling strategies.

S.M. Michael's edited book, 'Dalits in Modern India- Vision and Values' (1999) is divided into four parts. Part I deals with untouchability and stratification in Indian Civilization, and who is a Dalit, Part II describes about Dalit Vision of a Just society in India and Dalit Movement in Mainstream Sociology, Part III highlights on Dalitisation, and Part IV is based on Scheduled Castes, Employment and Social Mobility.

B.R. Purohit and Sandeep Joshi (2003) in their book 'Social Justice in India' (Edited) highlighted the issues relating to the social justice in India. This book highlights impact of globalization on social Justice, social justice and political Empowerment of women and Gender Inequality and social justice in India.

The book 'Dalit Movement in south India, 1857-1950' by Dr. Swapan H. Samel (2004) provides information on Dalit Movements in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Kerala states of South India.

Nripendra Kumar Dutta's book 'Origin and Growth of Caste in India' is the combination of I & II volumes. The Volume I of this book is based on the caste system, caste in the Rigveda, caste in the Brahmana Period etc. and the volume II of this book highlights on the divisions of Brahmanas in Bengal and Rise of new professional castes.

The book 'Social Inequality in India' edited by K.L. Sharma (2004) gives information on inequality in India and green revolution and social inequalities in rural India. Anirudh Prasad (1991) in his book, 'Reservation Policy and Practice in India' described the indispensable colonial and post-colonial background to the present crises over reservation policies in first two parts of this book. In part III, the author highlights on judicial gerrymandering and identification of backward classes extent of benefit therefore, Part V is based on the search of the alternative of reservational benefits.

Vimal P. Shah(1982) in his book 'The Educational Problems of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribe School and college Students in India' tried to examine various programmes and problems for the educational development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country. This book contains the census type statistical tables.

B.B. Mathur's (1994) book 'Women and Depressed caste population in India' (ed), is a collection of research papers based on various aspects of population. This book provides valueable information on woman and depressed caste population in India and on various aspects of population. This book provides significant and valuable knowledge to the research engaged in population studies.

V.Sunderaj (2000) has contributed a lot on education, intercaste relationship reservation, welfare schemes, socio-economic condition, political participation and social mobility of Scheduled Castes in his book, 'Scheduled Castes of Rural India :Problem Prospects.'

The book, 'Social Justice and Dalits'(ed) by Mamta Rajwat(2005) provides information on roots and spread of evil, struggle for stratification , social status, special provisions and supportive steps like reservations and various programmes and schemes for scheduled castes, welfare policy, role of commission and schemes and plans for the socio-economic development of scheduled castes.

The book 'Class Caste Gender' edited by Z.Hasan, G.Saha and Kuldeep Mathur (2004) is divided into 3 parts. Part I of this book based on class Structure and the state, Part II is based on caste domination and political power and Part III of this book on gender inequality and social change.

The book, 'Caste, Its Twentieth Century Avatar' edited and introduced by M.N. Srinivas (1996) gives information on backward class movement in Tamilnadu, backward castes and social changes in U.P. and Bihar, Job reservation and efficiency.

The 'Encyclopaedia of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes'(Vol. I to IV) edited by C.P. Yadav (2000) is to understand and underscore the nature of change that is taking place among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of recent changes in Socio-economic scenario in India.

The book, ‘ Poona Pact and Depressed Classes’, written by J.C. Mandal (1999) highlighted the historical context of Poona Pact, and show how Dr. B. Ambedkar could rose the popular sentiments of Depressed classes of India through his efforts. Though the pact was a compromise, it started the process of enveloping these marginal groups into the democratic umbrella of India.

The book, ‘ Reservation and Private Sector Quest for Equal Opportunity and Growth’ edited by S. Thorat, Aryama and P. Negi (2005) give accounts on caste and economic discrimination, merit and efficiency of reservation, globalization, liberalization and reservation and remedies against discrimination.

Pauline Kolenda (1997) in this book ‘Caste in Contemporary India’ emphasizes the idea of castes as decent groups. Social and cultural mobility within the caste system is also described in this book.

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay in his book ‘Caste, Culture and Hegemony – Social Dominance in Colonial Bengal’ (2004) have described the historiography of caste in Bengal and social mobility and the status of women.

Considering the above mentioned pioneer works conducted on various social, economic, political, cultural and religious aspects of Scheduled Casts it is obvious that there are still a lot of gaps at regional and national levels. There is lack of studies done on the Scheduled Castes of Maldah district . Hence, there is a basic need to study Scheduled Castes in regional framework from socio-economic status. Therefore, Maldah district of West Bengal has been selected for in depth study.

1.4 Objectives of the Study of Socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes of Maldah District.

The study of socio-economic status of SC of Maldah Dist. has many ambitious aims and objectives but the majors are mentioned below –

- ❖ To describe the spatial variations in distribution of scheduled castes of Maldah district with reference to their major demographic characteristics;

- ❖ To identify the major economic parameters such as occupation of scheduled castes, their standard of living, food, clothes, house type, recreation, mode of transport etc.
- ❖ To identify the major social parameters such as education, migration, marriage, religion, family planning programmes, superstitions, political awareness and involvement.
- ❖ To find out the determinants of socio-economic status of scheduled castes of Maldah district.
- ❖ To assess the rural urban variations in socio-economic status.
- ❖ To suggest practical measures for the upliftment for the socio-economic status of scheduled castes, and
- ❖ To suggest a viable short and long term perspective planning for effective implementation of suggested strategies for their upliftment.

1.5 Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a proposed explanation for an observable phenomenon. The term derives from the Greek, *hypotithenai* meaning "to put under" or "to suppose." A hypothesis is a tentative statement that proposes a possible explanation to some phenomenon or event. Hypothesis is a proposition, or set of propositions, set forth as an explanation for the occurrence of some specified group of phenomena, either asserted merely as a provisional conjecture to guide investigation (working hypothesis) or accepted as highly probable in the light of established facts. It is a mere assumption or guess.

The following hypothesis have been tested during the investigation of the of socio-economic study of the scheduled castes of Maldah district-

1) *The level of socio-economic status is better among the literate scheduled castes as compare to illiterate scheduled castes of Maldah District.*

Rationale: Level of literacy and educational attainment is one of the important indicators of social development. Education is one of the important variable affecting demographic components. The age of marriage, rate of fertility and mortality, work

participation rate as well as types and causes of migration etc. is affected by the level of literacy and educational attainment of the population.

It is revealed from the study that the blocks with the concentration of high crude literacy rates have better socio-economic status than the blocks of low crude literacy rates. Percentage of large families, participation in low level of economic activities, percentage of BPL families, discrimination from higher castes, low awareness of laws and government schemes, low awareness of family planning measures, prevalence of dowry, low political awareness, low monthly income, low expenditure for education and food, low level of mobility and less exposure to mass media etc. are observed in the Maldah district where the level of literacy among the scheduled castes is low. For example in the English Bazar (U) area the socio-economic condition of the scheduled castes is better due to high literacy rate than the other areas.

Hence, the hypothesis is true that the literate scheduled castes of the district have better socio-economic condition than the illiterate scheduled castes.

2) *The level of socio-economic status is better among the urban scheduled caste compared to rural scheduled caste.*

Rationale: The study covers 1071 rural and 73 urban households. It is clear from the study of socio-economic condition of the rural and urban respondents that the both socio-economic condition of the urban areas is more developed than rural areas. The male and female literacy rate is high in urban areas than rural areas. The percentage of population with higher educational level is more in urban areas. The study revealed that the dropout rate in rural scheduled castes is very high and the enrolment of the children of age group 5 and above is low compared to the urban areas. Majority of the rural scheduled castes are illiterate throughout three successive generations (respondent, father and grandfather) whereas majority of the urban respondents are literate throughout all the three successive generations. It is also observed that 52.17% urban respondents completed their entire education without job during their study. Similarly only 12.69% rural respondents completed their education without job. The urban scheduled castes are more aware about the laws and schemes, political affairs, family planning measures etc. The income of the majority of the urban respondents is very high compared to the rural respondents. So; it is fact that the

socio-economic status of the urban scheduled castes is better than the rural scheduled castes.

3) *The level of socio-economic status is better among the non- scheduled castes as compared to scheduled castes population of Maldah District.*

Rationale: According to the 2001 census the general literacy rate of Maldah is 50.31% and male and female literacy rate is 59.74% and 41.67% respectively. On the other hand the literacy rate of the scheduled castes of the district is 42.18% and the percentage of male and female literacy is 51.73 and 31.96. According to the report of the District Rural Development Cell, Maldah, there are 7 blocks with more than 50% scheduled castes living under B.P.L. families whereas in all the blocks the percentage of B.P.L. operational general families is less than 50%. The percentage of general population is high in other working group and low in agricultural labourers compared to the scheduled castes. As per census report of 2001, general caste work participation rate of the district for men and women is 78.03% and 21.68% respectively whereas the work participation rate for scheduled castes men and women is 66.43% and 33.57% respectively. The work participation rate among scheduled castes women is more because of the fact that majority of them are engaged as agricultural labourers due to the poor economic condition. So, it is true that the socio-economic status of non-scheduled castes is better than the scheduled castes.

4) *The level of socio-economic status is better among the younger generation than the older ones of both rural and urban areas of the District.*

Rationale: The age composition of population is very important in the process of overall development of a region. Age composition helps in adoption of the new ideas, cultures, practices, attitudes which helps to bring benefits and prosperity. It is clear from the study that the blocks of Maldah district in which the percentage of the respondents of age group 30-45 years is more, are more receptive to various kinds of innovations and cultures. In these blocks small family size, high literacy rate, high enrolment rate in schools, low rate of dropouts, low rate of discrimination, low prevalent practice of dowry, better housing condition, more awareness in politics, family planning measures, high income etc. are observed. So, it is true that younger generation is more developed in socio-economic conditions than older.

5) *The level of socio-economic status is better among the economically rich Scheduled Castes as compared to poor ones.*

Rationale: The blocks of the study area in which the percentage of respondents with high income is more, are advance in socio-economic status. In these blocks the percentage of B.P.L families is low, literacy rate is high and dropout rate of primary students is low. Improved housing condition and high exposure to media is observed in these blocks. It is also revealed from that the majority of respondents of high economic status hold high level of occupation and majority of the respondents of low economic status hold low level of occupation.

1.6 Methodology

For the study of the socio-economic condition of the scheduled castes, the material and methods used for collecting and analyzing the data are explained under the following headings-

➤ **The Sample:**

- ❖ The households have been selected from the both urban and rural areas adopting Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement(SRSWOR) method. For the final selection a sample of 1% of the scheduled castes households from both the rural and urban areas has been drawn. The total number of sample households is 1071 rural and 73 urban.

➤ **Household Schedule:**

A household schedule has been used for conducting the field survey for collecting the primary data.

➤ **Variables Used for the Study:**

The variables used for the study are-

BPL families to total families ,Average family size, Large families (>6 members) to total families ,Earning population to total population ,Crude literacy rate, Male literates, Female literates, head of the families between 30-45 age group, respondents

preferring doctor profession for child , respondents preferring engineer profession for child, respondents preferring teaching profession for child, respondents preferring business profession for child, respondents' preferring cultivation profession for child, Respondent preferring private nursery school, Respondents completed education on regular basis , children who discontinued education, respondents' who think that financial problem is the cause of discontinuation in education , respondents' discriminated by higher castes, Respondents' aware of laws for Scheduled Castes, Respondents' preferring inter-caste marriage ,Dowry system presence in families, Respondents' aware in family planning , Respondents having separate Worship place ,Respondents casting votes regularly , Cultivators to total workers ,Agricultural labourers to total workers, House Hold Industry Workers to total workers,Other workers to total workers, Respondents having monthly income Rs. >10000, Respondents having monthly expenditure Rs >5000 for food, Respondents having monthly expenditure Rs. >1000 for education, mango producers to total workers, Respondents practicing fishing, Migrated respondents' , Respondents received loan , Respondents' appointed under reserve category, Respondents' believed that reservation is necessary in education and appointment ,Respondents' with savings, Respondents' disclosing caste never , families with increasing income level, families with improved economic condition, families with improved social status, families with improved educational level, families with improved housing condition,families with improved exposure to mass media, cultivators with increased agricultural products, cultivators with improved agricultural technology, families with improved food habit , families with improved dress pattern ect.

➤ **Statistical analysis:**

To find out the relationship between the social and economic parameters bivariate regression analysis has been worked out.It is used to analyse the strength of the linear relationship between dependent and independent variables. Correlation measures the closeness of the relationship two variables, i.e. one dependent and another independent variable.Correlation measures and analyses the degree or extent to which two variables fluctuate with reference to each other.

➤ **Cartographic Techniques:**

Cartograms such as bargraph, pie-graph etc. have been used to represent various socio-economic data for the depiction of the result of analysis. To show the spatial pattern of distribution, the choropleth method has been used. For preparing the maps, GIS packages have been used.

1.7 Data Source

The study of 'Socio-Economic status of Scheduled Castes – A Case Study of Maldah District' is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected through door-to-door survey and field observation methods, while the secondary data are collected from various government and quasi-government sources. The main sources of secondary data are –

➤ **Reports**

1961, Census of India

1971, Census of India

1981, Census of India

1991, Census of India

2001, Census of India

2006, District Statistical Hand book, Maldah

2010, EK Najare Amra, West Bengal Project office cum- District Welfare Officer, Maldah

2010 Report of the Additional Executive officer, Maldah Zilla Parishad Maldah.

2010 Report of the District Employment Exchange Officer, Maldah

2010 Reports of the West Bengal Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, Maldah.

2010 Report of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Maldah.

2010 Report of the BDO, Chanchal II Block

2010 Report of the BDO, Manikchak Block

2010 Report of the BDO, English Bazar Block

2010 Report of the District Rural Development Cell, Maldah

2010 Reports of the Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal

Besides these, various reports and documents have been utilized, district, state and national-level Gazetteers are consulted.

1.8 Research Design

1. Introduction
2. Geographical Profile of the study area
3. Indian Social order and the Scheduled Caste of Maldah district
4. Social status of Scheduled Castes of Maldah district
5. Economic status of Scheduled Castes of Maldah district
6. Suggested Strategies for the development of Scheduled Castes of Maldah district
7. Conclusion

CHAPTER 2

Geographical Profile of the Study Area

2.0 Geographical Profile of the study area

2.1 History of Maldah District

The word 'Mal' in Arabic means wealth and the name 'Maldah' probably signifies that it was an important centre of trade. It holds nearly the central geographical position in West Bengal. Throughout mediaeval periods Pandua and Gaur of the district were capital cities of Bengal. Gaur and Pandua are almost equidistant north and south from English Bazaar and on opposite sides of Mahananda, Gour being on the west and Pandua on the Eastern. Maldah has its rich heritage and colonial history is indeed one of the most cherished tourist destinations of West Bengal. Maldah was previously known as 'English Bazaar' and it got its name (English Bazaar) from the English Factory which was established here in 1771.

2.1.1 Pre-History

Maldah is the chief halt for visiting Gaur and Pandua. Gaur, capital to three dynasties of ancient Bengal – the Buddhist Palas, the Hindu Senas and the Muslim Nawabs – has seen three distinction eras of glory and has a major share in the history of India.

Pandua, once the alternate seat power to Gour, has the third largest concentration of Muslim monuments in Bengal.

The Barind or Barendrabhumi of Sen dynasty, in which pandua lies, comes into history earlier as part of the kingdom of Panduavardhana. The chief city of kingdom was Pandua Nagar identified by some authorities with Pandua. The Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang, who visited India from 629-645 A.D. describes Panduavardhana as a kingdom of 700 miles circumference, the capital having a circumference of 5 miles. The really authenticated history of pandua begins in Mahomedan times with the removal of the capital there from Gaur by Shamsudding Ilyas Shah about the year 1353 A.D.

It is unlikely that the Hindu and Buddhistic remains to be found in pandua should been brought from Gaur to the almost utter obliteration of such remains in the latter place. These remains are found over large areas in Dinajpur District also, whereas they are comparatively uncommon in Maldah District proper.

The location of Gour is 15 km south of Maldah town on the border of Bangladesh. In the 7th century Gour was capital of king Shasanka and was capital of Bengal for several centuries. Gour and Pundabardhana were very important trade centres to carry out trade in the Middle East and the South East Asia during the Maurya Empire. The Chinese pilgrim, Hiuen Tsang's accounts also gives information on the ancient history of Maldah.

The inscriptions discovered in the district of the undivided Dinajpur and other parts of North Bengal along with the Allahabad pillar inscriptions of Samudragupta clearly indicate that the whole of North Bengal as far east as kamrup formed a part of the Gupta empire.

When the Guptas over powered the Mauryas, the entire region of North Bengal came under the rule of the Guptas. As a result the kingdom of Pundravardhana became the part of Gupta Empire.

After the Guptas the beginning of the 7th century in Pundravardhana is marked with the rise of Shashanka in the history of Maldah. Shashanka, the most potential king ever been in Bengal, was originally the king of karnasuvarna. Shashanka occupied the extended area of Gour & retained his sovereignty for a span of long three decades.

2.1.1.1 PALA DYNASTY:

The dynasty of Pala kings begins at the end of the 8th century of the Christian era. The pala kings were originally Budhists, though the later members of the family became Hindus under Brahminical influences. Important kings of the Pala dynasty were Dharmapala (about 800 A.D.), Narayan Pala (900-925 A.D.) and Mahipala (980-1035 A.D.). It was in the reign of Mahipala, about 1030 A.D., that a famous gathering of Buddhistic monks attended by envoys from Tibet took place.

2.1.1.2 SEN DYNASTY:

The first member of the Sen Kings, Samanta Sen, is vaguely described as Brahma Khatreya by Caste. His great-grandson, Ballal Sen, the most famous Hindu King of Bengal, was reigning in Gaur in 1169 as a ruler of Bengal and Mithila. The fame of Ballal Sen rests mainly on the institution of Kulinism.

Lakshman Sen, the Son of Ballal, gave his name in the form of Lakhnauti or Lakhmanavati to the northern Suburbs of Gaur. He was the last of the Hindu Kings of Gaur, in 1194. He was overthrown at Nadia by Bakhtiyar Khilji, the Lieutenant of the Delhi Emperor, who led the Mohamedal invasion of Bengal.

2.1.2 MEDIEVAL AGE

2.1.2.1 MAHOMEDAN RULE:

Bakhtiyar Khilji made his headquarters at Gaur and from that centre established Mahomedan rule over the greater part of Northern and central Bengal. After the death of Bakhtiyar Khilji Ghiyasaddin Khilji ruled from 1211 to 1227 A.D. Ghiyasaddin is said to have corresponded with the Caliphs of Bagdad through the Arab traders who visited Bengal by sea.

After Ghiyasaddin, his son Nasiraddin became Governor in 1227 A.D. The period of direct dependence on Delhi lasted till the middle of the 14th century ; in this time the Mahomedan Power was Consolidated at Gaur.

Resistance to the power of Gaur came mainly from Orissa. Timur Khan, the Governor of Oudh, seized Gaur and ruled till his death (1246 circa).

Barbak, son of Nasiraddin ruled strongly and Gaur had prosperity till his death in 1278. After him, however, there was a period of frequent change of rulers. Faroz Shah built the Firoz minar in Gaur and several mosques.

After the death of Firoz Shah, Hossain Shah established himself in 1294. He ruled for 27 years and completely restored the fortune of Gaur, so much so that Gaur became a synonym for Bengal.

It was in the reign of Hossain Shah in the year 1509 that the famous religious reformer Chaitanya Deb became a sanyasi and founded the Bairagi Culture. Chaitanya himself visited Ramkeli near Gaur, where Rup and Sonatan lived. The well known 'Bairagi Mela' at Ramkeli perpetuates their memory. Another great disciple of Chaitanya was Nityananda, from whom derives the local Goswami family of Goyeshpur.

Hussain Shah built the Dakhil gate of the fort in Gaur and the tomb of Akhi Serajaddin at Sadullapur. He was succeeded by his son Nasrat Shah Who married the daughter of the Afghan Emperor of Delhi and gave Shelter to the Chiefs of that dynasty

after it had been over thrown at Panipath (1526) by the Moghuls under Babar. During his reign the Baradarwari Mosque and Kadam Rasul were built in Gaur.

In 1537 A.D. the Pathan adventurer, Sher Khan latter the Emperor Sher Shah, who had established himself in Bihar adanced against Gaur, which he took and sacked. Mahmud, uncle of Nasrat applied to the Portuguese for assistance against Sher Khan, but that the squadron of nine ships sent to him not arrives in Bengal till after the surrender of the city.

2.1.2.2 DECLINE OF GAUR:

Mahmud also applied for assistance to the Emperor Humayun, who invaded Bengal and retook Gaur Shortly after Mahmud's death. Mahmud was buried at Sadullapur and with him died the last independent king of Bengal.

From this time may be dated the beginning of the decline of Gaur, lost its strategic importance as the power of Delhi extended eastward, whilst at the same time a period of development of trade and commerce in Bengal was commencing with the coming of the Portuguese and other traders from the west.

Humayun remained for some three months in Gaur enjoying its amenities. He renamed it Jannatabad (the city of Heaven) as he dislike the word Gaur.

Later, in 1540, sher khan defeated Humayun and made himself Emperor. He introduced the fiscal division of the paragana into Bengal that in which Gaur lies bears the name 'Shershabad'.

After Sher Shah's death in 1545 Mohamed Khan, had been appointed as Governor of Bengal. He was defeated and killed by the Emperors general Himu. His son Bahadur Shah, however, established himself at Gaur and died there.

A pestilence broke out in which thousands died in 1573. As a result Gaur became depopulated and practically deserted as a result of this pestilence which is generally believed to have been some form of malaria. Thousands died daily; the livings were wearie with burying the dead. The few people that survived the plague left the city which was never again populated to any extent. Gaur was the capital of hundred kings, the seat of wealth and luxury; it had extended 2000 years. In one year it was humbled to the dust and became the adobe of monkeys and leopards.⁽¹⁾

2.1.3 MODERN ERA:

There after the Muslim rule lasted for about five hundred years before Sirajuddoulah was defeated by Lord Clive at the battle of Plassey in 1757 whence the British rule started. The period of British history of Maldah, points out, Maldah served as the part of Rajshahi and Bhagalpur till 1905. During the partition of Bengal plan in 1905, Maldah was decided to incorporate with the areas of East Bengal and Assam. But finally through a declaration of the Radcliff Award, in 17th August 1947 the district of Maldah was attached with the areas of West Bengal. So, Independent day of Maldah is on 17th August, 1947.

2.2 Physical Setup of the District

2.2.1 Topography:

The river Mahananda flowing through the district divides the district into two regions-

1) The Eastern Region and

2) The Western Region

1) The Eastern Region: The Eastern Region is known as “Barind”. The Barind Region consists mainly of old alluvium and relatively unfertile soil. The Eastern part is comparatively high and undulating.

2) The Western Region: The western region of Mahananda is further divided into two parts by river Kalindri flowing west to east from the Ganges. The northern part of Kalindri is known as “Tal” and the southern part of Kalindri is known as “Diara”.

a) Tal Region: Tal is a low lying area of the northern part of Kalindri and vulnerable to inundation during rainy season. Tal floods deeply as the river rises and drains by meandering streams into swamps or into the Kalindri.

b) Diara Region: The southern part of Kalindri consists of very fertile soil and is thickly populated, being commonly known as “Diara”. It is strewn throughout by old courses of the Ganges, upon the banks of one of which the city of ‘Gour’ once stood.

The district is a part of lower Ganga Plain and there are no hills, unless a few elevated tracts in the “Barind” be so described. Height of these highlands ranges

between 30m-50m, and being frequently intersected by deep water channels, stimulate the appearance of small hills. (Map 2.1)

2.2.2 Geology: The district is covered by alluvium. The Barind region is formed by older alluvium. The Barind region is usually composed of massive argillaceous beds of a rather pale reddish- brown hue, often weathering yellowish, disseminated throughout which occur kankar. The low land of the west of Mahananda and in the south is of more recent formation which consists sandy clay and sand along the course of the rivers. The formation is similar to the older alluvium of Barind in the west of the Mahananda.

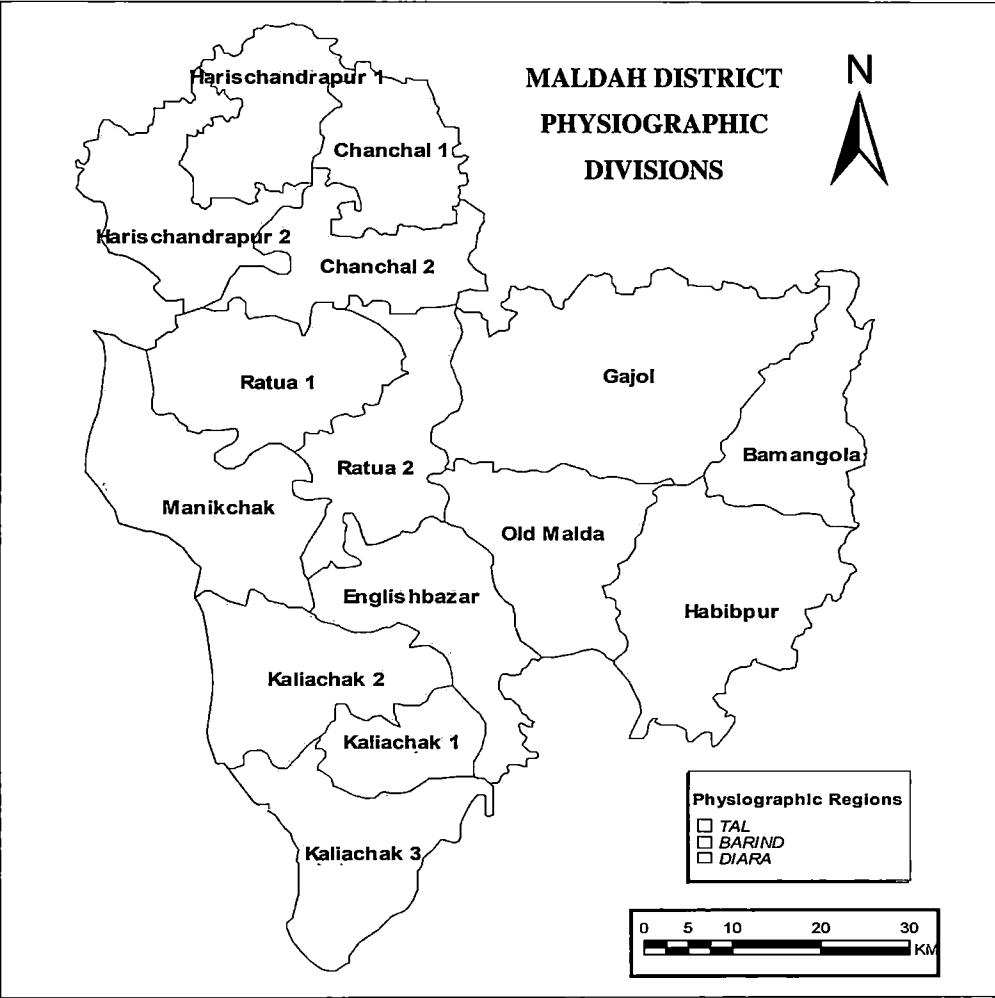
The present surface of the district is the result of denudation of the old alluvium of North Bengal.

2.2.3 Climate:

The climate of the district is generally hot in summer and cold in winter with temperature ranging from 4⁰c to 43⁰c and the highest annual rainfall of 1329 mm was recorded in 2006, during 2002-2006.

2.2.3.1 Rainfall :

Highest amount of rainfall was recorded in Maldah in the month of July (331mm) in 2003 , in October (515mm) 2004 ,in July(528 mm) and in September(405 mm)2006.Total yearly rainfall ranges between 1329 mm to 1919 mm from 2000-2006.



MAP 2.1

Table-2.1***Rainfall and Temperature in Maldah District***

Year	Rainfall (mm)	Temp. in Degree Celsius	
		Max.	Min.
2002	1381	38	8
2003	1652	41	4
2004	1919	43	9
2005	1579	42	11
2006	1329	41	5

Source: Meteorological Department, Govt. of India 2005.

Monthly Rainfall: Table-2.2 represents monthly rainfall of the district in 2006. Highest amount of rainfall was recorded in the month of September (405mm), followed by 260mm in August, 220mm in July and 178mm in July in the year 2006(Figure-2.1).

Table-2.2***Monthly Rainfall in the District Rainfall in Milimeter***

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
RF (mm)	0	0	12	62	105	178	220	260	405	71	15	1

Source : Meteorological Department, Govt. of India 2007

2.2.3.2 MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

In 2006 the maximum temperature was recorded in the month of April (41°C) and the minimum temperature was 5°C which was recorded in the month of January. So the annual range of the temperature in 2006 was 36°C . During 2002 to 2006, the maximum temperature was 43°C which was recorded in May, 2004 and the minimum temperature was 4°C which was recorded in January, 2003(Figure-2.2).

Table-2.3***MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURE***

Month Temp. $^{\circ}\text{C}$	J	F	M	A	M	J	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
Max($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	27	37	39	41	39	39	37	37	35	35	32	29
Min($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	5	13	18	18	21	23	26	25	24	18	14	12

Source: Meteorological Department, Gove of India, 2005.

2.2.3.3 Wind Condition:

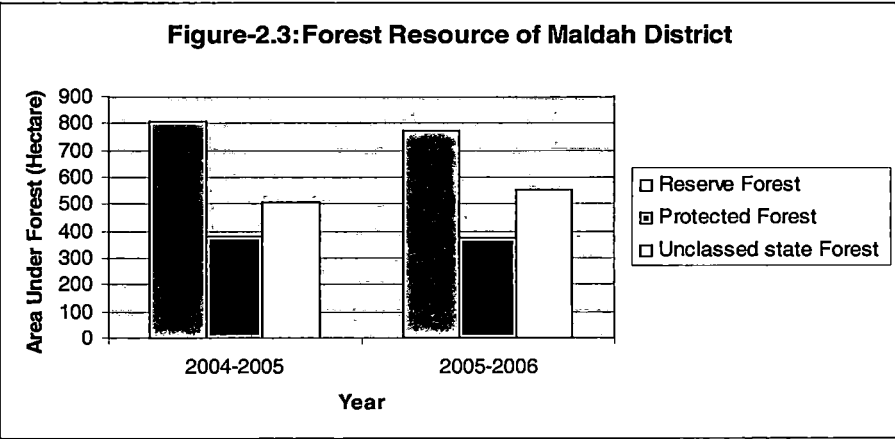
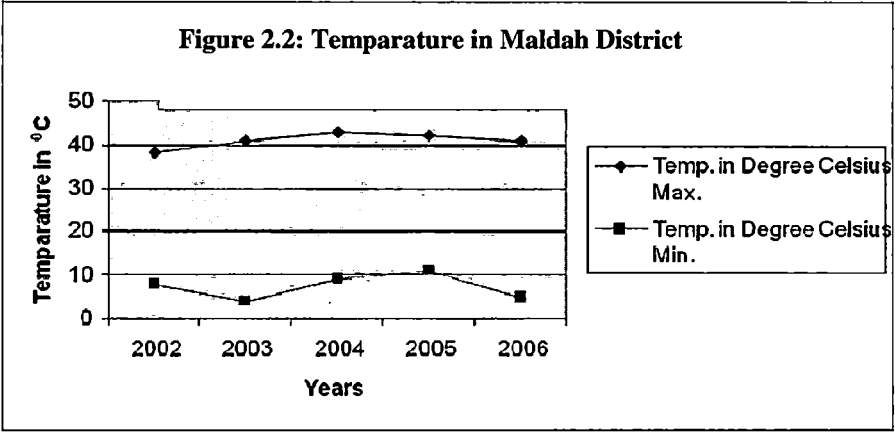
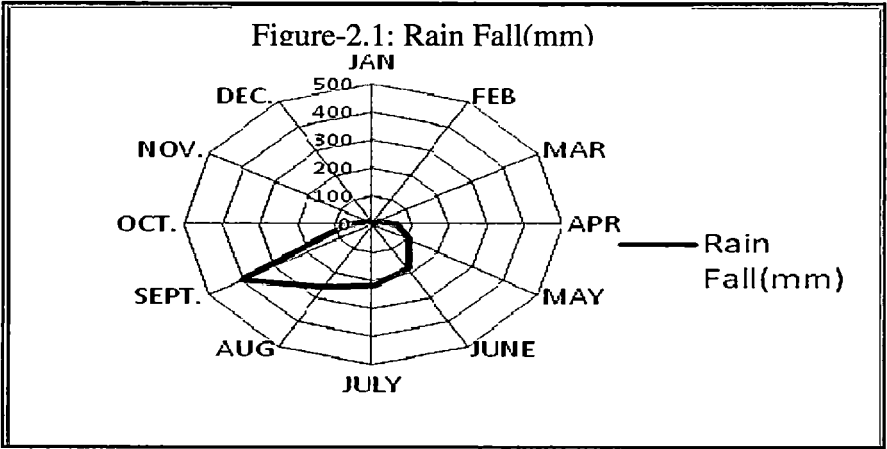
From middle of March to middle of May there are strong winds, hot and generally accompanied by thunderstorms, rain and after by hail of a great size. In December and January the cold weather disappears with the coming of the paschima of west winds which are usual in March and April. In May and June the air becomes stagnant and oppressive as the wind changes to the east.

2.2.4 Soils of Maldah Districts:

The soils of Maldah district are hard silty clays or a radish hue that has developed through accumulation of sesquioxides. Organic residues in this soil are highly decomposed, leading to non-acidic soil pH at levels as low as 6.8 in the Barind tracts of Maldah. Organic carbon content in the soils is also generally low at 0.54 percent in Maldah, as a result of which overall soil fertility remains at modest levels under unirrigated conditions. Nevertheless since the hummocky or undulating terrain in the Barind promotes a fair amount of run off and the hard of impervious clayey Barind soils permit little percolation. Diara region is a relatively well-drained flood land formed by the fluvial deposition of newer alluvium in the transitional zone between the Barind upland and the marshy Tal tracts.

2.2.5 River System:

The main rivers of the district are the Ganga, the Mahananda, Kalindri, Tangan, Purnabhaba, Fulhar, Brahmani, Pagli, Buri Ganga, Behula etc. The Ganga and Mahananda are of Himalayan origin and flow in southerly direction. A short account of the rivers of the district are given below-



2.2.5.1 The Ganges:

The Ganges first touches the district as it sweeps south round of the Rajmahal hills. At this point it is connected in the rains by various channels with the Kalindri. About two miles below Rajmahal the Ganges sends off a small stream, the Chhota Bhagirathi, which is presumably an old bed of the great river itself and is still revered as at least equal in holiness to any other part of the sacred stream. The Ganga runs first to the east and then generally in a southerly direction, bordering for about 13 miles the ruins of the city of Gaur. A little way further down, the Ganges sends off, also to the east, a larger branch, the Pagla, into which the Chhota Bagirathi ultimately flows. After their junction they flow past Kasnat merging near Tartipur into the Mara Ganga. The Ganges sends off southwards a branch which retains the name of Bhagirathi.

2.2.5.2 The Mahananda:

The Mahananda, flowing from Purnea, first touches the district at its extreme north, from which point it forms its north-eastern boundary for about 25 miles, receiving as its sole tributary the Nagar from the east. It then enters the district and divides the district two nearly equal portions, finally falling into the Ganges at the south most point of the district. Its entire course in the district would be about 80 miles in a straight line. Up to Maldah its average width is from 50 to 100 yards. Below Maldah, where it receives the water of kalindri, it widens out to an average of 200-600 yards.

2.2.5.3 The Kalindri:

The Kalindri enters the district from Purnea. The main body of its waters is brought down from the mountains of Nepal by the Panar, which assumes the name of Kalindri shortly before its entrance into the district. In the rainy season, as has been noticed, it connects with the Ganges on its right bank.

2.2.5.4 The Tangan and Purnabhaha:

The Tangan and Purnabhaha on the left bank are the most important tributaries of the Mahananda; these rivers flow from Dakshin Dinajpur district into the north-

eastern corner of the district. Both the Tangan and Punarbhaba have steep banks, particularly where they pass through their barind formation.

2.2.6 Maldah: As a flood prone area (Brief Description of the 1998 Flood).

There was a heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of west Bengal between Ganga and Mahananda. The recorded maximum rainfall was 418mm in 48 hours (Aug.24 & 25, 1998). As a result water levels of Ganga and Mahananda were steadily risen.

Due to the rise in water levels in both Mahananda & Ganga, there was drainage congestion. The tributaries (Fullhar Kalidri, Pagle, etc) of the river did not perform their intended task. Instead of draining the runoff from the catchment they started carrying the flood water of the Ganga & Mahandnda River to Maldah. It affected 2.1 million people in the Maldah district, 450 people died during & after the flood, 250 cattles were lost, 200000 houses were totally destroyed, 150000 houses were damaged & Standing crops in 150000 hectares were destroyed. The estimated cost of damages of the 1998 flood in Maldah was about Rs. 10,000 million (about US \$ 250 million at 1998 price).

2.2.7 Farakka Barrage:

The Farakka Barrage was confronted in 1971 across the mighty river Ganga to divert part of the main flow from Ganga to its tributary, the Hoogly. Before 1971, the main flow of the Ganga between Farakka and Rajmahal was more or less straight. After the Completion of barrage, the Ganga river upstream of Farakka started Shifting gradually towards the east bank towards Maldah due to the deposition of sediments on the western right bank. With the Farakka Barrage at the centre the river is developing a typical meandering pattern. Upstream of the barrage, it is meandering towards Maldah and down stream of the barrage it is meandering towards Murshidabad. Being located on the outer sides of meanders, both districts of Maldah (Upstream) and Murshidabad (Down stream) are subjected to devastating erosion.

2.2.8 GANGA EROSION IN MALDAH

As a result of Ganga erosion about more than 250 sq mile of fertile land has been lost till 2006. A few sandy shoal have emerged, which create inter sate boundary dispute. The Government does not acknowledge the newly emerged settlements as revenue villages. Below Farakka the river erodes the lands of India other side some sandy shoal have emerged within Bangladesh territory, create inter national dispute. This created a class of environmental refugees. Nearly 12,000 families of the up stream and about 15,000 families of the down stream have been displaced. These evicted families settled in different sandy shoal. They have been suffering from identity crisis because these sandy shoals (Chars) are classified as un-surveyed land. However inspite of the silence from the part of the government, the local community organized by Nagarik Committee as a step to institutionalize their existence has surveyed at their own and even attempted to submit the same to the local village panchayats. As a precautionary measure, sand bags have been deposited on river embankments, about 1.5 km long, at Panchanandapur. Besides, about 100 embankments had been strengthened at Sukalapur in 2003. All these are, however, temporary measures which will not be able to meet the threat. To check erosion, more permanent measures are necessary.

2.2.9 Forest Resource of Maldah District

Although forests cover very few part of the district but it play vital role in the economy of local people. The main forest products of the district are timber fuel and pole. During 2004-2005 the area under Reserve Forest of the district was 806.50 hectares but during 2005-2006 it decreases to 773.95 hectares. Area under Protected forest was 378 hectares in 2005-2006 but it was also decreased to 373 hectares during 2005-2006. The decreasing area under forest covers clearly indicating the rapid rate of deforestation in the district. But the area under unclosed state forest increased from 509.80 hectares to 556.05 hectares during 2004-2005 to 2005-2006. (Figure-2.3).

Table-2.4**Forest Resource of Maldah District**

Area by class of forest	Area under Forest (hectares)	
	2004-2005	2005-2006
Reserve Forest	806.50	773.95
Protected Forest	378.00	373.04
Unclassed state Forest	509.80	556.05

Source : Divisional Forest Officer, Maldah

2.3 CULTURAL SETUP OF THE DISTRICT

2.3.1 Population :

According to the census of India, 2001 total population of the district is 32,90,468 which is 4.10% of the total state population. The sex ratio of the district is 948 whereas the sex ratio of West Bengal is 933. Total SCs population of the district is 5, 54,165 which is the 16.84% of the district total population. The sex ratio of the scheduled castes of the district is 946 whereas the sex ratio of the scheduled castes of the West Bengal is 1044.

2.3.1.1 Growth of Population:

Table-2.5 represents the growth of the population of Maldah district from 1901 – 2001.

The index of population growth (1901 as base) in 1911 was 116 and in 1921 was 114. So, during the 1911 to 1921 there was negative growth of population. Except 1921 in all the decades population growth was positive in the district. The index of growth of population was 202 in 1961 compared to 1901 population as base. So, there was double increase in population in 60 years. In last 100 years (1901-2001) the index of growth of population of the district was 545. So, there was 5.45 times increase in the index of population growth (1901 as base) in 1911 was 116 and in 1921 was 114. So, during the 1911 to 1921 there was negative growth of population. Except 1921 in all the decades population growth was positive in the district. The index of growth of population was 202 in 1961 compared to 1901 population as base. So, there was double increase in population in 60 years. In last 100 years (1901-2001) the index of growth of population of the district was 545. So, there was 5.45 times increase in the

population during last 100 years (Figure-2.4). The regional demography of Maldah district has undergone continuous alteration over the period between 1901-2001, during which the aggregate population of the district has risen more than five times from just over 6 lakh to well over 32 lakh. Because of its contiguity of international and inter-state borders and because of its character as a cultivated region that can support human settlement of high density, Maldah district has been a important recipient of human migration waves of the 20th century.

TABLE – 2.5

Growth of population by sex in different census years

Year	Total Population	Index with 1901 as base	No. of Males	No of Female	No. of Female / 100 males	Urban Population	Rural Population	P.C. of rural population to total population
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1901	603649	100	300743	302906	101	17410	586239	97.12
1911	698547	116	348522	350025	100	18072	680475	97.41
1921	686174	114	344650	341524	99	17202	668972	97.49
1931	720440	119	362168	358272	99	19686	700754	97.27
1941	844315	140	425832	418483	98	27179	817136	96.78
1951	937580	155	476794	460786	97	35161	902419	96.25
1961	1221923	202	621990	599933	96	50785	1171138	95.84
1971	1612657	267	827706	784951	95	68026	1544631	95.78
1981	2031871	337	1042498	989373	95	97196	1934675	95.22
1991	2637032	437	1360541	1276491	94	186537	2450495	92.93
2001	3290468	545	1689406	1601062	95	240940	3049528	92.68

Source: Census of India 2001.

2.3.1.2 Density of Population

Table-2.6 represents the density of population of Maldah district in 2001. The average density of population was 706 persons per sq. km in 1991 which increased to 881 in 2001. Within the district there is great variation in the spatial pattern of density. It varies from 474 per square km in Habibpur to 2951 person per square km. in kaliachak I block.

On the basis of the population density Maldah district is distinct into 4 population density zones, these are –

1) Low Population Density Zone:-

This category includes such block of the district where the density of population is 474-665 persons per sq. km. there are four blocks under this category. These are Gazole (574), Bamangola (618), Manikchak (665) and Habibpur (474).

TABLE – 2.6

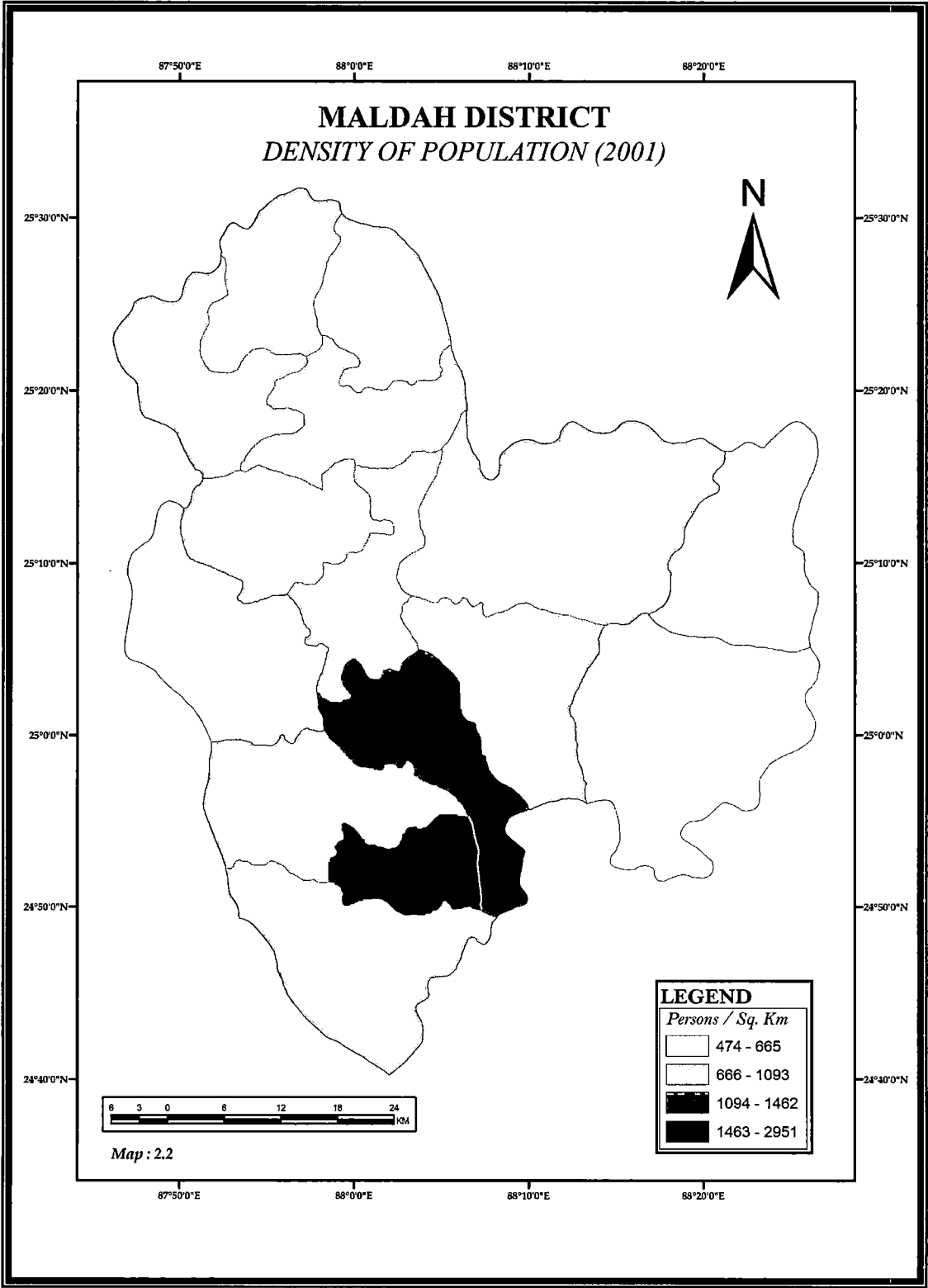
Area, Population and density of population 2001

Sub-Division/ C.D. Block / M	Area in Sq. Km	Population	Density	% of Population to District Population
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Chanchal Sub-Division	1160.44	1078101	929	32.76
Harishchandrapur-I	171.41	162406	947	4.93
Harishchandrapur-II	217.21	198039	912	6.02
Chanchal – I	162.14	174204	1047	5.29
Chanchal – II	205.22	165192	805	5.02
Ratua – I	239.53	217356	943	6.61
Ratua – II	173.93	160904	925	4.89
Sadar Sub-Division	2479.43	2212367	892	67.24
Gazole	513.65	294715	574	8.96
Banongola	205.91	127252	618	3.87
Habibpur	396.07	187650	474	5.70
Old Maldah	224.66	194214	864	3.99
English Bazar	265.15	387692	1462	6.88
Manik Chak	321.77	214127	665	6.51
Kaliachak – I	105.37	310935	2951	9.45
Kaliachak – II	222.73	211406	949	6.42
Kaliachak – III	260.12	284376	1093	8.64
District – 2001	3733.00	3290468	881	100.00
1991	3733.00	2637032	706	100.00

Source : Census of India 1991 and 2001.

2) Moderate Population Density Zone :-

This category is characterized by population density between 666-1093 persons/sq.km. It includes the blocks of Harichandrapur – I (947), Harischandrapur II (912), Chanchal II (805), Ratua I (943), Ratua – II (925), Old Maldah (864), Kaliachak II (949), Chanchal I (1074), and Kaliachak III (1093) blocks.



3) High Population Density Zone:-

The blocks of the district includes in this category wherein the population density is between 1094-1462 persons / sq. km. English Bazar (1462) block falls under this category.

4) Very High Population Density Zone:-

This category includes such blocks of the district where the density of population is 1463-2951 person / square km. There is only one block (Kaliachak I) with very high population density of 2951 person per square km. (MAP-2.2)

2.3.1.3 Working Population: Industrial Categories of Workers:

According to 2001 census, of the total working population there are 20.83% cultivators, 30.72% agricultural laboures, 15.61% household industry workers and 32.84% are other workers. Of the total rural workers 22.04% is cultivators, 32.52% agricultural labourer, 16.22% are house hold industry workers and 29.22% are other workers. Of the total urban workers, only 0.95% is cultivators, 0.90% is agricultural labourer, 5.54% are household industry workers and 92.61% are other workers. Whereas among the scheduled castes 23.88% is cultivators, 38.98% agricultural laboures, 8.30% household industry workers and 28.84% is other workers. (Figure-2.6a).

Table-2.7a
Working Population-2001

Social Category	Region	Cultivators %	Agricultural Labourers %	Household Industry Workers(%)	Other Workers %
General	Maldah	20.83	30.72	15.61	32.84
	Rural	22.04	32.52	16.22	29.22
	Urban	0.95	0.90	5.54	92.61
Scheduled Castes	Maldah	23.88	38.98	8.30	28.84
	Rural	25.05	40.87	8.22	25.86
	Urban	1.01	1.78	9.80	87.34

Source:-Census of India 2001

Work Participation Rate (WPR):

Gender differentials in WPR among different social categories in Maldah district in 2001 is shown in Table 2.7b.

Table -2.7b

GENDER DIFFERENTIALS IN WORK PARTICIPATION RATES, 2001

Social Categories	WPR for Men	WPR for Women	Gender Gap in WPR
General	78.03 %	21.68 %	56.35 %
SC	66.43 %	33.57 %	32.86 %
ST	55.84 %	44.15 %	11.69 %

Source:-Census of India 2001

The above table represent that among general categories the WPR for men is 78.03% and for women is 21.68% so the gender gap 56.35% in terms of WPR in scheduled cast the WPR for main is 66.43% and for women is 33.57% the gender disparity among scheduled casts is 32.86%. So the disparity among SCs is lower than general casts. On the other hand the gender disparity among scheduled tribes is very low (11.69%) in terms of work participation rates. It is also observed that the WPR for women is high (33.57%) among SCs compare to general castes (21.68%)(Figure-2.6b).

2.3.1.4 Sex Ratio:-

Table-2.8 represents recent change in sex ratio in the district compared to West Bengal and India. It is observed that in 1991 the FMR of the district was 938 and in 2001 it increased to 948. So, the decadal change in FMR was + 10/1000 whereas this change was +17/1000 and +6/1000 for West Bengal and India respectively. (Figure-2.7).

Table – 2.8

Recent Change in Female-Male Ratios, 1991-2001

Unit Area	Census		Decadal Change (1991-2001)
	1991	2001	
India	927	933	+6/1000
West Bengal	917	934	+17/1000
Maldah	938	948	+10/1000

Source : Census 1991 & 2001

2.3.1.5 Literacy: In terms of Human Development Index (HDI) computed for the West Bengal Human Development Report (2004), the district of Maldah ranked 17th of the 18 West Bengal districts. Educational attainments do reflect the nature and quality of human capital information in a society. But unfortunately the performance of Maldah district regarding general literacy and female literacy is very dissatisfactory. There is tremendous gender gap in rural urban, SC/ST categories. Table – 2.9 represents the position Maldah District regarding literacy in comparison with West Bengal and India (Figure-2.8).

Table : 2.9

Comparative Position of Gender Literacy 2001

Unit Area	General Literacy (%)	Male Literacy (%)	Rank in State	Female Literacy (%)	Rank in state	Gender Literacy Gap (%)
India	65.4	75.9	-	54.2		21.7
West Bengal	69.22	77.58	-	60.22		17.36
Maldah	50.30	59.74	18	41.67	16	18.07

Source : Census of India – 2001.

The table –2.10 represents the rural urban and male female percentage of literacy in Maldah district during last two decades-

Table : 2.10

Rural Urban and Male Female percentage of Literacy

Rural / Urban	1991			2001			Gender Gap	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Year 1991	Year 2001
Urban	79.81	65.83	72.11	84.65	73.99	79.47	14.98	10.66
Rural	46.42	29.57	38.28	61.4	48.33	55.06	16.85	13.07

Source : Census of India Rs. 1991 and 2001.

Figure-2.4: Growth of population in different census years

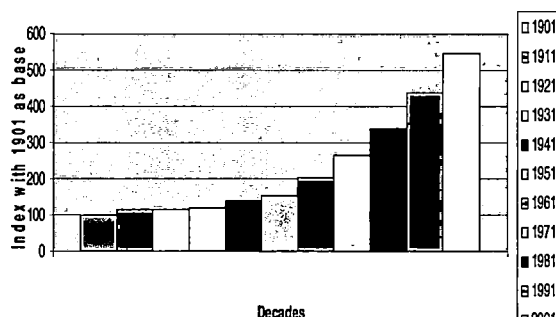


Figure-2.5: Male-Female Ratio

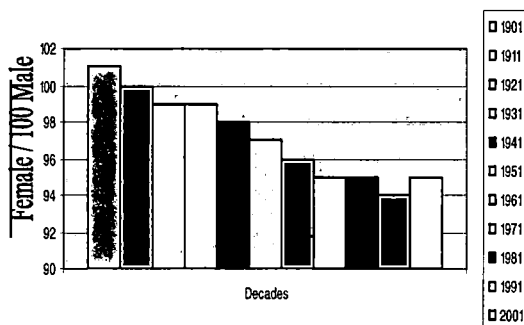


Figure-2.6a: Working Population-2001

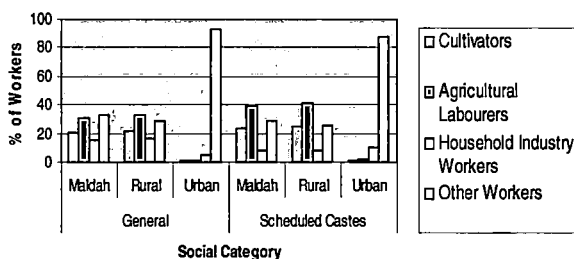


Figure-2.6b: Gender Differentials in Work Participation Rates - 2001

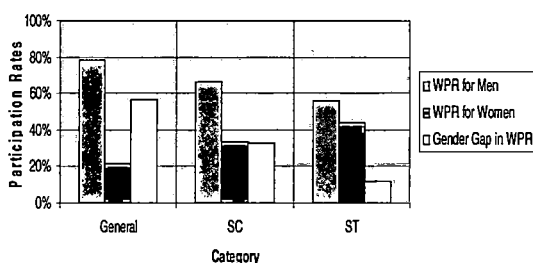


Figure-2.7: Recent Change in Male Female Ratio

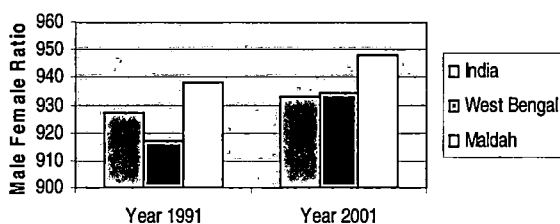
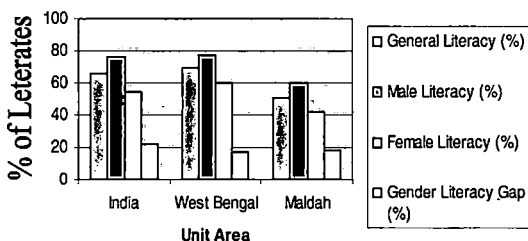


Figure 2.8: Comparative Position of Gender Literacy - 2001



From the above table it is clear that in rural areas the trend of poor percentage of literacy and higher gender gap in female literacy is higher than urban areas. Only the economic factor is responsible for this worse percentage of general and female literacy of rural area of Maldah district. Though the encouraging fact is that the gender gap in both rural and urban areas is decreased in 2001 compared to 1991(Figure-2.9).

2.3.1.6 Ethnical and Anthropological Characteristics:

According to 2001 census 92.68% population of total population live in rural area and 7.32% in urban area. So, the population of this district is mainly rural. The villages of Maldah vary considerably in size as well as in population. Starting from the partition of Bengal, a large displaced population from East Pakistan had settled in bordering thanas namely, Bamangola, Habibpur, Maldah and Kaliachak. The “Barind” area is inhabited mostly by a huge Santal population. In those areas which have considerable population of weavers of silk rearers of silk-reelers the village tend to become small townships of which Kaliachak, Sujapur, Peasbari, Manikchak, Ratua, Chanchal, Harischandrapur etc. may be cited as examples.

There are 554165 scheduled castes population which is 16.84% of the total population of Maldah district. There are 59 sub-communities of Scheduled castes population, of which Rajbanshi, Namasudra, Polia, Tiyer, Keet and Poundra are the main sub castes (Table-Appendix-II). Of the total Population of Maldah district 6.9% are scheduled tribe. There are 38 sub communities of scheduled tribes of which Santal, Oraon , Mores, Mundas and Malpaharias are main sub communities. In Gazole, Bamangola, Habibpur and Old Maldah blocks of “Barind” areas about 88% of S.T. population are concentrated. The scheduled tribes and scheduled castes people of this district are very much backward economically as well as educationally.

2.3.1.7 Religion:

The religious composition of the district population in Maldah is finely balanced between the Hindus and Muslims .According to the 2001 census 49.28%population of the district belongs to Hindu and 49.72% belongs to Muslim.So 99% population of

the district belongs to these two religions. and the religious composition of the district population in Maldah is finely balanced between the Hindus and Muslims. Other religious composition of the district population are Christians, Sikhs, Jains and others.

2.3.2 The Economy:

Maldah district is one of the most under developed districts of West Bengal. The backwardness of the district is characterised by low per capital income, low yield per acre of agricultural land, backwardness in industrialization, shortage of capital, lack of infrastructural facilities and shortage of large labour surplus.

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the district. The district has no known mineral resources. The main agricultural products are paddy, wheat, and jute and Rabi crops.

Production of mango is another aspect of Maldah economy. About forty thousand acres of land are covered by mango orchards, which, in normal years produce 3, 60,000 tonnes mangoes which in money terms comes to about Rs. 5.5 crores.

2.3.2.1 Agriculture:

Man is increasingly in need of food. Directly or indirectly he has to depend on plant for food. So, cultivation of plant or agriculture is man's basic and primary occupation. Successful cultivation depends on some suitable conditions – ecological and social. Maldah district provides with the most suitable combination of these conditions. A great variety of crops are grown in the district. This includes Kharif and Rabi and their intermediate varieties as well, covering both food crops and cash crops. Agriculture of Maldah is conducted both on subsistence and commercial bases.

Yield rates of Major Crops in Maldah District:

Table-2.11 shows that the production of rice per hectare has gone up from 2001 to 2006. In 2001-2002 the yield rate for rice was 2513 kg/hectare and in 2005-2006 it gone up to 2910 kg/hectare. But the production of wheat per hectare has gone down during same period. During 2001-2002 yield rate for wheat was 2616 kg/hectares

while it gone down to 2220 kg/hectare. Starting from 2001-2002 to 2004-2005 the yield rate of total cereals has gone up from 2524 kg/hectare to 2917 kg/hectare. During 2001-2002 to 2005-2006 the yield rate of total pulses was highest in 2004-2005 (909 kg/hectare) and lowest in 2002-2003 (738 kg/hectare). The yield rate for total food grains in the district was highest in 2005-2006 with 2615 kg/hectare while during 2002-2003 the yield rate per hectare was 2343 kg which was lowest yield rate during 2001-2006 (Figure-2.10).

Table-2.11

Growth of Yield rates of Major Crops (In Kg. per hectares)

Crop	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Rice	2513	2545	2745	3045	2910
Wheat	2616	2592	2431	2439	2220
Barley	1036	1010	1226	2044	1412
Maize	3229	2354	2638	2931	2660
Potato	17838	21805	20440	19337	15243
Total cereals	2524	2537	2663	2917	2778
Total Pulses	840	738	902	909	852
Total foodgrains	2352	2343	2490	2727	2615

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Production of Rice: Cultivation of rice in the district is closely related to the availability of irrigation water. Three types of rice produce in the district –

- Aus, the Autumnal Rice
- Aman, the Winter Rice and
- Boro, the Summer Rice

Among these three types of rice Aman is cultivated widely in the district followed by Boro and Aus.

Table-2.12
Production of Rice
(Production in Thousand Tonners)

Year Rice	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Aman	276.1	292.6	329.4	405.6	391.7
Boro	239.5	234.0	222.4	237.3	231.1
Aus	20.6	19.4	20.8	18.7	13.3

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal

By studying the above table we can say that the production of Aman increased from 276.1 thousand tonnes in 2001-2002 to 405.6 thousand tonnes in 2004-2005. But in 2005-2006 the production of Aman as well as Boro and Aus decreased as compared to 2004-2005. Production decreased 13.9 thousand tonnes in case of Aman, 6.2 thousand tonnes in Boro and 5.5 thousand tonnes in Aus production from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006 (Figure-2.11).

Wheat Production

The Highest wheat production during 2001-2006 recorded in 2003-2004 with 133.9 thousand tonnes followed by 132 thousand tonnes in 2004-2005, 129.1 thousand tonnes in 2001-2002 and 125.2 thousand tonnes in 2002-2003. In 2005-2006 total wheat production of the district was 101.8 thousand tonnes, which was 30.2 thousand tonnes short production compared to 2004-2005 (Figure-2.12).

Table-2.13
Wheat Production 2001-2006

Year production	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Thousand Tonnes	129.1	125.2	133.9	132.0	101.8

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Figure- 2.9: Rural Urban and Male Female Literacy

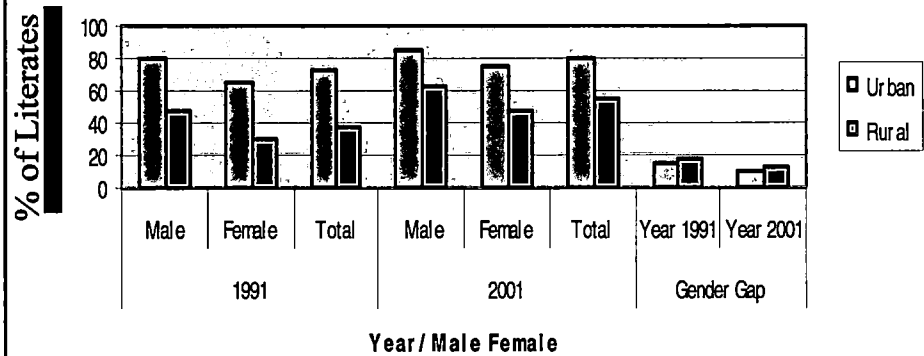


Figure-2.10: Growth of Yield Rates of Major Crops

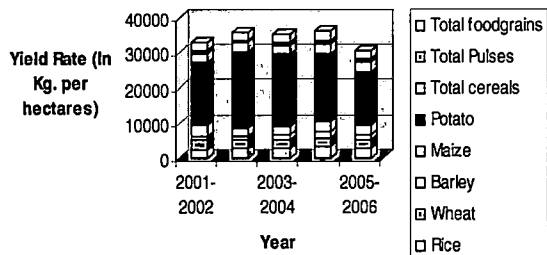


Figure-2.11: Rice Production

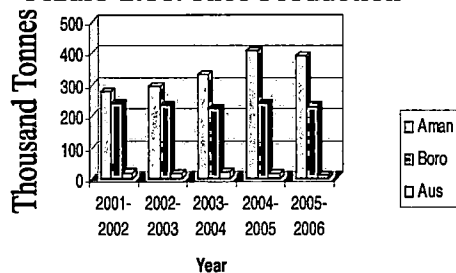


Figure-2.12: Wheat Production 2001-2006

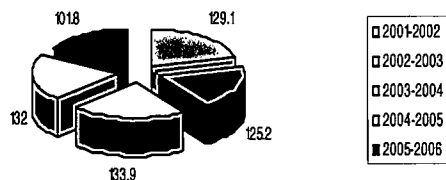
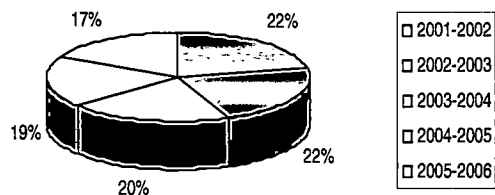


Figure-2.13: Jute Production



Jute Production

During 2001 - 2006, highest jute production was recorded in 2002-2003, while the lowest production is observed in 2005-2006 (Figure-2.13). The production of Jute in the Maldah district is shown in the table below –

Table-2.14

Jute Production (1000 bales of 180 kgs each)

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Production	370.8	372.5	341.9	324.1	298.1

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Production of Sugarcane: Production of Sugarcane in terms of gur was highest during 2001-2002 with 299.8 thousand tonnes while the lowest production of 207.5 thousand tones was observed in 2004-2005. (Figure-2.14).

Table-2.15

Production of Sugarcane (In terms of Gur)

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Thousand Tonnes	299.8	239.8	268.6	207.5	288.7

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Potato Production: The Production of Potato in the district was not uniform during 2001 to 2006. In 2001-2002 total potato production of the district was 44.5 thousand tonnes, 55.5 thousand tonnes in 2002-2003 and 38.5 thousand tonnes in 2005-2006 (Figure-2.15).

Table-2.16

Potato Production

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Production (Thousand Tonnes)	44.5	55.5	52.2	48.8	38.5

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Tobacco, Chillier and Ginger Production

In Maldah district the production of tobacco, dry chillies and ginger decreased from 2001. The Production of tobacco was 0.6 thousand tonnes in 2001-2002 and in 2005-2006 it was 0.1 thousand tones. Dry chillies produced 1.9 thousand tonnes in 2001-2002 and it decreases to 1.5 thousand tonnes in 2005-2006. Ginger production of the district was 0.4 thousand tonnes in 2001-2002 and in 2005-2006 0.2 thousand tonnes ginger produced in Maldah district (Figure-2.16).

Table-2.17

Tobacco, Chillies (Dry) and Ginger Production

(Production in Thousand Tonnes)

Year Crops	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Tobacco	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1
Dry Chillies	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.5
Ginger	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2

Source: Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Pulses: Total pulses production in Maldah during 2005-2006 was nearly 22 thousand tones. The total area under cultivation in the same period was 25.4 thousand hectares for pulsés (Figure-2.17).

Table-2.18

Production of Pulses and Area under Pulses cultivation during 2005-2006

(Production in 1000 Tonnes)

Year Pulses	2001-'02	2002-'03	2003-'04	2004-'05	2005-'06
Gram	5.2	5.6	7.7	10.8	5.1
Tur	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<50 tonnes
Other Pulses	20.3	18.3	19.1	16.1	16.6
Area (Thousand Hectares)	30.5	32.5	29.8	29.8	25.4

Source: Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

Figure-2.14: Sugarcane Production (In terms of Gur)

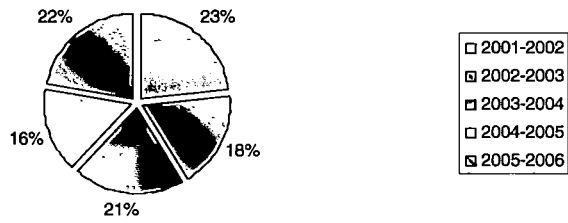


Figure-2.15: Potato Production

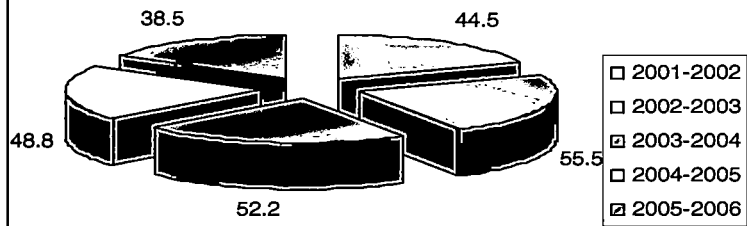


Figure-2.16: Tobacco, Chillies (Dry) and Ginger Production

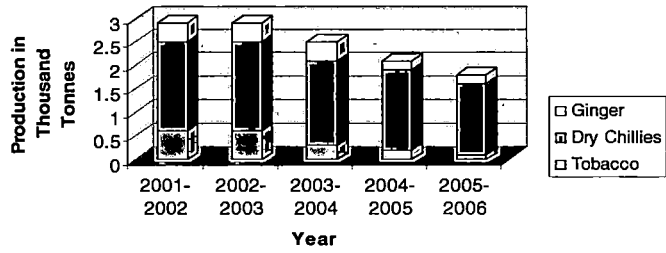
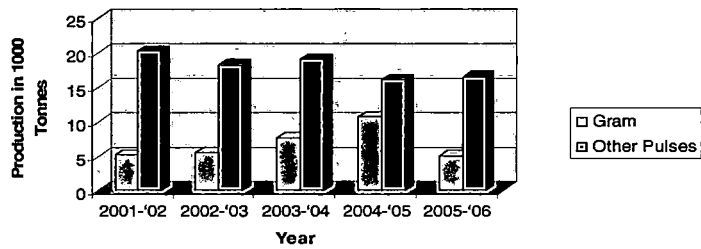


Figure-2.17: Production of Pulses



Barley Production: Among the barley producing blocks in the Maldah district the important blocks are Ratua II Gazole, Bamongola, Habibpur, Old Maldah, and Manikchak are important. Average barley yield rates of these blocks were nearly 1412 kg per hectare. During 2004-'05 yield rate of the district was 3 thousand tonnes and during 2005-'06 the production was 1.9 thousand tonnes.

Maize Production: During 2005-'06 the maize production of the district was nearly 29.7 thousand tones and the area under cultivation during same period was 11.2 thousand hectares. Production during 2001-2006 has gone up from 11.2 thousand tones to 29.7 thousand tones (Figure-2.18).

Table-2.19
Maize Production

Year	2001-'02	2002-03	2003-'04	2004-'05	2005-'06
Production (Thousand Tonnes)	11.2	8.4	20.4	31.9	29.7
Area (Thousand Hectares)	3.5	3.6	7.7	10.9	11.2

Source: Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of W.B.

2.3.2.2 Production of Fruits in Maldah District

The important fruits produced in the district are Mango, Banana, Papaya, Guava, Jackfruit, Litchi and Sapota (Figure-2.19).

Table-2.20
Production of Fruits

Fruits	Production in thousand tonnes				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Mango	253.88	63.68	86.00	145.00	150.00
Banana	11.60	12.53	12.70	12.84	13.15
Pineapple	-	-	2.70	3.30	3.80
Papaya	6.15	6.48	6.66	6.76	6.85
Guava	4.70	4.92	4.90	5.06	5.31
Jackfruit	3.40	3.46	3.71	4.06	4.31
Sapota	2.57	2.59	2.54	2.66	2.71

Source: Directorate of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.

Figure-2.18: Maize Production and Area Under Cultivation

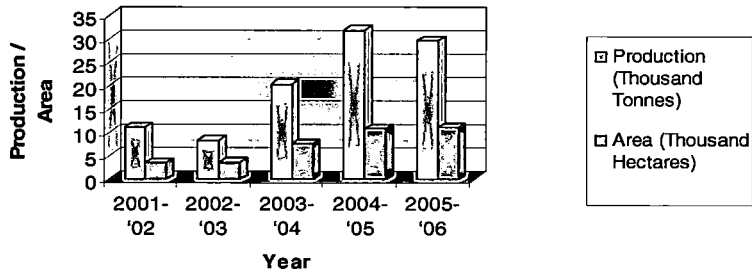


Figure-2.19: Production of Fruits

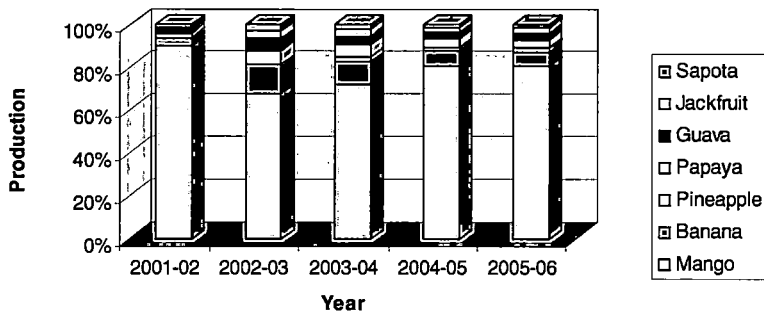
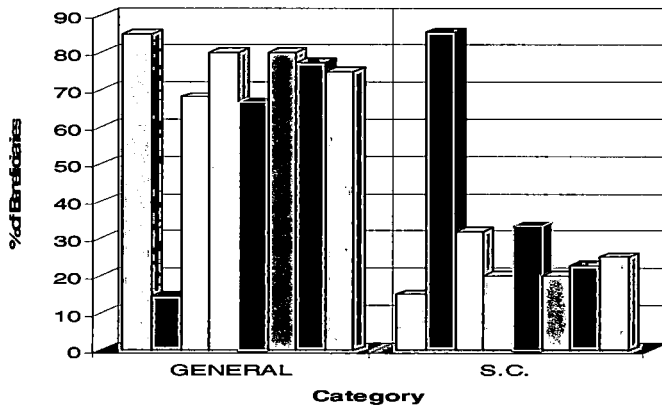


Figure-2.20: SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR THE SERICULTURE FARMERS, 2009-2010



- SUPPLY OF BED DISINFECTANTS Bivoltine Rearers
- SUPPLY OF BED DISINFECTANTS Other Rearers
- SUPPLY OF KNAPSACK (SPRAY MACHINE)
- SUPPLY OF MICROSCOPE
- SUPPLY OF HUMIDIFIER
- SUPPORT TO LICINCIATE SEED PRODUCER (L.S.P) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GRAINAGE BUILDING
- SUPPLY OF ELECTRONIC WEIGHTING BALANCE FOR L.S.Ps.
- EXHAUST FAN TO REARERS

1.Mango: For production of high quality of mango Maldah is famous and is known as “Mango City” of West Bengal. During 2001-2002 total production of mango was 253.88 thousand tonnes but during 2002-2003 the mango production decreases to 63.68 thousand tonnes, 145 thousand tonnes mango produced during 2004-2005 and during 2005-2006 the production was 150 thousand tonnes. The area under production of mango was 24.26 thousand hectares during 2001-2002 and it increased to 25.25 thousand hectares in 2005-2006.

The mango trade is one of the most important feature of the economy of this district and one which leaves important impact on the economy of this district. The price of mango varies according to its class and the effect of weather on the crop. For hail and heavy rains are most injurious to the formation of a good fruit. In recent years, there have been several failure of crops and there seems to be a cycle of good and bad years. A bumper crop usually comes once in four years and is followed by a bad year in which the production may come down to 25-30% of the average production ranging between 45-50% followed by a second bad year. The only consolation for such a bad year is that the price rises in proportion to the extent of failure of crop. Such fluctuation in the total production and price make it very difficult to reach an accurate estimate of the annual value of the mango trade.

2. Banana: During 2001-2002 the area under Banana production was 0.65 thousand hectares and the production were 11.60 thousand tonnes. The area under cultivation increased to 0.74 thousand hectares and the production was also increased to 13.15 thousand tonnes during 2005-2006.

3. Papaya: 6.48 thousand tonnes papaya produced during 2001-2002 and the area under cultivation was 0.19 thousand hectares during same period. The area under cultivation was 0.22 thousand hectare and production was 6.85 thousand tonnes during 2005-2006.

4. Guava: The production of guava increased from 4.70 thousand tonnes to 5.31 thousand tonnes and the area under production was also increased from 0.28 thousand hectares to 0.32 thousand hectares during 2001-2002 to 2005-2006.

5. Jackfruit: The production of Jackfruit also increases from 2001 to 2006. In 2001-2002 the production was 3.40 thousand tonnes and the area under cultivation was 0.29 thousand hectares. During 2005-2006 the production was increased to 4.31 thousand tonnes and the area under cultivation increased to 0.34 hectares.

6. Sapota: Sapota production was 2.57 thousand tonnes during 2001-2002 and 2.71 thousand tonnes during 2005-06. The area under cultivation was increased from 0.21 thousand hectares in 2001-02 to 0.23 thousand hectares in 2005-06.

2.3.2.3 Sericulture:

For the production of raw-silk yarn, Maldah occupies an important place in the map of West Bengal, despite of all backwardness. The annual estimated production of raw-silk yarn in Maldah is about 85% of the total output of the state. The production of raw-silk yarn in terms of money accounts to approximately 4 crore rupees.

Maldah district is famous for the sericulture. The economy of Maldah is significantly supported by the production of raw silk in Maldah. Maldah is the largest producer of raw silk in West Bengal and in the state's economy Maldah shares an important role. Table- 2.21 represents various government schemes for the development of sericulture farmers. The schemes are supply of bed disinfectants materials, supply of spray machine, supply of microscopes, support to L.S.P., supply of exhaust fan to rearers. It is clear that percentage of SCs is very low compared to the General beneficiaries. Only 15% SCs bivoltine rearers benefited under supply of bed disinfectants materials, 32% got spray machine, 20% received microscopes, 25% supplied exhaust fans 22.73% supplied electronic weighting balance.

Table-2.21***SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR THE SERICULTURE FARMERS, 2009-2010***

SCHEMES		GENERAL	S.C.	TOTAL
SUPPLY OF BED DISINFECTANTS MATERIALS	Bivoltine Rearers	34(85%)	06(15%)	40
	Other Rearers	175(14.58%)	1025(85.42%)	1200
SUPPLY OF KNAPSACK (SPRAY MACHINE)		68(68%)	32(32%)	100
SUPPLY OF MICROSCOPE		08(80%)	02(20%)	10
SUPPLY OF HUMIDIFIER		10(66.67%)	05(33.33%)	15
SUPPORT TO LICENCIATE SEED PRODUCER(L.S.P) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GRAINAGE BUILDING		04((80%)	01(20%)	05
SUPPLY OF ELECTRONIC WEIGHTING BALANCE FOR L.S.Ps.		17(77.27%)	05(22.73%)	22
EXHAUST FAN TO REARERS		75(75%)	25(25%)	100

Source:-Deputy Director of Textiles (Sericulture); Maldah; Govt. of W. Bengal.

References

(1) Lambourn, G.E., 1819; Bengal District Gazetteers-Maldah. The Bengal Secretarial Book Depot, Calcutta. p.p11-24.

(2) ibid pp. 8-9

CHAPTER 3

Indian Social Order and the Scheduled Castes of Maldah District

3.0 INDIAN SOCIAL ORDER AND SCHEDULED CASTES OF MALDAH DISTRICT

3.1 Introduction:

There is no satisfactory definition is possible to define the peculiar and complex Caste System. "It is difficult to define what a caste precisely connotes. The word 'caste' comes from the Portuguese word '*casta*', signifying 'breed, race or kind', *homem de boa casta* is a "man of good family". The Portuguese of the sixteenth century applied the term indiscriminately to the various social and occupational groups found in the subcontinent, and this confusion has continued to the present time. On the one hand, the term is used to describe in the broadest sense the total system of social stratification peculiar to India; on the other hand, it is used to denote three, perhaps four, more or less distinct aspects of this total system, i.e. varna, jati and gotra. Varna is not the same thing as jati, the former representing the four-fold division of society which the authors of the Dharamsutras sought to derive from one or other of the four varnas. By contrast, the gotra, or clan, described by Hutton as "an exogamous unit of individuals theoretically descended from a single ancestor," cuts freely across jati lines and possibly across varna lines. To this confusion of interlocking hierarchies may be added a fourth division when dealing with South India, where by the time of the Chola period (A.D. 850-1267) there had occurred a great and still unexplained bisection of the sudra varna into the "jatis of left hand" and the "jatis of the right hand", a division that still exists today and is reflected in the continuing rivalry between jatis of opposing hands." (1)

According to Risley, "a caste may be defined as a collection of families or groups of families bearing a common name; claiming common descent from a mythical ancestor: human or divine; professing to follow the same hereditary calling and regarded by those who are competent to give opinion as forming a single homogeneous community. The name generally denotes or is associated with a specific occupation. A caste is almost invariably endogamous in the sense that a member of the large circle denoted by the common name may not marry outside that circle, but

within the circle there are usually a number of smaller circles each of which is also endogamous.”⁽²⁾

Beteille has attempted to define caste “as a small and named group of persons characterised by endogamy, hereditary membership, and a specific style of life which sometimes includes the pursuit by tradition of a particular occupation and is usually associated with a more or less distinct ritual status in a hierarchical system.”⁽³⁾

According to Bougle, the French writer, “the caste system divides the whole society into a large number of hereditary groups, distinguished from one another and connected together by three characteristics: separation in matters of marriage and contact, whether direct or indirect (food); division of labour, each group having, in theory or by tradition, a profession from which their members can depart only with certain limits; and finally hierarchy, which ranks the groups as relatively superior or inferior to one another.”⁽⁴⁾

“The controversy over the terms, shudras, backward classes, depressed classes, dalits, harijans and finally, scheduled castes/scheduled tribes hinges mainly around three issues

(1) The origin, use and application of these terms;

(2) In view of the vast legal sanction, social recognition, though in a limited sense, and political approbation that these or at least some of these carry with themselves, the enormous amount of misuse and misapplication of these terms with a view to take advantage of the benefits accruing to them particularly after the advent of state intervention on the promulgation of the Indian Constitution;

(3) The *pseudo-legal* or juristic issue regarding whether as a result of marriage or conversion, etc, from or to an SC/ST family, the benefits accruing to these classes should continue to be or be made available to the person so married or converted.”⁽⁵⁾

3.1.1 Shudras: “Historically speaking, two terms, the shudras and the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes, are clearly identifiable as appearing at the two extreme ends of our civilization, the shudras having their origin in the Vedas and the SC/ST in the modern constitutional history of India particularly since 1950. Incidentally, shudras who were part of the four-class stratification of the Indian society and find a specific mention in the Purush Sukta of the Rgveda, the oldest known scripture of the world, have nowhere been referred to in the derogatory sense as today and certainly not in the sense of untouchability, which is clearly a later interpolation of our post-Vedic and even post-Manu scripts.”⁽⁶⁾

All historians agree that the harijans or the SCs/STs, as we know them today, were not classified under the original class of shudras as one of the four Varnas of Indian Society and were really the fifth or Pancham varna or the panchajanyas. “Dr. Ambedkar, in his research “Who Were the Shudras”, has come to the finding that the shudras were also Aryans initially, belonging to one of the then existing three classes- brahmins, kshatriyas and vaishyas – namely, the kshatriyas, who were the ruler and there were constant fights between the Brahmins and kshatriyas (including shudras). The latter were regularly oppressing and insulting the Brahmins as a result of which the Brahmins stopped ‘initiating’ the shudras and gradually they were relegated to the lowest position, even lower than the vaishyas.”⁽⁷⁾

3.1.2 Backward Classes:

The term ‘backward classes’ refers to the economically and socially backward classes owes its origin to a distant past and continued to be recognized by the Constitution, of the genes of which ‘scheduled castes’ and ‘scheduled tribes’ is only a specie. In order simply to give the latter a clearer identity, all the remaining ‘backward classes’ other than the SCs/STs are now being termed and duly recognized as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) officially.

3.1.3 Depressed Classes:

“The term ‘depressed classes’ originated in the minds of the social reformers, who wanted the Census of India (1901) to identify these classes as separate from

Hindus and to secure a place for them in the political life of the community in the form of a separate electorate. The Simon commission, while rejecting Dr. Ambedkar's plea for a separate electorate, recommended that in all the eight provinces, there should be some reservation of seats for the depressed classes. The Communal Award of 1932 announced by the British offered double seats for depressed classes, one as a caste Hindu and another as a depressed class. This was opposed by Mahatma Gandhi who conceded reservation of 148 seats for the depressed classes for 10 years, which was incorporated in the Poona Pact and finally the Government of India Act of 1935. These depressed classes included: (a) untouchables, (b) aboriginals and hill tribes and (c) criminal tribes." (8)

3.1.4 Dalits: "Dalit literally means 'depressed' but why this new term with all its confusions and misleading nuances, particularly in the context of the already existing term 'backward classes'? In fact, the term 'dalit' has been coined with the avowed object of giving these classes a more 'dignified' and high sounding meaning than the 'depressed classes' or the 'backward classes', till then in vogue. Though the caste clearly covered 'untouchables' in 1960s the Maratha writers of this community avoided the latter term or even harijans as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, and decided to call themselves as dalits.

3.1.5 Harijans: "The term harijan literally means folks of God, and Gandhiji tried to popularize this term throughout his life—it was a mission with him to brainwash the majority of Hindus calling them 'durjans' or the sons of evil, to accept the harijans as part of their own community---- a long battle indeed, which even today has not materialized. ⁽⁹⁾The backward classes were originally known as achhutas or bhangis, which by convention carried with it a bad odour. Gandhiji rechristened them as harijans by bestowing upon them an artificially superior status." (9)

3.2 Origin of the terms: Scheduled Castes/Tribes:

The provincial government of Bengal proposed before the Indian Franchise Committee the nomenclature 'scheduled castes', instead of 'depressed classes', in 1932. While reviewing the recommendations of the Indian Franchise Committee, the Government of India observed:

“We support Dr. Ambedkar’s suggestion that the term ‘depressed classes’ should not be used in the electoral law. He suggested either “exterior” or “excluded” castes. We prefer the proposal of the Government of Bengal that the castes so protected should be simply described as ‘scheduled castes’, a term which carried out with it no specific connotation of their actual social status.”

Accordingly, in the Government of India Act of 1935, a schedule was added containing the list of these depressed classes and these classes were described as ‘Scheduled Castes’ first time in 1935. There was no mention or reference to ‘scheduled tribes’ at that time. Dr. Ambedkar, chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution specified these two classes separately as ‘scheduled castes’ and ‘scheduled tribes’, of course without creating a separate schedule as a specific part of the Constitution, but only stating that the president may specify the castes and tribes which will be deemed as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively.

3.3 Evolution of Caste in India:

India is a laboratory of race religions and various cultures. From ancient times, India has been much attracted land for the people of foreign origin, the outsiders, more correctly the invaders. The historian, anthropologists and sociologists think that the Dravidians came to settle down on this land from some other parts of the world, even before Aryan-invasion. It is believed that the pre-Dravidian settlers were the native, the aborigines of India. It was, undoubtedly a savage and primitive society. According to the continental drift theory, the geographers and climatologists believe that northern part of Australia was linked with the southern part of India; another eastern part of Africa was enjoined with the western part of India’s sea costal- Maharastra, Kuch, Gujrat and Sindh now in Pakistan. ⁽¹⁰⁾

3.3.1 Pre-historic Stage:

“The Pre-historic stage of social development marks the starting point in the evolution of India’s life and thought. The remotest past, as is generally held, represents the age when man lived in a state of nudity and barbarity. There was however, a simple, democratic and dynamic state of primitive society, which marched towards a civilized

living only by slow stages. The natural simplicity, the hunger- satisfying activity and indiscriminate sexuality were the modes of human relationship in primitive societies.”⁽¹¹⁾

3.3.2 Dravidians:

The Dravidians were an organized race and first attacked the aboriginals of India. They were basically nomads and wanted a settled life. The defeated race of natives or aboriginals joined the social life of Dravidians and not mixed up in due course of time. Social scientists believe that Dravidian formed another stage of social development in the remotest past. In ancient India they developed their own civilization and culture which was more advanced compared to other race. They knew farming and domestication of animals. They were the earliest people to build dams across rivers for irrigation. They constructed houses and fortifications.

3.3.3 The Aryan Race:

“The Aryan race entered in India in groups. Gradually the Aryans had won over the natives, the Dravidians. In the process of diffusion, centuries old confrontation and contact with the indigenous people, the Aryan society underwent important changes, in their way of life, social thinking and culture. They were interested in permanent dwellings and establishment of tribalist socio-political system. With the passage of time the Varna system, which was initially social gradation, was on its way towards crystallisation.”⁽¹²⁾

There was clashes and conflicts for the social, cultural, occupational and functional division between the Aryans and the Dravidians and aboriginals. In order to avoid large scale intermixing of the natives amongst the invading race of Aryans a fourth caste, the Shudras came into existence.

“The conquered aborigines, or the Broken-men, were deprived of all claim for a place in the divinely ordained social order and on the community land. They were forced to live outside the village, and occupations regarded low and contemptible were assigned to them. They were the ancestors of the untouchables (now a distinct number of castes) and were known as the Asprashyas or the Panchamas. They were attached to the Hindu society and yet did not belong to it, having been assigned no place in the

social hierarchy of caste in the Chaturvarna".⁽¹³⁾ Some native tribes who easily submitted to the Aryans and accepted their faith and belief, rituals and cultural pattern were graded higher and those who did not submit and accept their faith were tortured and kept as untouchables. Thus, the Trivarnic societies become Chaturvarnic.

Rig Veda:

According to Iyer: "The earliest reference to caste is found in the Rig Veda, in which mention is made of four castes which originate from Brahma, the Supreme Being."⁽¹⁴⁾

The Purusha Sukta of the Rig Veda divides the entire society of Aryans and non-Aryans into four classes, known as Varnas. The Brahmin the Kshatriya, the Vaishya and the Shudra, created from Prajapati's mouth, arms, thighs and feet respectively.⁽¹⁵⁾

Brahmins or priests were just like bureaucrats of today. They were virtually powerful people. The Kshatriyas or warriors were the military personnel, the rulers. Vaishyas were merchants and cultivators, while the Shudras were menials and labours. Below Shudras were certain primitives and criminal tribes, defeated as well as degraded Brokenmen.⁽¹⁶⁾

3.3.4 Social Order during the Buddhist period :

In the Jatakas, a collection of folk-tales, there is an account of the Hindu society in early Buddhist times. The colour distinction so prominent in the Vedas has faded into the background, though its memory survives in the word varna, used for the social classes namely, Kshatriyas, Brahman, Vaisya and Sudra. Here the Kshatriya heads the list. The lords spiritual have not assumed the pride of place at the expense of the lords temporal, the Brahman is held in status inferior to the Kshatriya nobility. The varnas have not yet become caste. The Birth qualification has not yet developed to make them close corporations. Vaisyas and Sudras rise to the rank of Kshatriyas. Anybody can become a Brahman by becoming a priest. There is no endogamous restriction; a Brahman marries a Kshatriyas widow, and according to one Jataka, Buddha himself, a Kshatriya, marries a poor cultivator's daughter. Marriage within the clan is considered preferable to marriage outside it. But social prejudice and social convention stand in the way of the latter. Below the varnas there are hina Jatyo, low tribes, of barbers, potters or weavers-for example, a remnant of the Dasya tribes on

the outskirts of civilization. The lowest of all are the Chandalas and other outcaste tribes.⁽¹⁷⁾

3.3.5 Social Order during the Maurya period

Megasthenes, who was an ambassador in the court of Chandragupta (Sandrokotus of the Greeks) in 300 B.C., wrote an account of the social system of his day in a work compiled by him, and this was preserved by Strabo, Arrian, and other writers. His classification of the people of his day into seven groups is somewhat confusing. He speaks of the philosophers, the husbandmen, the herdsmen and hunters, the traders and laborers, the fighting men, the overseers, the councilors, and the judges and administrators. From the above, list Brahmans and Kshatriyas are easily identified. The third and fourth groups include Vaisyas and Sudras. The fourth would include all the guilds of armourers and ship builders of which Megasthenes speaks as possessing special privileges. The sixth and the seventh of Megasthenes groups refer to professional classes. According to Strabo's version, "no one is allowed to marry out for his own caste or to exchange one profession for another or to follow more than one business. An exception is made in the case of the philosopher, who for his virtue is allowed this privilege."⁽¹⁸⁾

3.3.6 Social Order in the Epic Age

The Ramayana and Mahabharata are two great epics of the Hindu society. They preach supremacy of Brhminism and divinely order. The epics seem to have imposed the Varna system as originated by the gods themselves. The Kshatriyas are also placed in high position. The theory of Karma with transmigration of soul is combined with Varna Vyavastha as the central doctrine of the epics. The author of the epics declare that various functions and duties of the Varnas are allotted to men in accordance with their nature which they inherit from their past. By doing service and Bhakti to the gods they can attain Moksha.⁽¹⁹⁾

The Ramayana is a complete work which believes in divine government and the entire universe is governed by God's dispensation. All castes are supposed to perform their duties, which have been assigned to their Karmas of the past birth. The Ramayana has clearly accepted the authority of the Varnashram Dharma. The Mahabharata also accepts the authority of the divine social order, Karma and

transmigration. It believes that a man is born in high or low caste because of his Karma in the previous birth. The central theme, which identical with Gita is that one should perform his duties without caring for the reward (Nishkam Kama). Mahabharata has the complete faith in the divine origin of Varna Vyavastha. It resembles almost with the doctrine of Purusha Sukta of Rig Veda.

Surprisingly, the epics deny the right of Upanayana of Shudras and re-establish the Brahmin supremacy which was challenged by the Upanishads. Epics thus revive the hold of priests on Shudras, who were treated as Asuras. Demons, Rakshasas. Chandalas etc.⁽²⁰⁾

3.3.7 SOCIAL DETERIORATION OF THE VAISHYAS

In the Buddhist period, Vaisyas and Sudras were not to be found as pure castes, nor did they represent groups anywhere. There is no mention anywhere of a member of any particular professional caste belonging to either Dasya varna or Sudra varna. The real distinction existed only during the Vedic period. Even during the early period of the Brahmanas, the distinction had almost vanished, and in later periods still more so. In the early Buddhist period, mention is made of Gahapat or Grahapati, as a landowning and mercantile class which ranked below Kshatriyas and Brahmins. Gradually the Vaisyas underwent a kind of social degradation.

Chandra and Mittra identified the following reasons for the social deterioration of the Vaisyas:

- The rapid increase in number of the Kshatriyas, coupled with the expansion of the Aryan domination, and the advance from tribalism towards feudalism and oligarchy;
- The advancement and separation of the sacerdotal class from the common people, and their domination over them. The Vaisya, according to Taittiriya Samhita, lived only to be exploited by the Brahmins and Kshatriyas. Numerous passages attest to their inferiority to the first two twice-born classes;
- The abundant supply of slave labour in farming, pasturing and industrial arts, and the close association with certain branches of industry, together with a

growing contempt for manual labour which brought the industries themselves low in the estimation of the higher classes. The separation of Rathakaras (chariot-makers), Takshan (carpenters) and Kamaras (workers in brass) from the Vaisya community is an instance in point. Thus the artisan classes became separated from the Vaisyas, among whom there were merchants and farmers. At the outset there was no distinction, and gradually a Vaisya farmer was looked upon as inferior in status to a Vaisya merchant. In the Jataka literature, it is said that merchants alone formed what might be called the Vaisya community, while others sank to the status of Sudras;

➤ During the Vedic period all professions and industries were in the hands of the Aryans. But after the intermingling of the Aryan with non-Aryan races the industrial and economic life of the people became very much changed. A large number of occupations fell to the lot of lower classes;

➤ When the colour bar and purity of blood came to be considered, the cultured and the ruling classes adopted a policy of segregation and avoided intermarriage and interdining with the non-Aryan peoples.

3.4 Scheduled Castes of Maldah District:

Scheduled castes commonly known as 'Untouchables', 'Chamars', 'Harijans', 'Down Trodden', 'Dalits', 'Bhangis', 'Sudras' etc. Scheduled castes constitute about one sixth of the total population of Maldah with a lot of spatio - temporal variations ranging from almost negligible (2.68% of Kaliachak-1) to as high as 49.87% of Bamangola block. Prior to independence and even later, they had been the poorest of the poor, and socially and economically most backward caste of the country. In spite of many socio-economic securities provided to them in the constitution and by the government, they are still comparatively less educated, backward and in the dilemma of privilege and exploitation. This could be attributed to a variety of reasons such as illiteracy, social evils like gambling, liquor and litigation, superstition, dominance of higher castes, deprivation from socio-economic status due to their treatment as 'Sudras in the society' stratification on Manu system, inferiority complex against other castes and misuse of privileges and rights constitutionally provided to them.

Article 366 (24) of the Constitution of India has defined the term Scheduled Castes as follows:

Scheduled Castes means such castes, races or tribes as are deemed, under Article 341, to be Scheduled Castes, for the purposes of the Constitution.

In the year 1935 the then British Government in India prepared for the first time a list of castes, which are referred to as Scheduled Castes. But during the ancient and medieval periods they were known as panchamas i.e. fifth group, Chandals i.e. heathens or outcastes and Antyajias i.e. lowest castes. During the British period they came to be called first as Depressed classes, later as Harijans i.e. children of God and finally as Scheduled castes i.e. castes listed in the Government Scheduled.

The census of India 1901 identified some unclean castes suffering from disabilities and classified them as Unclean Castes. The Maharaja of Baroda used the term Untouchables first time before the Depressed Classes Mission of Bombay in 1909. The Census Report of 1931 listed out 31 castes and called them Exterior Castes. In 1932 the word Depressed Castes and Exterior Castes were officially defined as the Untouchables. In the year 1933 Mahatma Gandhi adopted the word Harijans for the Avarnas. In 1935 the Simon Commission recommended the term Scheduled Castes which was adopted by the British Government as a substitute to all other words hitherto use for identifying untouchables. Consequently certain castes were listed in the Provinces of Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, Central Provinces, Madras, Orissa, Punjab and Bombay, Central Provinces, taking into consideration the social, economic, and educational backwardness in the historical context of untouchability.

Ambedkar appeared as the leader of the untouchables in Maharashtra by 1920. He was the first highly educated and active leader from within the community. In 1924, he formed "Bahiskrit Hitkarini Sabha", an educational and cultural organization which aimed at improving the social conditions of the untouchables. The work of this organization continued for many years even though Ambedkar became their recognized leader. In 1942, Ambedkar founded the "Scheduled Caste Federation" and taught these caste men to struggle for their rights. The Federation, however, could not become a powerful organization through out the country mainly because of lack of resources and machinery necessary for making the organization strong and powerful. However, it is sure that the efforts of Ambedkar were necessarily responsible for this mass awakening but it was also indirectly produced by other movements directed

against the British rule. The hidden social discrimination, however, which has its origin in the traditions and upbringing of the Indian people still remains and will only change when attitudes change.

3.4.1 Spatial Pattern of Variations of Scheduled Castes in Maldah District:

The table-3.1 represents that there is high variation in the concentration of the SCs. The highest concentration of SCs is found in Bamangola block (49.87%), while the lowest concentration is found in Kaliachak block (2.68%).

Table-3.1

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION , (RURAL),2001

SL No.	BLOCK	TOTAL POPULATION	Scheduled Castes Population	MALE	FEMALE
1.	RATUA-1	217356	17646 (8.12%)	9109 (4.09%)	8537 (3.93%)
2.	RATUA-2	160904	12812 (7.96%)	6531 (4.06%)	6281 (3.90%)
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	162406	40806 (25.12%)	20921 (12.88%)	19885 (12.24%)
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	198039	22126 (11.17%)	11480 (5.79%)	10646(5.38%)
5.	KALIACHAK-1	310935	8337(2.68%)	4337(1.39%)	4000(1.29)
6.	KALIACHAK-2	211406	17349(8.20%)	8967(4.24%)	8382(3.96%)
7.	KALIACHAK-3	284376	22351(7.85%)	11501(4.04%)	10850(3.81%)
8.	HABIBPUR	171125	81349(47.53%)	41458(24.22 %)	39891(23.31 %)
9.	BAMANGOLA	127252	63459(49.87%)	32810(25.78 %)	30649(24.09 %)
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	226236	35085(15.50%)	18262(8.07%)	16823(7.43%)
11.	OLD MALDAH	131255	36572(15.81%)	18822(8.14%)	17750(7.67%)
12.	MANIKCHALK	214127	24192(11.29%)	12527(5.85%)	11665(5.44%)
13.	GAZOLE	294715	98649(33.47%)	50683(17.19 %)	47966(16.28 %)
14.	CHANCHAL-1	174204	23736(13.62%)	12076(6.93%)	11660(6.69%)
15.	CHANCHAL-2	165192	14518(8.78%)	7275(4.40%)	7243(4.38%)
TOTAL		3049528	518987	266759	252228

Source:-CENSUS OF INDIA-2001

Depending on the percentage of the SCs to total population of the block, Maldah district is divided into 3 zones i.e. (Map-3.1)

A) Areas of Very Low Concentration: Kaliachak-I falls under this category with the concentration of SCs 3%.

B) Areas of Low Concentration: Ratua-I, Manikchak, Ratua-II, Kaliachak-III, Kaliachak-II, Harischandrapur-II and Chanchal-II are the areas of low concentration accounting percentage of SCs 4-11%, to total population of the block.

C) Areas of Moderate Concentration: Old Maldah, Chanchal-I and English Bazar are the areas of moderate concentration accounting percentage of SCs 12-16, to total population of the block.

D) Areas of High Concentration: High concentration of the SCs is found in the 2 blocks of the district viz. Gazole and Harischandrapur-I, with concentration of SCs 17-33%.

E) Areas of Very High Concentration: Habibpur and Bamangola are the areas of very high concentration accounting percentage of SCs 34-50, to total population of the block.

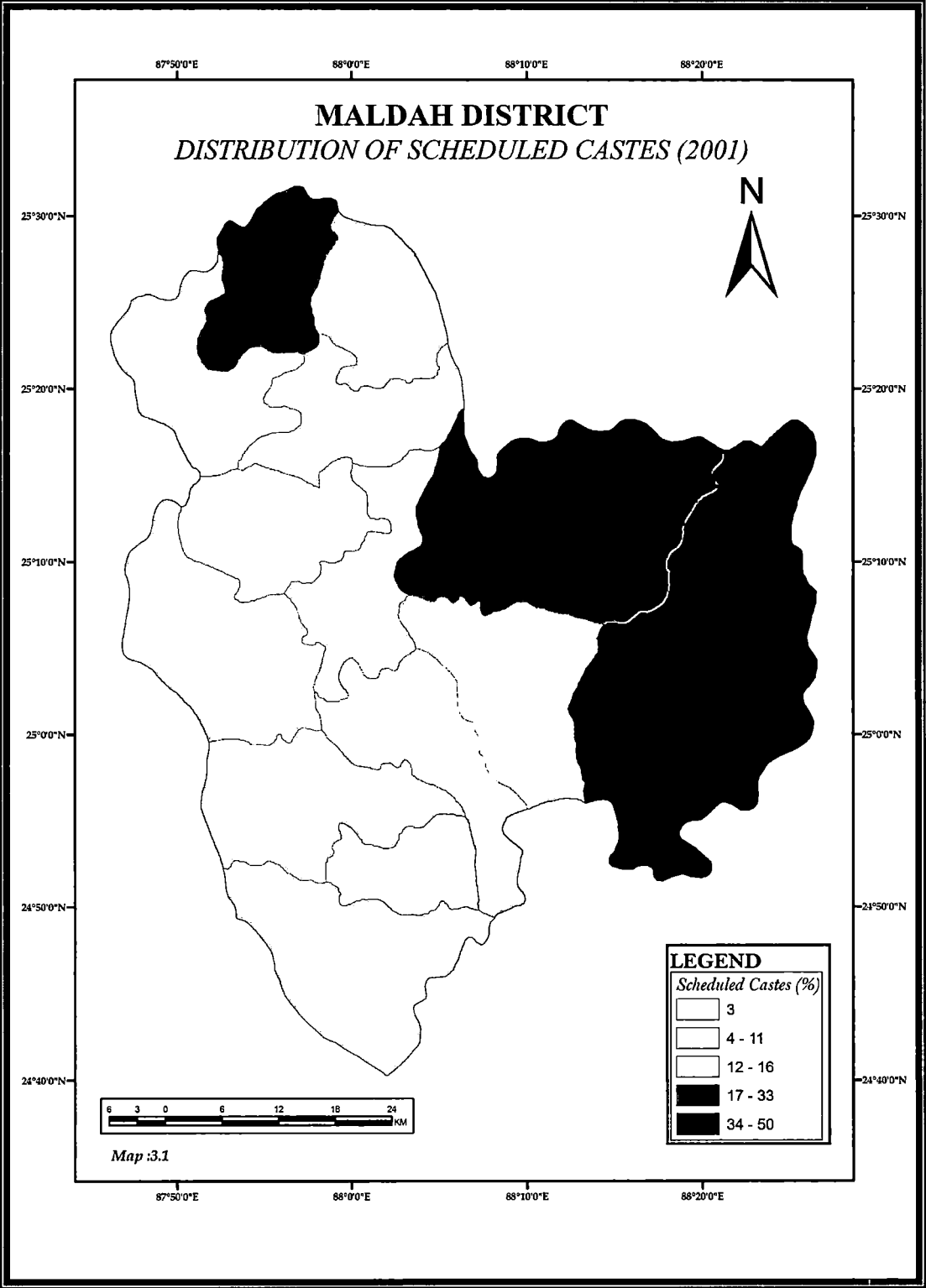
The table- 3.2 represents that moderate to high concentration of SCs is observed in urban centres of the district. All the urban centres except Aiho (with high concentration, >30%), falls under the category of moderate concentration (15-30%) of the SCs.

Table-3.2

URBAN SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION, 2001

Sl. No	Urban Centres	TOTAL POPULATION	Scheduled Castes Population	MALE	FEMALE
1	OLD MALDAH(M)	62959	11365(18.05 %)	5831(9.26%)	5534(8.79%)
2	ENGLISH BAZAR(M)	161456	18297(29.06 %)	9363(14.87 %)	8934(14.19 %)
3	KACHU PUKUR(C.T)	5343	1593(29.81%)	795(14.88%)	798(14.93%)
4	KENDUA(C.T)	5773	1655(28.67%)	827(14.33%)	828(14.34%)
5	AIHO(C.T)	5409	2268(41.93%)	1151(21.28 %)	1117(20.65 %)
Total		240940	35178	17967	17211

Source:-CENSUS OF INDIA-2001



3.4.2 RURAL-URBAN VARIATIONS IN SEX RATIO OF THE SCs OF MALDAH DISTRICT:

The table -3.3 indicates that the sex ratio of SCs of Maldah district is 946.It is 945 in rural areas whereas it is 958 in urban areas.So, the number of females than males is high in urban areas compared to rural areas(Figure-3.3).

Table-3.3
RURAL-URBAN VARIATIONS IN SEX RATIO, 2001.

Settlements	Scheduled Castes Population			
	Total	Male	Female	Sex-Ratio
Rural	518987	266759	252228	945
Urban	35178	17967	17211	958
Total	554165	284726	269439	946

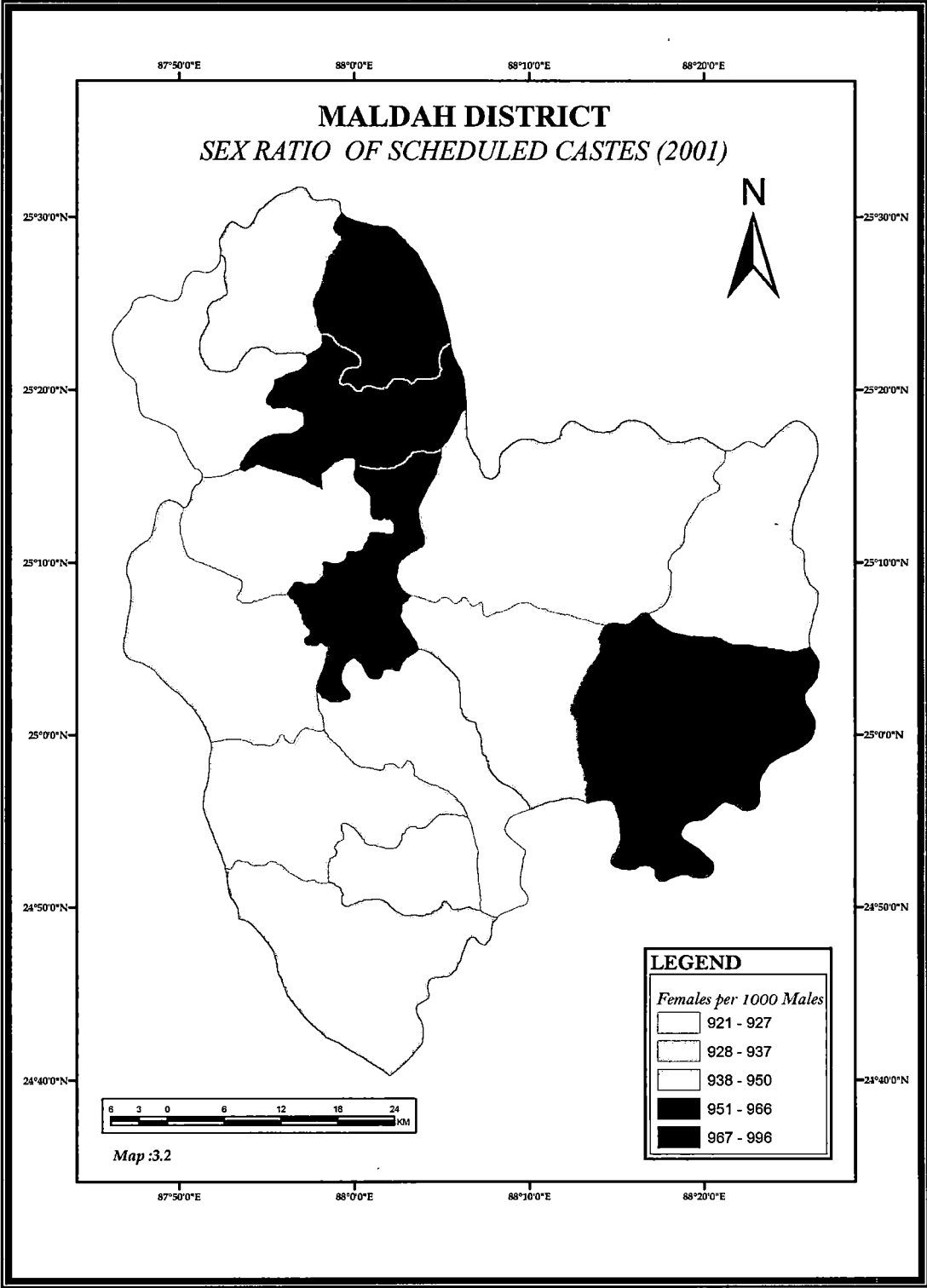
Source:-CENSUS OF INDIA-2001

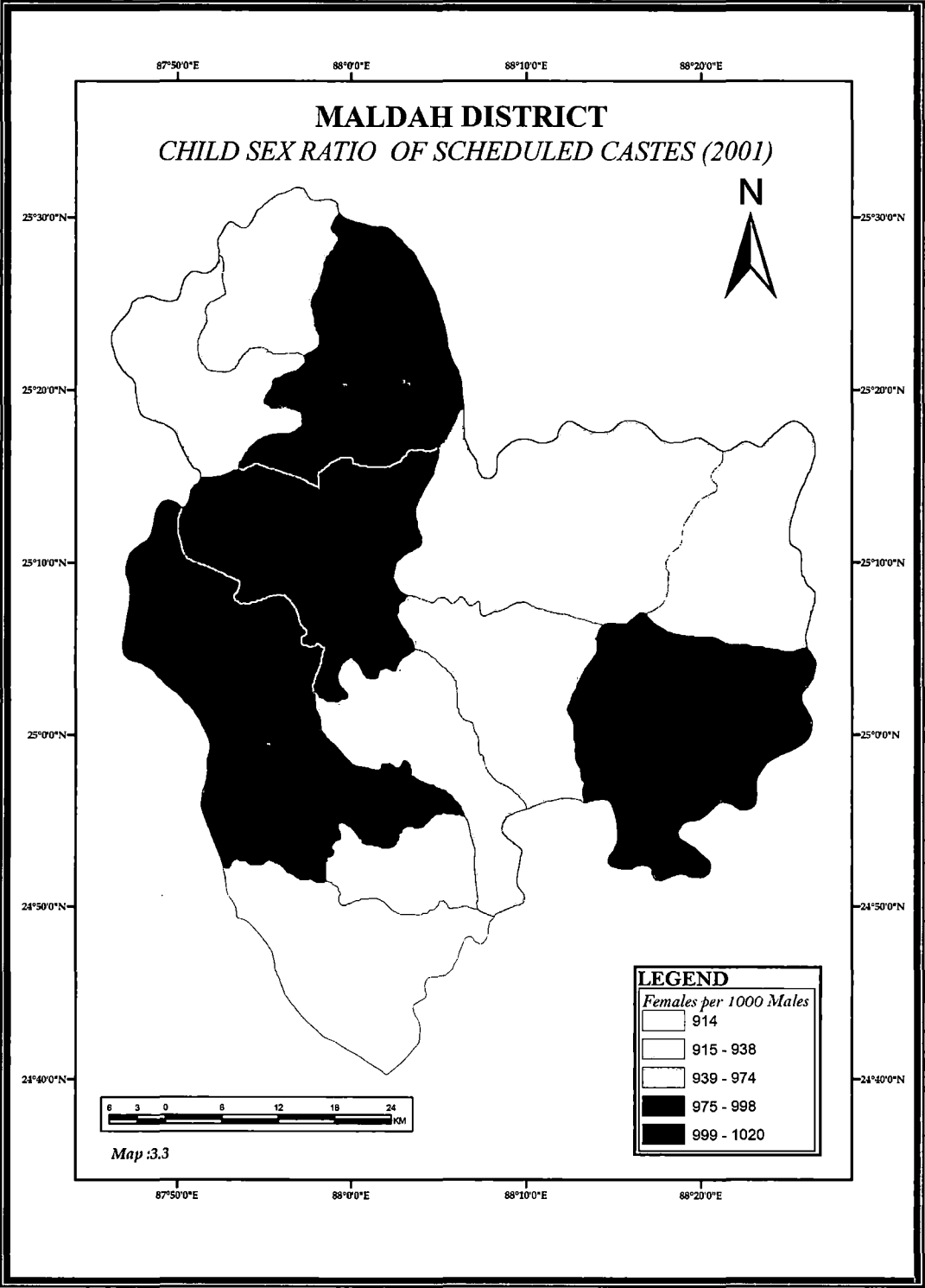
3.4.3 BLOCK WISE VARIATIONS IN SEX RATIO OF THE SCs OF MALDAH DISTRICT:

Table-3.4
BLOCKWISE VARIATIONS IN SEX RATIO OF SCHEDULED CASTES, 2001

SL. No.	Block	Sex-Ratio	Child Sex-Ratio
1.	RATUA-1	937	1006
2.	RATUA-2	962	1020
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	950	928
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	927	964
5.	KALIACHAK-1	922	914
6.	KALIACHAK-2	935	996
7.	KALIACHAK-3	943	914
8.	HABIBPUR	958	988
9.	BAMANGOLA	934	958
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR(R)	921	938
11.	OLD MALDAH(R)	943	927
12.	MANIKCHALK	931	998
13.	GAZOLE	946	974
14.	CHANCHAL-1	966	987
15.	CHANCHAL-2	996	986
Maldah District		946	966

Source:-CENSUS OF INDIA-2001





It is observed from the table-3.4 that the sex ratio of SCs is highest in Chanchal-II block (996) while it is lowest in English Bazar Block (921). The encouraging fact is that the child sex-ratio (0-6 age) is 1006 and 1020 in Ratua I and Ratua-II blocks respectively. The sex ratio of the total SCs of the district is 946 and the child sex ratio is 966(Figure-3.4).The distribution sex ratio of SCs is represented in the map no.3.2. Map-3.3 represents the block wise variations in the child sex ratio of scheduled castes.

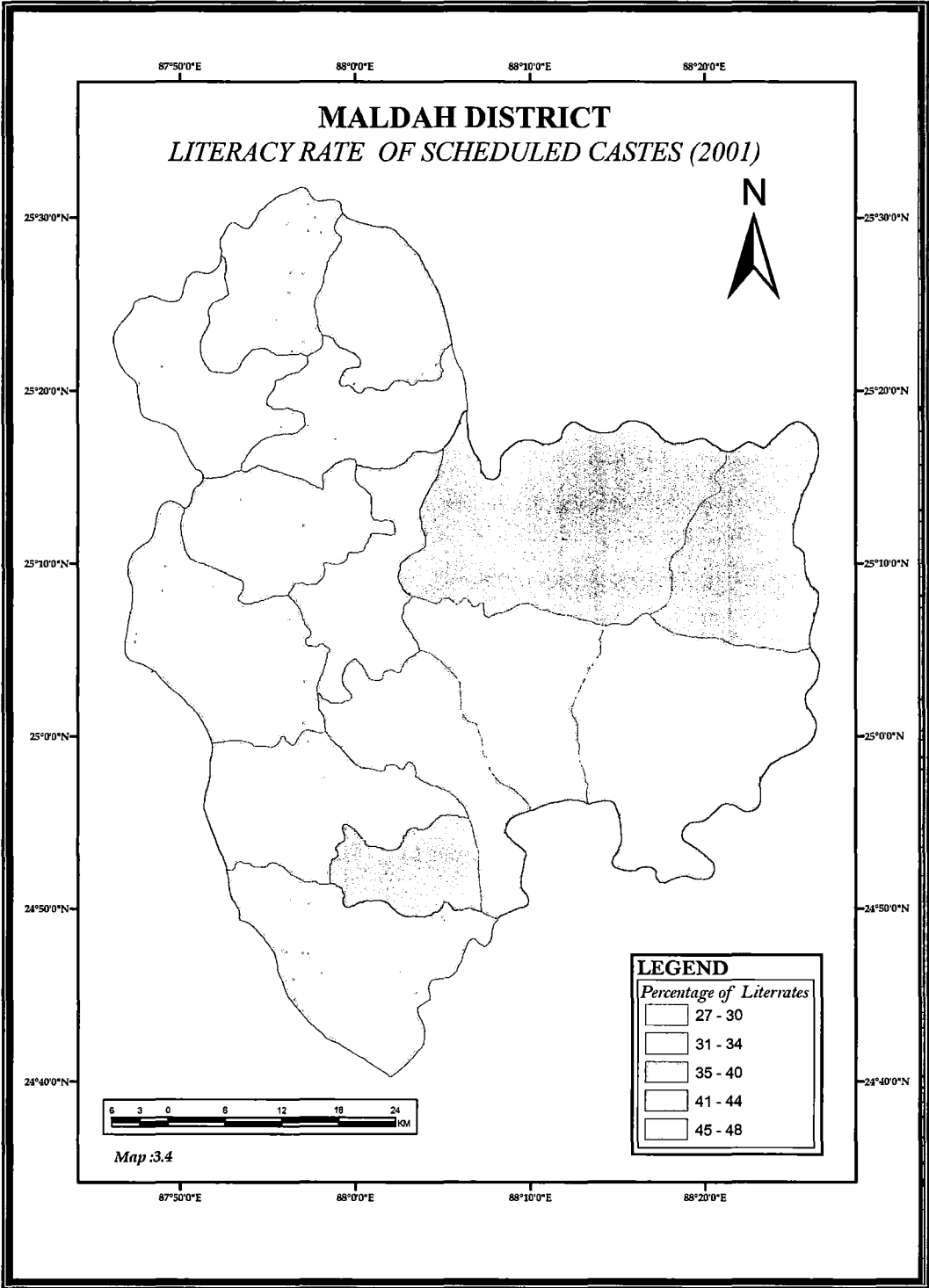
3.4.4 BLOCK WISE VARIATIONS IN LITERACY RATES OF SCHEDULE CASTES:

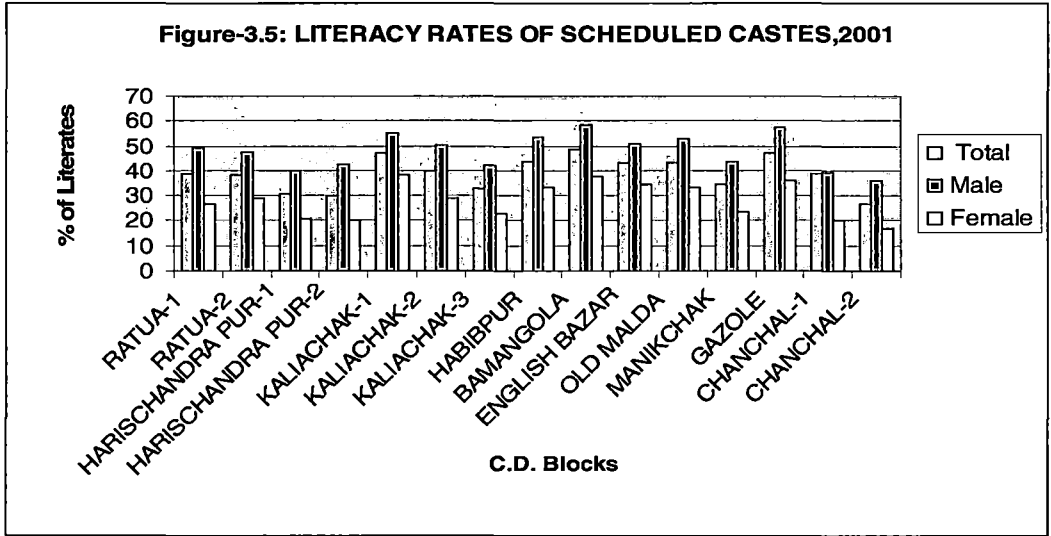
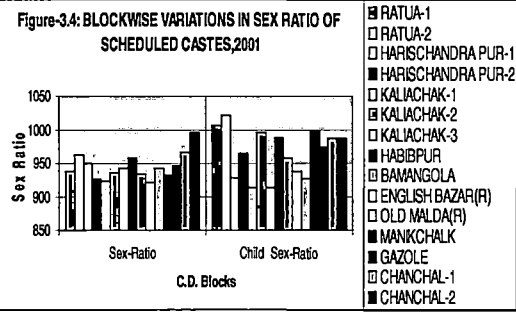
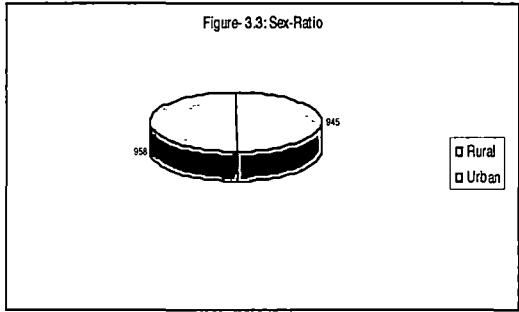
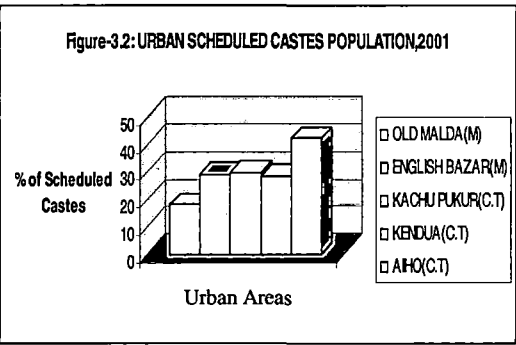
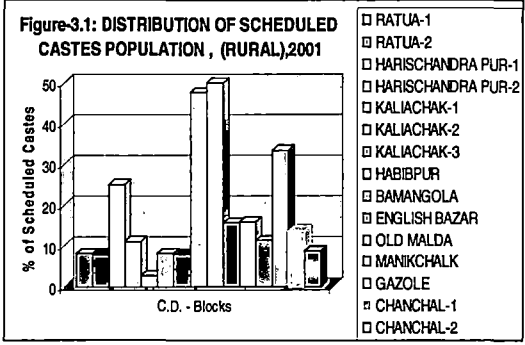
The literacy rate of SCs of Maldah district is 42.18% .Highest literacy rate is observed in Bamangola Block (48.42%) while literacy rate of only 26.62% is observed in Chanchal II block.Highest and lowest male literacy rate is found in Chanchal-II (68.23%) and Kaliachak-I (61.23%) block. The rate of female literacy is high in Kaliachak –I (38.77%) and low in Chanchal-II (31.77%) block.(Map3.4)

Table-3.5
LITERACY RATES OF SCHEDULED CASTES,200.

SL. No.	Block	General Literacy%	% of SC Literates		
			Total	Male	Female
1.	RATUA-1	45.00	38.70	49.41	26.80
2.	RATUA-2	47.80	38.37	47.42	28.96
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	44.10	30.53	39.87	20.70
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	40.70	30.24	42.62	20.22
5.	KALIACHAK-1	54.30	47.05	55.38	38.02
6.	KALIACHAK-2	46.10	39.87	50.29	28.72
7.	KALIACHAK-3	41.80	32.86	42.22	22.94
8.	HABIBPUR	48.20	43.58	53.54	33.25
9.	BAMANGOLA	56.10	48.42	58.65	37.48
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	50.40	42.95	50.93	34.28
11.	OLD MALDAH	47.70	43.45	53.19	33.13
12.	MANIKCHAK	44.10	34.19	44.01	23.63
13.	GAZOLE	51.00	46.82	57.16	35.88
14.	CHANCHAL-1	56.10	38.84	39.52	20.22
15.	CHANCHAL-2	44.50	26.62	36.25	16.95
Maldah District 2001		50.30	42.18	51.73	31.96

Source:-CENSUS OF INDIA-2001.





3.4.5 Brief Account on Important Scheduled Castes Of Maldah District :

RAJBANSHI

The highest percentage of SCs of the district belongs to the Rajbanshi. According to the 2001 census total Rajbanshi population of the district is 144158 accounting 26% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 73921 and 70237 representing 950 sex ratio. 96.20% population of this caste is rural.

Rajbanshi literally means 'Royal Race'. Risley describes that Koch, Koch-Mandi, Rajbanshi, Pallia and Desi belong to a large Dravidian tribe of north eastern and eastern Bengal amongst whom there are grounds for suspecting some admixture of Mongolian blood. The Rajbanshi's are cultivating and landowning community of North Bengal. They are also known as Desi or Bahey. The Rajbanshi are non-vegetarian. They eat fish, egg and meat, but refrain from taking pork or beef. Rice is the staple food. The Rajbanshi have two social sub group, known as chhotobhag and barabhag. The Rajbanshis marry within their community and practice gotra exogamy. They practice and prefer adult marriage by negotiation. The Rajbanshis prefer nuclear families. A few of them have mixed extended families. The major economic resource of the Rajbanshi is land. The Rajbanshi have among them both landowning and landless people. The Rajbanshis profess Hinduism. They worship Narayan, Lakshmi etc. as home deity. Now a day's they are aware of the need of education and boys and girls study up to college level. They use chemical fertilizer as well as organic manure. They avail the facility of public distribution system. They use modern medicine and practice family planning. ⁽²¹⁾

NAMASUDRA

Namasudra is very important caste of Maldah district. According to the 2001 census total Namasudra population of the district is 101444 accounting 18.3% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 52284 and 49160 representing 940 sex ratio. 95.70% population of this caste is rural.

The Namasudra are well known community which previously had various synonyms like Chandal, Chanral, Nama etc. They derived their name from Namas or Lomosa muni. Their surnames are Mondal, Biswas, Sarkar, Sardar, Kirtonia etc. Namasudras are land owning community. They also have among them a large number of day laborers. Educationally the Namasudras are sometimes very advanced and sometimes totally illiterate. They are availing themselves of the educational grants for the scheduled caste. .⁽²²⁾

JHALO MALO

According to the 2001 census total Jhalo Malo population of the district is 28165 accounting 5.1% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 14457 and 13708 representing 948 sex ratio. 97.9% population of this caste is rural. Malo or Malo- Patni is a Dravidian boating and fishing caste. The social rank of the Malo is low and Brahmans will not take water from their hands, the Napit and Dhoba usually work for them. Malo's generally use a shorter Jalka boat than the Tiyars. Like the Kaibatta, the Malos is often a cultivator.

TIYAR

Tiyar is a Dravidian boating and fishing caste of Bengal and Bihar. They are Vaishnava in creed and their religious ceremonies being always held beneath trees. Girls are usually married as infants. Tiyars employed in manufacturing of mats with nal are known as Nal Tiyars. .⁽²³⁾

According to the 2001 census total Tiyar population of the district is 26669 accounting 4.8% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 13701 and 12968 representing 947 sex ratio. 82.9% population of this caste is rural.

CHAMAR

According to the 2001 census total Chamar population of the district is 21450 accounting 3.9% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 10966 and 10484 representing 956 sex ratio. 90.2 % population of this caste is rural. Chamar, the tanner caste of Bihar and upper India, found also in all parts all Bengal as tanners and workers in leather under the name chamar. Like the Doms and unlike most other castes, chamars forbid the marriage of

two sister to the same husband. Sripanchami is their principal festival. Chamar are employed in tanning leather, making shoes and saddlery and grooming horses

HARI

According to the 2001 census total Hari population of the district is 19357 accounting 3.5% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 9845 and 9512 representing 966 sex ratio. 97.4% population of this caste is rural. Hari is a menial and scavenger caste of Bengal proper. Hari admitted both infant and adult marriage but the former practice is deemed the more respectable and all parents endeavour to get their daughter married before the age of puberty.

Although Haris profess to be Hindus and worship Kali and other of the standard gods in a more or less meagre fashion, it seems probable that they have embraced Hinduism at a comparatively recent date. Their social status was of the lowest. No one will eat with a Hari or take water from his hands, and members of the caste are not permitted to enter the courtyard of the great temples.

JALIYA KAIBARTTA:

Jaliya or Jele is a general name in use throughout Bengal proper as the popular designation of all classes of people who are engaged in boating or fishing. According to the 2001 census total Jalia Kaibartta population of the district is 13411 accounting 2.4% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 6919 and 6492 representing 938 sex ratio. 91.70% population of this caste is rural.

KEOT:

Keot is fishing and cultivating caste of Maldah district. They are orthodox Hindus, who regards Bhagabati as their special goddess. .⁽²⁴⁾

According to the 2001 census total Tiya population of the district is 26669 accounting 4.8% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 13701 and 12968 representing 947 sex ratio. 82.9% population of this caste is rural.

DHOBBA

Dhoba, the washerman caste of Bengal and Orisa, who claim descent from Neta Muni or Netu Dhopani, who washed clothes of Brahma. .⁽²⁵⁾

According to the 2001 census total Dhoba population of the district is 10951 accounting 2.0% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 5668 and 5283 representing 932 sex ratio. 90.90% population of this caste is rural.

NUNIYA:

The Nuniyas are also known as Chauhan in neighbourhood. The name has been derived from the word 'Nun' or salt because salt making was their traditional occupation. Risley has mentioned several sub-castes among them, which are- Awadhia or Ayodhia basi, Bhojpuri, Kharant, Maghaya, Orh, Chouhan and Semarwar. According to the 2001 census total Nuniya population of the district is 10170 accounting 1.8% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 5266 and 4904 representing 931 sex ratio. 84.5% population of this caste is rural.

SUNRI

According to the 2001 census total Sunri population of the district is 8564 accounting 1.5% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 4488 and 4076 representing 908 sex ratio. 90.02% population of this caste is rural. Sunri a large and widely-diffused caste, found in most districts of Bengal, whose original profession is believed to be the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors.

MUSAHAR

According to the 2001 census total Musahar population of the district is 7617 accounting 1.4% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 3853 and 3764 representing 977 sex ratio. 99.5% population of this caste is rural. They are non-vegetarian. They eat pork, snails, guggli and jhinuk. The Musahars show no great interest either in literacy and education, or in health and medicare, though family planning programme has made some progress among them.⁽²⁶⁾

DOSADH: According to the 2001 census total Doshad population of the district is 7608 accounting 1.4% of the total SCs population of the district. No. Of male and female population of this caste is 3971 and 3637 representing 916 sex ratio. 85.2% population of this caste is rural. Dosadh is a degraded Aryan or refined Dravidian cultivating caste of Bihar and Chotonagpur. The caste is divided into eight sub-castes. Such as- Kanaujia, Magahiya, Bhojpurda, Pailwar, Kamar, Kuri Dharhi, Sithotia. The members of nearly all these groups will eat cooked food together, but don't intermarry. They are arthodox Hindus and in proof of this allegation will refer to the fact that they employ Brahmans and worship the regular Gods. The social rank of Dosadhs was very low and no higher caste eat with them.

GONRHI

According to the 2001 census total Gonhri population of the district is 6187 accounting 1.1% of the total SCs population of the district. No. Of male and female population of this caste is 3195 and 2992 representing 936 sex ratio. 96.20% population of this caste is rural. Gonrhi is fishing and cultivating caste, who claims descent from Nikhad, a mythical boatman who is said to have farried Ram Chandra across the Ganga at Allahabad. The fact that the word Nishad which is used in the Rig Veda as a general name for the non-Aryan races, should appear in the traditions of the Ganerhi as a personal eponym, suggests the conjection that the caste my be desceanded from one of the oboriginal tribes whom the Aryans found in possession of the Ganges valley.

KOCHH

According to the 2001 census total Kochh population of the district is 5224 accounting 0.9% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 2656 and 2568 representing 967 sex ratio. 96.30% population of this caste is rural. In North Bengal the principal sub-caste is Rajbansi. "Inspite of their protections to be Kshatriyas, the social status of Rajbansi is still extremely low and no well known castewill take food from their hands or smoke in their hookas." (27)

BHUMALI

According to the 2001 census total Bhumali population of the district is 2481 accounting 0.9% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 2481 and 2379 representing 959 sex ratio. 91.90% population of this caste is rural. Bhumali, a cultivating, palanquin-bearing and menial caste of Eastern Bengal, generally considered to be the remnant of an aboriginal tribe which embraced Hinduism, and accepted a servile position in relation to the Hindus of Eastern Bengal.

MAL

According to the 2001 census total Mal population of the district is 3612 accounting 0.7% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 1863 and 1749 representing 939 sex ratio. 88.00% population of this caste is rural. Mal, a Dravidian cultivation caste, many of whom are employed as chaukidars. The Mal are non vegetarian but avoid eating beef and pork. They eat boiled rice, pulses, vegetables or fish. The Mal can't marry into the same pitri-kul. Mal families are, mostly nuclear, though a joint or extended families do exist among the comparatively richer members of the community. Agriculture is supposed to be the original profession of the caste and most Mal's and landless are day labourers.

DOM:

Dom is a Dravidian menial caste of Bengal, Bihar and the North Western provinces. According to the 2001 census total Dom population of the district is 3229 accounting 0.6% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 1632 and 1597 representing 979 sex ratio. 95.00% population of this caste is rural.

MAHAR

The Mahar originally migrated from parts of Maharashtra to West Bengal in the decade of this country, especially when work shops and colonies of the Indian Railways were being set up. According to the 2001 census total Mahar population of the district is 2451 accounting 0.4% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 1233 and 1218 representing 988 sex ratio.

93.70% population of this caste is rural. The Mahars are non vegetarian but don't eat beef. Both rice and Chapatis are their staple food. The Mahar are clan exogamous. Marriages are negotiated and monogamous. The marriageable age for men is between 20-26 years and for women between 18-21 years. The Mahars live in both nuclear and joint families. The Mahar are a landless community, and are mainly self employed in business. Making thongas with old newspaper and biri binding is their primary occupation. Literary and education levels of the Mahars are low though both boys and girls have some kind of formal education.

BAGDI

According to the 2001 census total Bagdi population of the district is 2305 accounting 0.4% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 1170 and 1135 representing 970 sex ratio. 95.60% population of this caste is rural.

Bagdi is a cultivating, fishing and menial caste of Central and Western Bengal who appear from their features and complexion to be of Dravidian descent. Bagdis are divided into the following sub-castes such as, i) Tentulia- Bagh, Santra, Rai, Khan, Puila etc., ii) Kasaikulia – Manjhi, Masalchi, Palankhai, Pherka are its titles. iii) Dulia – Sardar and Dhara iv) Ojha v) Machhua vi) Gulimanjhi vii) Dandamanjhi viii) Kusputra ix) Matial. A Bagdi can't marry outside the sub-caste or inside the section to which he belongs. Bagdis practice both child and adult marriage. The religion of the bagdis is compounded of elements borrowed from orthodox Hinduism.

KHAIRA

Khaira is a small caste who grow vegetables and other crops. According to the 2001 census total Khaira 2212 population of the district is 2305 accounting 0.4% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 1169 and 1043 representing 892 sex ratio. 75.4% population of this caste is rural.

BELDER

According to the 2001 census total Belder population of the district is 1224 accounting 0.2% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 615 and 609 representing 990 sex ratio. 80.7% population of this caste is rural. Belder means 'one who works with a bel or hoe'. Belders are

Dravidian caste of earth workers and navvies in Bihar and West Bengal, many of whom are employed in the coal mines of Raniganj and Barakar. Both men and women labour, the former digging the earth and the latter removing it baskets carried on the head.

KAORA:

According to the 2001 census total Kaora population of the district is 324 accounting 0.1% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 164 and 160 representing 976 sex ratio. 99.1% population of this caste is rural. The Kaora is a little community of West Bengal. Kaora seems a generic name signifying the occupation of digging earth. Koras have migrated from Chhotanagpur and its related adjacent area. The Kaoras are non-vegetarian. They eat rice, wheat, fish, mutton, chicken, and pork. Child and Adult marriages are a fashion of Kaoras. Remarriage of widows, widowers, male and female divorcees is permissible. Kaora women have various socio-economic roles they work in agriculture, look after domestic animals and poultry birds etc. Nowadays, they have roles in rituals and some take part in politics. The Kaoras believe in tribal religion. They do Kalipuja, Manasapuja, etc. The Koras are still educationally backward. Majority of them can't save money in banks since they are very poor.

KADAR

Kadars is a non Aryan caste of cultivators, day labourers, probably a degraded offshoot from the Bhuiya tribe. Fishing and wood cutting are their other occupation. They are divided into two sub caste Kadar and Naiya. According to the 2001 census total Kadar population of the district is 44 accounting 0.01% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 20 and 24 representing 1200 sex ratio. 77.3% population of this caste is rural.

KHATIK

According to the 2001 census total Khatik population of the district is 38 accounting 0.01% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 17 and 21 representing 1235 sex ratio. 73.7% population of this caste is rural. The khatik is a very small community of West Bengal. They migrated from Ayodhya, Varanasi, Sultanpur and Faizabad districts of U.P. The Khatik are non-

vegetarian and eat fish, egg, and mutton but not eat beef. The Khatiks are divided into two sub-groups, such as i) Khatiks and ii) Sonakars. In early days Khatiks marry their daughters as infants, between the age of 5 and 12 years. Khatiks are mainly a landless community. According to Risley, the Khatiks major economic activities are selling fruits and vegetables. Khatiks are Hindus and worship Satyanarayan and Lakshmi as their family deities. Janmashtami, Charak, Rathayatra and Holi are the main festivals of Khatiks. They are educationally backward.

GHASI

According to the 2001 census total Ghasi population of the district is 35 accounting 0.01% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 17 and 18 representing 1059 sex ratio. 77.1% population of this caste is rural. Ghasi, a Dravidian fishing and cultivating caste who attend as musicians at weddings and festivals.

BAHELIA

According to the 2001 census total Bahelia population of the district is 26 accounting 0.005% of the total SCs population of the district. No. of male and female population of this caste is 14 and 12 representing 857 sex ratio. 34.60% population of this caste is rural. Bahelia is a sub caste of Dosadhs in Bihar, also called Bhula, who are employed as laborers and bird catchers. Although closely allied to Dosadhs, the Behelias will not eat or drink with them; and when serving as policeman they call themselves Hazaras. Many pursue agriculture, while some serve as groom in Bengal who are professional hunters, and are thus taro and are thus allied to Bediyas.

KOTAL

According to the 2001 census total Kotal population of the district is 13 accounting 0.002% of the total SCs population of the district. No. Of male and female population of this caste is 7 and 6 which represents 857 sex ratio. 38.5% population of this caste is rural. Their titles are Mondal and Roy. Kotals are Namasudras and have the following subgroup – i) Kotal ii) Nune iii) Ghune iv) Sangol.

The term Kotals has come from their occupation of being kotal, its mean guard or watchman. It was said that the Hindu feudals had Kotal in the Nawabi period. They were given rent free land, instead of a

The kotalis are non vegetarian. Their staple food is rice. They have been no recent changes in their food habits except that they now have meat and eggs. The kotal woman works as agriculture laborers and maids in the house of rich neighboring communities. Kotalis are mostly landless agriculture labour. Some are share croppers.

3.4.6 WORK PARTICIPATION RATE OF SCHEDULED CASTES OF MALDAH DISTRICT:

Work participation rates (W.P.R);

WPR is defined as the percentage of total worker (Main & Marginal) to total population-

$$\text{Work Participation Rate} = \frac{\text{Total workers (Main + Marginal)}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100$$

Male & Female workforce to total workers:

The WPR of 72.23 for main workers indicates that nearly 72 persons among 100 persons are main workers and nearly 28 persons are marginal workers to total workers of SCs. Out of 72.25% males constitute 57.53% and female constitute 14.70% to total workers. The main workers are those who had worked for the major part of the reference period (i.e. 6 months or more). Marginal workers are those person who had worked for less than 6 months during reference period. Out of 27.77% of marginal workers male constitute 8.90% and female constitute 18.87%. It shows that males are engaged more as main workers and female as marginal workers in the district (Figure-3.6).

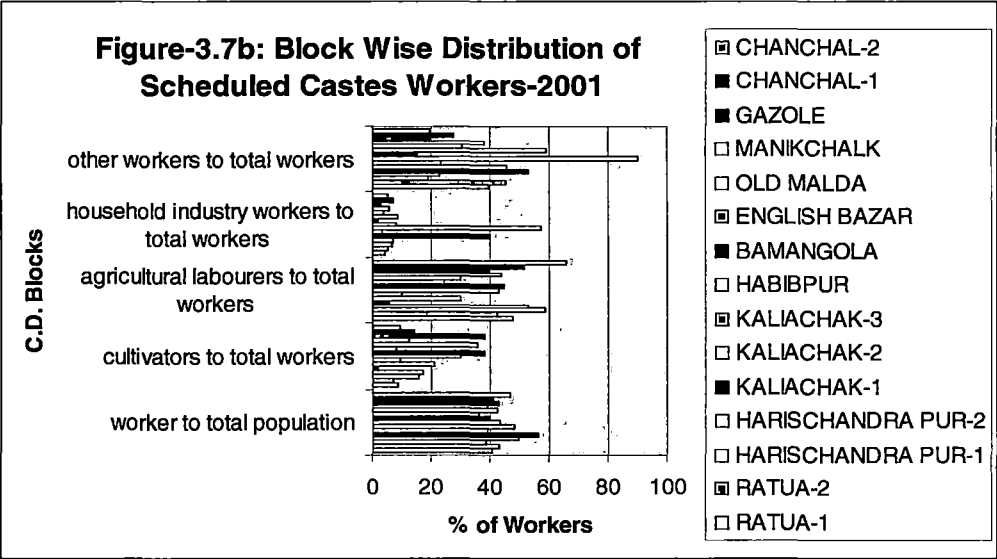
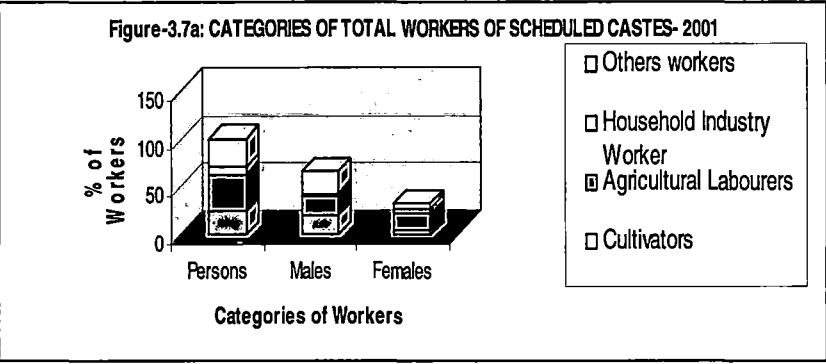
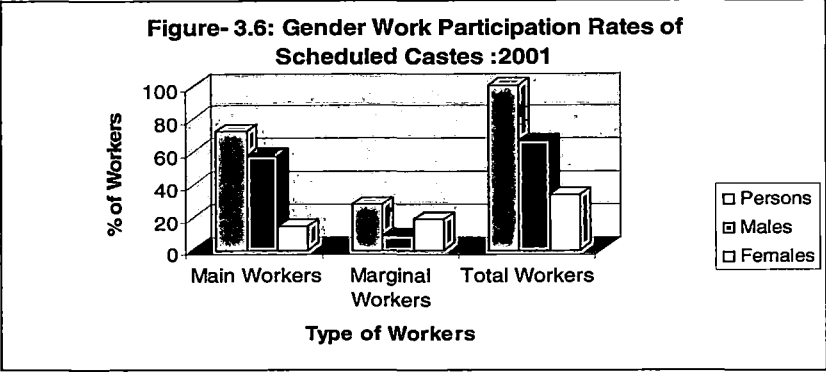


Table-3.6
Gender WPR of Scheduled Castes :2001

Gender Workers	Persons	Males	Females
Main Workers	166246(72.23%)	132413 (57.53%)	33833 (14.70%)
Marginal Workers	63904 (27.77%)	20485(8.90%)	43419 (18.87%)
Total Workers	230150 (100%)	152898 (66.43%)	77252 (33.57%)

Source:-Census of India 2001

Categories of total Workers Of Scheduled Castes :

Gender disparity among S.Cs is observed in different categories of workers. Figure-3.7a shows the gender wise W.P.R for different categories.

Table 3.7
CATEGORIES OF TOTAL WORKERS OF SCHEDULED CASTES- 2001

Gender Workers	Persons	Males	Females
Cultivators	54969 (23.89%)	46139 (20.05%)	8830 (3.83%)
Agricultural Labourers	89706 (38.98%)	47048 (20.44%)	42658 (18.54%)
Household Industry Worker	19099 (8.3%)	6336 (2.76%)	12766 (5.54%)
Others workers	66376 (28.84%)	53375 (23.19%)	13001 (5.65%)

Source:-Census of India 2001.

A) Gender Disparity in Cultivators

Out of total 230150 S.Cs workers cultivator are 54960(23.88%).Among total cultivator 20.05% are males and 3.83% are females. So, the gender gap is nearly 16%.But in case of marginal workers 1.76% is female and 1.15% is males.

B).Gender Gap in Agricultural Labourers

Table 3.7 represents the distribution of male and female workers engaged as agricultural labourers. It may be observed that as 38.98% of total workers are cultivator, 20.44% are males and 18.54% are females. So in terms of total agricultural labourers the gender gap of W.P.R. is 1.90%.

C.)Gender Gap in Household Industry Workers

In Maldah district the percentage of household industry workers to total workers is 8.30%.It is found that 5.54% workers are females and 2.76% are males. So only in this sector the participation of females is 2.78% more compared to males.

D) Gender Situation in Other Workers

Table 3.7 represents the distribution of male and female workers as Other Workers. It may observe that other workers constitute 28.84% of total workers of scheduled castes population in the district. Percentage of males (23.19%) are more than females (5.65%)as other workers. So high gender gap observed (17.54%) in this sector.

When female workers are considered ,it is found that 3.83% are cultivators,5.65% are other workers and18.54% are agricultural labourers .Thus a higher portion of male workers are cultivators and other workers, while a higher proportion of female workers are agricultural labourers.This scenario is just like national level.

Gender wise rural-urban disparity in WPR ;

Like national scenario WPR of females in rural area is comparatively high than urban areas in all categories of females workers. Table 4 represents the gender wise rural urban disparity in W.P.R. in Maldah district. It is observed that out of total workers 95% are rural and nearly 5% are urban workers. In rural workers of the district 62.65% are males and 32.51% are females, while in urban workers 3.79% are males and only 1.05% are females.

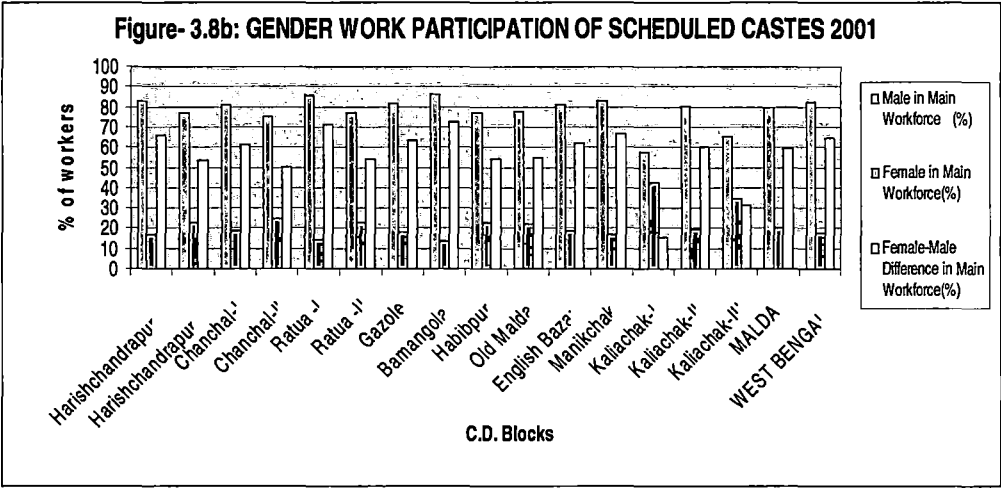
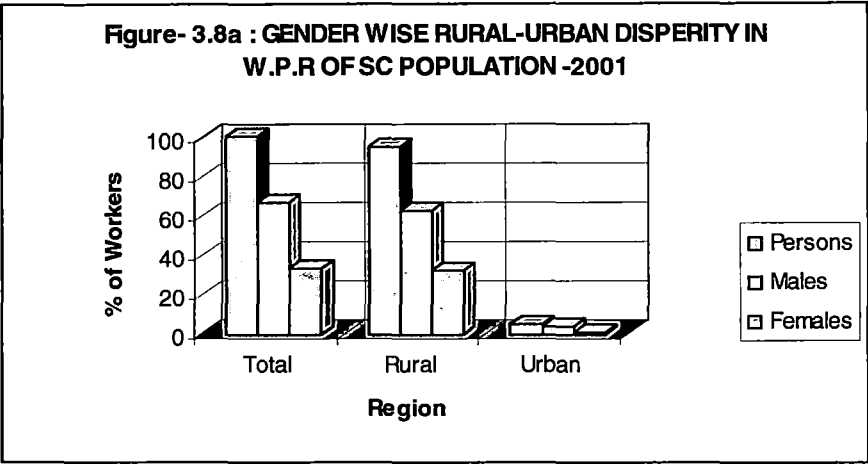


Table:3.8

GENDER WISE RURAL-URBAN DISPERITY IN W.P.R OF SC POPULATION TO TOTAL WORK FORCE-2001

Region \ Gender	Total	Rural	Urban
Persons	230150 (100%)	219002 (95.16%)	33348 (4.84%)
Males	152898 (66.43%)	144183(62.65%)	8715 (3.79%)
Females	77252 (33.57%)	74819 (32.51%)	2433 (1.05%)

Source:-Census of India 2001

Block Wise Gender W.P.R. In Maldah District :

It is clear from the Table 3.9 that the number of SCs. female workers is lowest in Bamangola block (13.76%) and highest in Kaliachak 1 block (42.28%). Thus the gender gap in main workforce in kaliachak 1 is lowest (15.44%) and in Bamangola block is highest (72.48%)(Figure-3.8b)

Table-3.9

GENDER WORK PARTICIPATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION- 2001

Main workforce

CD Blocks	Total Main Workers	Male main Workers	Female main Workers	Male in Main Workforce (%)	Female in Main Workforce (%)	Female-Male Difference in Main Workforce (%)
Harishchandrapur-I	11693	9717	1976	83.1	16.9	66.2
Harishchandrapur-II	6717	5167	1550	76.92	23.08	53.84
Chanchal-I	6975	5635	1340	80.79	19.21	61.58
Chanchal-II	4224	3180	1044	75.28	24.72	50.56
Ratua -I	4447	3809	638	85.65	14.35	71.3
Ratua -II	3884	3001	883	77.27	22.73	54.54
Gazole	30139	24626	5513	81.71	18.29	63.42
Bamangola	17799	15349	2450	86.24	13.76	72.48
Habibpur	26877	20734	6143	77.14	22.86	54.28
Old Maldah	11979	9291	2688	77.56	22.44	55.12
English Bazar	10242	8294	1948	80.99	19.01	61.98
Manikchak	6406	5330	1076	83.2	16.8	66.4
Kaliachak-I	3813	2201	1612	57.72	42.28	15.44
Kaliachak-II	5316	4262	1054	80.17	19.83	60.34
Kaliachak-III	7416	4860	2556	65.53	34.47	31.06
MALDAH	166246	132413	33833	79.65	20.35	59.3
WEST BENGAL	5291661	4364870	926791	82.49	17.51	64.98

Source:-Census of India 2001

On the basis of gender gap in main workforce the blocks are divided into 3 categories i.e.

- 1) High gender gap,
- 2) Moderate gender gap,
- 3) Low gender gap .

1)High Gender Gap Zone (Gender Gap Above 60%) :

In the blocks – Harischandrapur 1, Chanchal 1,Ratua 1,Gazole, Bamangola, English bazaar, Manikchak and Kaliachak 2, the gender gap among main workers of scheduled casts is more than60%.

2) Moderate Gender Gap Zone (Gender Gap 40%-60%) :

Moderate gender gap among main workers of scheduled casts observed in Harischandrapur 2, Chanchal 2,Ratua 2,Habibpur and old Maldah block with gender gap between 40% -60%.

3) Low Gender gap zone (Gender Gap below 40%) :

Low gender gap in W.P.R. is observed in Kaliachak 1 (15.44%) and in Kaliachak 3 (31.06%) blocks.

It is also observed from the table that the gap between female and male in W.P.R. for Maldah district is 59.30% and for West Bengal is 64.98%.So , the disparity is low in terms of gender W.P.R. of the district compared to state average.

Causes of gradual decreasing participation rates of women:-

- Growth of population and increasing wage competition between men and women.
- Transformation of the traditional working-roles of women within modern urban society, as a consequence of which employment rates among educated urban women are considerably lower than those among illiterate rural women.
- The shifting of women from paid work to unpaid work-roles within the home, as male earnings expand.
- A farther reason why women's employment is generally underestimated is the attitude of society.
- Low educational level and illiteracy, particularly in rural areas are responsible for unemployment.
- The primary role of women is that of a unpaid homemaker in the society.
- Less physical ability than males to perform hard work is the main cause for low-wage workers and unemployed.

Measures to reduce the gender gap in W.P.R:

- Remove barriers to labor market participation,
- Strengthen women's property right to land and other assets,
- Reform legal system to eliminate gender discrimination.
- Increase political participation of women,
- Continue reducing gender inequalities in education sector,
- Invest in women health and nutrition,
- Steps taken by Government, like introduction of schemes like

M.S.Y(Mahila Samridhi Yoyona),M.K.Y.(Mahila Kishan Yoyona) and Self Help Groups, increased the female W.P.R .

Number of women beneficiaries under different schemes of the West Bengal Sch. Castes and Sch.Tribes Dev.& Finance Corporation, Maldah for the year 2008-09 is 185 and for the year 2009-10 is 762. More recent studies from India and many other countries of the world reveal that the process of Globalization has severely impacted upon the incomes of the poor, which include a disproportionate number of women. Transformation of the traditional farm economy through shifts from food crops to cash crops has drastically reduced the demand for women's employment in the farm sector. As agriculture progressively becomes more export oriented, rural women lose their control over productive resources and are thus perceived as dependents rather than as independent producing agents. The shrinkage of the natural resource base that supports the rural economy, because of overexploitation, adversely affects rural women in their home-making roles, forcing them to spend greater amounts of time and effort in fetching drinking water, Livestock-fodder and fuel for their homes. The enunciations of the National Policy, several women-specific programmes that target gender development have been launched across the state and the country. The formation of women's Self-Help Groups [SHGs] seeks to transform rural Indian women into development agents. Focused interventions of this kind that were launched in recent years have begun to show positive results. Their biggest potential lies in their ability to empower rural women to seize new opportunities and developmental roles.

Better paid and better educated women in rural India were more likely to send children, particularly daughters to school, and keep their children out of child labour.

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CHAPTER 4

Social Status of Scheduled Castes of Maldah District

4.0 Social Status of Scheduled Castes

of Maldah District

In India the Scheduled Castes (Untouchables) were kept apart from the rest of the society due to the prevalent practice of untouchability and they were debarred from Hindu temples, places of worship and from using roads, vehicles, wells, common bathing ghats etc. The Indian caste system based on the notion of purity and pollution believed that the Scheduled Castes (Shudras) were impure and polluted. They were not food served in common batches .No member of higher caste Hindu accepted food cooked by an untouchable. With these disabilities life had been miserable for the scheduled castes. After independence many attempts were made for the upliftment of SCs. The schedule castes are comparatively backward in occupational, educational, social, cultural, religious and political sector. There are wide gaps between scheduled castes & higher Caste in terms of level of income, standard of living, fertility & mortality, social parameters like education, marriage, family planning programmes, superstitions etc. Prior to independence and even later, they had been the poorest of the poor, and socially and economically backward caste of the district.

After independence the scheduled castes of Maldah are going under social and economic changes. Various constitutional amendments gave rights to them. They are appointed and promoted under reserve quotas on various organizations in order to uplift their socio-economic status. All these have led to changes in their attitude towards society and social values and norms.

4.1 Population Structure and Characteristics

4.1.1 Sub caste of respondents

Out of total 1071 rural respondents 277(25.86%) belongs to Rajbanshi, 261 (25.86%) belongs to Namasudra , 82 (7.66%) respondent belongs to Jhalo Malo and 6.16 % belongs to Paliya .Other important scheduled castes of Rural areras are Bind(6.07%),Pod(4.30%),Tiyar(6.16%),Nuniya(2.33%),Belder(2.71%),Dosadh(2.52 %), Keot(2.24%), Dhoba(1.59%) etc.

In urban areas of total 73 respondents' 28.77% belongs to Namasudra, 26.03 % belongs to Rajbanshi and 10.96 belongs to Bind, 12.33% is Pod , 08.21% is Dosadh etc .Other scheduled castes respondents' of urban areas belongs toTiyar, Chamar, Lohar, Nuniya and Jhalo-Malo sub-castes. So it is observed that Rajbansh and Namasudra are the important scheduled castes of the Maldah District (Figure-4.1).

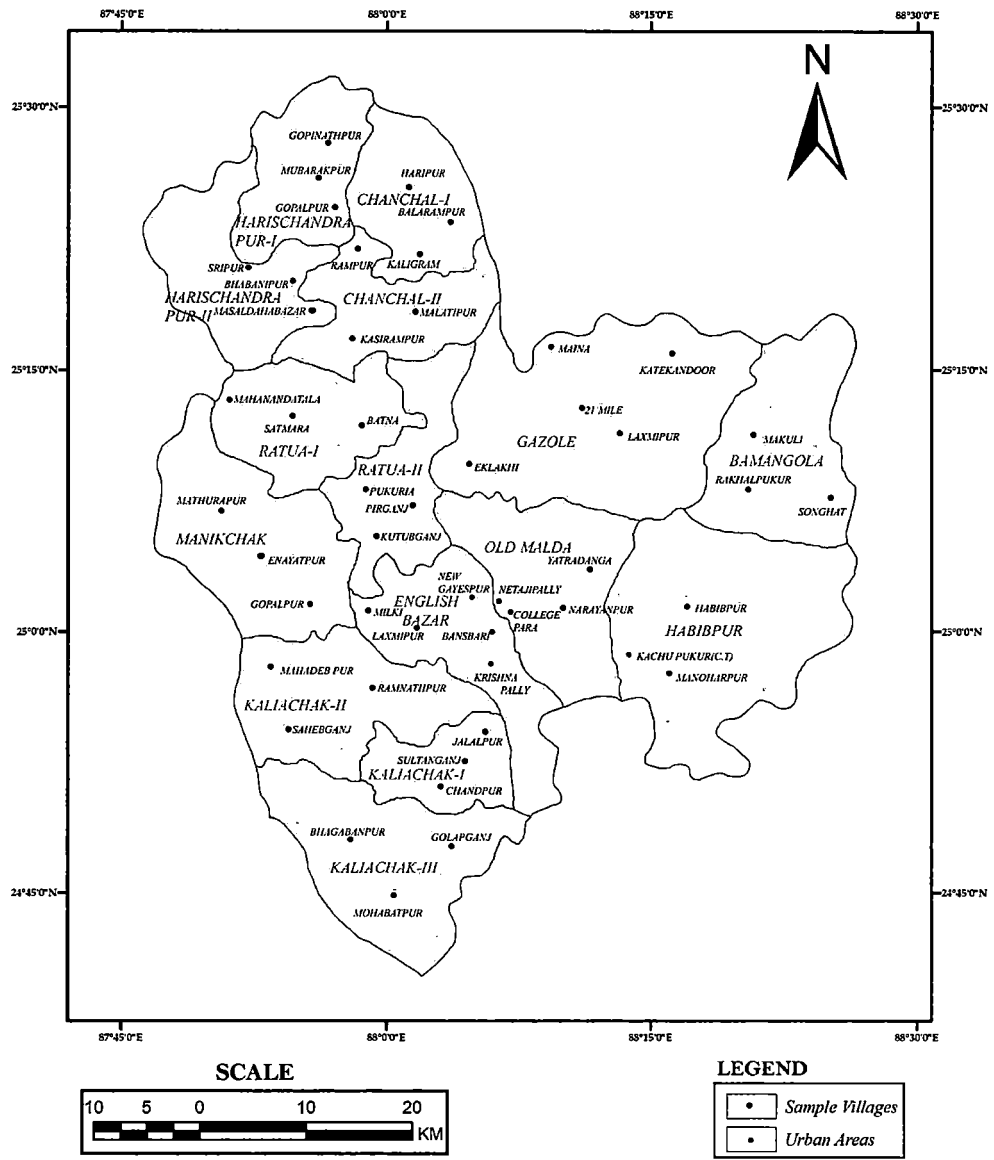
Table-4.1 represents the sub-castes of scheduled castes population of Maldah district in rural and urban areas for 1071 and 73 respondents' respectively.

Table-4.1
SUB-CASTE OF RESPONDENTS

SUB-CASTES	RURAL		URBAN	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Rajbanshi	277	25.86	19	26.03
Namasudra	261	24.37	21	28.77
Bind	65	6.07	08	10.96
Jhalo Malo	82	7.66	01	01.37
Paliya	66	6.16	-	
Tiyar	33	3.08	2	02.74
Chamar	21	1.96	2	02.74
Hari	26	2.43	-	
Jalia Kaibartta	25	2.33	-	
Keot.	24	2.24	-	
Dhoba.	17	1.59	03	04.11
Lohar	12	1.12	-	
Pod	46	4.30	09	12.33
Nuniya	25	2.33	02	02.74
Sunri (Excl. Saha)	17	1.59	-	
Patni	06	0.56	-	
Beldar	29	2.71	-	
Dosadh	27	2.52	06	08.21
Musahar	12	1.12	-	
TOTAL	1071	100%	73	100%

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE VILLAGES AND URBAN AREAS OF MALDAH DISTRICT



4.1.2 Religion

According to the 2001 census 49.28% population of the district belongs to Hindu and 49.72% belongs to Muslim. So 99% population of the district belongs to these two religions. The religious composition of the district population in Maldah is finely balanced between the Hindus and Muslims. All the scheduled castes respondents of 50 sample sites of all 15 blocks belong to Hindu religion.

Table-4.2
Religion of Respondents

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Hindu	1071	73	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

4.1.3 Age-Sex composition of Population

It is clear from the Table 4.3 that in rural areas of Maldah district the percentage of male and female is 6.98% and 5.85% in age group 0-5, while it is 5.09% and 4.73% for male and female respectively in urban areas. On the otherhand the the percentage of both male and female population is high in old age group (Age group 60+) of urban areas compared to rural areas.

Table-4.3
Age-Sex Composition of Population .

Age Group	RURAL		URBAN		% RURAL		%URBAN	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 – 5	345	289	14	13	6.98	5.85	5.09	4.73
5 – 10	271	220	13	12	5.48	4.45	4.73	4.36
10-15	248	220	12	11	5.02	4.45	4.36	4.00
15-20	243	225	13	13	4.92	4.55	4.73	4.73
20 – 25	262	226	13	12	5.3	4.57	4.73	4.36
25 -30	250	220	12	12	5.06	4.45	4.36	4.36
30 – 35	240	194	12	11	4.86	3.92	4.36	4.00
35 – 40	233	190	10	10	4.71	3.84	3.64	3.64
40 – 45	192	167	10	8	3.88	3.38	3.64	2.91
45 – 50	136	116	8	7	2.75	2.35	2.91	2.55
50 – 55	105	99	9	8	2.12	2	3.27	2.91
55 – 60	75	58	8	7	1.52	1.73	2.91	2.55
60 & above	65	54	9	8	1.31	1.09	3.27	2.91
TOTAL	2665	2278	143	132	53.91	46.09	52.00	48.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

4.1.4 Age Composition of Scheduled Caste Respondents

The age composition of population plays vital role in the process of overall development in general and rural development in particular as it helps in adoptions of new ideas and practices which in turn bring economic benefits and prosperity. It has been observed that the younger generation is more receptive to various kinds of innovations, whereas at an advanced stage people find it difficult to change from age old practices, and they resist to adoption of innovations. ⁽¹⁾

Table-4.4
Age Group of the Respondents

Age Group	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Young Age(15-30)	102	10	9.52	13.70
Lower-middle Age(30-45)	367	18	34.27	24.66
Upper-middle Age(45-60)	502	38	46.87	52.05
Old Age(>60)	100	7	9.34	9.59
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

The above table-4.4 gives statistical statement regarding the age composition of the respondents. 9.52% rural and 13.70% urban respondents belong to young age group while 9.34% rural and 9.59% urban respondents belong to old age group. The encouraging fact is that the middle aged respondents (both upper and lower middle aged) account more than 75% of the respondent which shows that gradually the younger generation is coming up and actively participating in the decision making process of the households affairs(Figure-4.2).

The analysis of this table indicates that there is an overall upward movement of younger generation in the participation of decision making process in the household matters. Therefore, there is a need to encourage the younger generation not only to participate in the households activities but also to play a leading role in the process of decision making in the family affairs.

4.1.5 Education

4.1.5.1 Literate and illiterate Population

Education is considered to be one of the chief instruments through which a society socializes all members.

Table-4.5
Literate and Illiterate Population

Category	Frequency				%			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Literate	1360	97	939	85	60.36	81.51	48.45	77.27
Illiterate Population	893	22	999	25	39.64	18.49	51.55	22.73
TOTAL	2253	119	1938	110	100	100	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

The literacy rates vary among the scheduled castes in rural and urban areas. In urban areas 81.51% male and 77.27% female are literate while 18.49% male and 22.73% female are illiterate. In rural areas 60.36% male and 51.55 % female are literate and 39.64% male and 51.55% female are illiterate(Figure-4.3) So the gap between male and female literates is about 12% and 4% in rural and urban areas of Maldah district respectively .

The main causes behind the variation of literate rates in rural and urban areas are

- a) Poor economic condition of rural population
- b) Lack of educational facilities.
- c) Lack of awareness
- d) Dependency on child labour

4.1.5.2 Educational attainment of Scheduled Castes

Level of literacy and educational attainment is one of the important indications of social development. Education directly influences demographic behaviour concerning marriage, fertility, mortality migration etc. “In a number of research studies, a clear-cut negative relationship has been established between the educational level of women and fertility. The age of females at marriage is another demographic variable

which is influenced by the level of educational attainment. Even infant mortality is found to be affected by the educational status of the mother.’’(2)

Table-4.6
Educational attainment of Scheduled Castes

Category	Frequency				%			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
I – IV	610	20	200	29	44.85	20.62	21.30	34.12
V – VIII	313	23	411	21	23.01	23.71	43.77	24.71
M.P.	217	18	203	10	15.96	18.56	21.62	11.76
H.S.	98	16	97	09	7.21	16.49	10.33	10.59
Graduate	83	11	20	09	6.10	11.34	2.13	10.59
Post Graduate	39	9	8	07	2.87	9.28	0.85	8.23
Total	1360	97	939	85	100	100	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

For the study of population characteristics, the study of educational attainment of males and females is very important. Educational attainment is the percentage distribution of various levels of educational attainment in the literate population. Table–4.6 shows that 44.85% of the literate males and 21.30% of the literate females of rural area are of the the primary level (iv standard) while in urban areas 20.62% of the literate males and 34.12% of the literate females are of the the primary level (iv standard) .Rural urban disparity is observed in graduation and post-graduation level. In rural areas of Maldah district 6.10% male and only 2.13 % female are graduates, whereas in urban areas 11.34% male and 10.59 % female are graduates. So the gap in graduation level between rural and urban areas is 5.24% for male and 8.46% for female .Disparity again is observed in Post-graduation level in male and female of rural and urban areas of Maldah district .Only 2.87% male and 0.85% female of rural Maldah are post-graduates whereas 9.28 % of male and 8.23% of female of urban aress are post-graduates (Figure-4.4). So the gap in post- graduation level between rural and urban areas is 6.41% for male and 7.38% for female.

4.1.5.3 Preference of Location of School

The literacy level among younger generation is more than the older ones. There has been considerable change in social parameters including educational status of Scheduled Castes with introduction of various programmes and schemes like free primary education, scholarship to Scheduled Castes students' mid-day meal and 'Sarbasiksha Abhijan'. It has been also observed that the rural people including Scheduled Castes have high ambitions and aspirations regarding not only for the education of their children but also for their employment after education.

Table -4.7
Preference of Study Centre for Children

Category	Daughter		Son		%			
	Frequency		Frequency		Daughter		Son	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Within Village/Town	116	27	71	07	10.83	36.99	6.63	9.59
Outside Village/Town (Within Dist.)	745	5	610	00	69.56	6.85	56.96	00.00
Other District	199	30	301	42	18.58	41.10	28.10	57.53
Other State (For Higher Education)	11	11	89	24	1.03	15.06	8.31	32.88
Total	1071	73	1071	73	100	100	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table 4.7 represents that out of total 1071 rural respondents 10.83% and 6.63% respondents' prefer schools in their village for daughter and son respectively .18.58% rural and 41.10% urban respondents' prefer study centre for their daughter in other district . Very encouraging fact is observed during field study that 15.06% of urban respondents' and 1.03% of rural respondents' prefer other states for higher education of their daughtes ,whereas 8.31%rural and 32.88% urban respondents' prefer other state for the education of their sons .41.10% urban and 18.58% rural respondents prefer other district for the education of their daughters while majority of the urban

(57.53%) and 28.10% rural respondents prefer other district for their sons for better education.

4.1.5.4 Enrolment of Children in School:

The respondents were asked whether all the children above 5 years go to the school, 970 (90.57%) replied positive and 9.43% replied negative. But in this case the disparity among urban and rural areas is observed. In urban areas all SCs children above 5 years age go to the school but in rural areas the scenario is not same due to poor economic condition and awareness (Figure-4.5).

Table –4.8
Enrolment of Children in School

Response	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Enrolled	970	73	90.57	100
Not Enrolled	101	00	09.43	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

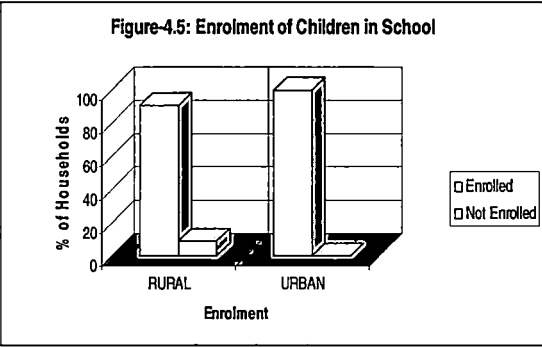
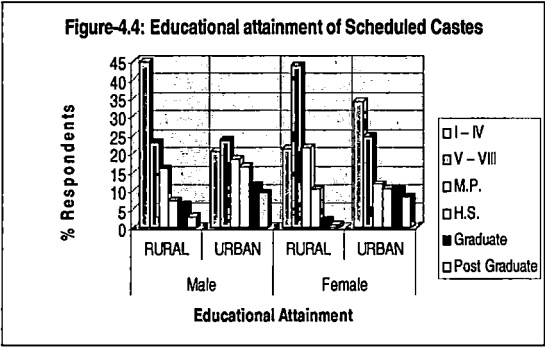
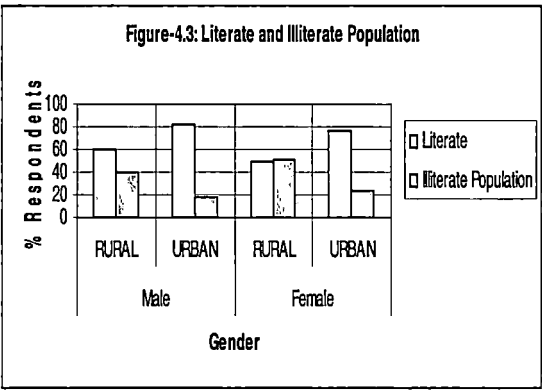
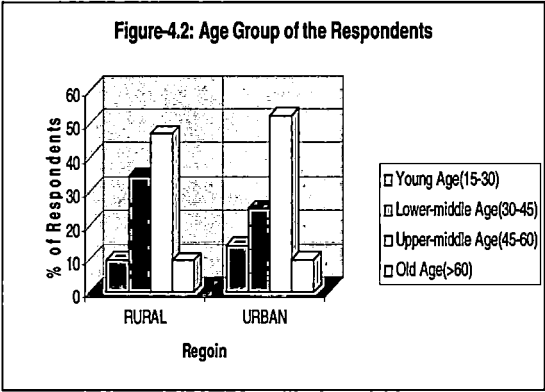
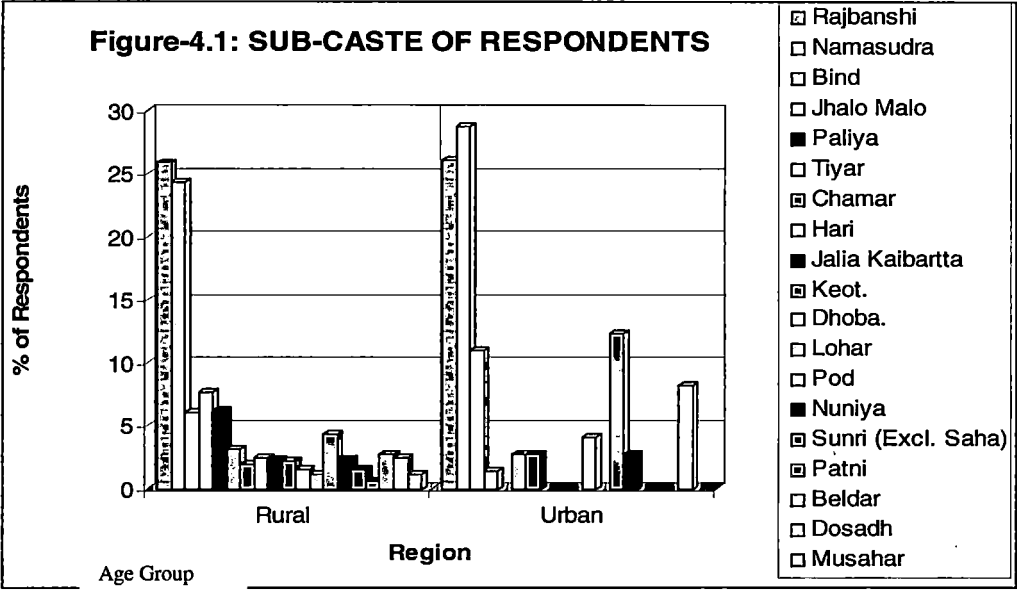
Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Findings:

From the foregoing at analysis the following conclusions may be drawn –

- Children of age five years and above of 9.43% rural respondents are not enrolled in school.
- That the disparity is observed between rural and urban areas of Maldah district in this case.
- That reasons for not sending all above 5 years children in rural areas are poor economic condition and lack of awareness.

4.1.5.5 Dropout of the Students: Though the enrolment of SCs children have increased during last few decades, particularly at primary level, the dropout rates among these children continue to be very high. In rural areas the rate of dropout is high whereas no dropout is recorded in urban areas (Table-4.9). Out of total 132 dropout students majority (65.91%) are of primary level whereas remaining 34.09% are of high school level.



Reasons for high rate of dropout:

The reasons for high rate of dropout of children are –

- i) Poor economic condition and illiteracy of families,
- ii) To join the labourforce to supplement meager family income,
- iii) Large number of boys and girls work as child labour in bidi factories here
- IV) Early Marriage of daughters.

Table –4.9
DROPOUT STUDENTS

LEVEL	No. OF STUDENTS		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
PRIMARY (I-IV)	87	00	65.91	00
V-VIII	45	00	34.09	00
T O T A L	132	00	100	00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

4.1.5.6 Preference of School for Primary Education of children:

Ambition and desire of the parents for the education of their children indicated by the preference of the location and type of the schools. The results of preference of private nursery school and government school have been given in the table no – 4.10

Table –4.10
Preference of School for Primary Education of children

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Private Nursery School	678	69	63.30	94.52
Government School	393	04	36.70	5.48
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Out of total 1071 rural respondents'678(63.30%) have preferred private nursery school and 393(36.70%) prefer government schools for their children .Whereas in urban areas out of total 73respondents'69(94.52%) have preferred private nursery school and 04(5.48%) prefer government schools for their children (Figure-4.7).

The findings of this study are-

Firstly, the parents are very much conscious about the education of their children.

Secondly, they are sending their children to private school for quality education because the govt. primary schools are presently suffering by the lack of teachers.

Thirdly, for the quality education and betterment in future they are willing to spend more money for their children.

Finally, in the lower income group, the preference is more for the govt. schools due to the free education and free mid-day meal from the government.

4.1.5.7 Respondents aim to provide education for their children:

Many interesting and encouraging findings have been come out from the study regarding respondents aim to provide education for their children.

Table –4.11

Opinion Regarding Educational Attainment of Children

Category	Daughter				Son			
	Frequency		%		Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Upto viii	259	00	24.18	00	245	00	22.88	00
Secondary	459	05	42.86	06.84	301	00	28.10	00
Higher Secondary	189	10	17.65	13.70	279	03	26.05	04.11
Graduate	108	31	10.08	42.47	143	39	13.35	53.42
Post – Graduate	49	25	04.58	34.25	92	31	08.59	42.47
As they like	07	02	00.65	02.74	11	00	01.03	00
Total	1071	73	100	100	1071	73	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Firstly, 34.25% urban respondents and 04.58% rural respondents want to provide education up to post- graduation level for their daughter ,whereas in rural areas 08.59 %respondents want to provide education upto post- graduation level for their son .So, disparity is found in the choice of education for son and daughter of rural families .

Secondly, Maximum of the rural families (42.86%) want to educate their daughter upto Secondary level, on the other hand most of the urban families want to educate their daughter upto Graduation level(42.47%).

Thirdly, , Maximum of the rural families (28.10%) want to educate their son upto Secondary level, on the other hand most of the urban families want to educate their sons upto Graduation level(53.42%)(Figure-4.8).

The findings of the reasons for the disparity in education in daughter and son are in rural and urban areas are-

- a) Poor economic condition of rural respondents and to give dowry for daughter in rural areas.
- b) Early age marriage for daughter in rural areas.
- c) Highly educated son can take responsibility of their families' offer getting job but after marriage daughter will be the member of other families. This attitude is the main cause for the disparity in education in rural areas.
- d) In some cases conservativeness is the causes for low education of daughter in rural areas.

4.1.5.8 Preference of Profession for Children: Table – 4.12 represents choice of profession for son and daughter of scheduled castes families of Maldah district. The findings of the study are as follows-

A .In rural areas maximum (38.66 %) families prefer teaching profession for their daughter and 01.77 % families prefer doctor profession for their daughter.

B. In urban areas maximum (47.95%) families prefer teaching profession for their daughter and 21.92% families prefer doctor profession for their daughter.

C. Teaching profession is also preferred by the both maximum rural(57.42%) and urban(41.10%) families for their son .

D. In rural areas 32.68 % families and in urban areas10.96 % families prefer Nursing or Multipurpose profession for their daughter (Figure-4.9).

E .Maximun disparity is observed in rural and urban areas for the choice of doctor profession due to the poor economic condition and educational backwardness of rural scheduled castes.

Table –:4.12

Preference of Profession for Children

Category	Daughter		Son		%			
	Frequency		Frequency		Daughter		Son	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Doctor	19	16	32	15	01.77	21.92	02.99	20.55
Engineer	39	05	41	21	03.64	06.85	03.83	28.77
Lawyer	67	04	40	02	06.26	05.48	03.73	02.74
Teacher	414	35	615	30	38.66	47.95	57.42	41.10
Businessman	52	03	201	05	04.86	04.11	18.77	06.84
Cultivation	89	00	92	00	08.31	00.00	08.59	00.00
Nurse/ Multipurpose	350	08	00	00	32.68	10.96	00.00	00.00
Others	42	02	50	00	03.92	02.74	04.67	00.00
Total	1071	73	1071	73	100	100	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

4.1.5.9 Inter – Generational Educational Mobility

The term ‘mobility’ refers to the process by which individuals move from one position to another in society. So, Educational mobility is the process by which individual families and groups move from one educational position to another in society. Education is the most important channel of mobility; especially for the Scheduled Castes. However, their education is full of struggles and they go through various problems while studying, although it is supplemented by special facilities.⁽³⁾

In many families the respondents are the first generation learners and therefore it is relevant to see their educational level at inter-generational level. The aim of this study is to explore and analyse the nature and extent of educational mobility among three generational levels–father–respondent–grandfather.

The educational levels of Scheduled Castes over three generations are shown in the Table -4.13. It is clear from the table that the majority of the rural Scheduled Castes respondents are illiterates throughout all the three successive generations. The analysis of the table also shows that in grand fathers' time in rural areas there were 898 (83.85%) illiterates and only 173 (16.15%) literates out of 1071. Even among these 173 literates, 53.76% (93) of them have only primary education whereas in urban areas there were only 16 (21.92%) illiterates. In Father's time in rural areas there were only 355 (33.15%) literates out of 1071. Even among 355, 54.37% (193) of them had only primary education whereas there were 63 (86.30%) literates fathers in urban areas. In the respondents time there was some improvements with 465 (43.42%) literate in rural areas and 69 (94.52%) literates in urban areas. Among the literates at the respondents time at least 290 (62.37%) of them in rural areas and 64 (92.75 %) in urban areas had high school level or more education. However, among the respondents, 175 (37.63%) literates in rural and 05 (07.25 %) literates in urban areas had only primary education. At the time of recent generation or at the time of children of respondents the literacy rate is much higher, even the quality of education is also better.

Table –4.13

***EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES
OVER THREE GENERATIONS***

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	RESPONDENT		FATHER		GRANDFATHER	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
ILLITERATE	606	04	716	10	898	16
PRIMARY	175	05	193	14	93	22
HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL (V-X)	121	12	76	09	51	16
HIGHER SECONDARY	96	17	46	15	19	11
GRADUATE	52	19	28	16	08	06
POST GRADUATE	21	16	12	09	02	02
TOTAL	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table –4.14

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY: RESPONDENT AND FATHER (RURAL)

RESPONDENT	FATHER						
	Post-graduate	Graduate	Higher Secondary	Secondary Standard	Primary	Illiterate	TOTAL
Post-graduate	12	06	02	01			21
Graduate		20	23	05	02	02	52
Higher Secondary		02	21	13	18	42	96
Secondary				55	30	36	121
Primary				02	142	31	175
Illiterate					01	605	606
TOTAL	12	28	46	76	193	716	1071

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table –4.15

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY: RESPONDENT AND FATHER (URBAN)

RESPONDENT	FATHER						
	Post-graduate	Graduate	Higher Secondary	Secondary Standard	Primary	Illiterate	TOTAL
Post-graduate	07	05	03	01			16
Graduate	02	10	03	02	02		19
Higher Secondary		01	09	04	02	01	17
Secondary				02	05	05	12
Primary					04	01	05
Illiterate					01	03	04
TOTAL	09	16	15	09	14	10	73

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

The educational mobility among Scheduled Castes over three generations has been analyzed with the help of mobility tables. There are same rows and columns of educational levels in mobility tables representing educational category of two generations to examine and compare the change in education between them.

Two generations at a time has been considered to analyze the educational mobility among Scheduled Castes, viz.

- 1.Respondents' father and respondents'
- 2.Respondents' and their grandfathers'.
- 3.Respondents' father & grandfathers'.

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY:

Respondents' father and Respondents'

Table-4.14 and 4.15 represents educational mobility for respondents' father and respondents' generation. From the table we can clearly understand that compare to the respondents' father 855 (79.83%) respondents in rural areas and 35 (47.94%) in urban areas were remain as immobile in terms of educational attainment as they are same with their father, whereas the remaining 216 (20.17%) respondents' of rural areas and 38 (52.06%) respondent' of urban areas have enriched them with different educational attainment than that of the respondents' fathers. Out of the 855 immobile respondents' in rural areas, 605 (70.76%) are illiterates, 142 (16.61%) have primary education, 55(6.43%) have secondary education, 21(2.46%) have higher secondary education, 20(2.34%) are graduates and 12 (1.40%) are post graduates. Out of the 35 immobile respondents' in urban areas, 03 (8.57%) are illiterates, 4 (11.43%) have primary education, 2(5.71%) have secondary education, 9(25.71%) have higher secondary education, 10(28.57%) are graduates and 7 (20.00%) are post graduates.

Of the 216 respondents in rural areas who achieved different educational qualifications compared to the respondents' father, 211 (97.69%) have moved up whereas 5 (2.31%) went down in terms of educational attainment.

Upward Educational Mobility

In case of upward mobility compared to the illiterate fathers, 31(14.69%) respondents have achieved primary education, 36(17.06%) respondents' have achieved secondary education, 42(19.90%) respondents' have achieved higher secondary education, 2(0.95%) achieved graduate level in rural areas whereas 1(2.94%) respondents have achieved primary education, 5(14.71%) respondents'

have achieved secondary education, 1(2.94%) respondent have achieved higher secondary education in urban areas, compared to illiterate father.

Compared to the respondents fathers with primary level education, 30(17.06%) respondents' have achieved secondary education, 18(19.90%) respondents have achieved higher secondary education, 2(0.95%) achieved graduate level in rural areas whereas in urban areas 5(14.71%) respondents have achieved secondary education, 2(5.88%) respondents have achieved higher secondary education and 2(5.88%) respondents have achieved graduation level education.

Compared to the respondents fathers with secondary level education 13 (6.16%) respondents' have achieved higher secondary education, 5(2.37%) achieved graduate level in rural areas whereas in urban areas 4(11.76%) respondents have achieved higher secondary education and 2(5.88%) respondents have achieved graduation level education.

Compared to the respondents' fathers' with higher secondary level education, 23(10.90%) respondents achieved graduate level education and 2(0.95%) achieved post graduate level in rural areas whereas in urban areas 3(8.82%) respondents have achieved graduation level education and 3(8.82%) achieved post graduate level.

Compared to the respondents' fathers' with graduation level education 6(2.84%) respondents' have achieved post graduate level in rural areas whereas in urban areas 5 (14.71%) respondents have achieved post- graduation level education .

Downward Educational Mobility:

In rural areas compared to the respondents' fathers' 5 (2.31%) went down in terms of educational attainment whereas in urban areas 4 (10.53%) respondents' went down in terms of educational attainment. Compared to graduate father 2(0.95%) rural respondents' and 2(5.88%) urban respondents' education level went down to H.S. level. There are 2(5.88%) urban respondents' who went down to graduation level compared to post-graduates fathers'. 2(0.95%) rural respondents' went down to primary level compared to fathers' with H.S. level. One respondent from urban and one from rural area remain illiterate compared to primary education level fathers'.

Respondents and Grandfathers

Table –4.16 represents the educational mobility for respondents and grandfathers generation. From the table we can clearly understand that compare to the respondents' grandfather 616 (79.83%) respondents in rural areas and 13 (47.94%) in urban areas were remain as immobile in terms of educational attainment as they are same with their grandfathers', whereas the remaining 455 (20.17%) respondents' of rural areas and 60 (52.06%) respondent' of urban areas have enriched them with different educational attainment than that of the respondents' grandfathers'. Out of the 616 immobile respondents' in rural areas, 603 (97.89%) are illiterates, 4 (0.65%) have primary education, 2(0.32%) have secondary education, 3(0.49%) have higher secondary education, 2(0.32%) are graduates and 2 (0.32%) are post graduates. Out of the 13 immobile respondents' in urban areas, 03 (23.08%) are illiterates, 2 (15.38%) have primary education, 1(7.69%) have secondary education, 1(27.69%) have higher secondary education, 4(30.77%) are graduates and 2 (15.38%) are post graduates.

Of the 455 respondents in rural areas who achieved different educational qualifications compared to the respondents' grandfathers, 451 (99.12%) have moved up whereas 4 (0.88%) went down in terms of educational attainment and in urban areas 59 (98.33%) have moved up whereas 1 (1.67%) went down in terms of educational attainment .

Table –4.16

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY: RESPONDENT AND GRANDFATHER (RURAL)

RESPONDE- NT	GRANDFATHER						
	Post-graduate	Graduate	Higher Secondary	Secondary Standard	Primary	Illiterate	TOTAL
Post-graduate	02	06	09	03	01		21
Graduate		02	07	21	17	05	52
Higher Secondary			03	24	27	42	96
Secondary				02	41	78	121
Primary				01	04	170	175
Illiterate					03	603	606
TOTAL	02	08	19	51	93	898	1071

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table –4.17***EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY: RESPONDENT AND GRANDFATHER (URBAN)***

RESPONDENT	GRANDFATHER						TOTAL
	Post-graduate	Graduate	Higher Secondary	Secondary Standard	Primary	Illiterate	
Post-graduate	02	02	07	02	03		16
Graduate		04	03	06	05	01	19
Higher Secondary			01	07	06	03	17
Secondary				01	05	06	12
Primary					02	03	05
Illiterate					01	03	04
TOTAL	02	06	11	16	22	16	73

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Respondents' father & grand fathers:

Educational mobility for respondents' father and grandfathers' generation is shown in the table no -4.18 and 4.19. From the table we can clearly understand that compare to the respondents' grandfather 790 (73.76%) fathers in rural areas and 26 (35.62%) in urban areas were remain as immobile in terms of educational attainment as they are same with their fathers, whereas the remaining 281 (26.24%) fathers of rural areas and 47 (64.38%) fathers of urban areas have enriched them with different educational attainment than that of their fathers'. Out of the 790 immobile fathers' in rural areas, 711 (90.00%) are illiterates, 41 (5.19%) have primary education, 27(03.42%) have secondary education, 8(1.01%) have higher secondary education, 2(0.25%) are graduates and 1 (0.12%) is post graduates. Out of the 26 immobile fathers in urban areas, 08 (30.77%) are illiterates, 10 (38.46%) have primary education, 3(11.54%) have secondary education, 2(7.69%) have higher secondary education, 2(7.69%) are graduates and 1 (3.85%) is post graduates.

Of the 281 fathers' in rural areas who achieved different educational qualifications compared to the respondents' grandfathers, 269 (95.37%) have moved

up whereas 12 (4.27%) went down in terms of educational attainment and in urban areas of the 47 fathers' 43 (91.49%) have moved up whereas 4 (8.51%) went down compared to their fathers' in terms of educational attainment.

Table –4.18

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY: GRANDFATHER AND FATHER (RURAL)

FATHER	GRANDFATHER						
	Post-graduate	Graduate	Higher Secondary	Secondary Standard	Primary	Illiterate	TOTAL
Post-graduate	01	05	04	01	01		12
Graduate	01	02	05	09	06	05	28
Higher Secondary		01	08	11	13	13	46
Secondary			02	27	27	20	76
Primary				03	41	149	193
Illiterate					05	711	716
TOTAL	02	08	19	51	93	898	1071

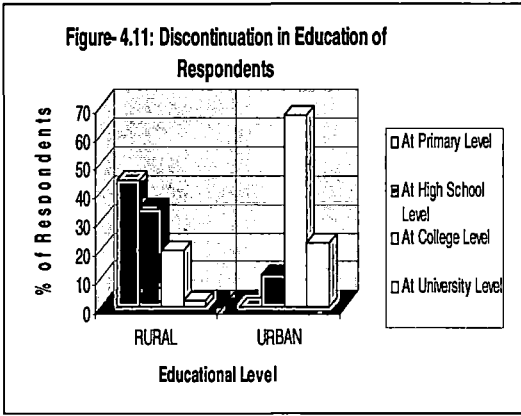
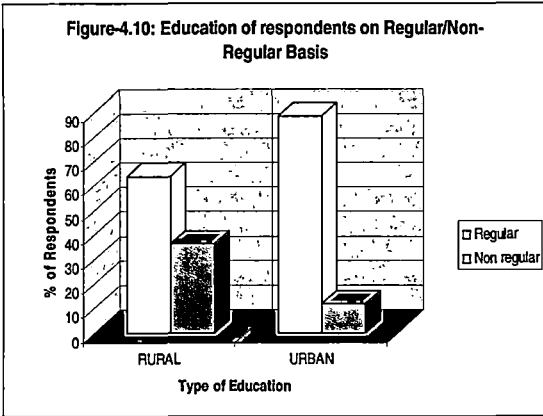
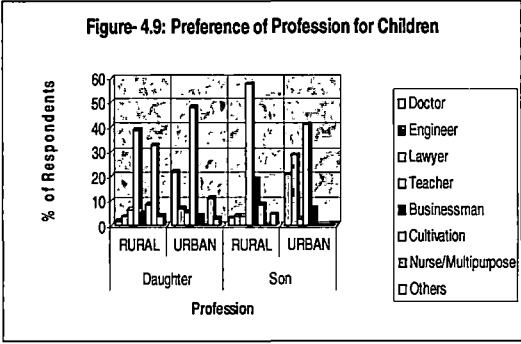
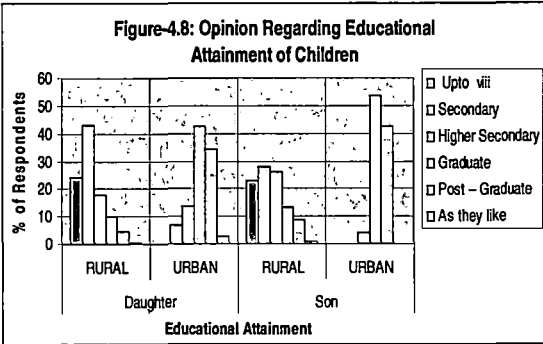
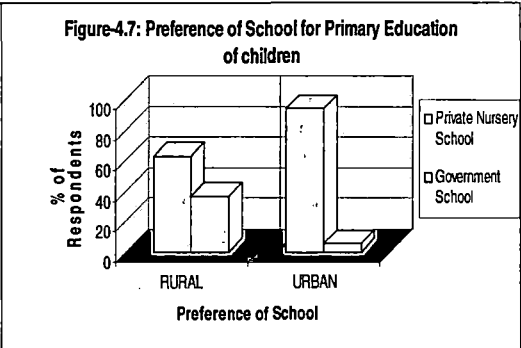
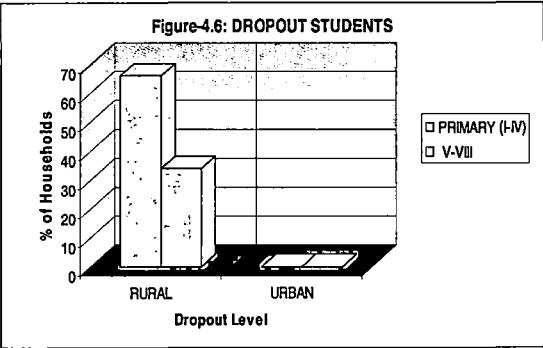
Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table-4.19

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY: GRANDFATHER AND FATHER (Urban)

FATHER	GRANDFATHER						
	Post-graduate	Graduate	Higher Secondary	Secondary Standard	Primary	Illiterate	TOTAL
Post-graduate	01	04	02	02			09
Graduate	01	02	07	03	02	01	16
Higher Secondary			02	07	04	02	15
Secondary				03	04	02	09
Primary				01	10	03	14
Illiterate					02	08	10
TOTAL	02	06	11	16	22	16	73

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010



4.1.5.10 Respondents Education on Regular and Non-regular Basis

Out of total 465 rural literate respondents 297 (63.87%) have complete their education on regular basis and 168(36.13%) on non-regular basis. In case of urban areas among 69 literate respondents 61(88.41%) completed their education on regular basis and 8(11.59%) on non-regular basis (Figure-4.10).

Table-4.20

Education of respondents on Regular/Non-Regular Basis

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Regular	297	61	63.87	88.41
Non regular	168	08	36.13	11.59
Total	465	69	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Finding shows that the percentage of respondents who have completed entire education on regular basis is more in urban areas (88.41%) compared to rural areas (63.87%).

This is because of the fact that due to better socio-economic condition of urban respondent they have completed their education on regular basis but due to poor economic condition the rural respondents were forced to join any kind of job to meet the financial need of their families and 36.13 % respondents have completed their education on non-regular basis.

4.1.5.11 Discontinuation in Education:

Out of total 465 rural literate respondents 190 (40.86%) have discontinued their education. The analysis of the discontinuation in education (Table – 4.21) of SCs respondents clearly shows that out of total 190 respondents 84 (44.21%) discontinued their education in primary level, 65 (34.21%) in high school level, 37 (19.47%) in college level and 04 (2.10%) in University level. Of total 69 literate urban

respondents,only 09(13.04%) have discontinued their education(Figure-4.11). So, the gap between urban and rural respondents in terms of discontinuation of education is 27.82%. In urban areas 66.67%, 22.22% and 11.11% respondents discontinued their education at college level, university level and high school level respectively.

So, it is clear from the study that in rural areas the case of discontinuation is high(44.21%) at primary level whereas in urban areas the drop out rate is high(66.67%) at college level .

Table-4.21

Discontinuation in Education of Respondents

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
At Primary Level	84	00	44.21	00
At High School Level	65	01	34.21	11.11
At College Level	37	06	19.47	66.67
At University Level	04	02	02.11	22.22
Total	190	09	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Reasons for discontinuation in Education:

Table -4.22 represents that the reasons for discontinuation in education of scheduled castes respondents. The analysis of the table clearly shows that out of the 190 rural respondents 160 (84.21%) had discontinued their education for financial problem, 22 (11.58%) for lack of educational facilities, 06 (03.16%)for domestic problems and 02 (01.05%) for social discrimination. In urban areas 55.56%, 22.22% and 22.22% respondents’ had discontinued their education for financial and domestic problem and lack of educational facility (Figure-4.12).

Table –4.22

Reasons behind Discontinuation in Education

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Financial Problem	160	05	84.21	55.56
Domestic Problem	06	02	03.16	22.22
Social Discrimination	02	00	01.05	00.00
Lack of Educational Facility	22	02	11.58	22.22
Total	190	09	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

4.1.5.12 Higher education with and without job:

Though majority of respondents, 36 (52.17%) of urban have completed their education without job, 59 (12.69%) respondents of rural areas have completed their education without being employed. Out of total 69 urban respondents, there are only 4(5.80 %) who were in jobs during entire education and 29(42.03%) were taking education partly with job and partly without job whereas in rural Maldah 104(22.37%) respondents' were employed during entire education and 302(64.94%) respondents' were taking education partly with job and partly without job to fulfill the economic need of their families. This figure indicates the poor economic condition of their families. This is because of the fact that the poor economic condition of their families and higher dependency ratio forced them to join any kind of economic activities. According to the respondents these jobs were mostly private and were low paid with heavy work load. However, they were forced to take up any employment that was available. But on the other hand due to better economic condition in urban areas majority(52.17%) respondents have completed their higher education without job (Figure-4.13).

Table –4.23
Respondents Education With/Without Job

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Entire Education Without Job	59	36	12.69	52.17
Entire Education With Job	104	04	22.37	5.80
Partly With Job, Partly Without Job	302	29	64.94	42.03
Total	465	69	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

4.1.5.13 Facility during education of respondents

Various government reports and studies have proved the relevance and the usefulness of the facilities given to the SCs have been beyond question. “However, the entire policy and its implementation carry certain lacunae, such as lack of uniformity and coordination at the central and state levels. The states have different methods and sources and the central government has different schemes, programmes

and plans which are directly implemented or implemented through the states. Majority of the SCs are concentrated in rural areas and are illiterate. Therefore the general awareness about these facilities is very low.”⁽⁴⁾

So, due to lack of awareness in rural areas these facilities are very low here. Consequently, the facilities mostly go unutilized or are utilized at a minimum level. The major of the facilities are utilized by the Scheduled Castes population of urban areas. The table-4.24 shows that majority of the respondents utilize these facilities. The facilities have been divided into two categories –

- a) Material Facilities: These facilities include scholarship, hostel facilities, books etc.
- b) Reservation in Admissions: Seats are reserved for SCs candidates.

Table –4.24
Facility during Education of Respondents

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
No Facility	182	10	39.14	14.49
Material Facility (Scholarship, Hostel, Books, Cloths etc.)	126	22	27.10	31.89
Reservation in Admission	14	10	03.01	14.49
Material and Reservation	143	27	30.75	39.13
Total	465	69	100.00	100.00

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Out of total 465 literate respondents’ of rural areas182(39.14%) and 10(14.49%) of urban areas did not avail of the facilities even though they were available. 27.10 % respondents’ in rural areas and 31.89% respondents’ of rural areas had availed material facilities (Scholarship, Hostel, Books, Cloths etc.) . The facility Reservation in Admission was availed by only 3.01% and 14.49% rural and urban respondents’ respectively. Among the different facilities highest no. of respondents received material and reservation facility. 30.75% rural and 39.13% urban respndents’ availed both the material and reservation facility (Figure-4.14).

Facilities availed at different Educational Level:-

Table no –4.25 represents facility availed by respondents at school, college and university level.

The analysis of the table representing facilities during different educational level of respondents clearly shows that out of total 465 rural respondents' 182 (39.14%) and 10 (14.49%) urban respondents did not avail any facility at different educational level. Respondents' did not avail of the facilities due to following causes –

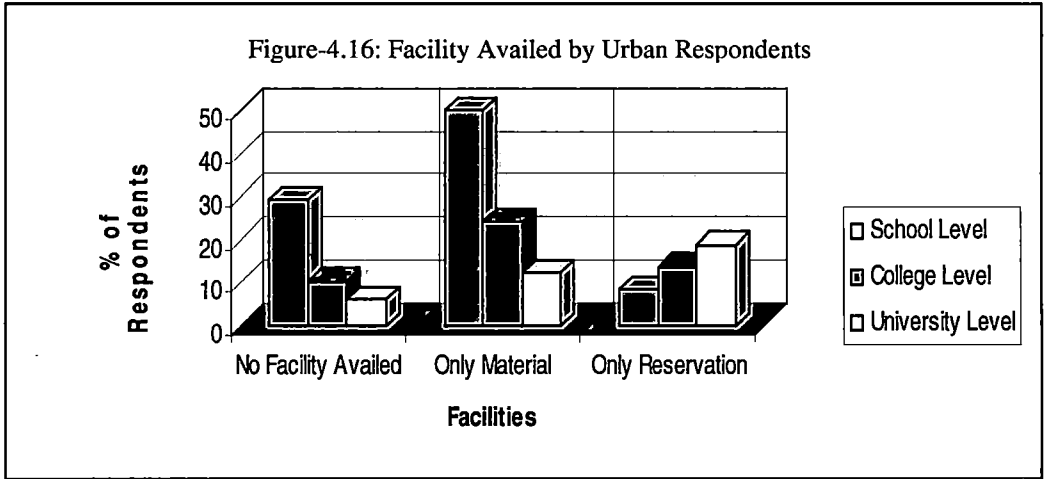
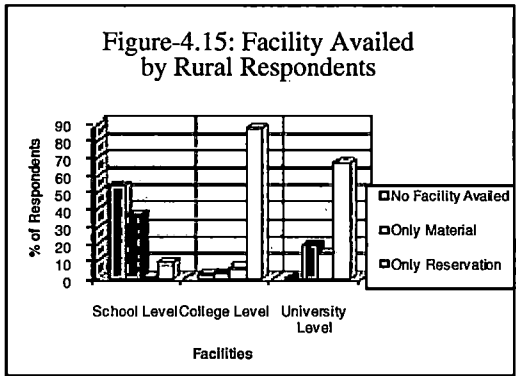
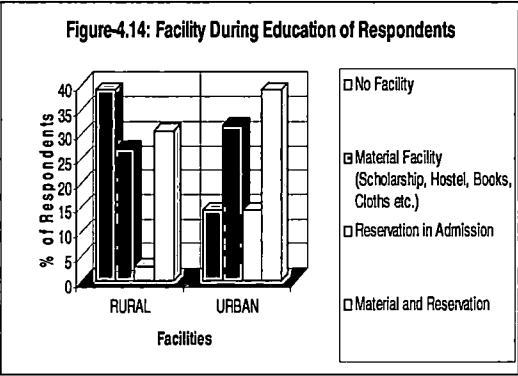
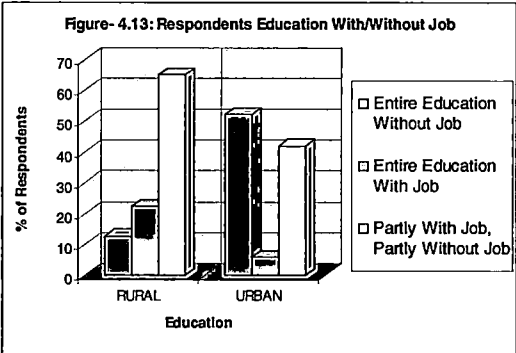
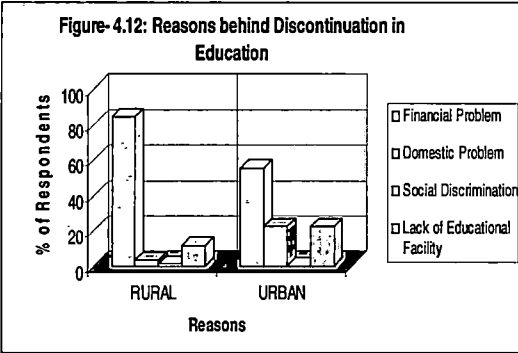
- a) Due to not having any relevant information
- b) Used to feel bad or humiliated.
- c) Due to high income of families.

The facilities availed by the respondents at different educational level are as follows-

School Level: Out of total 332 rural respondents' of school level education 179 (53.92%) did not avail the facilities even though they were available whereas this figure for urban area is 07(29.17%) . This is because of the lack of the knowledge of these facilities and they used to feel bad to disclose their castes, and there were few respondents who did not utilize these facilities due to higher income of their families.

In the case of rural respondents' 36.14 % availed only material facilities , 1.20% availed only material facility and remaining 8.74% availed both material and reservation facilities(Figure-4.15). On the other hand in urban areas 50% respondents' availed only material facilities , 08.33% availed only material facility and remaining 12.50% availed both material and reservation facilities(Figure-4.16). So, inequality is observed in the rural and urban areas in terms of availing different facilities provided for the educational development of the scheduled castes .

Facility availed at College Level: Table- 4.25 gives a clear picture of facility availed by respondents at college level. At this level majority of them (87.50% in rural areas and 51.72% of urban areas) got material facilities and reservation in admission. Due to high income of their families some of them did not avail material facilities from government. Like school level here also 10.34% urban and 2.68% rural respondents' did not avail the facilities even though they were available because of non-eligibility due to high income and not more than two children can avail these facilities according to rule.



So, who have more than two brothers and sister are not all eligible to avail these facilities. Further few of them reported that they did not avail these facilities because of the fact that their friends who belongs to higher castes look down upon them.

Table –4.25
Facility Availed by Respondents

Category	School Level		College Level		University Level	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
No Facility Availed	179 (53.92)	07 (29.17)	03 (02.68)	03 (10.34)	00 (00.00)	01 (6.25)
Only Material	120 (36.14)	12 (50.00)	04 (03.57)	07 (24.14)	04 (19.05)	02 (12.50)
Only Reservation	04 (01.20)	02 (08.33)	07 (06.25)	04 (13.80)	03 (14.29)	03 (18.75)
Material & Reservation	29 (08.74)	03 (12.50)	98 (87.50)	15 (51.72)	14 (66.66)	10 (62.50)
Total	332 (100%)	24 (100%)	112 (100%)	29 (100%)	21 (100%)	16 (100%)

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Facilities availed at University Level:

Different facilities for the improvement in higher education at University level are material facilities, reservation in admission and material plus reservation which are represented by the table no – 4.25. This is clear from the table that majority of respondents' (66.66% of rural areas and 62.50 %of urban areas) utilize both material facilities and reservation in admission at university level. 19.05% respondents of rural areas and 12.50% respondents' of urban areas availed only material facility because in admission due to high score in college level examination they treated as 'General Candidates' in merit list. 14.29% and 18.75% respondents' of rural and urban areas reported that they availed only reservation facility due to high income of their families. There is one respondent who did not avail of any facilities. The causes for not availing these facilities are –

1. Securing high marks in graduation plus high income of family and
2. Used to feel bad or humiliated.

4.1.5.14 Respondents efforts to complete Education

Table – 4.26 represents efforts to complete the education of respondents. This variable is generated out of the following variables -

- a) With or without a job, Respondents who completed their education with a job were given high weightage
- b) Whether the initial and higher education was completed on a regular basis or a non-regular basis.

Respondents who completed their education on non-regular basis were given high weightage

- c) Age of the respondents at the time of completion of education.
Respondents who completed their education at a late age were given high weightage.
- d) Income of families

Respondents who belong to poor families and completed their education were given high weightage.

This weightage has been divided into three categories:

- 1. Low Degree Efforts,
- 2. Medium Degree Efforts, and
- 3. High Degree Efforts.

Table –4.26
Respondent’s Efforts to Complete Education (RURAL)

Educational level	EFFORTS			TOTAL
	Low	Medium	High	
Low(I-IV)	65	85	25	175
Medium(V-X)	15	19	87	121
High(XI-PG)	09	16	144	169
TOTAL	89	120	256	465

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table –4.27
Respondent’s Efforts to Complete Education (Urban)

Educational level	EFFORTS			TOTAL
	Low	Medium	High	
Low(I-IV)	03	01	01	05
Medium(V-X)	08	02	02	12
High(XI-PG)	34	12	06	52
TOTAL	45	15	09	69

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

The table – 4.26 and 4.27 represent clear correspondence between the level of education and the level of efforts to complete education. The assumption is that those coming from well-off homes would not have to put in extra efforts and therefore would have had a higher level of education. Thus, an inverse relationship is expected between the level of education and level of efforts. The table shows that there are 144 rural and 6 urban respondents’ of high educational levels whose effort was high to complete the education. Among the 9 respondents of urban areas of higher degree efforts 6(66.67%) are of high educational level, 2(22.22%) are of medium and one(11.11%) is of low educational level whereas out of the 256 respondents of rural areas of higher degree efforts 144(56.25%) are of high educational level, 87(33.98%) are of medium and 25(9.77%) are of low educational level . Out of 45 low degree effort respondents of urban 34(75.56%) are of high, 08(17.78%) are of medium & 03(6.66%) are of low education level. On the other hand out of 89 low degree effort respondents of rural 09(10.11%) are of high, 15(16.86%) are of medium & 65(73.03%) are of low education level.

4.1.5.15 Respondents Education and Socio-Economic Status (SES):

The correlation between respondents level of education and their SES has been represent by the table no – 4.28.

Table – 4.28
Respondents Education and their Socio – Economic Status (SES), (RURAL)

Educational level	SES			TOTAL
	Low	Medium	High	
Low(I-IV)	159	16	00	175
Medium(V-X)	87	23	11	121
High(XI-PG)	52	49	86	169
TOTAL	298	88	79	465

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table – 4.29
Respondents Education and their Socio – Economic Status ,(URBAN)

Educational Level	SES			TOTAL
	Low	Medium	High	
Low(I-IV)	04	01	00	05
Medium(V-X)	01	09	02	12
High(XI-PG)	02	22	28	52
TOTAL	07	32	30	69

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

The table shows that a majority 298 (64.09%) of rural literate respondent belongs to low SES, though out of these 298 respondents 52 (17.45%) achieved high, 87(29.19%) achieved medium and 159(53.36%) achieved low educational level. .There are 28(40.58%) respondents in urban areas with high SES and a high level of education and in the low SES only 2(2.90%) respondents have high educational level. So high level of co- relationship is seen between the two variables.

4.1.5.16 Degree of Efforts to Complete Education by Socio-economic Status (SES) : Table –4.30 and 4.31 represent the correlation between the variables, degree of efforts to complete education and SES of the respondents-

Table –4.30
Degree of effort to complete education by SES of respondents,(RURAL)

Effort to complete Educational	SES			TOTAL
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	00	12	77	89
Medium	48	70	02	120
High	250	06	00	256
TOTAL	298	88	79	465

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study-2010.

Table –4.31
Degree of effort to complete education by SES of respondents,(URBAN)

Effort to complete Educational	SES			TOTAL
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	00	18	27	45
Medium	00	12	03	15
High	07	02	00	09
TOTAL	07	32	30	69

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

It is clear from the tables that there are 7 (10.14%) respondents in urban and 298 (64.09%) respondents' in rural areas of low SES. Among the 298 rural respondents' of low SES 250 (83.89%) had high effort and 48(16.11%) had medium effort to complete their education. Of 7 urban respondents' of low SES all of them (100%) had high effort to complete the education. Majority of rural respondents, 298 (64.09%) are of low SES and among them 48(16.11%) and 250 (83.89%) had medium and high efforts to complete their education. There are 30 (43.48%) urban respondents with high SES and out of them 27(90%) had low degree and 3(10%) had medium degree efforts to complete their education. In rural areas of Maldah district there are 79 (43.48%) respondents with high SES and out of them 77(97.47%) had low degree and 2(2.53%) had high degree efforts to complete their education. So, inverse relationship is found between two variables; low SES represents high degree of effort to complete the education.

4.1.6 Marriage

There were many superstitions and traditional orthodox view points about various parameters of marriage but now the whole marriage system among SCs of Maldah is the process of change. The attitude has undergone a major change towards various aspects of marriage, these are –

- a) Child marriage
- b) Widow marriage
- c) Love marriage
- d) Re-marriage and
- e) Inter caste marriage etc.

The overall response of the SCs is towards the positive change and they are becoming more liberal and more receptive to modern ideologies. In order to find out the change in the attitude of the SCs of the Maldah district towards the marriage several indicators such as age at marriage, inter-caste marriage, preference of love or arrange marriage, place and distance of marriage, dowry system etc. have been taken into consideration.

4.1.6.1 Age at Marriage:

Among the important parameters in the consideration of the attitude towards marriage, age at marriage is very important parameter. Table –4.32 represents age at marriage for male and female of SCs households. The table clearly shows that attitude towards age at marriage is rapidly changing. In the past the marriage used to take place in the childhood which had several disadvantages and limitations. In some cases the marriage were decided even before the birth of the child.

The present study reveals that there has been a positive change regarding the age at marriage.

Table –4.32
Age at Marriage

Age at marriage	At Present				10 years ago				15 years ago			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U
<18	00	00	458	01	10	00	598	05	19	03	614	10
18-21	219	08	513	42	588	23	310	57	775	37	401	61
>21	852	65	100	30	473	50	163	11	277	33	56	02
Total	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

In order to assess the changing attitude towards age at marriage 10 years before, 15 years before and at present were included in the questionnaire. The table represents the strong positive change in the age at the marriage.

According to the respondents at present no male marry before age 18 in rural and urban areas whereas according to 458(42.76%) respondents' of rural areas and 01 respondent of urban areas the age of marriage for females is <18 years . According to the 614(57.33%) rural and 10(13.70%) urban respondents' 15 years ago the marriage of the daughters held before 18 years of age and according to 457 (42.67%) rural and 63 (86.30%) urban respondents' the age of marriage of females was more than 18 years. At present majority of the male in urban and rural areas marry at the age of >21 years (Figure-4.17).

4.1.6.2 Preference of Place of Marriage: Another important indicator of social transformation among the SCs is the preference of place of marriage for the children. With regard to preference of place it has been found that of 1071 rural respondents nearly 79.55% respondent prefer the village for the marriage of their children and 20.45% respondents have preferred town which is the indication of social transformation. 100% urban respondents prefer town for the place of marriage, because of the fact that presence of modern facilities like transport and communication, education, medical etc. in urban centre like Maldah. (Figure-4.18).

Table –4.33
Preference of Place of Marriage

Place	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Town	219	73	20.45	100
Village	852	00	79.55	00
Total:	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.6.3 Marital Status

Marital Status of people in a society holds a very important place in the study of population composition and structure. The SC population of Maldah has been characterized by a marked contrast in marital status between the urban and rural areas and in males and females. Marital status in any area has significant bearings on the components of population change, viz., fertility and migration.

Table –4.34
RURAL URBAN DIFFERENTIAL IN MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALE

AGE GROUP		Never Married		Married		Widowed		Divorced/Sepa rated		TOTAL	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
R U R A L	14-18	116	63.39	64	34.97	0	00	3	1.64	183	100
	18-21	10	6.80	131	89.12	2	1.36	4	2.72	147	100
	>21	15	1.09	1298	93.99	43	3.11	25	1.81	1381	100
U R B A N	14-18	8	100	00	00	00	00	00	00	8	100
	18-21	7	87.5	1	12.50	00	00	00	00	08	100
	>21	20	26.32	53	69.74	02	2.63	01	1.32	76	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The table-4.34 shows that 34.97% rural females of total 183 SC female populations in the age group 14-18, are married and not legally separated. The number of early marriage women is very high in rural areas compared to urban areas. It is very significant because an early marriage of women, thus, means not only a lower duration of childbearing but also a more frequent childbirth. In the age group 18-21 the percentage of married female is 89.12 and 12.50 in rural and urban areas. In the age group >21 years, 93.99% SC females are already married in rural areas, whereas in the urban areas the corresponding figure was as low as 69.74% (Figure-4.19). The conditions favours the early marriages of females in rural areas are social, cultural and economic. In the rural areas the rate of female marriage decreases with the increasing age group. The reasons in favour of high age group female marriages in urban areas are –

1. Better economic condition of families,
2. Educational facilities,
- 3 .Job opportunities than rural females,
- 4 .Consciousness of parents etc.

In societies like in Maldah district where marriage is a universal phenomenon, and where contraceptive prevalence rate is low, rising age at marriage holds a prime position in population control programmes.

4.1.6.4 Preference of Arranged and Love Marriage:

The preference of love marriage and arranged marriage is another indication of social transformation among SCs. Out of total 1071 rural respondents 81.51% prefer arrange marriage while 18.49% prefer love marriage which is again a sign of social transformation. . In urban areas out of total 73respondents only 10.96% prefer arrange marriage and 89.04% respondents prefer love marriage.

Table –4.35
Preference of Arranged and Love Marriage

Type Of Marriage	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Arranged	873	8	81.51	10.96
Love	198	65	18.49	89.04
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.6.5 Preference of Inter-caste Marriage:

The preference of inter-caste marriage is another indication of social transformation among the SCs. The result of the study on preference of inter-caste marriage is represented in the table no -.

Table –4.36
Inter Caste Marriage

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Prefer	580	62	54.15	84.93
Does not Prefer	491	11	45.85	15.07
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

In case of inter-caste marriages there have been positive and encouraging results. Out of total 1071 rural respondents (45.85%) respondents do not prefer inter-caste marriage but majority (54.15%) prefer it, while in urban areas 84.93% respondents prefer inter-caste marriage and 15.07% does not prefer it. So, we can say that the rigidity of inter-caste marriage is more in rural areas than urban areas(Figure-4.20).There is strong negative correlation between inter-caste marriage and B.P.L families(Table-5.120).

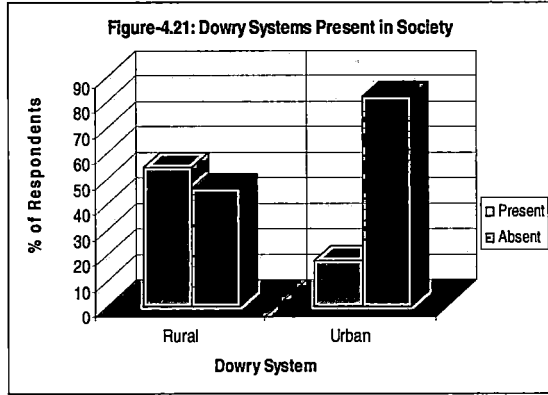
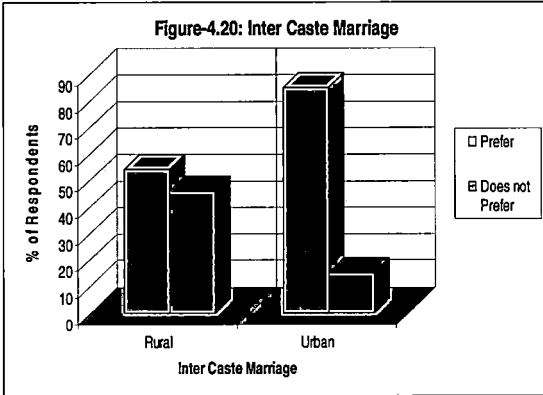
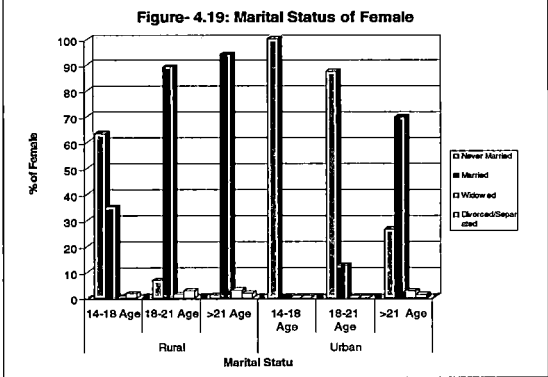
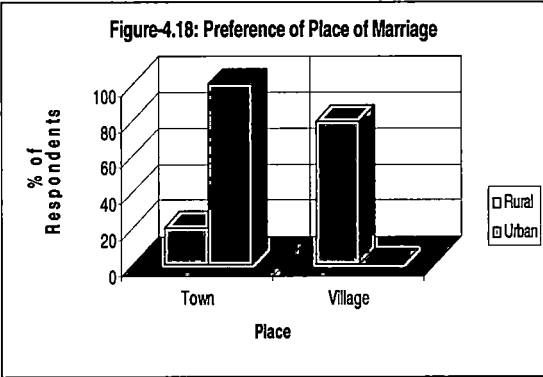
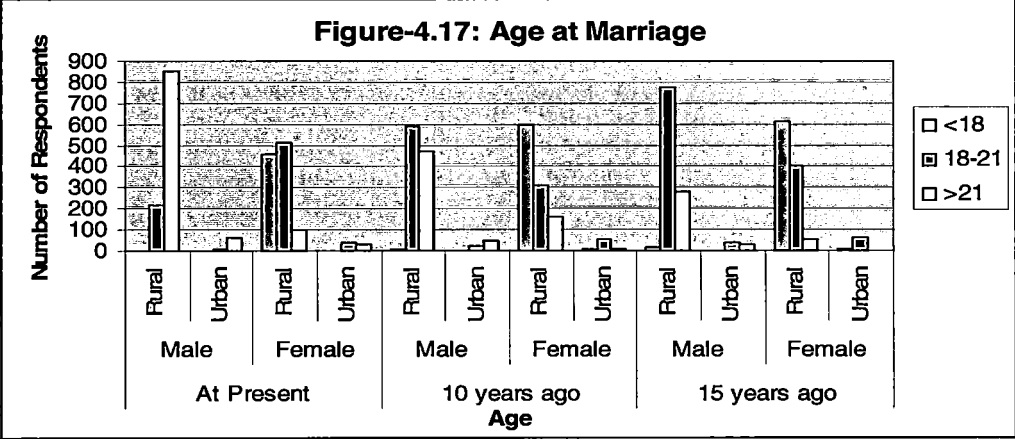
4.1.6.6 Preference of Dowry System

Though there are various rules and legislations, the dowry system has not minimized over the years. Information collected during field study reveals that dowry system is increasing day-by-day starting from lower to higher income groups. Out of total 1071rural respondents 1050 (98.04%) have reported that they do not prefer dowry system while 1.96% prefer it. In urban areas 100% respondents reported that they doesn't prefer dowry system .

Table –4.37
Preference of Dowry System

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	21	00	1.96	00
No	1050	73	98.04	100
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .



According to 54.25% rural respondents' dowry system is prevalent in their society and 17.81% urban respondents reported that dowry is prevalent in their society. This figure proves that the dowry system is prevalent more in the rural areas. According to the few respondents' the parents of girl child have to pay more dowry today than early days. There is strong positive correlation between B.P.L families and dowry .

Table –4.38
Dowry Systems Present in Society

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Present	581	13	54.25	17.81
Absent	490	60	45.75	82.19
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

4.1.6.7 Forms of Dowry

All the respondents reported that they paid dowry in form of cash, ornaments and furniture, bike, car etc. In the rural areas land is also paid by parents of girl child. Figure-4.22 represents that in rural areas according to the 45.27% respondents' cash is the main form of dowry, followed by ornaments (36.49%), bike (09.29%) and furniture (07.40%) whereas in urban areas according to 38.47% respondents ornament is the main form of dowry followed by car (30.77%), bike and furniture (15.38%) .

Table –4.39
Forms of Dowry

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Cash	263	00	45.27	00
Ornaments	212	5	36.49	38.47
Furniture	43	2	07.40	15.38
Land	07	00	01.20	00.00
Bike	54	02	09.29	15.38
Car	02	04	0.35	30.77
TOTAL	581	13	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

4.1.6.8 Response on prefer to marry children with a person of

In the past the preference of profession was another domination factor in the marriage of the children. But the result of the study is represented in the table -4.40 indicates that at present people are preferring inter and intra professional marriages for their children. Majority of the respondents (61.25% rural and 87.67% urban) have opted government service for the marriage of their children, while 189 (17.65%) rural respondents have preferred the business and 112 (10.46%) have preferred cultivation as a profession for the marriage of their children. In urban areas 08 (10.96%) have preferred the business as a profession for the marriage of their children (Figure-4.23).

Table -4.40
Prefer to marry children with a person of

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Cultivator	112	00	10.46	00.00
Govt. Service	656	64	61.25	87.67
Business	189	08	17.65	10.96
Other	114	01	10.64	01.37
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source: Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.7 Attitude towards Family Planning

To reduce the repaid growth of population family planning programmes are very important. “In early days the rural masses, especially the scheduled castes, had conservative approach regarding family size. According to them large families are instrument for generation income pursuits and they considered large size family as a measure of social security and instrument for generating economic pursuits. They believe that children are god gifted and any measure to prevent it is really a sin.”⁽⁵⁾

The present study of Maldah district reveals that this attitude is changed due to educational development and consciousness among SCs. To assess the attitude of the respondents towards family planning programmes a number of questions related to awareness, practice and adoption have been included in the scheduled.

4.1.7.1 Awareness of Family Planning Programmes:

The respondents are asked whether they are aware of family planning programmes, although all the respondents have not responded to this question 64.71% rural respondents responded and 82.19% urban respondents replied positive. 22.69% respondents of rural and 04.11% respondents of urban areas are not aware of family planning. So due to the educational development and exposure to mass-media urban respondents are more aware than rural for family planning programmes (Figure-4.24). There is strong negative correlation (-.850) between awareness of family planning and B.P.L. families.

Table –4.41
Awareness of Family Planning Programme

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	693	60	64.71	82.19
No	243	03	22.69	04.11
No Comment	135	10	12.60	13.70
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The respondents are not only aware of family planning programmes but they are in favour of adopting it.

The respondents are asked whether they practice Family Planning Programme. Although majority of the respondents (81.33% in rural and 64.38 % in urban) have not responded to this question whereas 18.67% rural and 35.62% urban respondents replied that they practice family planning programme.

Table –4.42
Practice of Family Planning Programme

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	200	26	18.67	35.62
No Comment	871	47	81.33	64.38
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.7.2 Attitude towards sex wise adoption of family planning programmes:

Table – 4.43 respondents sex wise adoption of family planning programmes. Regarding the choice of sex for family planning adoption programmes 1002 (93.56%) rural respondents and 59(80.82%) urban respondents have favoured female adoption, while 69 (06.44%) rural respondents and 14(19.18%) urban respondents have expressed their view in favour of male adoption. So, gender biasness is clearly reflected in both rural and urban areas (Figure-4.25).

Table –4.43
Sex wise adoption of family planning programmes

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Husband	69	14	06.44	19.18
Wife	1002	59	93.56	80.82
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.7.3 Family planning measures :

In the formulating of the scheduled utmost care has been taken so that it does not hurt the feelings, norms and values of respondents because the family planning programme, its adoption and its impact are very sensitive issues. A very few 200 rural and 26 urban respondents have disclosed the family planning measures adopted by them. Table-4.44 represents that in rural areas tubectomy is the main measure of family planning (55.50%) followed by pill, condom, sperm killing medicine and vasectomy. In urban areas pill is the main measure of family planning (42.31%) followed by condom (23.08%), tubectomy (19.23%), sperm killing medicine (11.53%) and vasectomy (03.85%).So it is clear that rural females are adopting permanent measure of family planning like tubectomy than urban whereas male percentage is more compared to the rural in adopting permanent measure of family planning like vasectomy(Figure-4.26).

Table –4.44
FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES

MEASURES		No. OF CASES		%	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Permanent	TUBECTOMY	111	05	55.50	19.23
	VASECTOMY	02	01	01.00	03.85
Temporary	PILL	69	11	34.50	42.31
	CONDOM	15	06	07.50	23.08
	Sperm killing Medicine	03	03	01.50	11.53
TOTAL		200	26	100	100

Sou

rice:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.8 Family Size

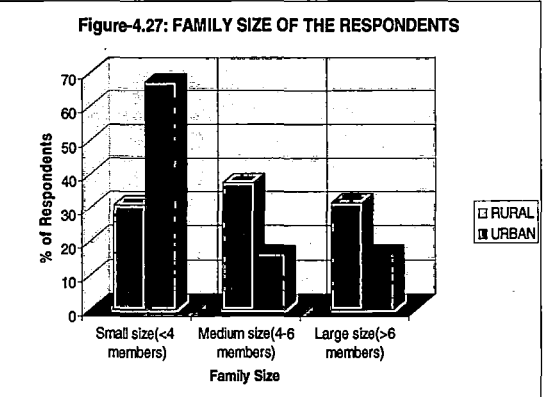
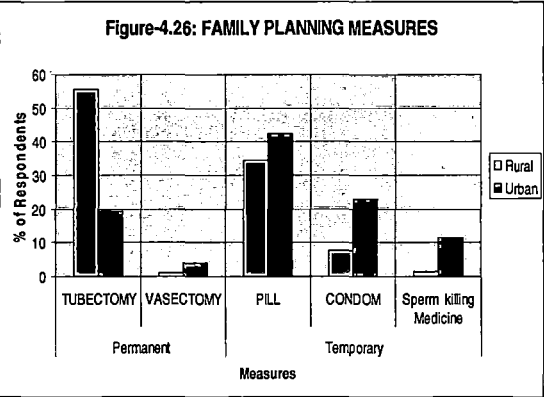
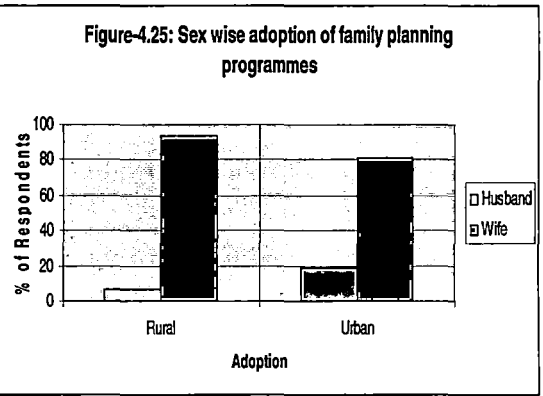
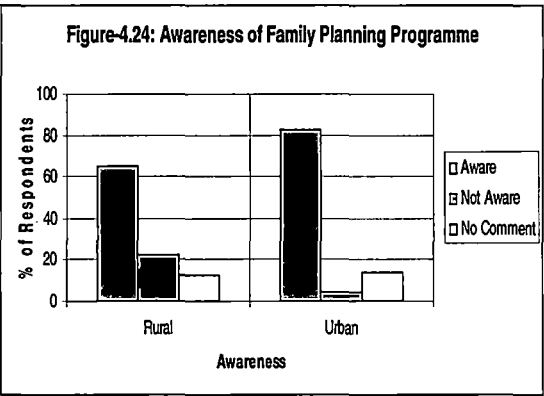
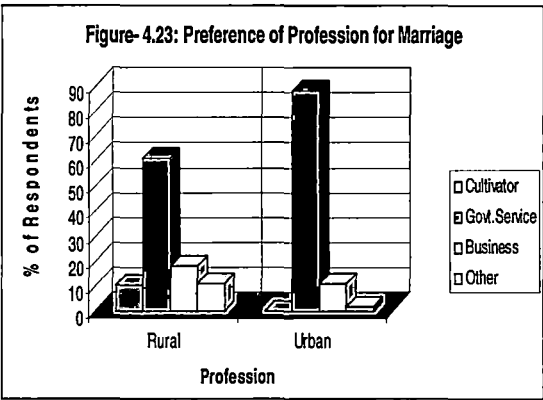
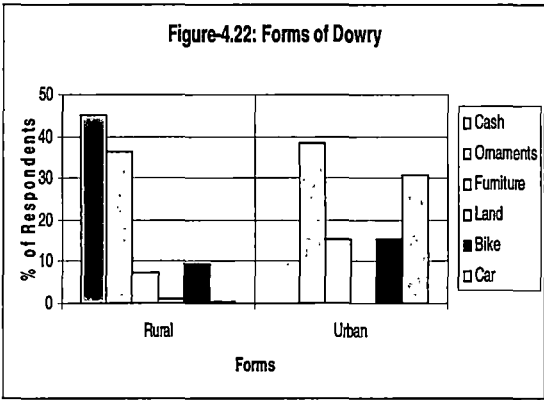
In the countryside, most of the families are large in size as compared to urban areas. In deciding the type of occupation, the size of family has a major role, for this reason, the total members of the selected respondents were enumerated during the course of the fieldwork. The families were grouped into there categories (Table -4.45) on the basis of the total members of household, viz. Small size (< 4 members), medium size (4 – 6 members) and large size (> 6 members).

Table – 4.45
FAMILY SIZE OF THE RESPONDENTS

FAMILY SIZE	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Small size(<4 members)	331	49	30.91	67.12
Medium size(4-6 members)	402	12	37.53	16.44
Large size(>6 members)	338	12	31.56	16.44
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The table-4.45 shows that in rural areas the small size of family accounts 30.91 percent, medium size 37.53% and large size 31.56 percent of the total households. The above analysis indicates that the rural respondents are still in favour of large and medium family size for their requirements of the family labour for agricultural operations.



In urban areas only 16.44% respondents belong to large family, 16.44% of medium family and 67.12% of small family. This comparative study of size of family of rural-urban highlights that urban respondents are more alert and aware of the advantages of small size of family. Hence, majority of them have the smaller family size (Figure-4.27).

4.1.8.1 Views Regarding the Large and Small Size Family

Table – 4.46 respondents the views of the respondents regarding the large size family. Interestingly almost all the respondents (More than 90%) of both rural and urban areas have expressed their negative view regarding the large size of the family for economic development (Figure-4.28). In this case the proportion of rural and urban respondents is almost the same. According to them small family is happy family and large family is detrimental to economic development.

Table –4.46
Views Regarding the Large Size Family

Is Detrimental To Development	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Yes	987	70	92.16	95.89
No	32	02	02.99	02.74
Don't know	52	01	04.85	01.37
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table –4.47
Views Regarding the Small Size Family

Is Happy Family	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Yes	990	70	92.44	95.89
No	51	03	04.76	04.11
Don't Know	30	00	02.80	00.00
	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.9 MIGRATION

The united Nations Multilingual Demographic Dictionary defined migration as follows: “Migration is a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or place of departure to the place of destination or place of arrival.”⁽⁶⁾

4.1.9.1 Duration of living in Maldah: Table-4.48 represents duration of living of scheduled castes respondents in Maldah district. It is clear from the table that out of 1071 rural respondents 679(63.40%) respondents are living in Maldah since birth, remaining 392(36.60%) are migrated respondents .Of these 392 respondents duration of living of 100 (9.34%) respondents is less than 10 years, 184(17.18%) are residing from 10-15 years and remaining 108 respondents (10.08%) are residing in Maldah district from more than 15 years. In urban areas out of 73 respondents 43(58.90%) are living in Maldah since birth, remaining 30(41.10%) are migrated respondents. Of these 30 respondents duration of living of 20 (27.40%) respondents is less than 10 years, 06(8.22%) are residing from 10-15 years and remaining 4 respondents (05.48%) are residing in Maldah district from more than 15 years (Figure-4.29).

Table-4.48: DURATION OF LIVING IN MALDAH

Duration (Years)	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 10	100	20	9.34	27.40
10 – 15	184	6	17.18	8.22
> 15	108	4	10.08	5.48
Since Birth	679	43	63.40	58.90
Total	1071	73	100	100

4.1.9.2 Type of Migration of Scheduled Castes:

Table – 4.49: TYPE OF MIGRATION

TYPE		No. Of RESPONDENTS		%	
		RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
INTERNATIONAL		103	04	26.28	13.33
NATIONAL/ INTERNAL	STATE LEVEL	10	02	2.55	6.66
	DISTRICT LEVEL	31	05	7.91	16.67
	BLOCK LEVEL	47	11	11.99	36.67
	Village/ Town Level	201	08	51.27	26.67
TOTAL		392	30	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

In the Maldah district both internal and international migrations among the scheduled Castes respondents have been observed. Table 4.49 represents that out of total 1071 rural respondents 392 (36.60%) are migrated and out of 73 urban respondents 30(41.10%) are migrated.

Internal migration refers to the mobility or movement of people within national boundaries. Out of 392rural migrants 201(51.27%) have migrated from other village, 47(11.99%) from other blocks, 31(7.91%) from other districts and 10(2.55%) from other states.On the other hand 103(26.28%) migrants have been migrated from Bangladesh. So, these 103 respondents are international migrants.In urban areas 4(13.33%) migrants are international and 26(86.67 %) are national migrants. Of these 26 migrants, 26.67% are village to town level, 11 (36.67%) are block level, 5(16.67%) are district level and 2 (6.66%) are state level migrants (Figure-4.30).

4.1.9.3 Causes of Migration:

Table-4.50 represents various causes of migration of scheduled castes respondents in Maldah district. It is clear from the table that majority (54.85%) of the rural respondents have been migrated for economic cause followed by religious (22.19%), social (15.05%) and political (7.91%) causes. Of the urban migrants 14 (46.66%) migrated for the social , 20% for political,16.67% for both economic and religious causes .So it is observed that in rural areas main cause of migration is economic whereas in urban areas the main cause of the migration is social (Figure-4.31).

Table – 4.50
Causes of Migration

Causes	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Economic	215	5	54.85	16.67
Social	59	14	15.05	46.66
Political	31	6	7.91	20.00
Religious	87	5	22.19	16.67
Total	392	30	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

4.1.9.4 No. of Family Members Migrated at Present: Table 4.51 indicates number of family members of the respondents presently migrated. It is observed that in rural areas one member of 210(72.17%) respondents families, 2 members of 67(23.02%) families and 3 members of 14(4.81%) families have migrated at present. In urban areas one member of 18(85.71%) respondents' families and 2 members of 3(14.29%) families have migrated at present

Table – 4.51

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS MIGRATED AT PRESENT

No of Members	No. of Households		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
1	210	18	72.17	85.71
2	67	03	23.02	14.29
3	14	00	4.81	00.00
Total	291	21	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

4.1.9.5 Place of out-migration

Out of 291 rural migrants 203(69.76%) have migrated to other state and 88(30.24%) migrated to other district of West Bengal. In urban areas 12(57.14%) have migrated to other state and 9(42.86%) migrated to other district (Figure-4.32).The main causes for the inter district & inter State migration are economic for rural and educational for urban.

Table – 4.52
Place of Out-migration

Place	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
To other State	203	12	69.76	57.14
To other District	88	09	30.24	42.86
To other Country	00	00	00.00	00.00
Total	291	21	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.9.6 Duration of Staying of out migrants:

Table -4.53 represents the duration of staying of scheduled castes out migrants. In rural areas 109 (37.46%) out migrants out of 291 stay 2-4 months, 79 (27.15%) stay< 2 months, 59(20.27%) stay 4-6 months and 44(15.12%) stay >6 months as

out migrants. In urban area out of 21 out migrants 9(42.86%) stay <2 months, 7(33.34%) stay 2-4 month, 3(14.28%) stay 4-6 months and 2(9.52%) stay more than 6 months. Out migrants who stay more than 4 months out of their home are belonged to working population and they are migrated for the higher income.

Table – 4.53
Duration of staying of out migrants

Duration (Months)	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
< 2	79	09	27.15	42.86
2 – 4	109	07	37.46	33.34
4 – 6	59	03	20.27	14.28
> 6	44	02	15.12	9.52
Total	291	21	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.1.9.7 Reasons of out migration: The reasons behind out migration are represented in the table no.-4.54. Out of total 291 rural out migrants, 197(67.70%) and 19.05% urban migrants have migrated for the economic causes. To earn more they have migrated to other states and districts of West Bengal. One of the important causes for the out migration is the education. 29.21% out-migrants of rural and 80.95% out migrants of urban are students. Political (Political disturbance in Kaliachak.) and religious situation forced 1.72% and1.37% Scheduled castes to migrate from the district (Figure-4.33).

Table – 4.54
Reasons Of out Migration

Reasons	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Economic	197	04	67.70	19.05
Social	85	17	29.21	80.95
Political	05	00	01.72	00.00
Religious	04	00	01.37	00.00
Total	291	21	100	100.00

Source-Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Figure-4.28: Views Regarding the Small Size Family

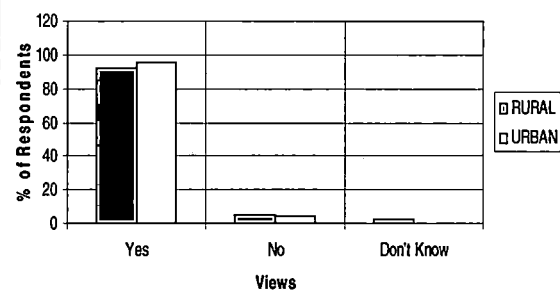


Figure-4.29: DURATION OF LIVING IN MALDA

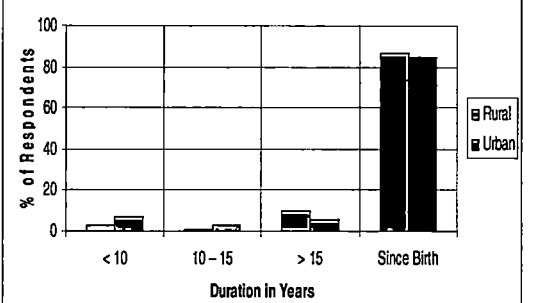


Figure- 4.30: TYPE OF MIGRATION

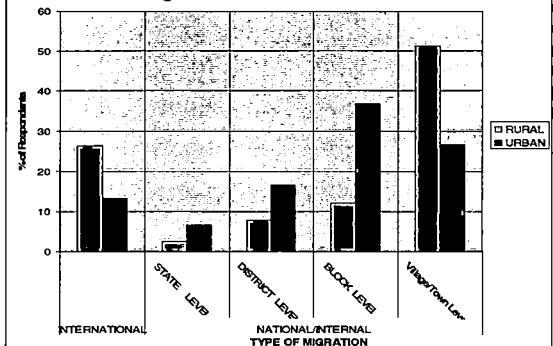


Figure-4.31: Causes of Migration

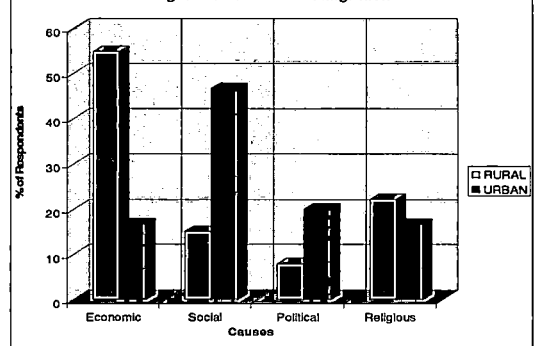
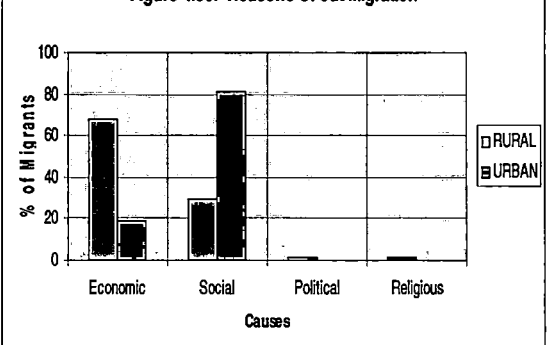


Figure-4.32: Place of Out-migration



Figure-4.33: Reasons Of out Migration



4.2 Religion:

Religion has a very deep root in Indian social system and religion is a very important social indicator. In the past all the events in the society were attributed to religion. Various kind of misbelieve and superstitions are found in different types of religion. At present due to spread of education the attitude towards religion is changing. The educated SCs are becoming more liberal, less orthodox and less superstitions and they are now adopting new practices and ideas.

4.2.1 Believe in Religion:

Table –4.55 represents believe of respondents in religion. Of total 1071 rural respondents 11.86% believe in religion somewhat, 23.16% believe moderately and 64.98% respondents believe in religion strictly. Due to variation in educational level believe in religion also various between rural and urban areas of the district. In urban areas 46.57% respondents believe strictly and 35.62% believes in religion moderately whereas in rural areas 64.98 % respondents believe in religion strictly (Figure-4.34).

Table – 4.55
Believe in Religion

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Somewhat	127	13	11.86	17.81
Moderately	248	26	23.16	35.62
Strictly	696	34	64.98	46.57
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.2.3 Following of Religious Rules in Routine Life

Table– 4.56 represents following religious rules in routine life of SCs respondents of district. 691 (64.52 %) rural respondent follow religious rules in their routine life strictly, whereas 41 (56.16%) urban respondents follow it strictly.12.14 % rural and 13.70% urban respondents follow religion somewhat and 23.34% rural and 31.14% urban respondents follow religion moderately. So, it is observed that both in rural and urban areas majority of respondents follow religion strictly.

Table –4.56
Following of Religious Rules in Routine Life

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Somewhat	130	10	12.14	13.70
Moderately	250	22	23.34	31.14
Strictly	691	41	64.52	56.16
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.2.4 Prevalent of Religious Superstitions in family:

Study reveals that religious superstitions are prevalent in SCs both in rural and urban areas. Religious superstitions are prevalent in 94.40% rural and 83.56% urban families. Due to the high literacy rate in urban areas religious superstitions are less here compared to the rural areas .So, spread of education in rural areas can reduce the religious superstitions .

Table – 4.57
Prevalent of Religious Superstitions in family

Response	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Yes	1011	61	94.40	83.56
No	60	12	05.60	02.74
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

4.2.5 Visiting of Religious Places

To find out believe in religion and their faith in good respondents were asked whether they have visited religious places or not. All the respondents answered in positive. The table -4.58 represents that the respondents visit religious places frequently which are located in the villages and towns (95.70% rural and 87.67% urban respondents). Of the total 1071 respondents 82.35% respondents visit religious places of the district frequently and 17.65% rarely whereas 73.97% urban respondents visit frequently. . They visit important religion places of the district like “Ma Manaskamana”, ‘Jahara Kalibari’, “Hantakali” etc. to fulfill their wants. One of the important places of all religious groups including SCs of the district in the

“Ramkrishna Mission Ashram”. There is no bar of castes, people belonging to SCs, STs and OBC are allowed to participate in puja and they are also engaged as cook.

Table –4.58
Visiting of Religious Places of Scheduled Castes .

Category	Within Locality		Within District		Within State		Out side in West Bengal	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Never	00	00	00	00	389 36.32 %	07 9.59%	845 78.90 %	00
Rarely	46 4.30%	09 12.33 %	189 17.65 %	19 26.03	601 56.12 %	29 39.73 %	224 20.92 %	29 39.73 %
Frequently	1025 95.70 %	64 87.67 %	882 82.35 %	54 73.97 %	81 7.56%	37 50.68 %	02 0.18%	44 60.27 %
Total	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Out of 1071 respondents 36.32% rural and 9.59% urban respondents have never visited the religious places located in the West Bengal (Except Maldah) while 78.90% rural respondents never visited religious places outside of West Bengal. Many of them stated that poor economic condition, forced them not to visit religious places of outside of the district. Only 21.10 % (Including rarely and frequently) rural respondents have visited religious places of the other state whereas 60.27% urban respondents visit religious places of the other state frequently.

4.2.6 Offering Special Puja before Joining New Job

Table –4.59 shows that offering puja by SCs before joining new job. Study reveals that 91.97% rural and 94.52% urban respondents offer special puja before joining new job. They believe that offering puja they will be successful in job (Figure-4.36).

Table –4.59
Offering Special Puja before Joining New Job

Response	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Yes	985	69	91.97	94.52
No	86	04	8.23	5.48
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.2.7 Worship at the time of hardship & distress :

Table –4.60 represents that almost all the respondents worship more at the time of hardship and distress. Out of total 1071 rural respondents 1000(93.37% %) and out of total 73 respondents of urban areas 67 (91.78% %) worship more at the time of hardship and distress (Figure-4.37). They believe that the happiness and sorrowness comes from the god.

Table –4.60
Worship at the time of hardship & distress

Response	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Yes	1000	67	93.37	91.78
No	71	06	6.63	8.22
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.2.8 Arrangement of Puja per year:

For the happiness and prosperity SCs arrange puja in their families. Table –4.61 represents that all the respondents arrange puja more than 5 times without priest. In rural areas of 1071 respondents 18.39% arrange puja <3 times , 75.54% respondents arrange 3-4 times and 06.07% arrange 5 and more times while in urban areas majority of the respondents (53.42%)arrange puja with priest 3 – 4 times in a year with prest. It is also observed that very poor respondents also arrange puja more than 3 times in a year with priest for the prosperity of their family.

Table –4.61
Arrangement of ‘Pooja’ in Families per year

Times	With Priest				Without Priest			
	Frequency		%		Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 3	197	03	18.39	04.11	00	00	00	00
3 – 4	809	39	75.54	53.42	00	00	00	00
5& above	65	31	06.07	42.47	1071	73	100	100
Total	1071	73	100	100	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.2.9Expenditure for ‘puja’ per year:

Expenditure for puja per year by the respondents is represented by the table - 4.62. The expenditure for the puja of majority of the rural families (69.19%) is Rs. <500 per year whereas the expenditure of the majority of the urban families (83.56%) is more than Rs. >1500. The expenditure of 189(17.65%) rural families is between 1000-1500 Rs./Year; It is observed that the expenditure of economically poor families is also exceeds Rs. 1000 per year(Figure-4.38).

Table –4.62
Expenditure for ‘Pooja’ per year

Expenditure (Rs.)	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 500	741	00	69.19	00
500 – 1000	101	02	09.43	02.74
1000 – 1500	189	10	17.65	13.70
> 1500	40	61	03.73	83.56
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

4.2.10 Separate Place of Worship

Majority of the respondents believe in religion strictly and they strongly believe in god. Some of the respondents though they are very poor, they have separate worship. Out of total 1071 rural respondents 410(38.28%) and out of 73 urban respondents 38 (52.05%) have separate worship place (Figure-4.39).

Table –4.63
Separate place of Worship in Families

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Absent	661	35	61.72	47.95
Present	410	38	38.28	52.05
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.2.11 Type of Worship

The table –4.64 represents that out of 410 rural respondents 381(92.44%) have pucca worship place and 92.44% have katcha worship place .Due to better economic condition 92.11% urban respondents have pucca worship place while only 7.89% have katcha worship place. Some rural respondents have pucca worship place, though they are living in katch house (Figure-4.40).

Table –4.64
Type of Worship Place

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Pucca	31	34	7.56	92.11
Katcha	381	3	92.44	7.89
Total	410	38	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

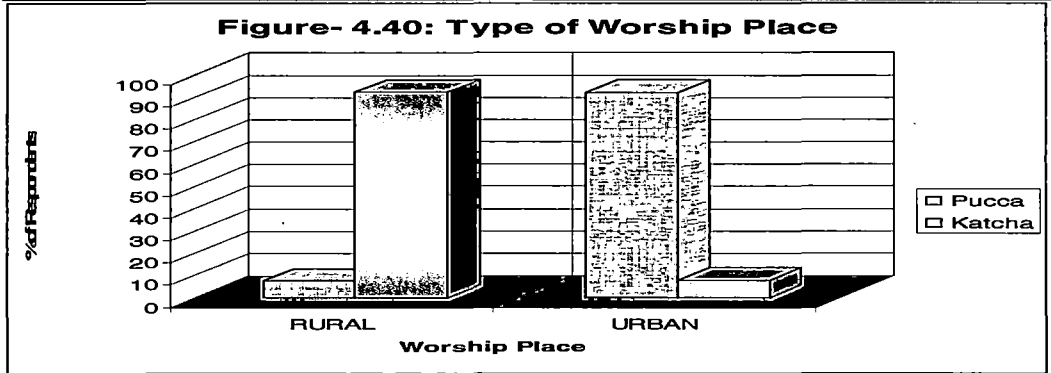
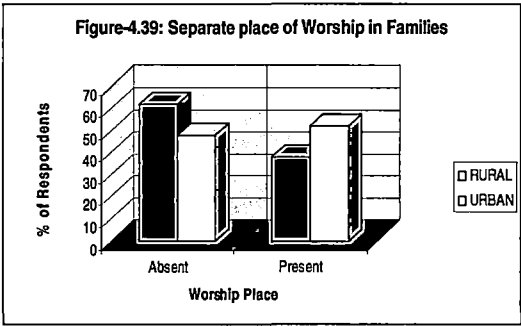
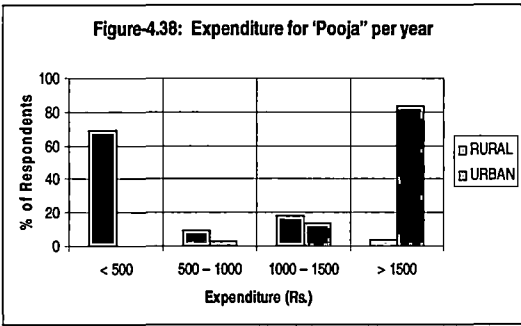
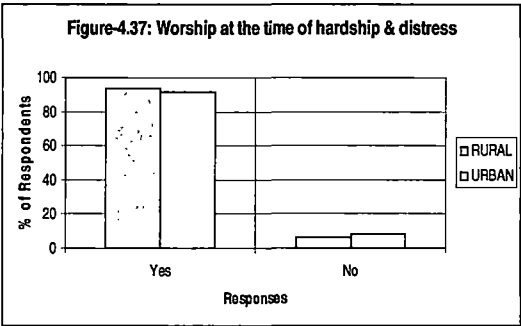
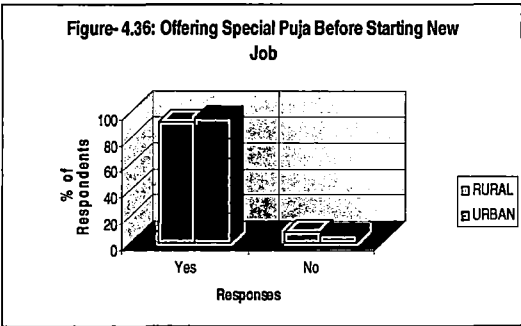
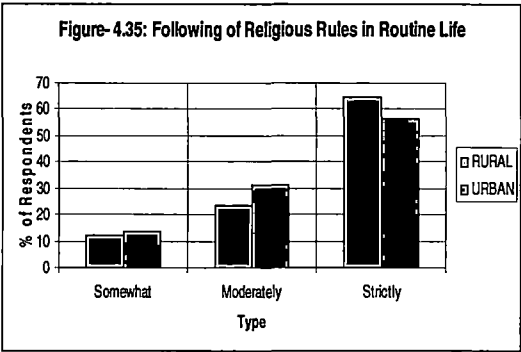
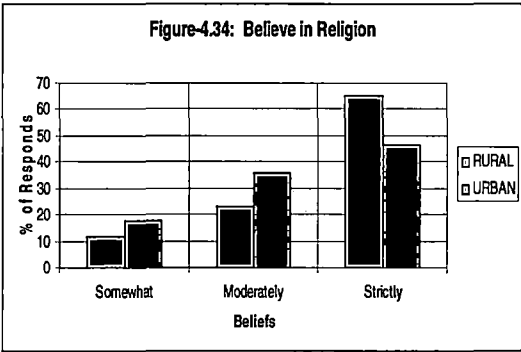
4.2.12 Opinion regarding happiness and sorrowness:

More than 90% respondents have strong belief that happiness and sorrow ness in their family comes from God. For this reason they offer puja as much as possible and they have separate worship.

Table –4.65
Opinion regarding happiness and sorrowness from God

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Believe	1034	67	96.55	91.78
Don't Believe	37	6	03.45	08.22
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .



4.3 DISCRIMINATION AND DISTANCE FROM HIGHER CASTES

4.3.1 House Construction in other than own Locality

Many of the past studies have revealed that the SCs were not allowed to construct house in other than own locality. At present to find out whether they are free from ecological segregation, the respondents were asked whether they are allowed to construct their house in areas other than their localities, all the respondents replied positive to this question. This indicates that they are allowed to construct house anywhere of the Maldah district. But some times due to self-imposed restriction than being enforced by the upper castes and due to high land value they are not able to construct house in other localities. Presently economically developed SCs have migrated to developed areas of the district (English Bazar and Old Maldah Municipality) from village for construction of house to avail educational and medical facilities for their future generation.

Table –4.66
House Construction in Other Locality

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Allowed	1071	73	100	100
Not Allowed	00	00	00	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.3.2 Making Use of Civic Amenities:

“Many of the earlier studies have revealed that to make use of the civic amenities in town or villages the SCs were not allowed. They were not allowed to use the village tank at all, or at times not from the side where the villagers use it, not allowed to draw water from the common village well, were not allowed to have formal education by making use of school, and so on.”⁽⁷⁾

But at present the study in Maldah district reveals that the situation is changed and SCs have been accepted as a part of main stream of the society. The civic amenities of the district are being used by the Scheduled Castes like any other castes. There are no restrictions imposed on SCs in making use of the civic amenities. They said there are no restrictions imposed on them in using the civic amenities.

Table –4.67
Making Use of the Civic amenities

Particulars	Frequency		% to total	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Public Tap	1071	73	100	100
Roads/Streets	1071	73	100	100
Schools	1071	73	100	100
Govt. Hospitals	1071	73	100	100
Common Place of Toilet	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.3.3 Dine Along With Higher Castes :

Table – 4.68
Dine With Higher Castes

Responses	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	773	74	72.18	100
No	298	00	27.82	00
Total	1071	74	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table –4.68 represents the response of SCs with regard to inter dining interaction with the higher castes. It is clear from the table that all the respondents of urban areas reported that they have inter dining interaction with higher castes whereas out of 1071 rural respondents 72.18% respondents have reported of having inter dining interaction with higher castes of those 298 (27.82%) who do not have interlining relations with higher castes because of the following causes –

The respondents who are scavengers by occupation are not being invited by the upper castes Hindus.

- a) Some respondents have said they refuse to have inter dining with higher castes for the fear of being discriminated while being served.
- b) According to few respondents not having inter dining relation with the upper Hindu castes and the reason in self constructed discrimination than imposed.

c) Some times they are neglected by upper castes being lower castes and they are identified as 'Lower Caste' in society.

4.3.4 Food Served in Common Batches

A few earlier studies have reported that the SCs though invited by upper castes for lunch and dinner are not treated equal and are not being served in the common batches. The table –4.69 shows that all the (100%) urban respondents and majority of rural respondents (93.28%) replied positive that they are being served in the common batches. The SCs sit in a common row and food is served to them just as to the people from any other castes.

Table –4.69
Food Served in Common Batches

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	999	74	93.28	100
No	72	00	06.72	00
Total	1071	74	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

However 72 rural (06.72%) respondents have answered in the negative of being served in the common batches. The respondents belonging to agricultural labourers and who are involved in menial occupations are not served in common batches sometimes. Agricultural Labourers who are being invited to the ceremonies and marriages in the house of their landlords reported that sometimes they would be served food outside the house after the other higher castes have taken food. After lunch or dinner they have to remove the leaves in which they were served and have to clear the place.

We may conclude that the restrictions on commensal relationship between the SCs and other higher castes Hindus are rapidly deteriorating. Discrimination to some extent even now is observed in case of those SCs who are completely depending on higher castes Hindus.

4.3.5 Feeling Discriminated by Higher Castes:

In earlier the SCs were kept apart from the rest of the society due to prevalent practice of untouchability. To examine the present situation of the SCs in Maldah district they were asked whether they feel that they are kept at a distance by the upper Hindu castes.

The table-4.70 represents the responses given by the respondents. This is clear from the table that about 99.81% or rural and 68.49% of urban respondents replied that they feel discriminated by the higher castes (Figure-4.42)

Table – 4.70
Feeling Discriminated by Higher Castes

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	1069	50	99.81	68.49
No	02	23	0.19	31.51
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.3.6 Feeling Discrimination in Different Place of Interaction:

As mentioned before, the SCs earlier suffered from discrimination in almost all place of interaction they were discrimination in places such as work place, common gathering, the marriages and ceremonies of higher castes, they were not allowed to enter the tea stalls and hotels which other higher castes Hindus visit.

To find out whether there is any discrimination in such areas of interaction the respondents of Maldah district were asked to give responses about feeling discriminated in different places of interaction. Table –4.71 represents the responses of SCs about their feeling discriminated.

The table represents that the SCs respondents of Maldah district feel discriminated in work place, marriage and ceremonies of higher castes, marriage with higher castes and in common gatherings.

Table –4.71
Feeling Discrimination in Different Place of Interaction

Place of interaction	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Work Palace	200	04	18.67	5.48
Common Gathering	05	00	0.47	00
Shops/Restaurants	00	00	00	00
In Schools/Colleges	22	02	2.05	2.74
Bus/Trains	00	00	00	00
Marriage with Higher Castes	817	42	76.28	57.53
Marriage and ceremonies of higher castes	10	00	0.93	2.74
Common Village/Town Festivals	15	00	1.140	00
Visiting Common Temples	00	00	00	00
Feel No Discrimination	02	25	0.20	34.25
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Out of total 1071 respondents 200 (18.67%) who work as agricultural labour reported that they are being ill treated by landlord, and according to 4 (5.48%) urban respondents they are also being ill treated by the other higher caste Hindu colleagues. Here ill treatment refers to calling them by mentioning their sub-castes or by name.

A few rural respondents 5 (0.47%) have reported that at common gathering they feel discriminated; sometimes the discrimination is of self-constructed discrimination than enforced by the upper classes. Some SCs especially those who are of old age and economically & educationally poor experience self constructed discrimination, than the discrimination enforced by other castes.

Majority of rural (76.28%) and urban (57.53%) respondents feel discriminated to fix marriages of their children with higher castes. Both the economically and educationally developed or under developed Scheduled Castes respondents still feel discriminated at the time of marriage of their children with higher castes. 10 (0.93%) rural respondents out of 1071 feel discriminated in marriages and ceremonies of higher castes, even some of them were served in separate batch at separate place. 2.05% rural and 2.74% urban respondents faced discrimination in schools and colleges (Figure-4.43).

But no respondents have reported the discrimination in hotel, shops, restaurants, and in village temples. In the past, the Hindu temples were totally inaccessible to the scheduled castes. The situation was changed when Government has made restriction against obstruction of SCs from entering a temple, calling it an offence. In the common village festivals like any other caste SCs respondents participate and take part.

4.3.7 Reasons for upper castes to kept SCs at distance: The table-4.72 represents reasons that SCs respondents think that the upper castes Hindus keep them at distance. This is clear from the table that the respondents who feel that upper castes discriminate them, majority of them (88.04% rural and 97.26% urban) feel that their birth in the caste is the main reasons for upper castes keeping them at a distance. The other important reasons for distance between upper castes and scheduled castes of rural areas are unclean occupation (4.86 %), illiteracy (2.71%) and poor economic condition (2.71%). According to 1.37 urban respondents fear of pollution and unclean occupation are reasons between upper caste and scheduled castes (Figure-4.44).

Table –4.72
Reasons for upper castes to kept Scheduled Castes at Distance

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Unclean Occupation	52	01	4.86	1.37
Food Habit	05	00	0.47	00
Fear of Pollution	17	01	1.59	1.37
Poor Economic condition	25	00	2.33	00
Illiteracy	29	00	2.71	00
Birth in the Castes	943	71	88.04	97.26
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

4.3.8 Exploitation of Dalit by Dalit:

At present the status of dalit is not same as it had in the past. Now with the spread of education they are educated, officers, political leaders, administrators and rich also .Thus, exploitation of dalit by the upper class dalits has come into existence. Table – represents this fact. The table-4.73 represents that in rural areas 63.96 % dalits and in urban areas 28.77% dalits are exploited by the upper class dalits .In rural

areas maximum dalits(18.77%) exploited by the middle men dalits and in urban areas by dalit officers (13.70%) (Figure-4.45).

Table –4.73
Exploitation of Dalit by Dalit

	Exploitation by	No. of Respondents			
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Exploitation	Rich Dalit	246	01	22.97	01.37
	Educated Dalit	102	02	09.52	02.74
	Dalit Officers	47	10	04.39	13.70
	Dalit Leaders	89	06	08.31	08.22
	Dalit Middlemen	201	02	18.77	02.74
No Exploitation		386	52	36.04	71.23
TOTAL		1071	73	100.00	100.00

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.3.9 Well-Off Scheduled Caste forget their own People: The Scheduled Castes respondents were asked during field study whether the well-off SCs forget their own people, table-4.74 represents that majority number of respondents (51.54%rural and57.53%urban) have reported that the statement is true, only 5.42% rural and 9.59% urban respondents think that this statement is not true while 38.56% rural and 27.40% urban respondents reported that the statement is partially true (Figure-4.46).

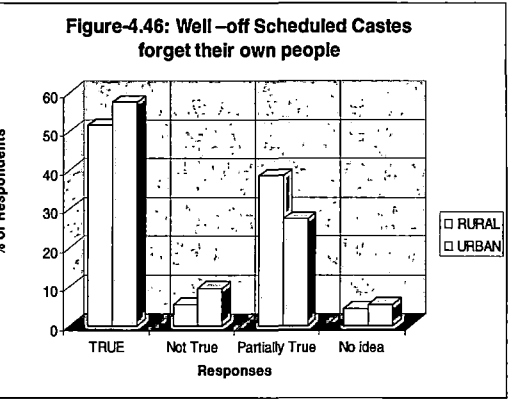
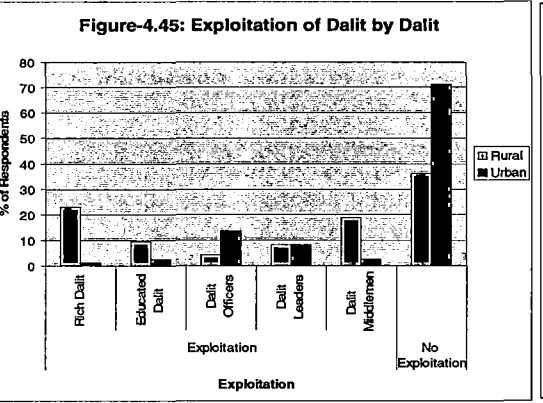
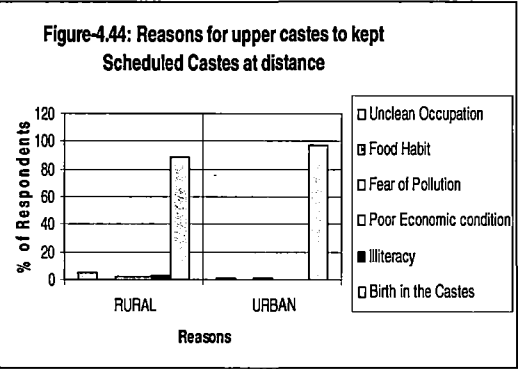
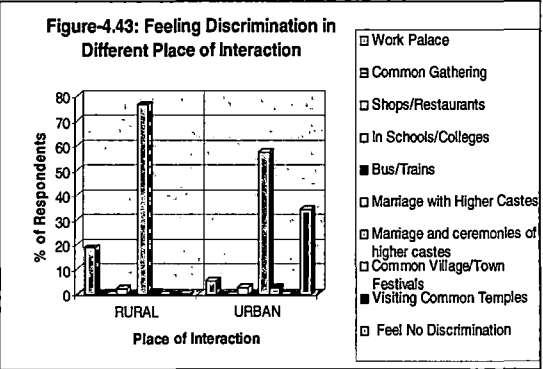
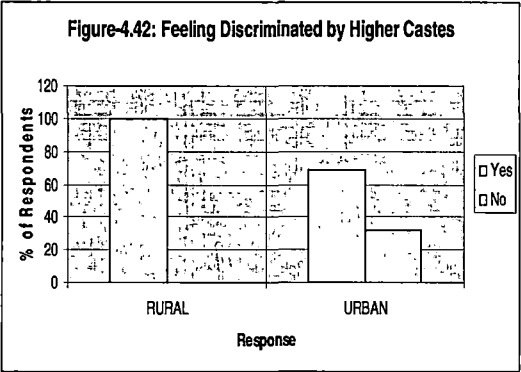
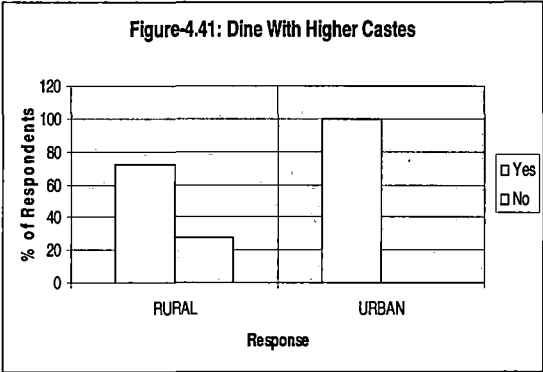
Table – 4.74
Well –off Scheduled Castes forget their own people

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
True	552	42	51.54	57.53
Not True	58	07	5.42	9.59
Partially True	413	20	38.56	27.40
No idea	48	04	4.48	5.48
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.3.10 Using caste name along with own name:

In earlier days, some studies have reported that the SCs for the fact of facing discrimination do not reveal their caste identity to others. In those days it was common practice to use castes name along with the name as a prefix or suffix.



In this connection the SCs respondents were asked whether they use their caste name along with their names (Figure-4.47).

Table –4.75
Using of caste name along with own name

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	14	00	1.31	00
No	1057	73	98.69	100
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The table – 4.75 respondents the fact that only 1.31% rural respondents still use their caste name along with their names while in urban areas not a single respondent use caste name along with name . So, this is clearly indicate that the practice of using the caste name as suffix or prefix is declining day by day among SCs for being discriminated by higher castes.

4.3.11 Scheduled Castes Disclosing their Castes: The respondents' were asked whether they would reveal their caste, table-4.76 shows that a majority of the respondents (66.67% rural and 56.16 % urban) never disclose their caste , 10.46% rural respondents always disclose their caste ,14.75% rural and 13.70% urban respondents disclose their caste whenever it necessary(Figure-4.48).This may because of the fact of fear, or an inferiority complex or stigmatized identity attached to it.

Table – 4.76
Disclose of Caste by Respondents

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Always Disclose	112	00	10.46	00
Whenever Necessary	158	10	14.75	13.70
Never	714	41	66.67	56.16
No comment	87	22	8.12	30.14
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

4.3.12 Measures that can reduce the social distance between the SCs and Upper Castes:

The responses on measures that they would reduce the social distance between the upper castes and SCs are represented in the table -4.77. Maximum of them (42.20% rural and 45.20% urban) have mentioned that the economic development of

SCs can reduce the distance from upper castes whereas 20.54% rural and 15.07% urban respondents think if they get educated well and get a decent employment the discrimination will reduced. 9.34% rural and 8.22% urban respondents believe that protest against upper caste discrimination can reduce the distance. Other steps which can reduce the distance are steps taken by government and consciousness. According to the 6.54% rural and 12.33% urban respondents general consciousness can reduce the social distance between SCs and higher castes (Figure-4.49).

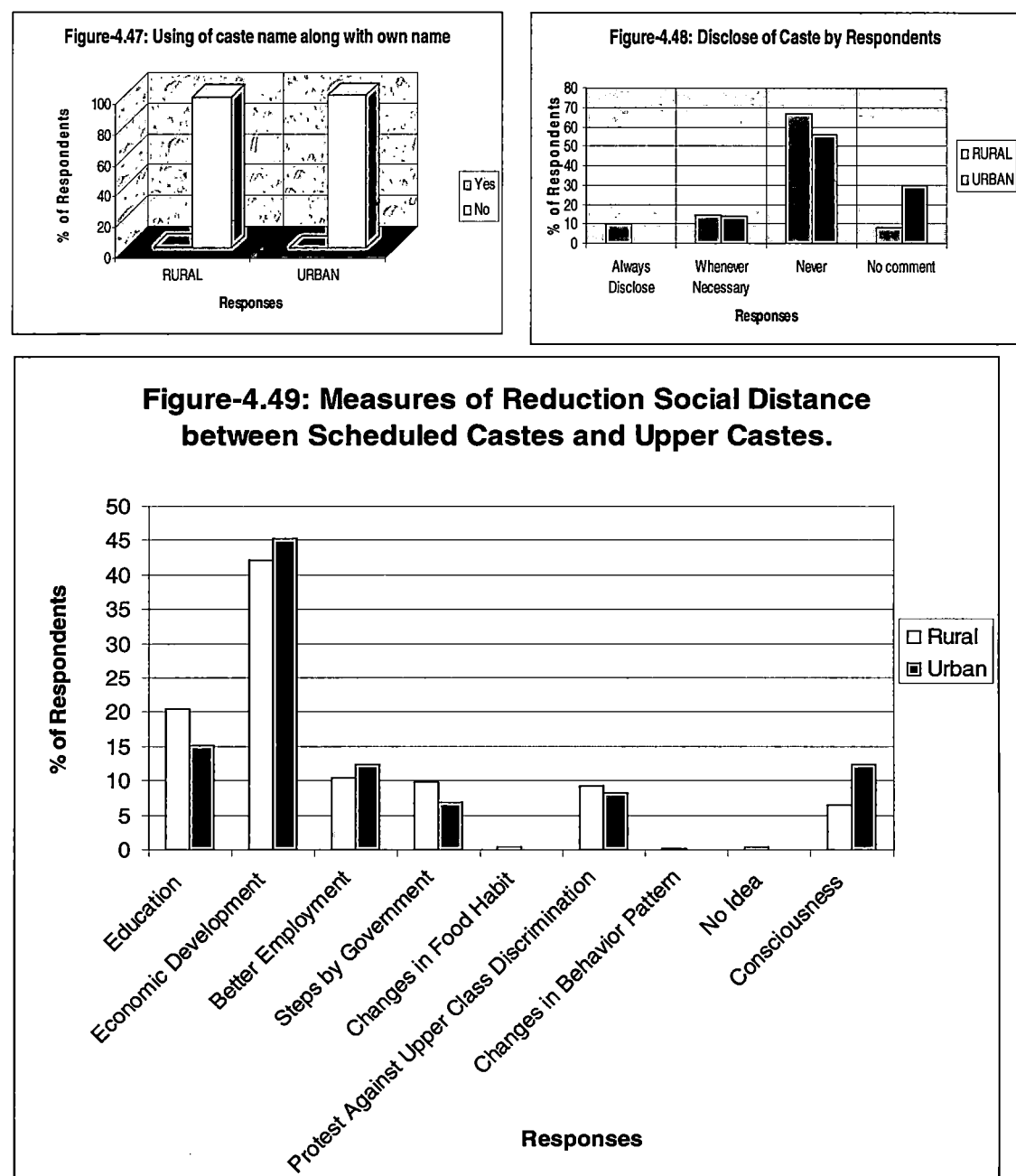


Table –4.77

Measures of Reduction Social Distance between Scheduled Castes and Upper Castes.

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Education	220	11	20.54	15.07
Economic Development	452	33	42.20	45.20
Better Employment	111	09	10.36	12.33
Steps by Government	105	05	9.80	6.85
Changes in Food Habit	05	00	0.47	00
Protest Against Upper Class Discrimination	100	06	9.34	8.22
Changes in Behavior Pattern	03	00	0.28	00
No Idea	05	00	0.47	00
Consciousness	70	09	6.54	12.33
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.3.13 Awareness of SCs to the Different Laws:

The respondents are asked about their awareness about different laws for them that were made against Untouchability and atrocities. But the table – 4.78 represents that majority of the respondents (More than 80%) does not know about the existence of laws for prevention of atrocities and untouchability (Figure-4.50).

Table –4.78
Awareness to the Different Laws for Scheduled Castes

Acts	Yes				No			
	Frequency		%		Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 or Protection Civil Rights Act, 1955	75	10	7.00	13.70	996	63	93.00	86.30
The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	80	13	7.47	17.81	991	60	82.19	82.19

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Out of total 1071 rural respondents only 7.00% and 7.47% are aware of untouchability (offences) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. So, majority of the respondents are not aware of these laws, whereas only 13.70% and 17.81% urban respondents are aware about these two laws respectively.

So, we can understand that there is perceptible change in the social status of the SCs under study compared to that is the part. The change is observed almost in every aspect. The change among the SCs of the district compared to the part are observed in the aspect of house construction in other locality, use of different civic amenities, social mobility and in their attitude. The study reveals that the SCs of Maldah are no longer discriminated in the aspect of house construction other than own locality, to use civic amenities using common public tap, roads and streets, village temple etc. The main causes for the such changes are largely due to the SCs entry into the caste free and secular occupations, economic, development, educational development increasing social mobility and political awareness and participations.

Those Scheduled Castes, who continued to be involved in poorly paid menial defiling and service occupational suffer from social inferiority and generally keep out themselves in the social interaction.

4.4 Political Awareness

Socio-economic developments of any region largely determined by the political awareness of the people. However, in order to determine the political awareness of the respondents several indicator such as whether they know the name of M.P., M.L.A, C.M. or P.M. or not whether they worked in election, listening political leaders, frequently casting of votes, whether they like frequent holding of election or not, preference of coalition government etc. have been taken into account.

4.4.1 Name of the political leaders :

All the respondents were asked during field study whether they know the names of M.P., M.L.A, Chief Minister and Prime Minister name or not. The result is shown in the table no. –4.79, which represents that 89.92% rural respondents and 100% urban respondents of urban areas know the name of their M.P., and 70.59% respondents and 86.30% respondents of rural and urban areas know the name of their M.L.A.. All the

urban respondents know the name of the names of C.M. and P.M. while 94.90% and 81.79% rural respondents know the name of C.M. and Prime Minister (Figure-4.51).

This figure clearly indicates that the urban espondents are more aware of local, state and national levels politics than rural.

Table – 4.79
Political Awareness of Respondents

Names of Leaders	M.P.		M.L.A		Chief Minister		Prime Minister	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Know	963 (89.92%)	73 (100%)	756 (70.59%)	63 (86.30%)	1011 (94.40%)	73 (100%)	876 (81.79%)	100 (100%)
Don't Know	108 (10.08%)	00 (00%)	315 (29.41%)	10 (13.70%)	60 (5.60%)	00 (00%)	195 (18.21%)	06 (00%)
Total	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.2 Respondents Assessment of Performance of Panchayat , Municipality, State and Central Government :

Table-4.80 represents respondents opinion regarding performances of local government (Panchayat, Municipality), state and central government.

Table – 4.80
Respondents Assessment of Performance of Panchayat, Municipality, State and Central Government

Respo nse	Panchayat		Municipality		State Govt.		Central Govt.	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Good	480 (44.82%)	-	-	64 (87.67%)	401 (37.44%)	30 (41.10%)	390 (36.41%)	41 (56.16%)
Bad	491 (45.84%)	-	-	6 (08.22%)	426 (39.78%)	30 (41.10%)	229 (21.38%)	27 (36.99%)
No Idea	100 (9.34%)		-	3 (4.11%)	244 (22.78%)	13 (17.80%)	452 (42.21%)	5 (6.85%)
Total	1071	-	-	73	1071	73	1071	73

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Performances of Panchayat:

Table –4.80 represents response on performance of Panchayats of the district. Out of 1071 rural respondents 44.82% replied that the performance is good and

Panchayats help in their development. According to 45.84% the performance is not good and 9.34% replied that they had not idea about the performance of Panchayat.

Performance of Municipality:

There are two municipalities English Bazar and Old Maldah. Out of total 73 respondents 87.67% feels that the performance of municipality is good while 08.22% feels the performance of municipalities are not good and 4.11% respondents have not idea about the performance of municipalities.

Opinion on performance of State Government:

Table –4.80 shows that nearly 37.44% rural and 41.10% urban respondents feel that the performance of State Government is good, whereas 39.78% rural and 41.10% urban respondents feel that the performance of State Government is bad . According to 22.78% rural and 17.80% urban respondents they have no idea about the performance of the State Government (Figure-4.52).

Opinion on performance of central Government:

The rural respondents are not so aware of the performance of central Government. The study shows that the 42.21% respondents have no idea about it. Out of 1071 rural respondents 36.41% respondents feel that the performance of central govt. is good while 21.38% respondents feel the performance is bad. 41(56.16%) urban respondents out of 73 believe that the performance is good, 27(36.99%) respondents feel that the performance is bad while 5 (6.85%) respondents have no idea about the performance of Central Government.

4.4.3 Working in Election for any Political Party:

Out of 1071 rural respondents 471(43.98%) respondents and out of 73 urban respondents 17 (23.29%) have worked in election for political parties. No.of rural respondents who worked in Panchayat election is 471 which is 100% of total rural respondents working for election and 8(47.06%) out of 17 respondents of urban areas have also worked for Panchayat election. 17(23.29%) respondents out of 73 urban respondents have worked for municipality election. Percentage of respondents who have worked for Assembly election and Parliament election to the total working respondents in elections is 98.73% and 84.71% in rural area and 88.24% and 35.29%

in urban area (Figure-4.53).So, both the urban and rural respondents are politically involved in election of local level to national level.

Table –4.81
Working in Election for any Political Party

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	471	17	43.98	23.29
No	600	56	56.02	76.71
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table – 4.82
Working for Different Elections

Category	Panchayet		Municipality		Assembly		M.P. Election	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	471 100%	08 47.06%	321 68.15%	17 100%	465 98.73	15 88.24%	399 84.71%	6 35.29
No	00	09 52.94%	150 31.85%	00	06 1.27%	02 11.76%	72 15.29	11 64.71
Total	471 (100%)	17 (100%)	471 (100%)	17 (100%)	471 (100%)	17 (100%)	471 (100%)	17 (100%)

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.4 Listening Political Leaders :

At the time of election many political leaders come to their areas, for local to assembly and parliamentary level elections. Table – 4.83 represents that 8.31% respondents of rural areas always go and 52.57% go rarely to listen them. Of total 73 urban respondents 57.53% respondents go to listen to political leaders rarely. 39.12% rural and 42.47% urban respondents never go to listen political leaders .

Table – 4.83
Listening Political Leaders

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Always	89	00	08.31	00
Never	419	31	39.12	42.47
Rarely	563	42	52.57	57.53
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.5 Casting of Votes in Election:

Rural – urban variations is observed in the casting of votes. The percentage of respondents who casted their votes regularly & rarely is 68.49% & 26.03% in urban and 58.73% & 40.34% in rural areas. The study shows that 0.93% rural and 5.84% urban respondents' never casted their votes in election (Figure-4.54).

Table – 4.84
Casting of Vote in Election

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Regularly	629	50	58.73	68.49
Rarely	432	19	40.34	26.03
Never	10	04	0.93	5.48
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.6 Opinion on Frequent Holding of Election :

The respondents were asked whether they like frequent holding of election or not. Nearly 95.89% respondents of urban and 93% respondents of villages answered in negative. It is clear from the opinion of majority of respondents that they are aware of the fact that elections are of highly expensive and create economic pressure on country.

Table – 4.85
Opinion on Frequent Holding of Election

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Good	13	00	02.21	00
Bad	996	70	93.00	95.89
No idea	62	03	05.79	04.11
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

Figure-4.50: Awareness to the Different Laws for Scheduled Castes

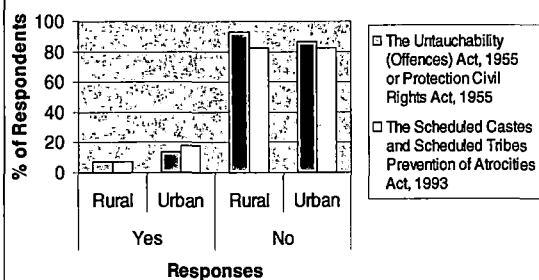


Figure-4.51: Political Awareness

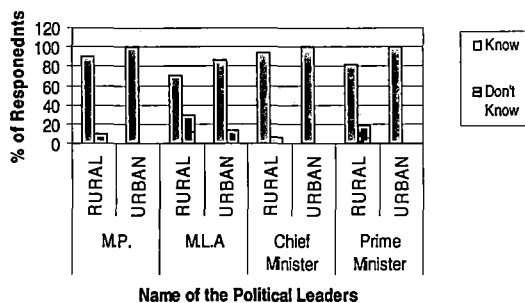


Figure-4.52: Respondents Assessment of Performance

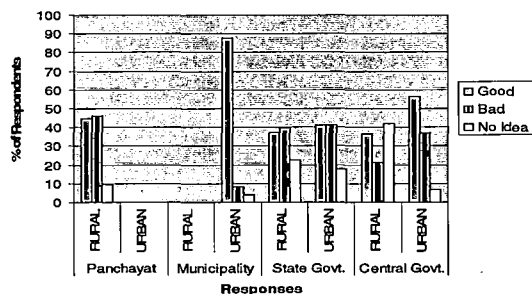


Figure-4.53: Working in Election

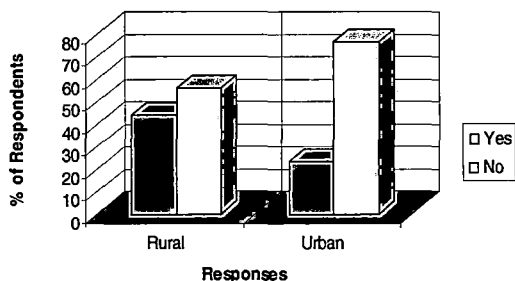


Figure-4.54: Casting of Vote in Election

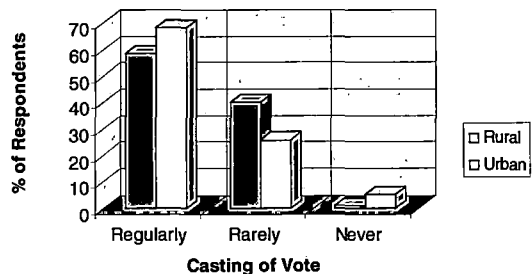
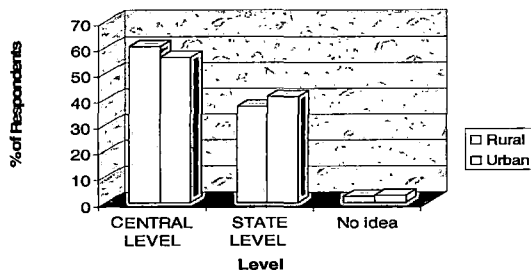


Figure-4.55: PREFERENCE OF COALITION GOVERNMENT



4.4.7 Preference of Coalition Government at Central and State Level:

The respondents' opinion on whether they prefer coalition government or not, reveal that 60.41% rural and 56.16% urban respondents prefer coalition government at central level and 37.26% rural and 41.10% urban respondents prefer at state level . 2.33% rural and 2.74 % urban respondents have no idea about the coalition government. 55.93% rural and 80.82% urban respondents think that the coalition government will be successfull.

Table – 4.86
PREFERENCE OF COALITION GOVERNMENT

PREFERENCE	No. OF RESPONDENTS		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
CENTRAL LEVEL	647	41	60.41	56.16
STATE LEVEL	399	30	37.26	41.10
NO IDEA	25	02	02.33	02.74
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table – 4.87
Believe in Success of Coalition Government

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	599	59	55.93	80.82
No	386	8	36.04	10.96
No idea	86	6	08.03	08.22
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.8 Opinion on Political Situation in West Bengal and India :

Table –4.88 respondent respondents' opinion on political situation in West Bengal and India. The table clearly shows that out of the 1071 rural respondents 22.50% respondents think that the political situation in West Bengal is good, 13.91% feel that the situation is satisfactory while 29.04% respondents feel that present political situation in West Bengal is bad.On the other hand out of the 73 urban respondents 15.07% respondents think that the political situation in West Bengal is good, 10.96% feel that the situation is satisfactory while 71.23 % respondents feel that present political situation in West Bengal is bad due to the Maoist

problem, Gorkhaland problem etc. The study also shows that 34.55% rural and 2.74% urban respondents have no idea regarding the political situation in West Bengal.

Table – 4.88
Opinion regarding present Political Situation in West Bengal and India

Response	In West Bengal				In India			
	Frequency		%		Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Good	241	11	22.50	15.07	447	20	41.74	27.40
Bad	311	52	29.04	71.23	134	14	12.51	19.18
Satisfactory	149	08	13.91	10.96	81	26	07.56	35.61
No idea	370	02	34.55	2.74	409	13	38.19	17.81
Total	1071	73	100	100	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Regarding present political situation in India, of the total rural respondents 07.56% respondents feel that it is satisfactory, 41.74% feel that the situation is good and only 12.51% feel that the situation is bad. Of the total 73 urban respondents 27.40% respondents think that the political situation in India is good, 35.61% feel that the situation is satisfactory while 19.18% respondents feel that present political situation in India is bad due to the Terrorism, Indo-Pak problem, Maoist problem, etc.

The study also shows that 38.19% rural and 17.81% urban respondents have no idea regarding the political situation in India.

4.4.9 Awareness of World Politics :

The respondents are not only aware of only state and national politics, presently they are very much interested in Geopolitics. To determine their knowledge of world politics they were asked whether they know the names of Obama (President of U.S.A.) and Sk. Hasina (Prime Minister of Bangladesh).

Table – 4.89
Information on Obama

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Know	386	67	36.04	91.78
Don't know	685	06	63.96	08.22
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table –4.89 represents that 386 (36.04%) rural respondents and 67 (91.78%) urban respondents know the name of U.S.A president is Obama. So we can say that

urban respondents are more aware of world politics. 299 (77.46%)rural respondents and 60(89.55%) urban respondents prefer Obama as President of U.S.A while 87 (22.54%) rural and 7(10.45%) urban respondents not prefer Obama as U.S.A president.

Table –4.90
Preference Obama as a President of America

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	299	60	77.46	89.55
No	87	07	22.54	10.45
Total	386	67	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Respondents opinion on the impact of emergence of Sk. Hasina in Bangladesh on India and Bangaldesh is shown in the table no. –4.91. According to 49.11% rural and 53.42% urban respondets the impact of emergence of Sk. Hasina for India is good. 46.97% rural and 41.10% urban respondents have no idea about it. For Bangladesh24.09% rural and 72.60% urban respondents think good, 05.51% rural and 10.96% urban respondents think the emergence of Sk. Hasina is bad and 70.40% rural and 16.44% urban respondents have no idea about it .

Table – 4.91
Impact of Emergence of SK. Hasina in Bangladesh

Response	For India				For Bangladesh			
	Frequency		%		Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Good	526	39	49.11	53.42	258	53	24.09	72.60
Bad	42	04	03.92	05.48	59	8	05.51	10.96
No idea	503	30	46.97	41.10	754	12	70.40	16.44
Total	1071	73	100	100	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.10 Opinion on separation of West Bengal

At present there is movement like Gorkhaland, Kamtapur etc. for the separation of West Bengal. The response of respondents whether they support the separation of West Bengal or not, is presented in the table no –4.92.

Table – 4.92
Opinion on separation of West Bengal

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Support	13	00	01.21	00
Don't Support	749	64	69.94	87.67
No idea	309	09	28.85	12.33
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Out of total 1071 rural respondents 69.94% replied negative while only 1.21% replied positive on the issue of the separation of West Bengal, because of the fact that some regions are suffering from underdevelopment and 28.85% respondents have no idea of it. 69.94% urban respondents replied negative while no respondent replied positive on the issue of the separation of West Bengal.12.33% urban respondents have no idea of it .

4.4.11 Opinion on Industrialization :

The respondents are aware of industrialization, because of the facts that they can sell their agricultural products at high cost and industries generate employment. They are also aware of the fact that North Bengal is backward in industrialization compared to South Bengal for these reason 71.71% rural respondents and 80.82 % of the urban respondents prefer industrialization in North Bengal (Figure-4.56a).

Table – 4.93
Opinion about Industrial Development

Industrialization in	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
All over West Bengal	214	10	19.98	13.70
Only in North Bengal	768	59	71.71	80.82
Only in South Bengal	19	03	1.77	4.11
No idea	70	01	6.54	1.37
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Opinion On Type of Agricultural Land For Industrialization :

Respondents' opinion on type of land for Industrialization is represented in table no - 4.94 . the study reveals that among the 1071 rural respondents 529 (49.40%) and 94.52% urban respondents prefer single cropped areas, 14.38% rural and 5.48% urban respondents preferred double cropped area for the industrialization .342 rural respondents (31.93%) replied that they have no idea of it. So, the preference of rural respondent is of tripple cropped land is very few 46 (04.29%) (Figure-4.56b).

Table – 4.94
TYPE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION

CROPPED AREA	No. OF FARMERS		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
SINGLE CROPPED	529	69	49.40	94.52
DOUBLE CROPPED	154	4	14.38	05.48
TRIPPLE CROPPED	46	00	04.29	00.00
No idea	342	00	31.93	00.00
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.12 Opinion on shifting of 'TATA NANO' Project from West Bengal to Gujarat:

The respondents were asked about the incident of shifting of NANO car factory of TATA from West Bengal to Gujrat. 45.47 % rural and 71.23% urban respondents think that it is harmful according to 29.13% rural and 23.29% urban respondents it is fruitful to the state and 25.40% rural and 05.48% urban respondents have no idea about this (Figure-4.57). According to the respondents who think that it is harmful, the economic development of West Bengal and employment affected by this on the other hand who think it fruitful, the land selected for this project was under double and triple cropped.

Table – 4.95
Opinion Regarding Shifting of 'TATA NANO' Project from West Bengal to Gujarat

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Harmful	487	52	45.47	71.23
Fruitful	312	17	29.13	23.29
No idea	272	04	25.40	05.48
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.4.13 Respondents awareness on Terrorism:

At presents terrorism in the burning problem of our world. To study the awareness of terrorism the respondents were asked whether they know the incidence of Mumbai Terrorist attack on 26th November, 2008. 45.66% rural and 89.04% urban respondents replied positive and 54.34% rural and 10.96 urban respondents replied negative (Figure-4.58).

Table – 4.96
Information on Terrorism in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Know	489	65	45.66	89.04
Don't know	582	8	54.34	10.96
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Opinion to stop Terrorism:

The respondents were asked what steps should be taken to stop terrorism. Respondents opinion is represented is Table -4.97. It is clearly observed from the table that 56.16% urban and 43.79% respondents think that strict steps taken by government can stop the terrorism. 24.00% rural and 17.80% urban respondents believe that improvement of Indo-Pak Relationship can stop it. Strong defense and public awareness also can stop the terrorism (Figure-4.59).

Table –4.97
Respondents opinion to stop Terrorism

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Strict steps by Government	469	41	43.79	56.16
Strong Security/Defense	258	11	24.09	15.07
Public Awareness	87	8	08.12	10.97
Improvement of Indo-Pak Relationship	257	13	24.00	17.80
Total	1071	73	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Figure-4.56a: Opinion on Industrial Development

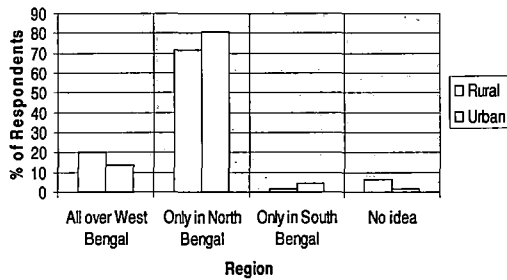


Figure-4.56b: TYPE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION

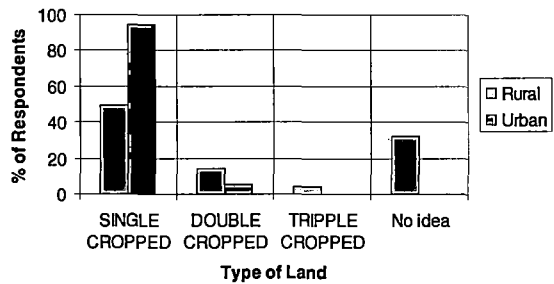


Figure-4.57: Opinion Regarding Shifting of 'TATA NANO' Project from West Bengal to Gujarat

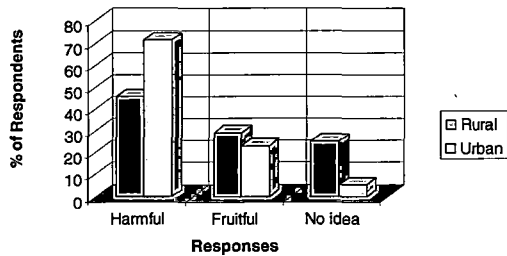


Figure-4.58: Information on Terrorism in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008

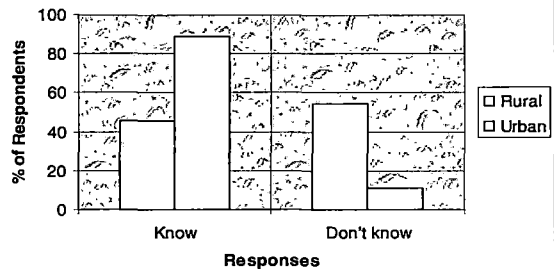


Figure-4.59: Respondents Opinion to Stop Terrorism

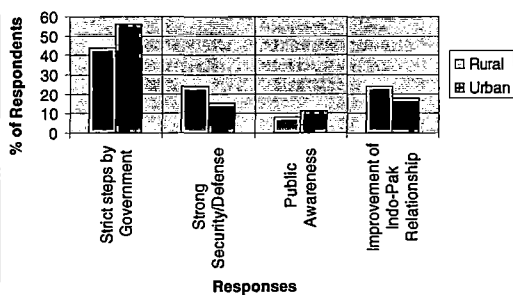
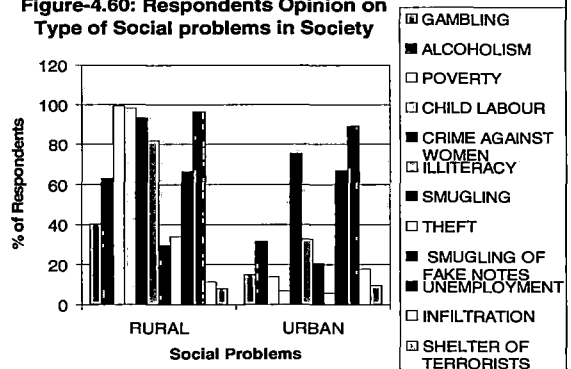


Figure-4.60: Respondents Opinion on Type of Social problems in Society



4.5 Presence of Social Problems:

4.5.1 Types of Social Problems:

A social problem can be defined as a situation confronting a group or a section of society which inflicts injurious consequences that can be handled only collectively. Maldah district suffers from the social problems like poverty, unemployment, population explosion, backward castes, child abuse, child labour, violence against women, illiteracy, litigation, urbanisation, crime, alcoholism, black money and fake notes etc.

Table – 4.98
Respondents Opinion on Type of Social problems in Society

Problems	RURAL		URBAN	
	Frequency	% to Total (1071)	Frequency	% to Total (73)
GAMBLING	432	40.34	11	15.07
ALCOHOLISM	675	63.02	23	31.51
POVERTY	1065	99.43	10	13.70
CHILD LABOUR	1053	98.32	05	6.85
CRIME AGAINST WOMEN	100	93.37	55	75.34
ILLITERACY	879	82.07	24	32.87
SMUGGLING	315	29.41	15	20.55
THEFT	365	34.08	04	5.48
SMUGGLING OF FAKE NOTES	712	66.48	49	67.12
UNEMPLOYMENT	1032	96.36	65	89.04
INFILTRATION	121	11.30	13	17.80
SHELTER OF TERRORISTS	87	8.12	07	9.59

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

According to the result of the study the top 5 social problems in the society of rural and urban areas are represented in the table no 4.98.

Table – 4.99
TOP FIVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

RURAL		URBAN	
1	POVERTY(99.43%)	UNEMPLOYMENT (89.04%)	
2	CHILD LABOUR (98.32%)	CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (75.34%)	
3	UNEMPLOYMENT (96.36%)	FAKE NOTES (67.12%)	
4	CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (93.37%)	ILLITERACY (32.87%)	
5	ILLITERACY (82.07%)	ALCOHOLISM (31.51%)	

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

4.5.1.1 Poverty: The situation which gives rise to a feeling of a discrepancy between what one has and what one should have is called poverty. The following are the dimensions of poverty-

- Lack of livelihood strategies
- Feeling of insecurity and frustrations
- Inaccessibility to resources (money, land, credit)
- Inability to maintain and develop social relations with others as a consequence of lack of resources.

Table-4.98 represents that poverty is the main social problem of the scheduled castes in rural area. Majority of the families are below poverty level. Almost all the respondents (99.43%) think that it is the main problem of rural areas. Whereas in urban area 13.70% respondents think that poverty is one of the social problems (Figure-4.60).

4.5.1.2 UNEMPLOYMENT: Unemployment is the condition in which an individual is not in a state of remunerative occupation despite his desire to do so. Unemployment is one of the important social problems of Maldah District. The study of 1071 scheduled castes households indicates that unemployment ranks 3rd in rural areas (96.36%) and 1st in urban areas (89.04 %).

4.5.1.3 Child Labour: The working children (below age 14) are concentrated in rural areas of India in general and particularly in Maldah. Table- 4.97 represents that 98.32% rural and 75.34% urban respondents think that child labour is an important social problem and is present in their society.

To protect the social problem like child labours, the Indian constitution enshrines that: -

- 1) No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or in any hazardous employment (Article 24).
- 2) Childhood and youth are to be protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment (Article 39(f)).

3) The state shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years from the commencement of the constitution free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years (Article 45).

But still Maldah district children below 14 are out of education and they are engaged as child labour.

4.5.1.4 Crime against Women: The Police Research Bureau, Delhi has referred to “crime against women” under following two categories -

A) Crimes Under the Indian Penal Code-(Rape, Kidnapping and abduction, Homicide for Dowry, Physical and Mental Torture, Molestation, Eve-teasing, Importation of girls up to 21 Years of age etc.)

B) Crimes Under the Local and Special Laws-(Commission of sati, Dowry Prohibition, Immoral Traffic, Indecent representation of women ETC.)

According to the 93.37% rural and 75.34% urban respondents Maldah district is not free from the seven crimes under the I.P.C.

4.5.1.5 Illiteracy: Illiteracy is an important social problem and has been regarded as an obstacle to development. How is literacy defined? Who is literate? According to 2001 census in India, a Person aged 7 and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate. It is not necessary for a person to have received any formal education or passed any minimum educational standard for being treated as literate. People who were blind and could read in Braille are treated as literates.

A person who can neither read nor write or can only read but cannot write in any language, is treated as illiterate. All children of age 6 or less, even if going to school and have picked up reading and writing, are treated as illiterate. According to the 82.07% rural and 32.87% urban respondents illiteracy is one of the social problems and ranks in top five social problems of the district.

4.5.1.6 Infiltration: Infiltration of illegal Bangladeshi nationals has been another major social as well as security problem in the district. According to the 11.30% rural and 17.80% urban respondents infiltration is one of the important social problems of Maldah district.

The Bangladeshi infiltrators cross the border through Kalicachak -III, English Bazar, Old Maldah, Habibpur and Bamangola blocks of Maldah district.

4.5.1.7 Smuggling: According to the 29.41% rural and 20.55% urban respondents smuggling is another important problem in the district. On 13 December night of 2008, The Border Security force (BSF) fired shots at Bangladeshi infiltrators allegedly attempting to smuggle cattle across the border of Peasbari and Kestopur localities in Maldah district. According to police different organized rackets that operate from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are behind the smuggling of cattle, food grains, and tortoise.⁽⁸⁾

Smuggling of Fake Notes: 66.48 % rural and 67.12% urban respondents think that presently the fake notes are spreading rapidly in Maldah district as well as in West Bengal and India. West Bengal's Intelligence agencies have expressed concern that Pakistan and Bangladesh based racketeers are using the states "Maldah and Murshidabad districts as transit points to smuggle in fake notes to India.

According to special Task Force chief Mr. Rajiv Kumar "Maldah and Murshidabad districts have become important transit points through which high denomination fake notes are smuggled in for distribution. There are many influential people who are part of this racket in Nepal."⁽⁹⁾

Vikash Chandra, BSF Dig, Said, "People are very poor in the border areas, in the past three months we have arrested 12 people and seized Rs. 7 Lakh. Racketeers generally buy cattle by paying large amount of fake money. For one cow they pay Rs. one lakh in fake money. The seller then rotates the money in Indian Market."⁽¹⁰⁾

4.5.1.8 Maldah District as a Shelter of Terrorists: Scheduled castes respondents are aware of terrorism and arrest of terrorists of different organizations from Maldah district. According to the 8.12% rural and 9.59% urban respondents' shelter of terrorism is one of the important social problems of Maldah district.

Cases of Terrorists Arrested and Timer Explosive :

In June 2010 three KLO (Kamtapur Liberation Organisation) militants have been arrested from Maldah District.⁽¹¹⁾

The scheduled castes respondents are worried about the timer explosive discovery near the DSA stadium where the Maldah Expo-08 was on, on 16 Aug. 2008.⁽¹²⁾

The suspected Laskar-e-Toiba (LeT) operative arrested from Maldah. He had spent 5 years in Tihar Jail. He smuggled RDX from cross the border in 1997.⁽¹³⁾

4.5.1.9 Urbanisation Related Problems: In the last few decades there has been shift of population from rural to urban areas of Maldah district. According to the 30% respondents urbanization has led to the problems like :

- I) Housing Shortage
- II) Over- Crowding
- III) Slums
- IV) Unemployment & Poverty
- V) Pollution and
- VI) Traffic Problems.

4.5.1.10 Alcoholism: According to the 63.02% rural and 31.51% urban respondents alcoholism is one of the important social problems of Maldah district. The problems of alcoholism are personal misery, family budget, family discord, loss of wages, bad effect on health, accidents etc.

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CHAPTER 5

Economic Status of Scheduled Castes of Maldah District

5.0 Economic Status of the Scheduled Castes of Maldah District

Maldah district ranks as one of the most underdeveloped district in West Bengal due to the low per capita income, low yield per acre of land, industrial backwardness, shortage of capital and entrepreneurship, and also the lack of infrastructure and large labour surplus. The district have no known mineral resources and agriculture is the base of the economy. The main agricultural products are paddy, Wheat, jute and Rabi-crops. Despite this backwardness, Maldah occupies an important place in the map of the State for the production of raw-silk yarn and mango. The annual estimated production of raw-silk yarn in this district is about 85 % of the total output of the State which, if taken in terms of money amounts to approximately rupees 4 crores. Production of mango is another important aspect of Maldah's economy. About forty five thousand acres of land are covered by mango orchards which, in normal year bear fruit to the extent of 3,60,000 tonnes the value of which in money terms comes to about Rs. 5.5 crores.

5.1 Economic Condition of Respondents:

5.1.1 Respondents Belong to B.P.L.

Ever since independence government has formulated and implemented various programmes and policies for the overall development of the country. Many of these programmes had been directly related with the upliftment of the rural masses in general and scheduled castes in particular. But 538 (50.23%) households belong to Below Poverty Level in rural areas but there is no B.P.L. family among the selected 73 urban households (Figure-5.2). 'Bamangola block of the district is very backward in terms of distribution of B.P.L. cards. 80% families consisting 30,000 households belong to the B.P.L. but number of total B.P.L. card holders in this block is only 6500 which is only 21.67% of total B.P.L. households. In Bamangola village 600 (85.71%) families belong to the B.P.L. out of 700, but number of B.P.L. card holders of this village is 35, which is only 5.83% of the total B.P. families. Due to the very poor

economic condition nearabout 5000 people have migrated to the other states of West Bengal for job'.⁽¹⁾

Table – 5.1
B.P.L. Respondents to Total Respondents

Category	RURAL	URBAN
Below Poverty Line	538	00
TOTAL FAMILIES	1071	73
% to total	50.23	00.00

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Number of Families Living Below The Poverty Line, Maldah District-2002:-

Table-5.2 indicates that S.Cs Families living Below poverty line , are very high compared to the General caste families of the district. Discouraging fact is that 7 blocks out of 15, have S.C. families more than 50% living below poverty line (B.P.L) to total S.C. families of the block .79.48% S.C. Families of Ratua II block and 78.05% of Chanchal II block are living belong poverty line, while 42.09% S.C. families of Kaliachak III block are living below poverty line(Figure-5.1).Despite a reduction in the percentage of the population living below poverty line, the incidence of poverty amongst Scheduled Castes continues to be very high , when compared to the general population. The main reasons for this are-

- 1)Majority of Scheduled Castes are landless,
- 2)They have very few productive assets,
- 3)Devoid of sustainable employment,
- 4)Long duration of work with low wage,
- 5)Due to gender disparity, women belonging to Scheduled Castes are denied of both minimum and equal wages.
- 6)Unemployment due to low levels of educational attainment and illiteracy etc.

Table – 5.2
B.P.L LIST, 2002

SL No	Blocks	No. of Rural Families	No. of B.P.L. Operational Families	% of B.P.L. Operational Families	No. of S.Cs. Families (2001)	B.P.L. S.Cs. Families	% Of B.P.L. S.Cs. Families to total Rural families
1.	RATUA-I	65305	16749	25.65	3593	1783	49.62
2.	RATUA-II	28311	10883	38.44	2793	2220	79.48
3.	H.C. PUR-I	30879	14701	47.60	8618	4500	52.22
4.	H.C. PUR-II	32929	16459	49.98	43.59	3003	68.89
5.	KALIACHAK-I	53445	10671	19.97	1690	1056	62.48
6.	KALIACHAK-II	29365	10264	34.95	3466	1685	48.62
7.	KALIACHAK-III	44229	15922	36.00	4230	3162	74.75
8.	HABIBPUR	38619	18908	48.96	18032	9030	50.10
9.	BAMANGOLA	24353	12162	49.94	12942	6439	49.75
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	38904	15575	40.03	7236	3278	45.30
11.	OLD MALDAH	22747	8928	39.24	7465	3502	46.91
12.	MANIKCHALK	37669	12738	33.82	4834	2188	45.26
13.	GAZOLE	52817	24583	46.54	20309	8548	42.09
14.	CHANCHAL-I	35186	17592	49.99	5156	2336	45.31
15.	CHANCHAL-II	28150	12370	43.94	3116	2432	78.05
	TOTAL	5,62,908	2,18,505	38.81	1,13,965	55,162	48.40

Source: DRD Cell. Maldah, West Bengal.

5.1.2 Earning and Dependent Population

Population can be broadly divided between working and non-working categories in every society. All healthy and physically abled persons fall in the earning category whereas children, aged and physically disabled persons fall under Dependent or non-working category. It is evident from table-5.3 that about 46.04% of the total scheduled caste population belongs to earning and remaining 53.96% belongs to dependent population in rural areas whereas in urban areas 32.73% and 67.27% belongs to dependent population (Figure-5.3). Interesting fact is that due to the prevalent practice of child labour, high drop out rate and discontinuation in education in rural areas number of earning population is more than urban areas.

Figure-5.1: B.P.L. Families-2002

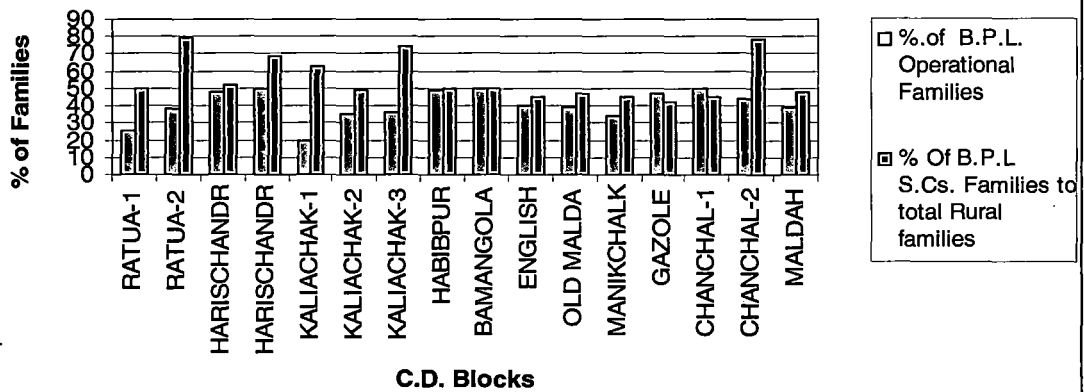


Figure-5.2: B.P.L. Respondents

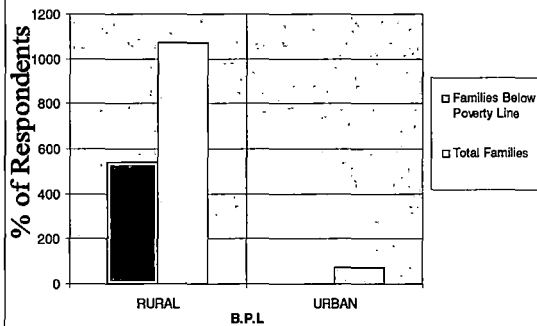


Figure-5.3: Earning and Dependent Population

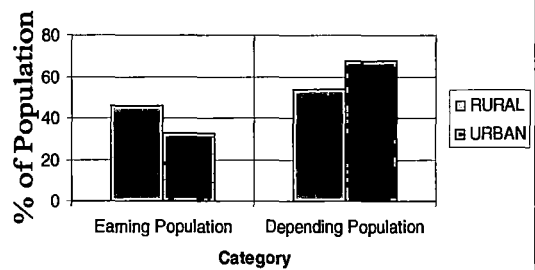


Figure-5.4: Occupational Structure

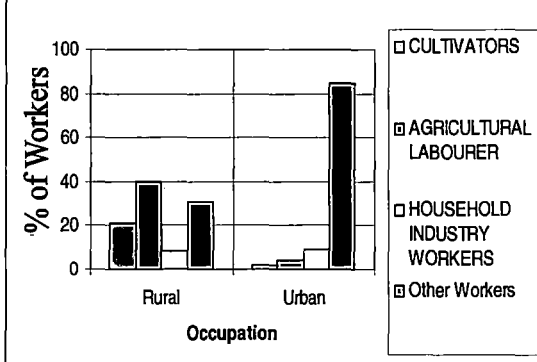


Figure-5.5: Size of Landholdings

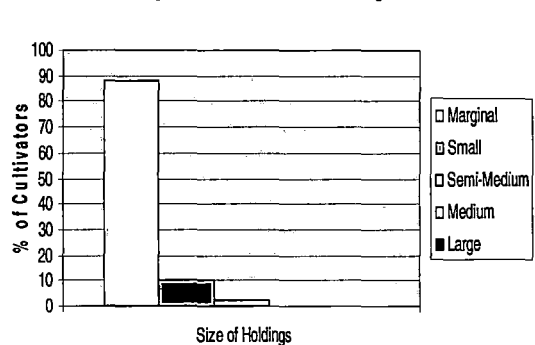


Table –5.3
Earning and Dependent Population

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Earning Population	2276	90	46.04	32.73
Depending Population	2667	185	53.96	67.27
TOTAL	4943	275	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.1.3 Occupation of Respondents:

In rural Maldah the percentage of primary sector workers is high and most of the workers are depending on agricultural activities. The table-5.4 represents that there are 479(21.04%) cultivators, 909(39.94%) agricultural labourers, 192(8.44%) household industry workers and 696 (30.58%) other workers in rural areas of Maldah district. In urban areas of Maldah district majority of the workers (84.44%) belongs to Other Workers followed by household industry workers (8.90%), agricultural labourers(4.44%) and cultivators (2.22%)(Figure-5.4).

Table -5.4
Occupational Structure

OCCUPATION	No. OF families		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
CULTIVATORS	479	02	21.04	2.22
AGRICULTURAL LABOURER	909	04	39.94	4.44
HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY WORKERS	192	08	8.44	8.90
Other Workers	696	76	30.58	84.44
TOTAL	2276	90	100	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.1.3.1 Cultivators:

A person is called a cultivator if he/she engaged in cultivation of land. The table –5.4 representing the occupation of respondents shows that 21.04% rural and 2.22% urban workers are cultivators. They are involved in ploughing, sowing, harvesting and production of crops, fruit and vegetable growing. The study validates the facts that the economy of the district is mainly dependent on cultivation. Map-5.1 represents block wise distribution of cultivators of Maldah district as per 2001 census report.

5.1.3.2 Agricultural Labourers:

Agricultural Labourers refers to that persons who works on another persons land for wages in money or kind or share and he/she has no right of lease or contract on land on which he/she works. Table –5.4 respondents that 909 (39.94%) and 4 (4.44%) workers or rural and urban areas respectively are agricultural labourers. Map-5.2 represents block wise distribution of agricultural labourers of Maldah district as per 2001 census report.

5.1.3.3 Household Industry Workers:

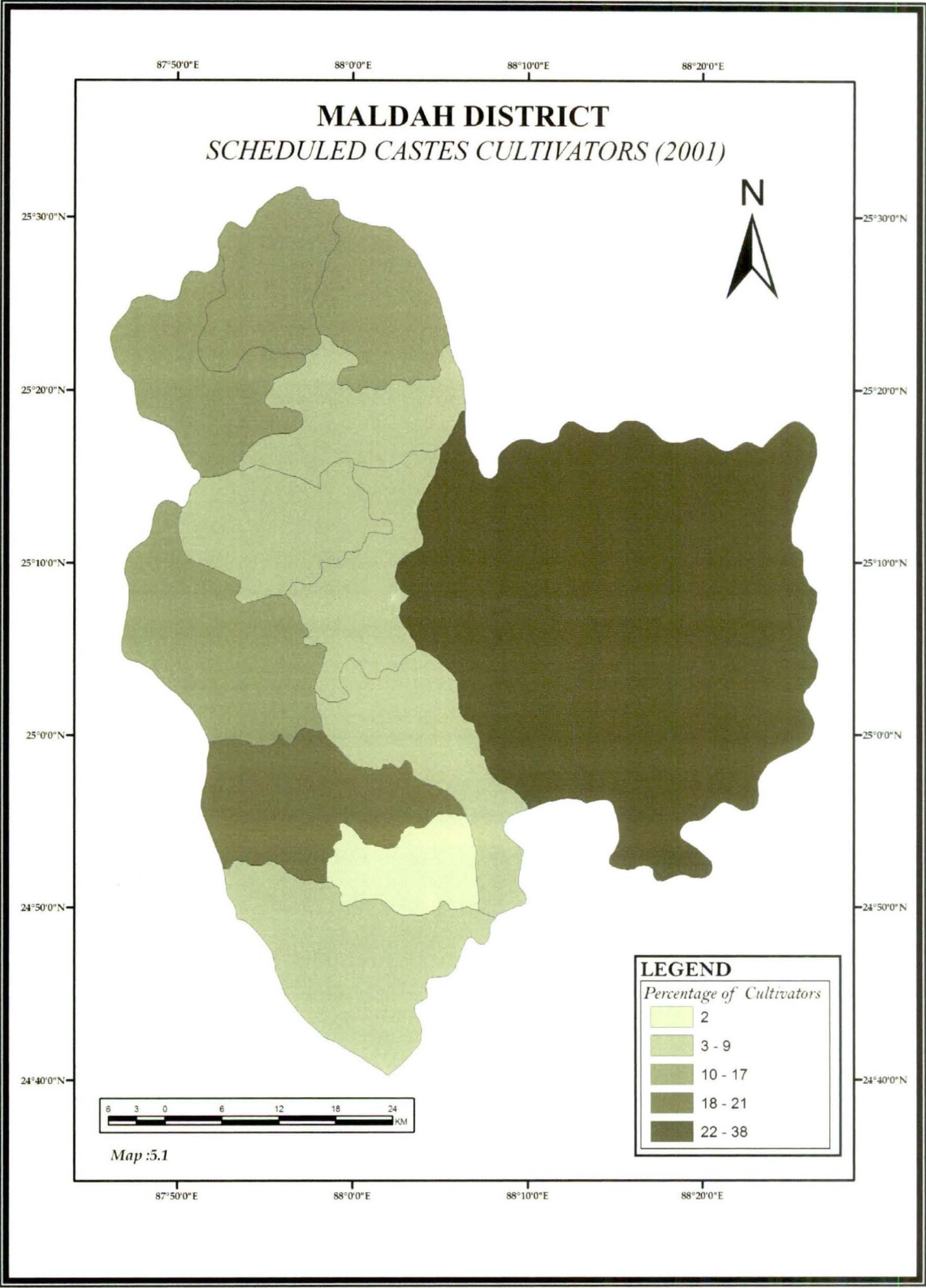
According to the table no –5.4, 192 (8.44%) rural workers and 8 (8.90%) urban workers are belongs to household industry workers and they are related to production, processing, serving, repairing or making and selling (but not merely selling) of goods. Map-5.3 represents block wise distribution of Household Industry Workers of Maldah district as per 2001 census report.

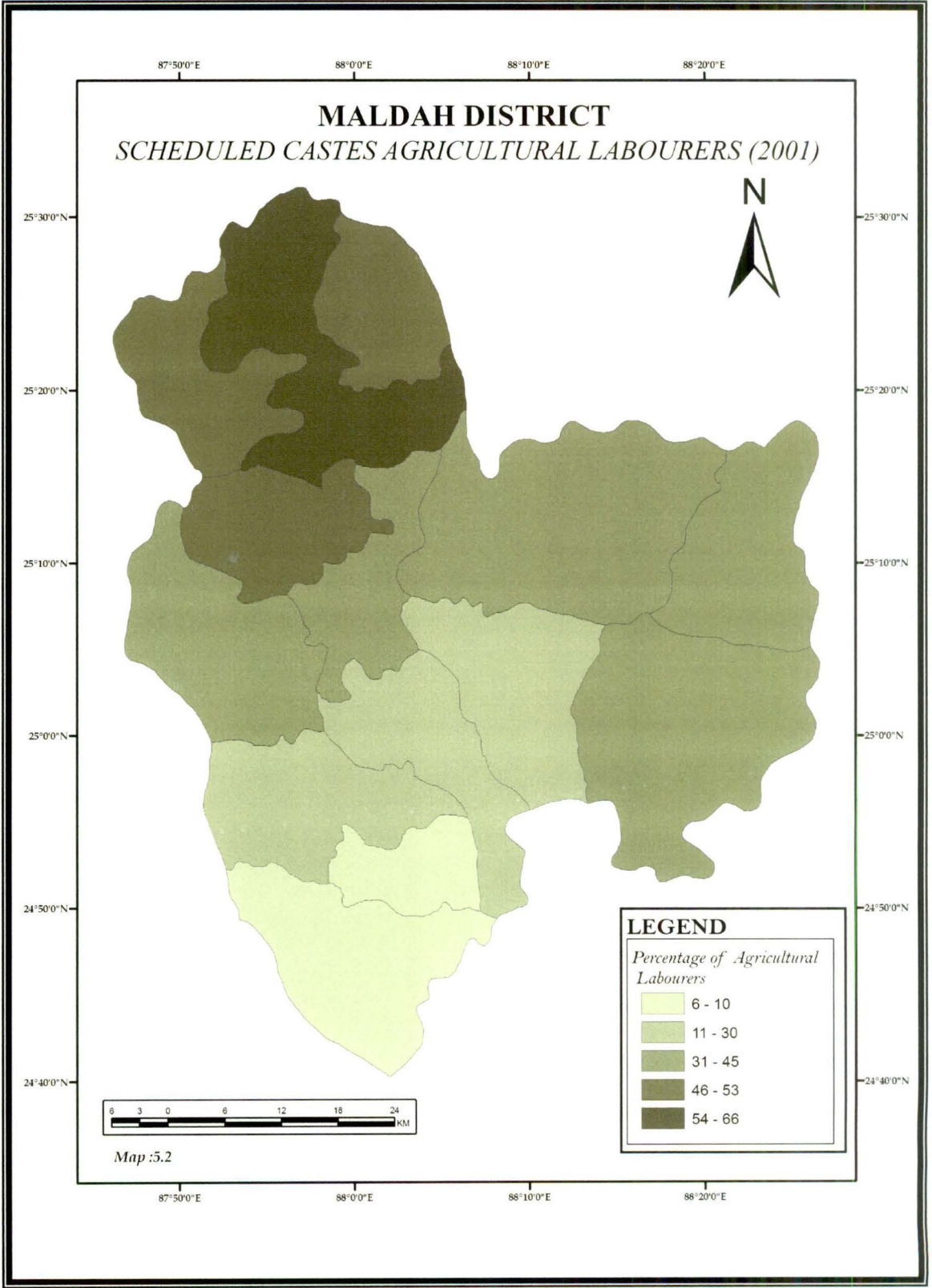
5.1.3.4 Other Workers: The workers not engaged in the above mentioned economic activities are Other Workers. The percentage of other workers is very high in urban areas compared to the rural areas. In urban areas of the Maldah district 84.44% workers are other workers whereas in rural areas 30.58% workers of the total workers are other workers. Map-5.4 represents block wise distribution of Other Workers of Maldah district as per 2001 census report.

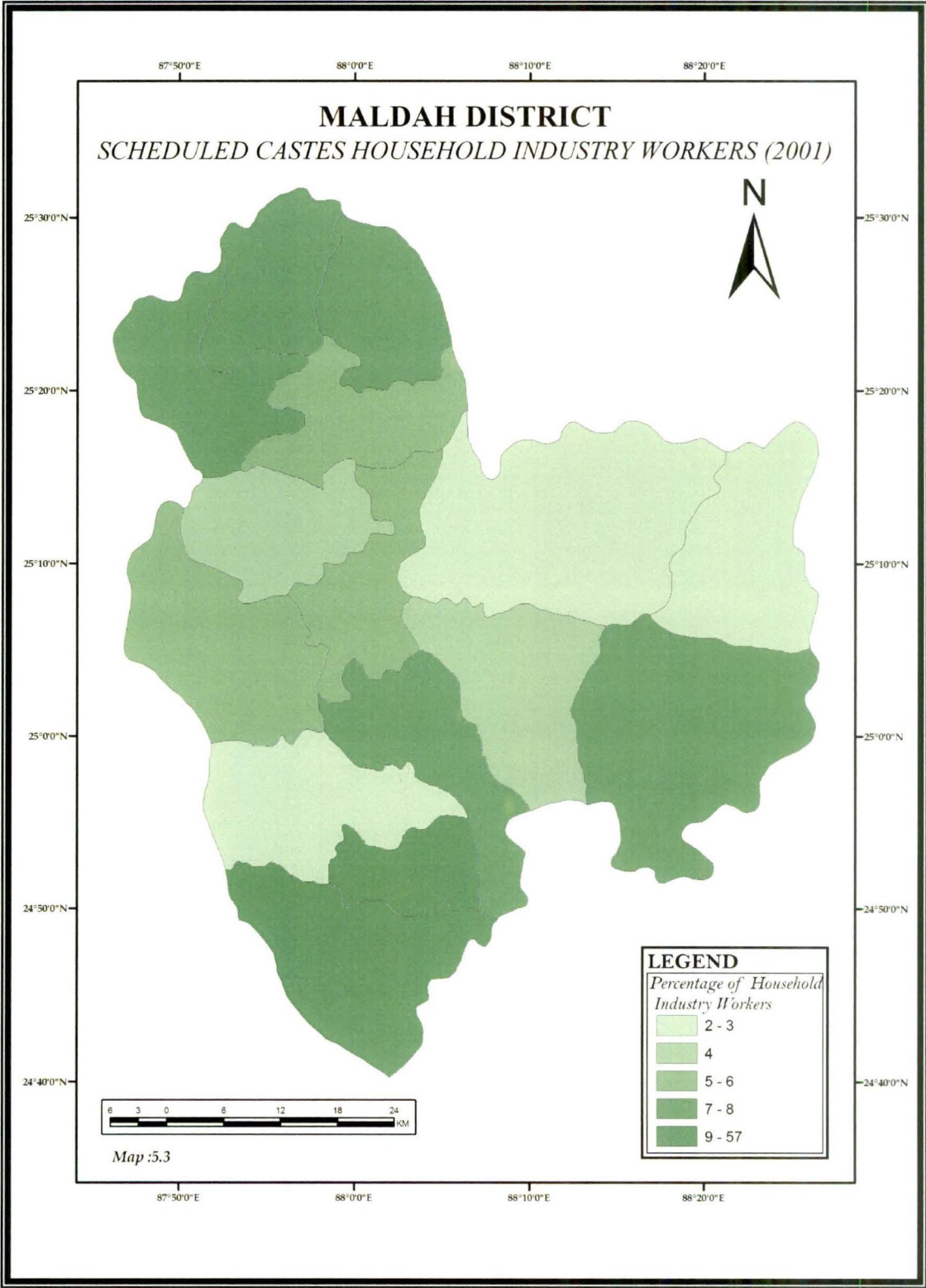
5.2 AGRICULTURE

5.2.1 Size of Landholdings of Respondents

An important indicator of a person's socio-economic status is ownership of land. In the agricultural country like India land being scarce, is much valued by the people. Table –5.5 shows the size of holding of all scheduled caste respondents. It is clearly observed from the table that only 220 respondents are land holders and remaining 79.46% are landless. Of these 220 land holders around 88% are marginal farmers with size of landholding >1 hectare. 10% are small farmers with size of landholding 1-2 hectare and only 2.27% respondents operate on semi-medium size (2-4 hectare) of holding (Figure-5.5).







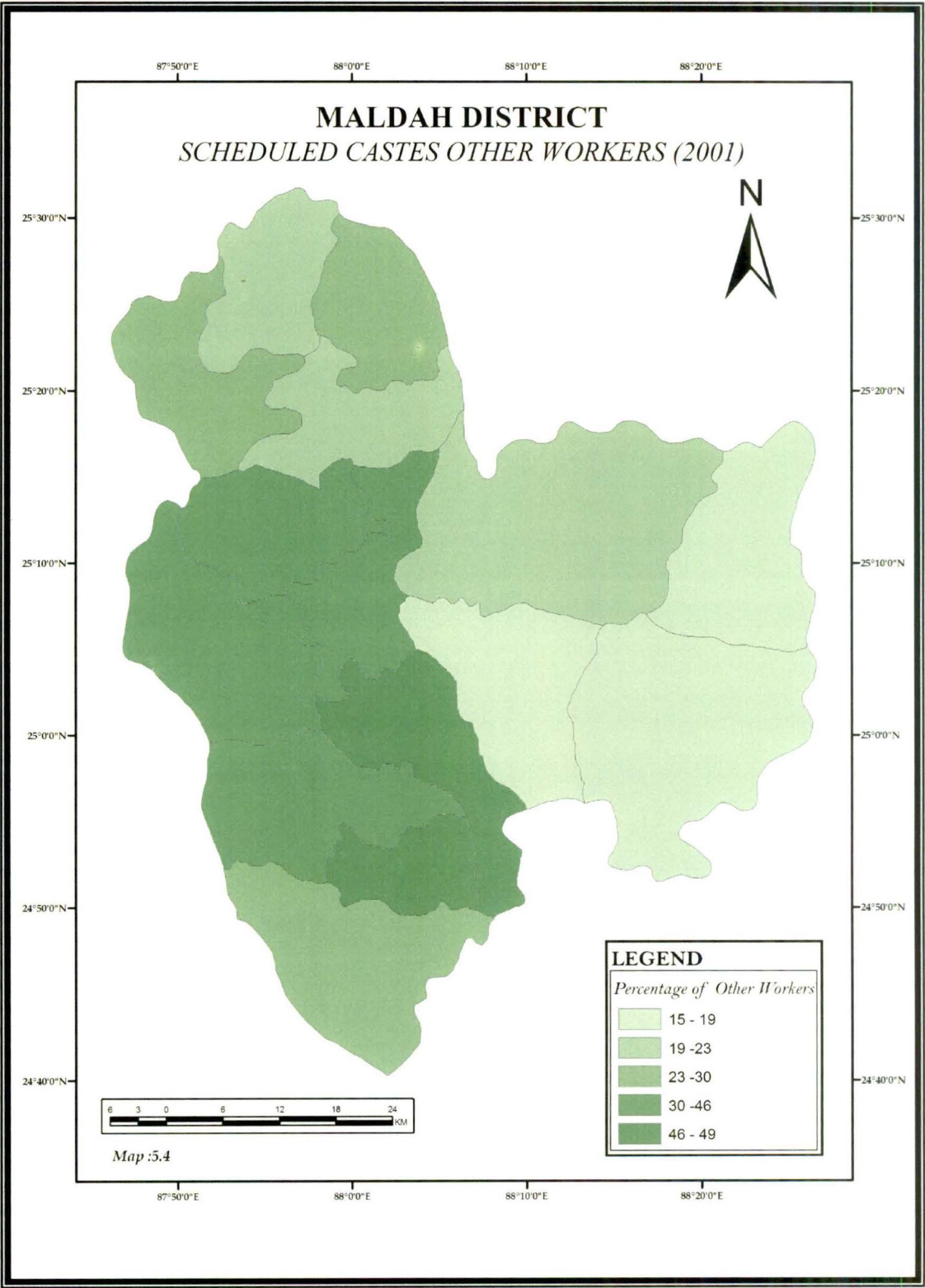


Table – 5.5
Size of Landholdings

Amount (hectare)	Size-Class of Holdings	Frequency	%
<1	Marginal	193	87.73
1-2	Small	22	10.00
2-4	Semi-Medium	05	02.27
4-10	Medium	00	00.00
>10	Large	00	00.00
Total		220	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.2.2 Land Cultivation in a year:

Table – 5.6 represents frequency of land cultivation in a year by the respondents. Majority of the cultivators (79.09%) cultivate their land 2 times, while 15.46% respondents cultivate their land 3 times in a year. Only 5.45% respondents have reported that they cultivate their land once in a year (Figure-5.6).

Table –5.6
Land Cultivation in a year

Category	Frequency	%
1	12	05.45
2	174	79.09
3	34	15.46
Total	220	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.2.3 Type of Agriculture:-

Out of total 220 respondents majority (64.55%) of the respondents practice agriculture on a subsistence basis while 35.45% practice it on a commercial basis. This figure indicates the backwardness of respondents in agricultural production (Figure-5.7).

Table –5.7
Type of Agriculture

Type	No. of Cultivators	%
Commercial	78	35.45
Subsistence	142	64.55
Total	220	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.2.4 Type of Crops:

The modern agricultural infrastructure especially improvement in irrigation facilities and the overall geographical conditions especially relief, climate and soil are very conducive for the cultivation of these crops. Paddy, wheat, potato and jute are the commercial crops of the district. The main agricultural productions of the district are paddy, wheat, potato, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, ginger, chilies etc. Table – 5.8 shows that almost all the cultivators (88.64%) produce paddy, 80% produce jute, 65% produce wheat, 61.36% cultivators produce potato, and 14.55% are engaged in sugarcane production. Out of total – 220 respondents 9.55%, 46.36% and 60.00% produce tobacco, ginger and chilies.

Table –5.8
Important Agricultural Products

Crop	Paddy	Wheat	Potato	Jute	Sugarcane	Tobacco	Ginger	Chilies
	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
No. of Cultivators	195	143	135	176	32	21	102	132
% to total Cultivators (220)	88.64	65.00	61.36	80.00	14.55	9.55	46.36	60.00

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

5.2.5 Scheduled Castes Cultivators Using source of Irrigation :

Irrigation is the watering of agricultural plants through artificial means. Being a hot district with seasonal and irregular rainfall it always needed irrigation to carry on agricultural activities during dry season. Based on availability of surface and ground water, relief, soils and climatic characteristics varying sources of irrigation are utilized in Maldah district. The main source of irrigation in Maldah district are – tank, deep tube well with high, medium and low capacity, shallow tube well, river lift irrigation etc.

The main source of irrigation and irrigated area of Maldah district is shown in the table below –

Table – 5.9
Source of Irrigation

Sources	No. Of FARMERS	%
Tank	05	2.27
High Capacity Deep Tube Well	00	0.00
Middle Capacity Deep Tube Well	04	1.82
Law Capacity Deep Tube Well	06	2.73
Shallow Tube Well	194	88.18
River Lift Irrigation	06	2.73
Others	05	2.27
Total	220	100

SOURCE:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

It is observed from the table that for the irrigation out of 220 cultivators majority (88.18%) use shallow tube well, 2.27% use tank, 1.82% depend on middle capacity deep tube well and 2.73% are depending on river lift irrigation (Figure-5.9).

5.2.6 Yield of Crops during Last 5 Years

Table-5.10 represents average yield of crops during last five years. 57.73% cultivators out of 220 respondents reported that their average yield per acre increased during last five years. The cases for the increasing production are –

- i) Improvement in irrigation system,
- ii) Increasing use of HYV seeds,
- iii) Use of fertilizers,
- iv) No loss of crops due to flood
- v) Scientific method of farming

Table – 5.10
Yield of Crops during last 5 years

Categories	Frequency	%
Increased	127	57.73
Decreased	38	17.27
Same	55	25.00
Total	220	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

On the otherhand 25% respondents have reported that their average yield of crop per acre is same during last five years whereas 17.27% respondents have reported that their average yield of crop per acre decreased during last five years (Figure-5.10).

. According to the respondents the main causes for the decline in yield rate are –

- i) Location of agricultural lands in flood prone areas and annual loss due to flood.
- ii) Small size of holdings
- iii) Unscientific method of farming
- iv) Lack of irrigational facilities
- v) Less use of chemical, bio and natural fertilizers.
- vi) Greater vulnerability to pests and diseases
- vii) Poverty amongst farmers and lack of infrastructure.
- viii) Change in economic activity.

5.2.7 Main Causes for Decline in Agricultural Production

Table –5.11 represents major causes for the decline in agricultural products of scheduled castes cultivators

Table-5.11

Main Causes for Decline in Agricultural Production

Causes	Frequency	%
Flood	03	7.80
Drought	12	31.58
Change in economic activity	15	39.47
River Bank erosion	02	5.26
Poverty	05	13.16
No Idea	01	2.63
TOTAL	38	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

According to the majority of the respondents (39.47%) change in their economic activities is the main cause of the declining agricultural production whereas the other causes of decline in agriculture are drought(31.58%), poverty(13.16%),flood(7.80%), river Bank erosion(5.26%) etc . (Figure-5.11).

Figure-5.6: Land Cultivation in a year

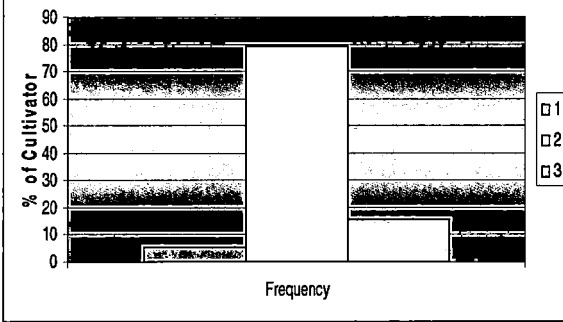


Figure-5.7: Type of Agriculture

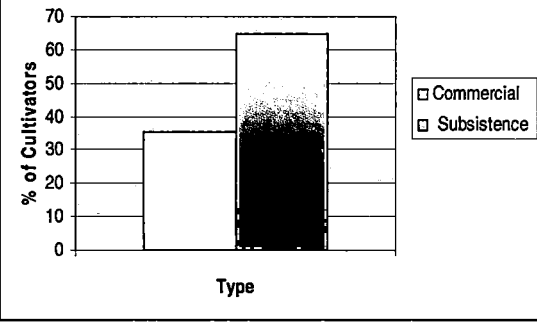


Figure-5.8: Important Agricultural Products

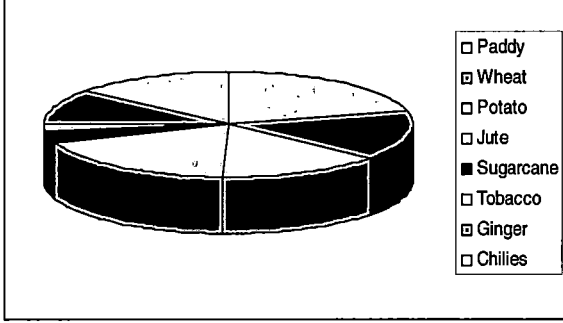


Figure-5.9: Source of Irrigation

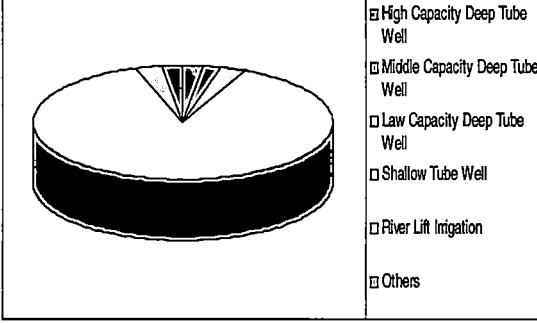


Figure-5.10: Yield of Crops during last 5 years

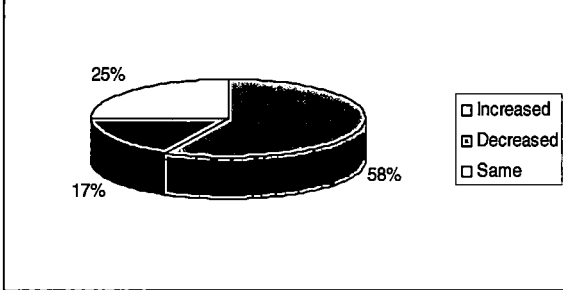
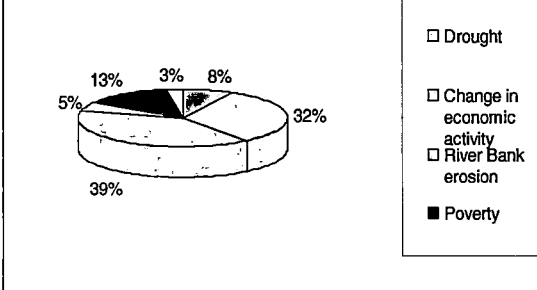


Figure- 5.11: Main Causes for Decline in Agricultural Production



5.2.8 Use of Fertilizers: Type of fertilizers used by the cultivators is represented by the table no – 5.12. It is clear from the table that majority of the cultivators use chemical fertilizers since last 15 years. The main chemical fertilizers presently used by the respondents are N .P. and K. At present 7.27% cultivators out of 220 use natural and bio fertilizers whereas 92.73% use chemical fertilizer.

Table – 5.12
Use Of Fertilizer

Fertilizer Type	10 Years Ago		5Years Ago		At Present	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Chemical	169	76.82	191	86.82	204	92.73
Bio	51	23.18	29	13.18	16	07.27
Total	220	100	220	100	220	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.2.9 Use of HYV Seeds :

High Yielding Varieties (HYV) has certain advances over the traditional varieties of cereals. HYV have shorter life cycle and thereby enable the farmers to go for multiple cropping. For example, HYV seeds of rice and wheat complete their life cycles in 110 and 120 days respectively. The yield per unit area is significantly high.

Table – 5.13
Use of New Varieties of Seed.

Frequency	No. OF FARMERS	%
Never	05	02.27
Rarely	45	20.46
Always	170	77.27
Total	220	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The table – 5.13 represents that majority of cultivators (77.27%) use HYV always, because HYV does not require any special skill and farmer of various socio-economic and cultural background can adopt the new seeds easily. 20.46% respondents use HYV rarely and there are only 02.27% respondent who never used HYV(Figure-5.12).

5.2.10 Use of Insecticides and Pesticides:

Agricultural inputs like insecticides and pesticides are very important for high yield. The use of pesticides and insecticides is very limited and farmers of Maldah are almost unfamiliar with herbicides and weedicides. Hence, a sizeable production is lost every year.

Table – 5.14
Use of Insecticides and Pesticides

Frequency	No. OF FARMERS	%
Never	13	5.91
Rarely	27	12.27
Always	180	81.82
Total	220	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table – 5.14 represents use of insecticides and pesticides by Scheduled castes cultivators of Maldah district. It is observed that 81.82% cultivators use insecticides and pesticides always while 12.27% cultivators use rarely. There are 13 (5.91%) cultivators who had never used due to poverty and lack of information about insecticides and pesticides(Figure-5.13).

5.2.11 Warehouse and Cold Storage Facility :

Among the various infrastructural facilities warehouse and cold storage facilities is very important to store agricultural products. Table – 5.15 shows that out of total 220 cultivators only 5.91% and 5.00% cultivators use warehouse and cold Storage facilities to store their crops (Figure-5.14).

Table – 5.15
Warehouse and Cold Storage Facility

Facility	Frequency	% to total(220)
Warehouse	13	5.91
Cold Storage	11	5.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Figure-5.12: Use of New Varieties of Seed.

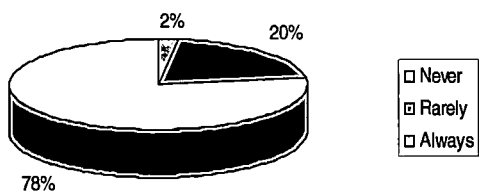


Figure-5.13: Use of Insecticides and Pesticides

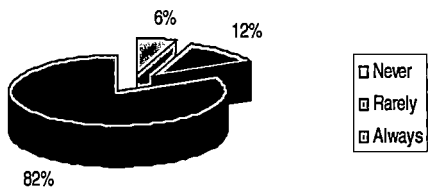


Figure-5.14: Warehouse and Cold Storage Facility



Figure-5.15: Selling of Agricultural Products

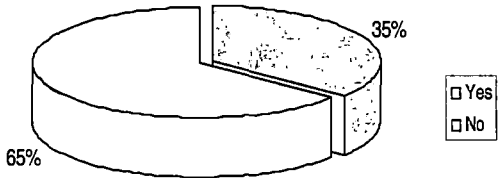


Figure-5.16: PLACE OF SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

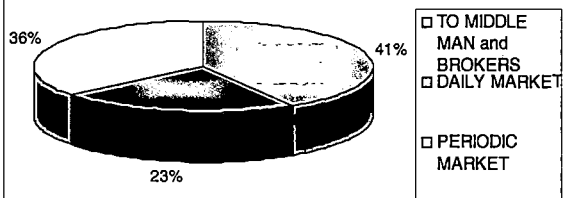
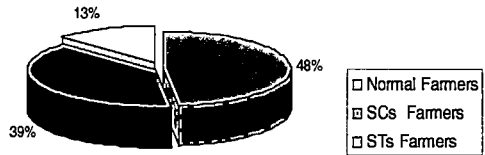


Figure-5.17: SEED VILLAGE SCHEME



5.2.12 Selling of Agricultural Products :

Table – 5.16 respondents that out of 220 cultivators 35.45% (78) respondents sell agricultural products, while remaining 64.55% produce crops on subsistence basis(Figure-5.15). Out of total 78 cultivators who sell their agricultural products 41.03% cultivators sell their crops to brokers and middleman and they deprive farmers to fetch remunerative prices for agricultural products, while 23.08% and 35.89 % cultivator sell their crops in daily and periodic markets (Figure-5.16).

Table – 5.16

Selling of Agricultural Products

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	78	35.45
No	142	64.55
Total	220	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table – 5.17

PLACE OF SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

PLACE		No. OF FARMERS	%
TO MIDDLE MAN & BROKERS		32	41.03
TO MARKET	DAILY	18	23.08
	PERIODIC	28	35.89
TOTAL		78	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.2.13 Transportation Facilities in Agriculture :

Transportation facilities have a direct bearing on the cropping patterns of a region. Better transport linkages are advantages because of the economics in farm labour and storage costs which they make possible. These savings in turn help to make it economic for farmers to buy fertilizers and better equipments.

In Maldah district cultivators use van, rickshaw, truck, tractor etc. to carry agricultural products, seeds, fertilizers etc.

Table – 5.18

MODE OF TRANSPORT TO CARRY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

CATEGORY	No. OF FARMERS	%
VAN	90	40.91
RICKSHAW	17	07.73
BICYCLE	16	07.27
CART	28	12.73
TRUCTOR	46	20.91
TRUCK	23	10.45
TOTAL	220	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The table-5.18 represents that majority of the respondents (40.91%) use van/hand carts to carry their agricultural products. The other modes of transport to agricultural products are tractor(20.91%),cart(12.73%),rickshaw(07.73%) and bicycle(07.27%) (Figure-5.20).

5.2.14 Government Help for Cultivators:

According to Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administrative), Maldah, there are various schemes for the development of the farmers like –

1. Seed Village Scheme (Production of seed in villages)
2. Integrated cereal development programme (Development of wheat, rice and coarse cereals)
3. National Security Mission for Pulses(Supply of seeds,micronutrients, pumpsets,spray machine ,medicine and farmer training.
4. Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojona(Distribution of seeds, micro-nutrients,
- 5.Distribution of farm implements(Tructor ,Power tiller, sprayer on subsidy)
6. Development of implement hub (Distribution of pumpset, power tiller to co-operative societies)
7. Testing of soil sample, chemical fertilizer, seed sample, pesticides etc.
8. Bank loan schme and to aware farmers about Kishan Credit Card.
9. Bio-village project.
10. Crop cutting experiment to measure agricultural productivity etc.

SEED VILLAGE SCHEME:

The table-5.19 indicates that there are 156 seed villages of which 48.08% are for normal farmers, 39.10% are for scheduled castes farmers and 12.82 % are for ST farmers (Figure-5.17).

Table-5.19

SEED VILLAGE SCHEME FOR PRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED SEED IN AMAN PADDY DURING KHARIF 2010-11

Category	No. of Villages	%
Normal Farmers	75	48.08
SCs Farmers	61	39.10
STs Farmers	20	12.82
Total	156	100

Source: Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administrative), Maldah.

GOVERNMENT HELP FOR CULTIVATORS: The above table represents that majority (65.91) of the cultivators received seeds and 13.81% received fertilizers from the government. 13.81% cultivators were trained from the agriculture department.

Table-5.20

GOVERNMENT HELP FOR CULTIVATORS

HELP	No. OF FARMERS	% TO TOTAL (220)
SUBSIDIES IN FARM IMPLEMENT	12	5.45
SEED SUPPLY	145	65.91
FERTILIZER	103	46.82
FARMER TRAINING	29	13.81
No. HELP	75	34.09

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.2.15 Vested Land Distribution and SCs Beneficiaries:

Many of scheduled castes got agricultural land by the government under different schemes of land distribution and have started agriculture practices. The table represents distribution of vested agricultural land to scheduled castes from 2002-2006. It is clear from the table that the percentage of the SCs beneficiaries decreased year by year (Figure-5.19).

Table-5.21
AREA OF VESTED AGRICULTURAL LAND DISTRIBUTED AND
PERCENTAGE OF S.Cs. BENEFICIARIES

Upto	Distributed Land (Hectare)	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	S.Cs BENEFICIARIES	% of S.Cs BENEFICIARIES
30-09-2002	30332	151371	39310	25.97
30-09-2003	31122	153178	39315	25.67
30-11-2004	31139	154139	39359	25.53
30-11-2005	31203	154957	39496	25.49
30-11-2006	31241	155543	39607	25.46

Source: Land and Land Reforms Department, Govt. of W. Bengal.

5.3 HORTICULTURE:

Horticulture is the cultivation of garden plants, fruits, berries, nuts, vegetables, flowers, trees, shrubs and turf. Horticulturists work for plant propagation, crop production, plant breeding, genetic engineering, plant biochemistry, plant physiology, storage, processing and transportation. They work to better crop yield, quality, nutritional value and resistance to insects, diseases, and environmental pollution. Fruits and vegetables production by the scheduled castes farmers are as follows-

5.3.1 Production of Fruits

Maldah district is characterized by high heat and humidity during summer. Here mango, banana, pineapple, papaya, guava and jackfruits etc. are produced. 827 (77.22%) Rural respondents are engaged in fruit production. Of them 156 (18.86%) produce in commercial basis while 671 (81.14%) produce in subsistence basis. So majority of the producers produce for their own consumption (Figure-5.21).

Table-5.22
Type of Fruit production

Type	No. of Respondents	%
Commercial	156	18.86
Subsistence	671	81.14
Total	827	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Out of total fruit producers 801(96.86%) respondents produce mango. nearly 95% are producing guava, 46.80% produce jackfruit , 23.70% produce banana, 86.885% produce papaya and 23.94% produce pineapple ,so almost all the respondents are engaged in mango and guava production.

Table-5.23
Important Fruits Produced by the Respondents

FRUITS	Mango	Banana	Pineapple	Papaya	Guava	Jackfruit
CULTIVATORS	801	196	198	715	786	387
% to Total Cultivators(827)	96.86	23.70	23.94	86.88	95.04	46.80

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

“Mango requires an average temperature of 10⁰C – 28⁰C and average rainfall of 75cm – 250cm. Heavy rain, fog or cloudy weather at the time of flowering affects the yield and encourages the incidence of pests and diseases. It is grown on a number of soils, although clayey loams are the best suited” ⁽²⁾

Maldah district is famous for the mango production and Maldah is known as Mango City of Eastern India, because of the favourable geographical condition for mango cultivation. Out of 827 fruit producers 801(96.86%) are engaged in mango production .Mango production is the important source of their economy.Mango has been grown since the Vedic times. The tree is supposed to be a native of Indo-Burma region.

5.3.2 Vegetable Production

Tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, brinjan and onion are the important vegetables of the district . The production of these vegetables on subsistence and commercial basis is shown in the table below

Table-5.24
Type of Vegetable production

Type	Cultivators	%
Commercial	129	29.86
Subsistence	303	70.14
Total	432	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

Figure-5.18: GOVERNMENT HELP FOR CULTIVATORS

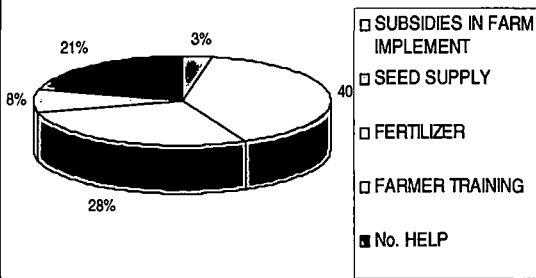


Figure-5.19: Distribution of Vasted Land

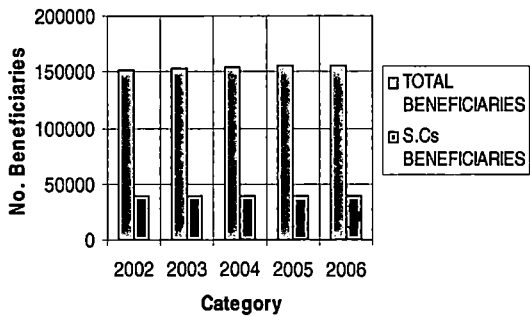


Figure-5.20: MODE OF TRANSPORT IN AGRICULTURE

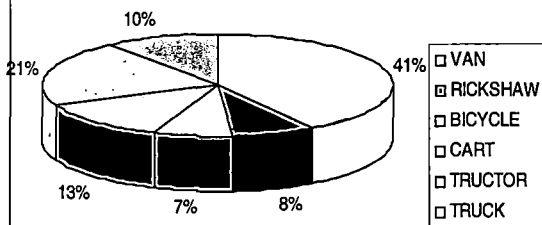


Figure-5.21: Type of Fruit production

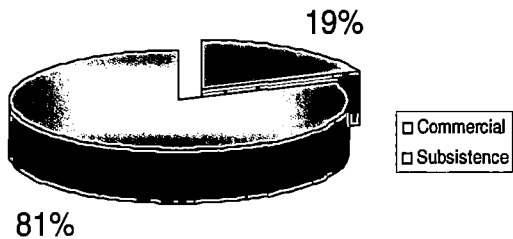


Figure-5.22: Important Fruits Produced by the Respondents

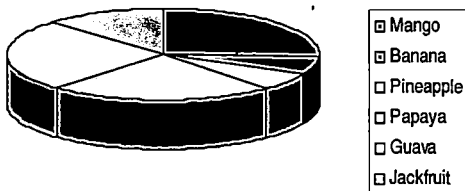
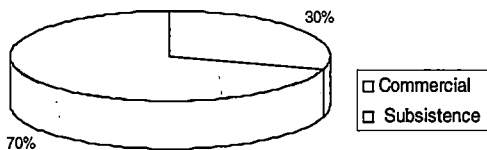


Figure-5.23: Type of Vegetable production



Out of the 1071 rural respondents 432(40.43%) produce vegetables. 70.14% of the total vegetables producers produce on subsistence basis and remaining 29.86% produce on commercial basis (Figure-5.23).

Table-5.25
Important Vegetables Produced By The Respondents

Vegetables	Tomato	Cabbage	Cauliflower	Peas	Brinjal	Onion
CULTIVATORS	157	321	282	234	259	188
% to total Cultivators(432)	36.34	74.31	65.28	54.17	59.95	43.52

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table -5.25 represents that of the 432 vegetable producers 157 (36.34%) produce tomato, 321(74.31%) produce cabbage ,282 (65.28%) produce cauliflower, 188 (43.52%) produce onion, 259 (59.95%) produce brinjal and 234 (54.17%) produce peas (Figure-5.24).

5.4 Sericulture:

CATALYTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SCHEDULED CASTES REARERS:

The schemes under catalytic development programmes are shown in the table - 5.26. The percentage of SCs beneficiaries under different schemes are Support to LSPs for C.B. silkworm seed production(16.67%), Assistance for irrigation & water conservation & usage techniques(18%), Supply for rearing appliances for sericulture farmers(5.51%), Assistance for construction of rearing house(10.67%) and Crop Insurance Support for Mulberry(35%) (Figure-5.25).

Table-5.26
CATALYTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2009-2010

Sl.No.	NAME OF THE SCHEME	GENERAL	S.C.	TOTAL
1.	Support to LSPs for C.B. silkworm seed production	05 (83.33%)	01 (16.67%)	06 (100%)
2.	Assistance for irrigation & water conservation & usage techniques	41 (82%)	09 (18%)	50 (100%)
3.	Supply for rearing appliances for sericulture farmers	377 (94.49%)	22 (5.51%)	399 (100%)
4.	Assistance for construction of rearing house	268 (89.33%)	32 (10.67%)	300 (100%)
5.	Crop Insurance Support for Mulberry	13 (65%)	07 (35%)	20 (100%)
TOTAL				775

Source:-Deputy Director of Textiles (Sericulture); Maldah; Govt. of W. Bengal.

5.5 Animal Husbandry:

Domestication of animals to obtain animal product like milk, meat, wool, skin and lyde etc. is called animal husbandry. These animals are cow, buffalo, goat, sheep, pig, horse etc.

The density of cattle population per 100 hectares of total cropped area in India is about 99. Here six states of the country including West Bengal are characterized by highest density (Over 200 cattle/ 100 hectares of gross cropped area) of cattle. Maldah district of West Bengal is also developed in animal husbandry. Table-5.27 represents the number of domesticated animals.

This is clear from the figure-5.26 that the main domesticated animals of the SCs. Respondents are cattles 998(42.05%) and goats 1150(48.46%). The other animals are buffaloes (5%), sheep 45(01.90%).

Table – 5.27
TYPE OF LIVE STOCKS

Live Stocks		No. of Live Stocks	%
Cattle 998(42.05%)	Cows	355	14.96
	Bull& Bullocks	240	10.11
	Young Stock	403	16.98
Buffaloes 180(7.59%)	Cows	50	02.11
	Bull& Bullocks	71	02.99
	Young Stock	59	02.49
Sheep		45	01.90
Goats		1150	48.46
TOTAL		2373	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

In Maldah district cows and buffaloes are good yielders of milk and dairy products are dependent much on cows and buffaloes. Reason behind the high number of respondents' domestication cows then buffaloes is that cows are sold in cheap rate in market and expenditure on them is very low than buffaloes in the district.

Goat is the largest domesticated animal of the district because the goat provides milk for poor men, meat, skin and hair for all. Goat rearing is very popular because it requires small capital investvent.

5.5.1 Monthly Income from Live Stocks: The monthly income from live stocks of the respondents is shown in the tabl-5.28.It is clear from the figure-5.27 that majority of the respondents 312 (41.54%) earn Rs. 500-1000 per month from live stocks, 31.16 % earn Rs. <500, 17.58% earn Rs. 1000- 1500 per month and only 9.72% earn above Rs. 1500.

Table – 5.28
Monthly Income from Live Stocks

Income (Rs.)	Frequency	%
< 500	234	31.16
500 – 1000	312	41.54
1000 – 1500	132	17.58
> 1500	73	09.72
Total	751	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.5.2 DAIRY INDUSTRY

Dairy industry includes production milk,milk powder,ghee, ‘paneer’ etc.At present sizeable number of 545(72.57%) scheduled castes respondents of villages have adopted diary farming as an important source of income for them and are practicing diary farming on commercial basis,while remaining 206 (27.43%)are practicing it on subsistence basis.

Table – 5.29
Type of Milk Production

Type	Frequency	%
Commercial Basis	545	72.57
Subsistence Basis	206	27.43
Total	751	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Figure-5.29 represents that of the 545(72.57%) respondents practicing diary on commercial basis, it is the main source of income of 154(28.26%) and subsidiary source of income of 391(71.74%) respondents.

Figure-5.24: Important Vegetables Produced By The Respondents

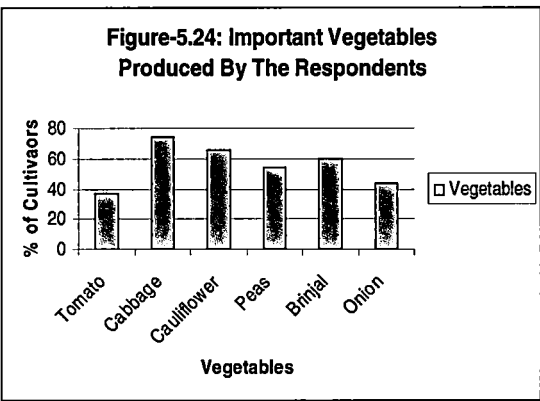


Figure-5.25: CATALYTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2009-2010

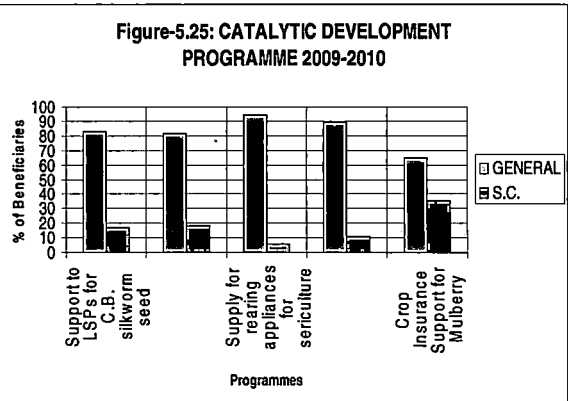


Figure-5.26: Type of Live Stocks

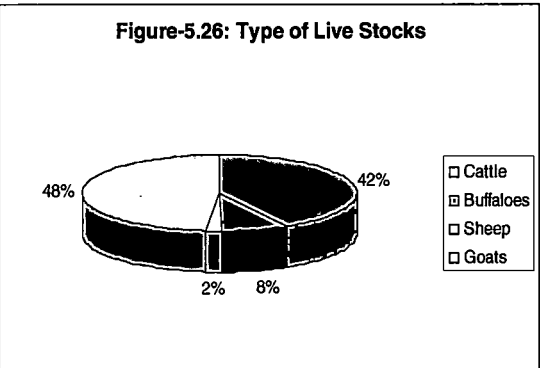


Figure-5.27: Monthly Income from Live Stocks

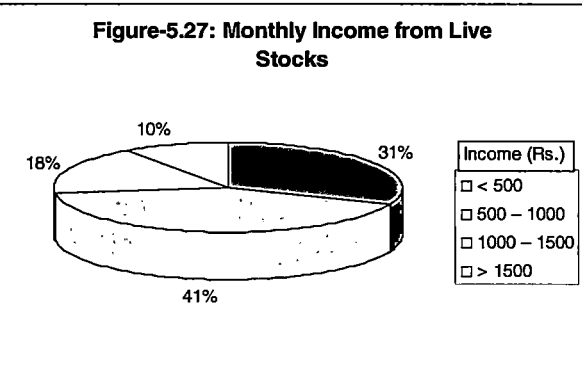


Figure-5.28: Type of Milk Production

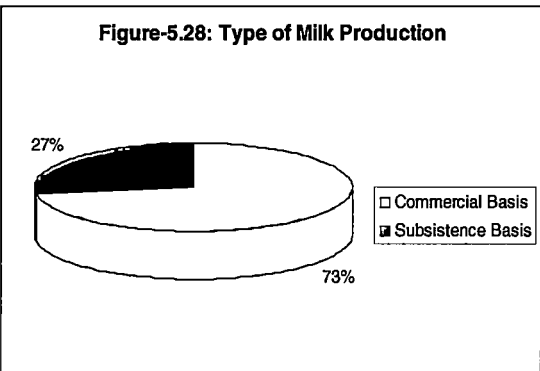


Figure-5.29: Dairy Farming as a source of income

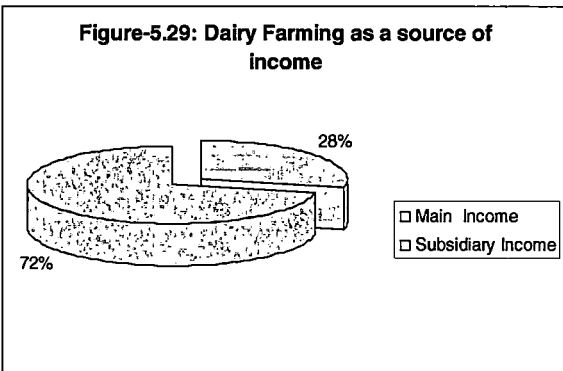


Table – 5.30
Dairy Farming as a source of income

Nature	No. Of farmers	%
Main Income	154	28.26
Subsidiary Income	391	71.74
Total	545	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

It is observed from the field study that 69 (06.44%) respondents have adopted purchase and selling of milk as a source of income. They purchase milk & milk products from villages at low price & sell at high price in town

Table – 5.31
Purchase and Selling of Milk

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	69	06.44
No	1002	93.56
Total	1071	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The findings of the study on dairy farming are –

1. Of the total 751 milk producers, 72.57% produce on commercial basis and 27.43% produce on subsistence basis.
2. Dairy farming is the main source of income for 28.26% families.

5.6 Poultry Farming

Poultry includes domestic fowls like chickens ducks, etc which reared to obtain meat, eggs and feathers. The study reveals that almost all the scheduled castes respondents in villages are poultry rearers because of the fact that it requires very low capital investment and provides additional income and job opportunities to a large number of rural populations in the shortest possible time.

The table-5.32 represents that out of 705 respondents 286 (40.57%) have 5-10 chickens, 210(29.79%) have <5 chicken, 15.04% respondents have 10-15 chickens while only 34(04.81%) scheduled castes respondents have chickens more than 20.

It is also observed from the figure-5.30 that the number of chicken rearers is more than duck rearers. Majority of respondents 385(65.59%) have number of ducks

less than 5, followed by 5-10 ducks (24.70%), 10-15 ducks (05.96%), 15-20 ducks (03.75%) .

Table – 5.32
Chickens and Ducks

Number	Chickens		Ducks	
	No.of Respondents	%	No. of Respondents	%
< 5	210	29.79	385	65.59
5 – 10	286	40.57	145	24.70
10 – 15	106	15.04	35	05.96
15 – 20	69	09.79	22	03.75
> 20	34	04.81	00	00.00
TOTAL	705	100	587	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.6.1 Monthly Income from Poultry Forming: The monthly income from poultry farming of scheduled castes respondents of Maldah district is shown in the table no-5.33

Table – 5.33
Monthly Income from Chickens and Ducks

Income (Rs.)	Frequency	%
< 250	258	32.17
250-500	189	23.57
500-750	215	26.80
> 750	140	17.46
Total	802	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Majority of the respondents 258 (32.17%) earn Rs <250 per month by selling eggs, 23.57% respondents income from it is between Rs 250-500, while only 17.46% respondents who sell both eggs and fowl earn above Rs 750 per month (Figure-5.31).

5.6.2 Bird Flu and Culling Operations: In January 2008, 200, 00 birds were culled and in March, 2008 50,000 birds were culled in Maldah district due to outbreak of bird flue caused by H5N1 virus. Table-5.34 represents number of birds culled due to bird flue of scheduled castes respondents. 0-5. Birds culled of 98 respondents (46.00%) followed by 5-10 birds of 47 (22.07% respondents), 10-15 birds of 42 (19.72%) respondents and <15-20 birds culled of 26 (12.21%) respondents.

Table – 5.34
BIRDS (Hens and Ducks) CULLED FOR BIRD FLU

No. OF BIRDS CULLED	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS	%
0-5	98	46.00
5-10	47	22.07
10-15	42	19.72
>15	26	12.21
TOTAL	213	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.6.3 COMPENSATION FOR CULLING FROM GOVERNMENT

It is observed from the table that out of 213 respondents 158(74.18%) respondents were given compensation whereas 25.82% of the poultry rearers were not given compensation. Farmers were being given a compensation of Rs. 20-50 per poultling depending on its age.

Table – 5.35
COMPENSATION FOR CULLING FROM GOVERNMENT

COMPENSATION	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS	%
GIVEN	158	74.18
NOT GIVEN	55	25.82
TOTAL	213	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table – 5.36
AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR BIRDS (Hens and Ducks) CULLED
(Depending on age of Birds)

AMOUNT PER BIRD (R s.)	No. OF farmers	%
20-30	87	55.06
30-40	59	37.34
40-50	12	07.60
Total:	158	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table- 5.36 represents the compensation for culling. It is clear from the table that majority of the respondents 87(55.06%) were being given a compensation of Rs. 20-30 per bird, followed by Rs 30-40 per bird (37.34% farmers) and Rs 40-50 per bird (07.60% farmers).

The Culling operation were going on at Narhalta and Satgheria villeges under the English Bazar police station in Maldah without any resistance from people. Farmer were willingly handed over their chickens & ducks to the culler.

5.7 Fishing:

Another important economic activity of the scheduled castes of this district is fishing. According to the data collected from the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries, Maldah, in 2008-09 total fish production of the district was 41575 MT in inland water. Pisciculture Plays a vital role in the economy of Maldah district. It helps in generating employment, augmenting food supply, raising nutritional level etc. According to the Assistant Director of Fisheries total impounded water area of the district is 10,773.57 ha and total fish production in inland water is 41575 MT for the year 2008-09. During this year 198 scheduled castes female produced ornamental fish.

5.7.1 Type of Fishing:

Table-5.37 represents that out of total 1071 rural respondents 267(24.93%) are depending on pisciculture. Out of total 267, 99(37.08%) are practicing fishing on commercial basis and 168(62.92%) respondents are practicing it on subsistence basis whereas in urban areas all 3 respondents practice it on commercial basis (Figure-5.32).

Table – 5.37
Type of Fishing

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Commercial Basis	99	03	37.08	100
Subsistence Basis	168	00	62.92	00
Total	267	03	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table-5.38 represents fishing as a source of main or subsidiary income of respondents. Out of total 267 rural fishermen 99(78.79%) are practicing fishing as main source of income and remaining 21(21.21%) are practicing as subsidiary source of income whereas all 3 respondents practice fishing on subsidiary source (Figure-5.33).

Figure-5.30: Chickens and Ducks

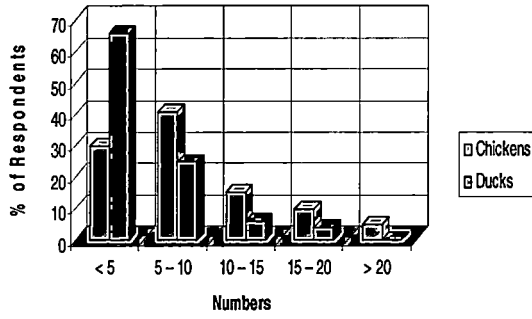


Figure-5.31: Monthly Income from Chickens and Ducks

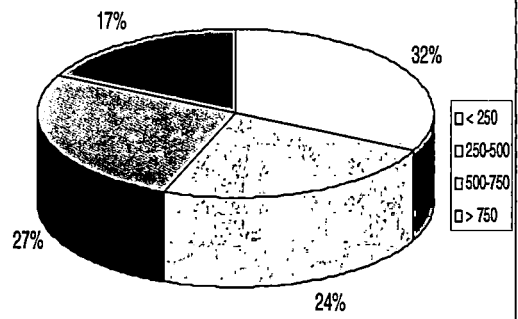


Figure-5.32: Type of Fishing

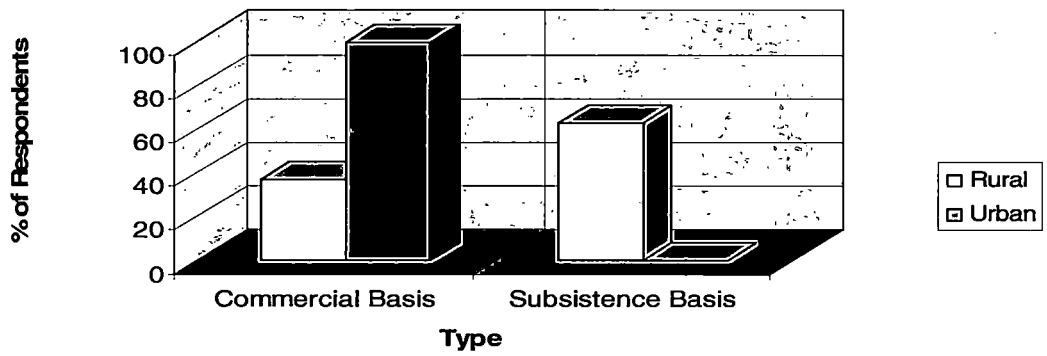


Figure-5.33: Fishing as source of income

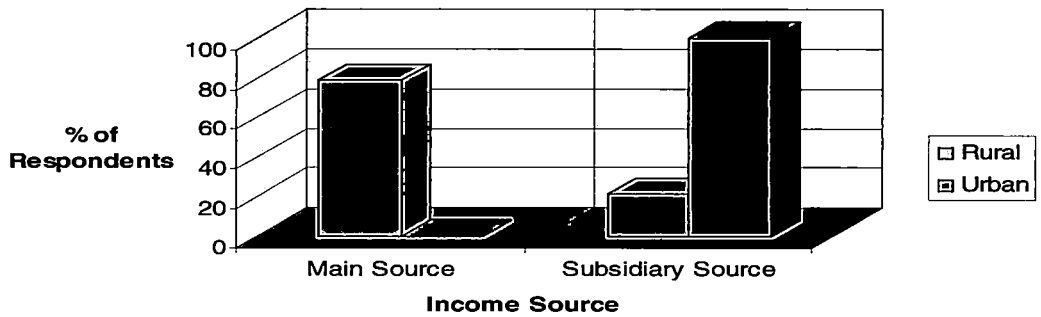


Table –5.38
Fishing as source of income

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Main Source	78	00	78.79	00
Subsidiary Source	21	03	21.21	100
Total	99	03	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.7.2 Fishing Place for Fishermen: The main fishing places of the district are tanks, ponds, river, canals, beels and baor etc. Area of these water bodies are shown in the table -.

Table –5.39
Area of Water Bodies in 2008-2009

Water Bodies	Area in ha
Impounded water area	10,773.57
Tanks and Ponds	6,497.60
River	6,497.60 (172 km length)
Canal	2,511.42
Beels and Baor	4,551.55 ha

Source: Assistant Director of Fisheries, Maldah, West Bengal.

Table-5.40 represents that out of total 267 rural fishermen respondents 45.32% practice fishing in rivers of the district, 58 (21.72%) and 29(10.86%) practice fishing in ponds on lease and own ponds, 49 (18.35%) fishermen practice in beels and 3.75% in baors of the district. Plenty of perennial and non-perennial water bodies of the Maldah district encourage fishing activity.

Table –5.40
FISHING PLACE FOR FISHERMEN RESPONDENT

FISHING PLACE	No. OF FISHERMEN		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
OWN POND	29	00	10.86	00
POND ON LEASE	58	03	21.72	100
RIVER	121	00	45.32	00
BEELS	49	00	18.35	00
BOAR	10	00	03.75	00
TOTAL	267	03	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.7.3 Selling of Fish

Table-5.41 represents that out of 99 fishermen of villages 42(42.42%) sell fish in local market, 11.11% sell in district market, whereas remaining 46(46.47%) sell fishes to the whole sellers. On the other hand total 3 fishermen of urban areas sell fishes to the whole sellers, because they practice it on commercial basis and invest more for huge production.

Table – 5.41 : Selling of Fish

Selling Place	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Local Market	42	00	42.42	00
District Market	11	00	11.11	00
To Whole-sellers	46	03	46.47	100
Total	99	03	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.7. 4 Government Help for Fishermen: Looking at the water bodies like Ponds, rivers, canals, beels and baors in the district, it may be said that pisciculture has a huge potential and government should encourage it by providing various kind of incentives and subsidies.

Table-5.42 represents that 12(04.44%) scheduled castes females are beneficiaries for ornamental fish culture, whereas number of total female beneficiaries among scheduled castes in the district in 2008-2009 is 198. Table 5.42 represents that 3.33% is benefited by old age pension, 6.67% is issued identity cards, and 1.85% is benefited by shelter through model village formation (Figure-5.34).

Table – 5.42

GOVERNMENT HELP FOR FISHERMEN

TYPE OF HELP	No. OF FISHERMEN	% to Total(270)
BENEFICIARIES WOMEN FOR ORNAMENTAL FISHERY	12	04.44
OLD AGE PENSION TO FISHERMEN	09	03.33
ISSUE OF IDENTITY CARD TO FISHERMEN	18	06.67
SHELTER THROUGH MODEL VILLAGE FORMATION	05	01.85

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Total number of fishermen old age pensioners for the year 2008-'09 in the district is 219. Appendix-VI represents fishermen respondents of old-age pensioners are getting Rs 500/- per month

Total 2139 identity cards were issued by the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of West Bengal in 2008-09. Out of total 50 fishermen respondents 18(06.67%) have been issued identity cards (Appendix-VII).

One of the important steps taken by the government in the Maldah district is the establishment of "Model Village", for the development of fishermen. Such villages were constructed in Ratua, Gazole, Habibpur and English Bazar blocks. Amount sanctioned and amount drawn for the establishment of model villages is Rs. 30,00000 (14,00000+16,00000) vide G.O.No. 75(S) dt. 26/12/208 & G.O. No. 119(S) dt.- 30/01/2009. Of the total 270 respondents only 5 (01.85%) are benefited through the formation of model villages (Table-5.42). The percentage of SCs beneficiaries is very low 13.46% (7 of total 52) under fish farmer development agency in 2008-09((Appendix-IV)). The percentage of SCs female beneficiaries is 42.13(198) of the total 470 beneficiaries((Appendix-V)) There are 19 Mahila Somobay Ltd. for the development of the Rangin Machh Chas(Ornamantal Fish Culture) for SCs females((Appendix-VIII)

Findings of the study on fishing are –

1. Of the 267 fishermen of rural areas 37.08% practice it on commercial basis while 62.92% practice it on subsistence basis.

2. Of the total 99 fishermen who practice fishing as commercial basis, 78 (78.79%) and 21 (21.21%) practice fishing as main and subsidiary source of income.

5.8 Labour:

Labour is the main occupation of the people of the rural India in general and Maldah district in particular. 1213 rural and 15 urban workers are engaged in this occupation because of the fact that they have neither the land to cultivate nor the capital to invest for economic activity, nor they have requisite education to be appointed in service.

5.8.1 Place of Practice of Labour: Table-5.43 represents that out of total 1213 rural labours majority (45.26%) practice it in own villages, 26.22% in different villages, 17.39% practice it in outside district and 11.13% practice it in other states of

India. On the other hand of the total 15 urban labourers 33.33% practice in each outside town and outside district, 20% practice within town whereas only 13.34% practice in other states (Figure-5.35).

Table – 5.43: Practice of Labour

Place	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Within Village/Town	549	03	45.26	20.00
Outside Village/Town	318	05	26.22	33.33
Outside District	211	05	17.39	33.33
Outside State	135	02	11.13	13.34
Total	1213	15	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.8.2 Seasonal Labourers

Out of total 1213 labourer 315(25.97%) rural and 3(20%) urban go to the outside of Maldah as seasonal labourer (Table-5.44). They go to the neighbouring districts of Maldah and Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Table – 5.44 : Seasonal Labourer

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Seasonal Labourer	315	03	25.97	20.00
Other Labourer	898	12	74.03	80.00
Total	1213	15	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table- 5.45 represents that out of total seasonal labours majority 219 (69.52%) rural and 2 (93.33%) urban earn Rs 5000-10000 per season, while 84(26.67%) labourers of rural areas and 6.67% labourers of urban earn Rs10000-15000 (Figure-5.36).

Table – 5.45 :Earn of Seasonal Labourers per Season

Income (Rs.)	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 5000	12	00	03.81	00.00
5000 – 10000	219	02	69.52	93.33
10000 – 15000	84	10	26.67	06.67
Total	315	03	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

Figure-5.34: GOVERNMENT HELP FOR FISHERMEN

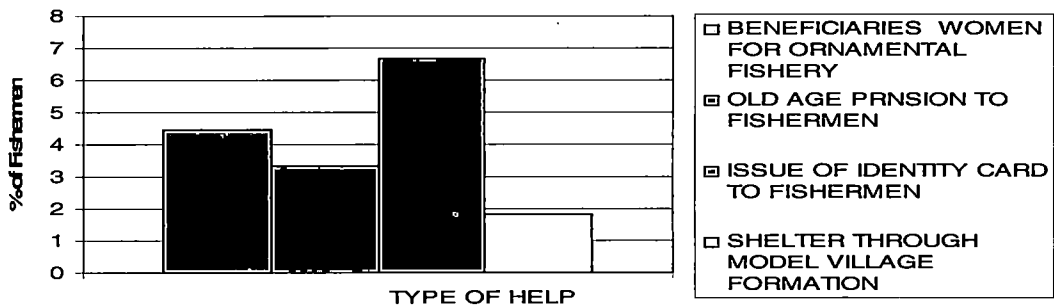


Figure-5.35: Practice of Labour

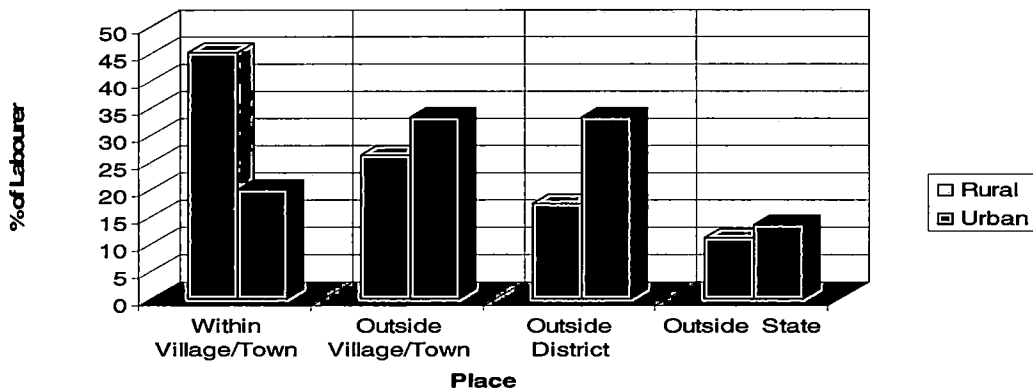
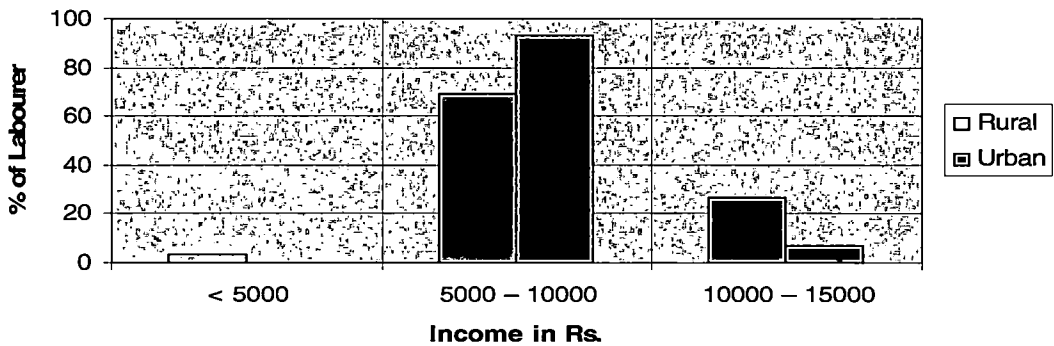


Figure-5.36: Earn of Seasonal Labourers per Season



5.8.3 Category of labourers:

Table-5.46 represents the category of labourers. Out of total 1213 rural labourers 909 (74.94%) are agricultural labourers who work on both daily wages and contract basis, 181(14.93%) are manufacturing labourers who mainly work in other states on both daily and contract wage basis and 9.23 % are construction labourer . Whereas of the 15 urban labourers majority, 8(53.34%) are manufacturing labourer and 33.33% are construction labourer.

Table – 5.46
Category of Labourers

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Agricultural Labourer	909	00	74.94	00.00
Construction Labourer	112	05	9.23	33.33
Manufacturing Labourer	181	08	14.93	53.34
Others	11	02	0.90	13.33
Total	1213	15	100%	100%

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.8.4 Daily Wage and Contract Based Labourer

Table-5.47 represents distribution of labours based on daily and contract wage. Out of total 1213 rural labours 814 (67.11%) work on daily wages and 399(32.89%) work as contract wages based labour whereas of the 15 urban labourer 60% are daily wage based and 40% are contract labourer.

Table – 5.47
Daily Wage and Contract Based Labourer

Type of Labourer	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Daily Wages Based	814	09	67.11	60.00
Contract Based	399	06	32.89	40.00
Total	1213	15	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

It is observed from the table that out of total 399 rural contract labours, 121(30.33%) work as individual workers and remaining 278(69.67%) work as team worker whereas of the 6 labourers of urban areas 16.67% work as individual workers and 83.33 % are team workers.

Table – 5.48
Type of Contract labourers

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Individual Worker	121	01	30.33	16.67
Team Worker	278	05	69.67	83.33
Total	399	06	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The labour respondents were asked whether the contract based labour is more profitable or not, the majority of the respondents (77.94 rural and 83.33% urban) replied positive (Table-5.49).

Table –5.49
Contract Based Labour as More Profitable Than Daily Wage Based

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	311	05	77.94	83.33
No	88	01	22.06	16.67
Total	399	06	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The findings of the study are –

1.In rural area of the total labourers 74.94% are agricultural labourers while in urban area 53.34% manufacturing labourers.

2.Majority of the labourers are daily wage based labourers.

5.9 INCOME, EXPENDITURE, LOAN AND INVESTMENT

5.9.1 MONTHLY INCOME OF FAMILIES

The monthly income of families is shown in the table -5.50 . The study revealed that the monthly income of maximum rural families (39.04%) is Rs 3000-5000, number of families having monthly income Rs. < 2000 is 99 (09.24%) and monthly income of 191 (17.83%) families is Rs. 5000 – 10000. There are 265 (24.74%) rural families having income above Rs. 10000. High economic disparity is observed in rural and urban families because of the fact that in urban areas of the 73 families 60

(82.19%) have income >10000 Rs and only 1.37% families earn Rs.2000-3000/month, whereas in rural areas nearly 9% families earn below Rs. 2000 per month.

Table – 5.50
Monthly Income of Families

Income in Rs.	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 2000	99	00	09.24	00.00
2000 – 3000	98	01	09.15	01.37
3000 – 5000	418	05	39.04	06.85
5000 – 10000	191	07	17.83	09.59
10000 & above	265	60	24.74	82.19
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.9.2 Monthly Consumption Pattern :

Monthly consumption pattern of the families is represented in the table –5.51 for food and education. It is clear from the table that in the urban areas the expenditure for food and education is more compared to the rural areas.

Table – 5.51
Monthly Consumption Pattern

Consumption (Rs.)	Food				Education			
	Frequency		%		Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 300	-	-	00	00	471	-	43.98	00
300 – 500	-	-	00	00	251	08	23.44	10.96
500 – 1000	311	-	29.04	00	156	10	14.57	13.70
1000 – 2000	521	03	48.65	4.11	100	30	9.34	41.10
2000 – 5000	140	10	13.07	13.70	90	14	8.40	19.18
> 5000	99	60	9.24	82.19	03	11	0.27	15.06
Total	1071	73	100	100	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.9.2.1 Expenditure for Food : Table –5.51 represents that the expenditure for food of maximum rural families 521(48.6570%) is between Rs. 1000 – 2000 per month,

while the expenditure of 29.04% and 13.07% families is between Rs. 500-1000 and Rs.2000- 5000 respectively. The expenditure of only 9.24% rural families is Rs. >5000. Whereas in the urban area the expenditure of majority families 60(82.19%) is more than Rs. 5000 and only 4.11% families have expenditure between Rs. 1000-2000 (Figure-5.39).

5.9.2.2 Educational Expenditure:

In rural areas the expenditure of the maximum families (43.98%) for education is Rs. <300 and only 9.34% respondents reported that their expenditure is Rs.1000-2000 while in urban areas it is Rs.1000-2000. So huge disparity is observed in rural and urban areas in terms of educational expenditure. This is because of the fact that due to the high income and consciousness the expenditure of urban respondents is more than rural areas. The expenditure of 15.06% urban and only 0.27% rural families is Rs.>5000 for education.

5.9.2.3 The weekly consumption pattern of food:

The weekly consumption pattern of food is represented in the table 5.52. It is clear from the table that 71.27% urban and only 12.42% rural families take milk every day in a week. Majority of the urban families (57.53%) eat fish 3 days per week whereas maximum rural families (30.63%) eat fish 2 days per week. Egg is comparatively cheap than fish and meat and used more as food by the both rural and urban families. Meat is very costly and only 347 (32.40%) rural families out of 1071 eat meat regularly in week whereas remaining 67.60% eat occasionally. On the other hand all the urban families consume meat weekly.

Table –5.52
Weekly Consumption Pattern for Food

No. of Days	Fish		Eggs		Meat		Vegetables & Dal		Rice		Wheat		Milk & Milk products	
	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U
1	209 (19.51)	00	857 (80.02)	52 (71.23)	332 95.68	54 73.97	00	00	00	00	752 70.21	00	21 4.76	00
2	328 (30.63)	28 (38.36)	200 (18.67)	21 (28.77)	15 4.32	15 20.55	00	00	00	00	218 20.35	00	87 8.12	00
3	315 (29.41)	42 (57.53)	14 (01.31)	00	00	04 5.48	00	00	00	00	101 9.43	00	234 21.85	00
4	154 (14.38)	03 (04.11)	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	321 29.97	00
5	65 (06.07)	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02 2.74	121 11.30	00
6	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	10 13.70	154 14.38	21 28.77
7	00	00	00	00	00	00	1071	73	1071	73	00	61 83.56	133 12.42	52 71.23
Total	1071	73	1071	73	347	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73	1071	73

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Vegetables and dal is very important food and 100% families of both urban and rural areas take every day in week. Like dal and Vegetables rice is also important food and all the families of both urban and rural areas take every day in week.

5.9.2.4 Daily Consumption Pattern for Food of Respondents :-

The table- 5.53 represents frequency of taking meal of the respondents. Rural-urban disparity is again observed in terms of taking of the breakfast, lunch, dinner etc. It is clear that all the respondents take lunch and dinner while 61.06% rural and 95.89% urban respondents take breakfast.

Table – 5.53: Daily Consumption Pattern for Food

		Breakfast	Lunch	Afternoon	Dinner
Rural	No. of Families	654	1071	214	1071
	%to total(1071)	61.06	100	19.98	100
Urban	No. of Families	70	73	67	73
	%to total(73)	95.89	100	49.32	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Figure-5.37: Category of Labourers

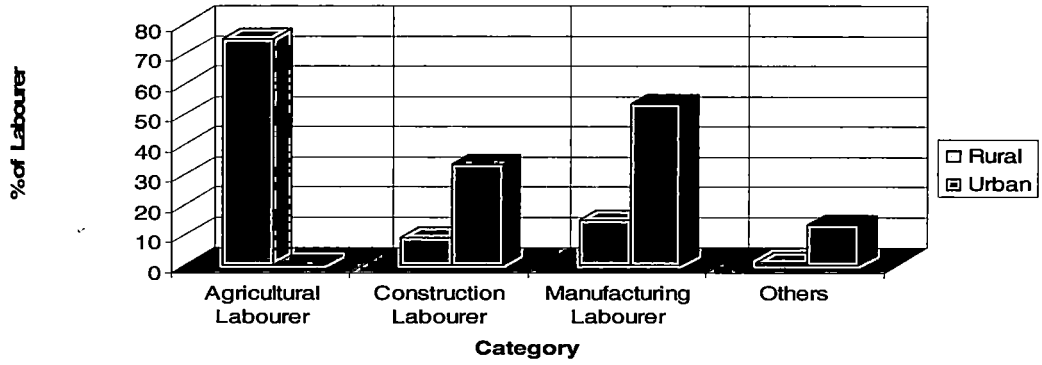


Figure-5.38: Monthly Income of Families

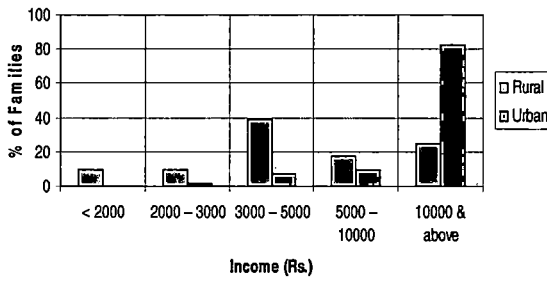


Figure-5.39: Monthly Consumption Pattern

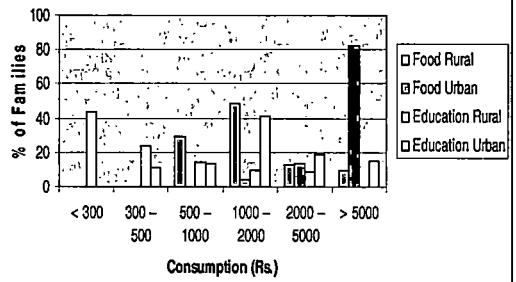
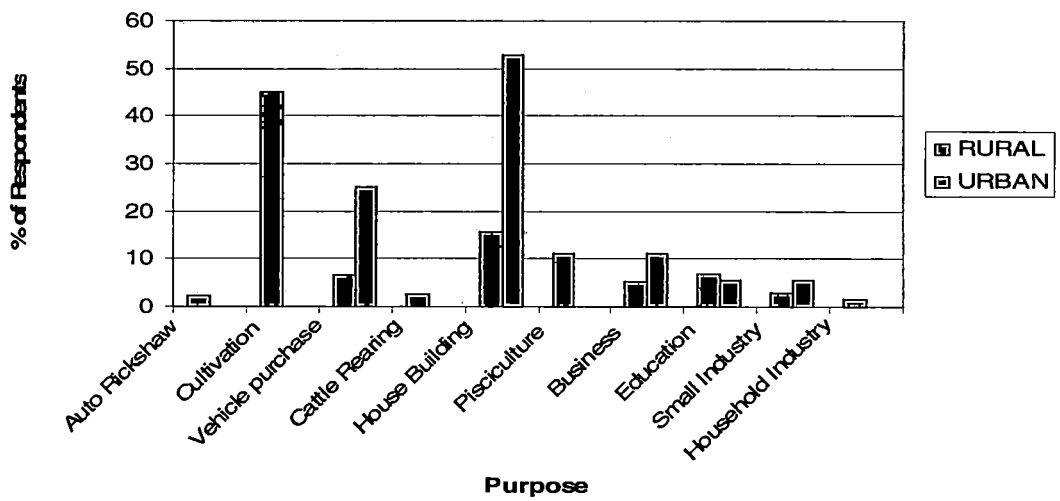


Figure-5.40: Purpose of take out Loan



5.9.2.5 Purchase of Dress: Frequency of dress purchasing of the respondents is shown in the table -5.54. It is observed that out of total 1071 respondents 19.61% purchase new dresses at the time of Durgapuja, 32.86% respondents purchase 2 times in a year while only 8.59% purchase 5 and above times in a year. Again rural and urban disparity is observed in the purchase of dresses. In urban areas majority of respondents (53.42%) purchase dresses 4 times.

Table – 5.54
Purchase of Dresses

Time	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	210	00	19.61	00.00
2	352	04	32.86	05.48
3	219	07	20.45	09.59
4	198	39	18.49	53.42
5&Above	92	23	08.59	31.51
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.9.3 Purpose of take out loan: Purpose of take out loan is represented in the table no-5.55. The beneficiaries applied for loan under different schemes and submitted a proposed proposal indicating the amount of loan. Out of total 375 loan recipients of rural areas 169(45.07%) received loan for the cultivation. The other reasons for take out loan are 59(15.73%) for cultivation ,5.07% for business , 9(2.40%) for buying rickshaw and auto rickshaw ,50(%)for buying vehicles , 70(%) for cattle rearing , 41(10.93%) for pisciculture , 6.93% for education ,11(2.93%) for the small scale industry and only 1.60% for household industry. An encouraging fact is that 6.93% rural respondents have received loan for the higher education of their children .In the urban areas majority of respondents 52.77% have received loan for the house building followed by 25% for vehicle purchase, 11,11% for business5.56 % for education and also small scale industry (Figure-5.40).

Table – 5.55
Purpose of take out Loan

Purpose	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Auto Rickshaw	09	00	2.40	00.00
Cultivation	169	00	45.07	00.00
Vehicle purchase	25	09	6.67	25.00
Cattle Rearing	10	00	2.67	00.00
House Building	59	19	15.73	52.77
Pisciculture	41	00	10.93	00.00
Business	19	04	5.07	11.11
Education	26	02	6.93	5.56
Small Industry	11	02	2.93	5.56
Household Industry	06	00	1.60	00.00
TOTAL	375	36	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

A lot of financial schemes are going on under various development programmes like, S.C.P., N.S.F.D.C , MSY, Micro Credit, M.K.Y, N.S.K.F.D.C, Etc. in Maldah district by Government for the scheduled castes: But only very few respondents have received the benefits of these welfare programmes due to the lack of proper knowledge and awareness about the ongoing welfare programmes. “Since the scheduled castes population live at the lowest rungs of the society, they are backward in all the spheres of the total system”.⁽³⁾

5.9.3.1 Amount of Loan: The table-5.56 representing amount of loan indicates that majority of urban respondents (52.77%) received loan of Rs. >3lakh for the house building whereas majority of the rural respondents 199(53.07%) taken loan Rs. <25000. Of the total rural loan recipients only 33(8.80%) taken Rs. >3 lakh(Figure-5.41).

Table –5.56
Amount of Loan

Amount in Rs.	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 25000	199	06	53.07	16.67
25000-50000	61	04	16.26	11.11
50000-100000	42	02	11.20	5.56
100000-300000	40	05	10.67	13.89
>300000	33	19	8.80	52.77
Total	375	36	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.9.3.2 Terms of Loans:

Terms of loan of respondents is presented in the table -5.57. Majority of the rural respondents 316(84.27%) received loan for the terms of <5 years and only 8.00% respondents taken loan for >10 years. On the otherhand maximum number of rural respondents (33.33%) received loan for >10 years. The long terms loans are mainly house building loan.

Table –5.57
Terms of Loans

Terms (Years)	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
< 5	316	17	84.27	47.22
5 – 10	29	7	7.73	19.45
> 10	30	12	8.00	33.33
Total	375	36	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.9.3.3 Savings for Future:

Table-5.58 represents number of respondents with savings. In rural areas 51.82 respondents have savings whereas in urban areas almost all the respondents have savings due to their better economic condition and consciousness .Encouraging fact is that rural respondents are becoming more conscious about the savings in future and for the result majority of them have savings (Figure-5.42).

Table 5.58
Savings for Future

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Savings	555	70	51.82	95.89
No Savings	516	03	48.18	4.11
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.9.3.4 Investment under Agency

Both the rural and urban respondents invest under various Government and Non-govt. agencies. Maximum respondents of rural areas 229(41.26 %) and majority of the urban respondents, 46 (65.71%) invested under LIC. 30.27% rural and 7.14% urban respondents invested in P.O., 25.59% rural and 12.86% urban respondents invested in Bank. Investment in Non-govt. agencies like HDFC and ICICI is observed only in rural areas. Presently the rural respondents are investing in Village Samities(2.88%).

Table – 5.59
Investment under Agency

Agency	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
LICI	229	46	41.26	65.71
P.O.	168	05	30.27	07.14
Bank	142	09	25.59	12.86
ICICI	00	06	00.00	08.57
HDFC	00	04	00.00	05.71
Village Samity	16	00	02.88	00.00
Total	555	70	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10 RESPONDENTS JOB RELATED ISSUES

5.10.1 Length of Present Job:

It is observed from the table-5.60 that a majority of 121 (58.45%) rural and 32 (54.24%) urban respondents have been in their present occupations for a period of less than 10 years, 26.57% rural 30.51% urban respondents are in their present job 10-20 years and remaining 14.98% rural and 15.25% urban respondents have been there

for more than 20 years. Those who have been in their present occupation for more than 10 years are waiting for promotions.

Table – 5.60
Length of Present Job

Length in years	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
< 10	121	32	58.45	54.24
10 – 20	55	18	26.57	30.51
> 20	31	09	14.98	15.25
Total	207	59	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10.2 Total Number of Promotions in Respondents Job: Table-5.61 represents total number of promotions in respondents’ job. It can be observed from the table that 26(78.79%) rural and 10(62.50%) urban got one promotion remaining 21.21% rural and37.50% urban respondents got two and more promotions (Figure-5.43).

Table – 5.61
Number of promotions in Job of Respondent

No. of Promotions	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
One	26	10	78.79	62.50
Two and above	07	06	21.21	37.50
Total	33	16	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10.3 Number of occupations held by family members:

Number of occupations held by family members is represented in table-5.62.The available data shows that 48.73% (1109) rural and 83.33 urban SCs are only in one job. 21.75% rural and 14.45% urban SCs held up to 2 jobs, whereas 29.52% rural and 2.22% urban SCs held upto 3 jobs (Figure-5.44).

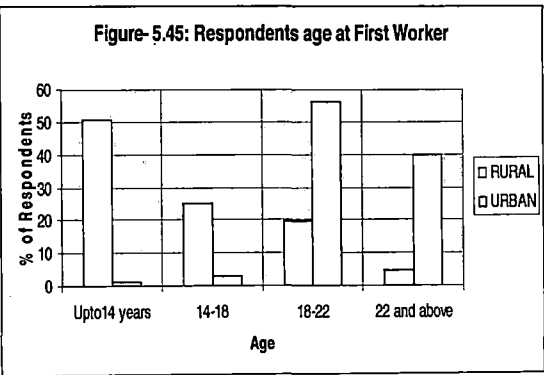
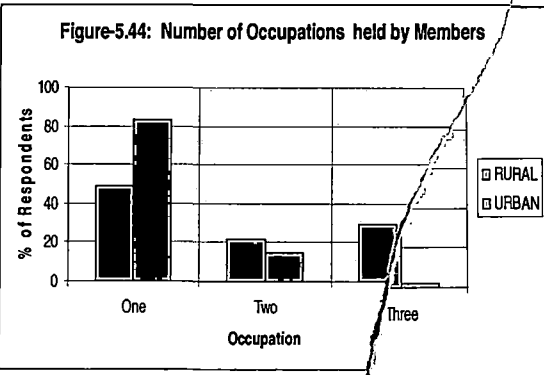
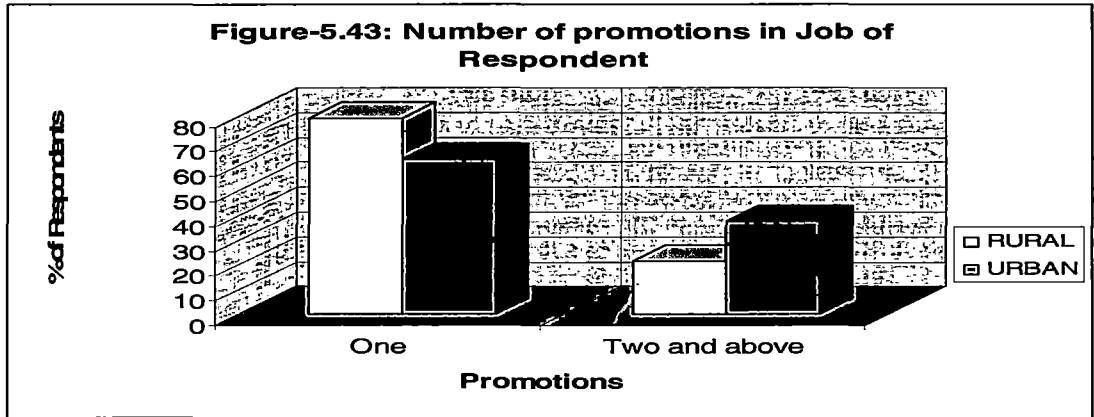
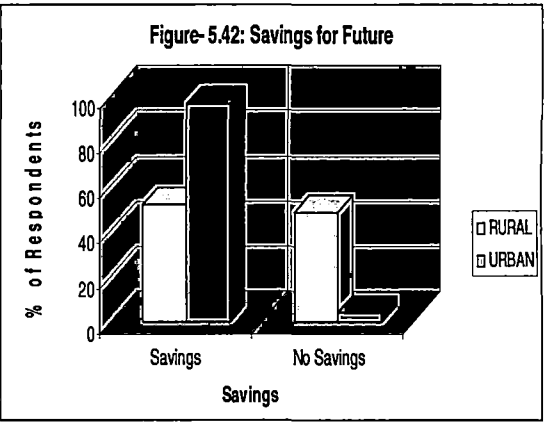
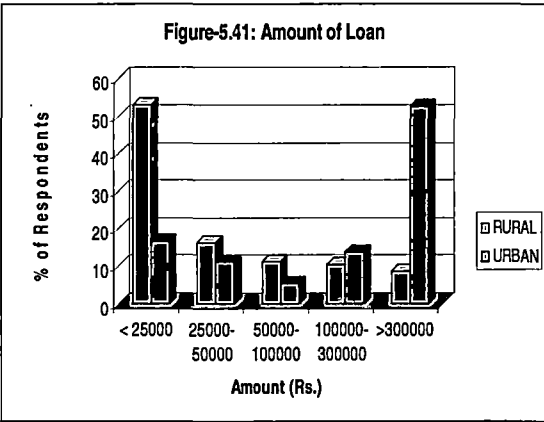


Table – 5.62
Number of Occupations held by Members

No. of Jobs	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
01	1109	75	48.73	83.33
02	495	13	21.75	14.45
03	672	02	29.52	02.22
Total	2276	90	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10.4 OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY OF RESPONDENTS :

Table-5.63 represents the sectoral change of economic activity of the respondents. It is seen from the table that a majority of the rural respondents 774 (72.27%) are in same economic activity indicating that they are not occupationally mobile. 139 (12.98%) started their occupational career from primary activity and now they are in secondary activity, 59 (5.51%) respondents started from primary and now they are in tertiary activity, while 99 (9.24%) respondents started their career from secondary and presently they are engaged in tertiary activity.

Table – 5.63
OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY OF RESPONDENTS (Rural)

Present Job	First Job			
	PRIMARY.	SECONDARY	TERTIARY	TOTAL
PRIMARY.	675			675
SECONDARY	139	50		189
TERTIARY	59	99	49	207
TOTAL	873	149	49	1071

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table – 5.64
OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY OF RESPONDENTS (Urban)

Present Job	First Job			
	PRIMARY.	SECONDARY	TERTIARY	TOTAL
PRIMARY.				00
SECONDARY	13	09		22
TERTIARY	22	11	18	51
TOTAL	35	20	18	73

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

It is seen from the table-5.64 that 27 (36.99%) urban respondents are in same economic activity indicating that they are not occupationally mobile while a majority of the urban respondents, 46 (63.01%) are occupationally mobile. 13 (17.81%) started their occupational career from primary activity and now they are in secondary activity, 22 (30.14%) respondents started from primary and now they are in tertiary activity, while 11 (15.07%) respondents started their career from secondary and presently they are engaged in tertiary activity.

The reasons behind such shifts in occupation are for a high salary or high income and for government and permanent job. The main reasons for dissatisfaction in previous job are-

Low payment and long duration of work, Low income, Temporary Job, Private jobs etc.

So, when they got the jobs of their choice or government job or those permanent in nature, they leave previous job to join new job.

5.10.5 Educational Mobility of the Workers: Respondents educational level at first job entry is seen from the table-5.65. It is clear from the table that majority 631 (58.92%) of the rural respondents joined first job as illiterate while only 6 (8.22%) urban respondents started their occupational career as illiterate.

Thus it is seen that a majority of Scheduled castes respondents started their occupational career as illiterate and very low educational level because of financial need of their families.

Upgradation of Educational level with Job: Table -5.65 represents upgradation of educational level with job. It is clear from the table that there are 942 (87.96%) immobile and 129 (12.04%) mobile rural respondents who increased their educational level with job. Out of 129 mobile respondents 25 (19.38%) started their occupation with illiterate level and at present job they upgraded their educational level to low level of education, 53 (41.08%) respondents reached from low to moderate educational level and 51 (39.53%) respondents started their occupation with moderate educational level and at present they reached to high educational level

Table –5.65
Educational Mobility of Workers(Rural)

Present Worker	First Worker				
	ILLITERATE	LOW (I-IV)	MODERATE (V-XII.)	HIGH (U.G-P.G)	TOTAL
ILLITER-ATE	606				606
LOW (I-IV)	25	150			175
MODERATE (V-XII.)		53	164		217
HIGH (U.G-P.G.)			51	22	73
TOTAL	631	203	215	22	1071

The table-5.66 represents that out of total 73 urban respondents there are 47 (64.38%) immobile and 26(35.62%) mobile respondents who increased their educational level with job. Out of 26 mobile respondents 2(7.70%) started their occupation with illitete level and at present job they upgraded their educational level to low level of education ,7 (26.92%) respondents reaches from low to moderate educational level and 17 (65.38%) respondents started their occupation with moderate educational level and at present they reached to high educational level.

Table – 5.66
Educational Mobility of Workers (URBAN)

Present Worker	First Worker				
	ILLITERATE	LOW (I-IV)	MODERATE (V-XII.)	HIGH (U.G-P.G)	TOTAL
ILLITER-ATE	04				04
LOW (I-IV)	02	03			05
MODERATE (V-XII.)		07	12		19
HIGH (U.G-P.G.)			17	28	45
TOTAL	06	10	29	28	73

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10.6 Respondents Age at First Job Entry : Table-5.67 shows that majority of the rural scheduled castes workers 543(50.70%) out of 1071 join their first job at the age of below 14 years , 25.02% between 14-18 years, 19.80% between 18-22 years, while

only 4.48% joined their first job at 22 and above age. There is no respondent who join the job before age 14 in the urban area compared to rural areas with 50.70%. It indicates the dominant child labour system of rural areas due to poor economic condition of households. Majority of the urban workers joined the first job at 18-22 age. 39.73% urban respondents joined first job at 22 and above age. the table clearly indicates the prevalent practice of child labour in rural areas of Maldah district (Figure-5.45).

Table – 5.67
Respondents age at First Worker

Age	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Upto 14 years	543	01	50.70	01.37
14-18	268	02	25.02	02.74
18-22	212	41	19.80	56.16
22 and above	48	29	04.48	39.73
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10.7 Reasons for Leaving First Job: “The entry point into the first job is crucial for future prospects and therefore, the nature of job, type of organization and mode of entry, that is, whether under general or reserve quota, determine the job security, income guarantee and promotional prospects “. ⁽⁴⁾

The study of Scheduled castes of Maldah District revealed a variety of reasons for leaving the first job of respondents. These reasons are represented in table - 5.68. Maximum of 43.77% respondents reported that they gave up their first job because they got better job, 29.29% for the low paid, 16.16% for government job, 8.42% for education and 2.36% for social discrimination. In urban areas maximum respondents (47.83%) leave their first job getting govt. job, 17.39% each for education and low paid, 13.04% for low paid and remaining 4.35% for social discrimination (Figure-5.46).

Table – 5.68
REASONS FOR LEAVING FIRST JOB

Reasons	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Got Govt. Job	48	22	16.16	47.83
Better Job	130	06	43.77	13.04
Education	25	08	08.42	17.39
Low Paid	87	08	29.29	17.39
Social Discrimination	07	02	02.36	04.35
Total	297	46	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.10.8 Respondents Occupation by Socio-Economic Status (SES): Table-5.69 represents the relationship between respondents socio-economic status (SES) and their occupational levels because it is proved from the research by scholars that persons having a high SES or coming from well-off backgrounds will achieve a high level of occupation. This is the main objective of the study.

Table – 5.69
Respondent's Occupation and their Socio-Economic-Status, (RURAL)

Occupation (Based On Income)	Socio-Economic-Status (SES)			
	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	TOTAL
LOW (Rs.<5000)	423	06		429
MODERATE (Rs.5000-10000)	209	165	41	415
HIGH (Rs.>10000)	64	33	130	216
TOTAL	696	204	171	1071

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table-4.69 represents the importance of SES when compared with the respondents occupational levels. Out of 696(64.99%) rural respondents of low SES 423(60.78%) respondents hold low level occupation, 209(30.03%) hold medium level occupation while 64(9.19%) hold high level occupation. On the other hand 204 respondents are of a medium SES out of which 6(2.94%) respondents hold low level occupation, 165(80.88%) hold medium level occupation whereas 33(16.18%) have high level of jobs. There are 171 respondents of high SES out of which 130(76.02%) hold high level of occupation. So, SES plays a vital role in controlling levels of occupation.

Table – 5.70
Respondent’s Occupation and their Socio-Economic-Status, (URBAN)

Occupation (Based On Income)	Occupation	Socio-Economic-Status (SES)			
		LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	TOTAL
LOW (Rs.<5000)	LOW	05			05
MODERATE (Rs.5000-10000)	MODERATE	04	06	02	12
HIGH (Rs.>10000)	HIGH	02	26	28	56
TOTAL	TOTAL	11	32	30	73

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

In urban areas out of 11urban respondents of low SES 5(45.45%) respondents hold low level occupation, 4(36.36%) hold medium level occupation while 2(18.19%) hold high level occupation. On the other hand 32 respondents are of a medium SES out of which 6(18.75%) respondents hold medium level occupation whereas 26(81.25%) hold high level occupation . There are 30 respondents of high SES out of which 28(93.33%) hold high level of occupation. So, SES of respondents plays a vital role in holding different levels of occupation in both rural and urban areas.

5.11 Housing Condition:

House is a basic need of people for shelter. House type reflects ones socio-economic status and house in also an identity for an individual. House type influences ones mental efficiency and physical health. In pre-independent India or even up to two decades eater, the houses of the rural population in general and scheduled castes in particular were in very bad conditions because of the following causes –

- I) Houses were not spacious
- II) Houses were badly constructed with mud (Walls) and thatched (roof).
- III) Due to poor economic condition the houses were not repaired annually.
- IV) Lack of sanitation
- V) They use to keep their cows, goats, pigs and other animals and poultry resources in the same houses due to fear thief.

But due to the economic development and awareness about healthy environment scheduled castes are investing more in improving their housing condition and they are

gradually changing their mud-thatched houses into mud-tiles, corrugated tins, asbestos sheets and ultimately into bricks and cement houses.

5.11.1 Ownership of House: Ownership of houses in both rural and in urban areas is represented in table-5.71. It is clear that out of total 1071 respondents 1035 (96.64%) have own houses, whereas 36 (3.36%) live in rented houses. Rural urban disparity is also observed in the ownership of house. In urban areas 71.23 % scheduled castes have their own house whereas 28.77% of them live in rented house due to high land value and lack of space and high cost of construction. On the other hand almost all the rural respondents (99%) are owner of house because of the fact that they have own land to construct houses at low cost (Figure-5.47).

Table – 5.71
OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE

TYPE	No. OF RESPONDENTS		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
OWN	1035	52	96.64	71.23
RENTED	36	21	3.36	28.77
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.2 Distribution of Rooms: Table - 5.72 represents distribution of bed room, guest room, dining room, kitchen and cowshed. Out of total 1071 respondents maximum respondents (47.81%) have one bed rooms while in urban area majority respondents (83.56%) have two bed rooms It is observed that in urban areas almost all the respondents have more than one bed rooms due to their high income. 21.92% respondents in urban areas have guest rooms whereas in rural areas only 1.40% respondents have guest rooms. Majority of the respondents (84.93%) have dining rooms in urban areas, whereas only 4.58% respondents of rural areas have dining rooms. So, majority of the rural respondents have no separate dining room to use. In rural areas 84.93% respondents have separate kitchen and remaining 19.89% have no

separate kitchen. But on the other hand in urban areas all the respondents (100%) have kitchen. In rural areas 72.04% respondents have cattle shed (Figure-5.48).

Table – 5.72
DISTRIBUTION OF ROOMS

	Bed Room		Guest Room		Dining Room		Kitchen		Cattle Shed	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	512 47.81%	08 10.96%	15 1.40%	16 21.92%	49 4.58%	62 84.93%	858 80.11%	73 100%	541 72.04%	00
2	358 33.43%	61 83.56%	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
3	202 18.86%	04 5.48%	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Nil	00	00	1056 98.60%	57 78.08%	1022 95.42%	11 15.07%	213 19.89%	00	210 27.96%	73 100%
Total	1071 100%	73 100%	1071 100%	73 100%	1071 100%	73 100%	1071 100%	73 100%	751 100%	73 100%

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.3 House Type: Table 5.73 represents house type of scheduled castes. It is observed that out of 1071 respondents majority(56.86%) have katcha,only 10.27% have pucea and 32.87% have party pucca and party katcha house. The pucca houses are made of bricks, stones and cement, while the katcha houses are made of mud, thatch, bamboo, corrugated tin, asbestos sheet etc.

Table – 5.73
House Type

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Pucca	110	70	10.27	95.89
Kutcha	609	00	56.86	00
Party pucca - party kutcha	352	03	32.87	4.11
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

In urban areas 95.89 % houses are pucca and 4.11% are partly pucca and partly katcha. Rural-urban disparity is again observed in house type. This is because of the fact that due to low income in villages the respondents has katcha houses and high income respondents in urban areas have constructed pucca houses due to their better economic condition than rualal respondents (Figure-5.49).

Figure-5.46: REASONS FOR LEAVING FIRST JOB

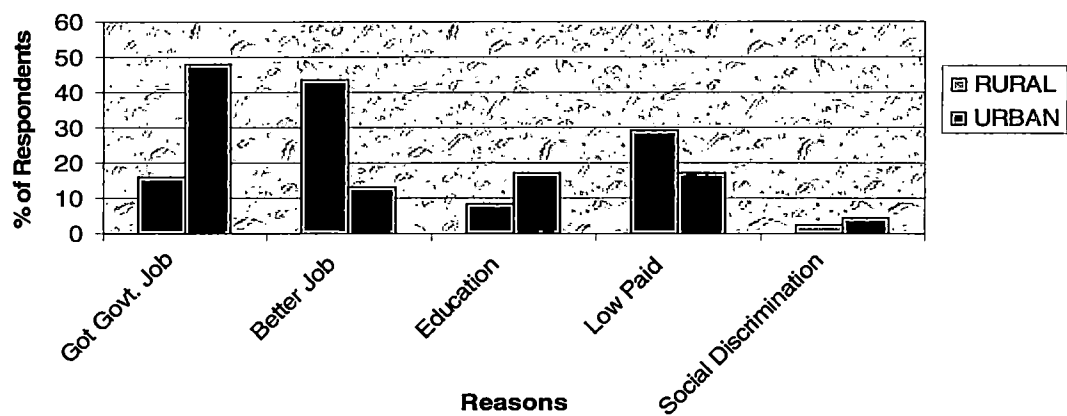


Figure-5.47: OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE

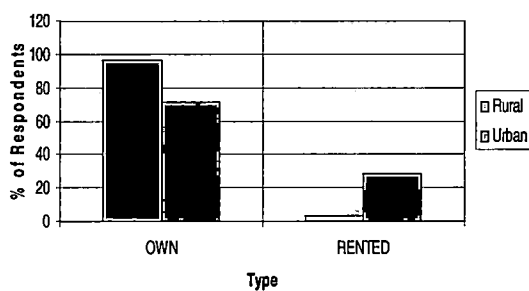


Figure-5.48: Distribution of Rooms

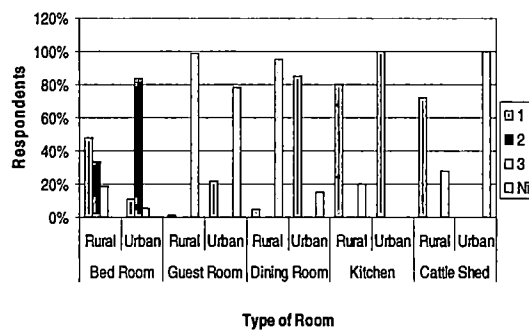


Figure-5.49: House Type

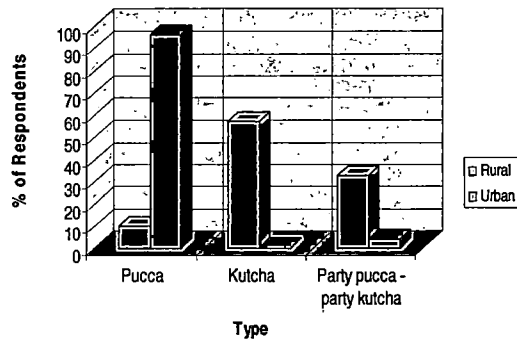
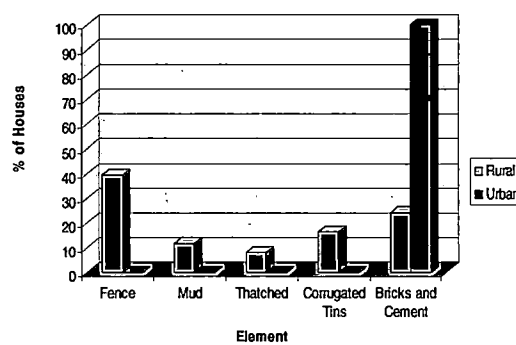


Figure-5.50: Wall Element



5.11.4 TYPE OF BUILDING:

Out of total 110 pucca houses of rural respondents majority 91(82.72%) have single storied, 17 (15.46%) have double storied and only 2(1.82%) have triple storied buildings. Of the total urban respondents majority 44(62.86%) have double storied, 18 (25.71%) have double storied and 18(25.71%) have single storied buildings

Table – 5.74
TYPE OF BUILDING

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Single Storied	91	18	82.72	25.71
Double Storied	17	44	15.46	62.86
Triple Storied	02	08	1.82	11.43
Total	110	70	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.5 Wall Element

Varities types of wall element found in rural areas compared to the urban areas. Maximum rural respondents(39.31%) have fence wall followed by bricks and cement(24.46%),corrugated tins(16.43%),mud(11.77%)and thatched wall(8.03%) while in urban area all the respondents have pucca walls made of cement and bricks.The study revealed the poor economic conditions of rural SCs than urban (Figure-5.50).

Table – 5.75
Wall Element

Wall Element	No. of Respondents		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Fence	421	00	39.31	00
Mud	126	00	11.77	00
Thatched	86	00	8.03	00
Corrugated Tins	176	00	16.43	00
Bricks and Cement	262	73	24.46	100
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.6 Roof Element

Out of total 1071 rural respondents maximum 510(47.62%) have corrugated tin roof, 319 (29.79%) have thatched roof and only 110(10.27%) have cement roofs whereas the total 73 urban respondents majority 70(95.89%) have pucca cement roof and only 4.11 % respondents have corrugated tin roof (Figure-5.51)

Table – 5.76
Roof Element

Roof Type	No. of Respondents		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Thatched	319	00	29.79	00
Corrugated Tins	510	03	47.62	4.11
Fence+polythene	43	00	04.01	00
Cement	110	70	10.27	95.89
Tiled	89	00	08.31	00
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.7 Floor Element

The table-5.77 represents that in rural areas majority of the floors of the houses (79.93%) are made of mud. Compared to the rural areas majority of the floors (61.64%) are made of cement plastering in urban areas. 19.51% floors of the rural houses are made of cement plastering. In urban areas 24.66% and 13.70% floors are made of marbles and tiles and in rural areas only 0.37% and 0.19% floors are made of marbles and tiles. The study also revealed the poor economic conditions of rural SCs than urban.

Table – 5.77
Floor Element

Floor		No. of Families		%	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Mud		856	00	79.93	00
Pucca	Cement	209	45	19.51	61.64
	Marble	04	18	0.37	24.66
	Tiles	02	10	0.19	13.70
Total		1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.8 Sanitation: The sanitation system of scheduled castes is represented in table-5.78. It is observed that out of total 1071 respondents, 81.79% have sanitation system in their house whereas in urban areas all the respondents are aware of sanitation system and all of them have sanitation system (Figure-5.52).

Table – 5.78
SANITATION FACILITY

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Present	876	73	81.79	100
Absent	195	00	18.21	00
Total	1071	73	1071	73

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Table-5.79 represents type of sanitation, whether it is pucca or katcha. The table shows that in urban areas 100% respondents have pucca sanitation while in rural areas majotity of respondents (51.94%) have katcha and 48.06% have pucca sanitation (Figure-5.54).

Table – 5.79
Type of Sanitation

Type	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Pucca	421	73	48.06	100
Katcha	455	00	51.94	00
Total	876	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

GOVERNMENT STEP TO IMPROVE THE SANITATION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES:

Appendix-XVII represents cumulative physical and financial progress report for SC/ST since inception of the Maldah district for the month of May, 2010.Total 65003 household latrine were constructed for the SCs upto May, 2010 which is 26.02% of

the total249806.The expenditure construction of the household latrine was 67.083 lakh for the SCs which was 16.74% of the total expenditure of Rs.400.744 lakh.

5.11.9 Type of Domestic cooking Fuel: Type of domestic cooking fuels is shown in table-5.80. Table represents that different types of cooking fuels are used by the scheduled castes starting from fire wood to L.P.G. Wood fires were the first and original cooking fuel, and it is still in use today. Out of total 1071 rural respondents 712(66.48%) use wood for their cooking purpose, coal later became a popular way to prepare food, but due to environmental consciousness of the respondents they have reduced the use of coal. At present 1.40%rural families use coal. Cow dung is very popular fuel of rural areas because it is very cheap and collected easily and 04.20% use it. Kerosene oil is use by 01.12% respondents of rural and 04.11% respondents of urban areas. L.P.G. is yet another way to cook food and presently is very popular both in urban and rural areas. In urban areas out of 73 households 95.91% use L.P.G and in rural areas only 23.34% use it due to high cast of connection and gas cylinders (Figure-5.55).

Table – 5.80
Type of Coooking fuel

Fuels	No. of Families		%	
	Rural	Urba n	Rura l	Urba n
Wood	712	00	66.48	00.00
Cow dung	45	00	04.20	00.00
Coal	15	00	01.40	00.00
Kerosene Oil	12	03	01.12	04.11
LPG	250	70	23.34	95.91
Leaf	37	00	03.40	00.00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.10 Source of Drinking Water: The problem of arsenic (As) in the Maldah district is an alarming issue. The poor people of four blocks kaliachak I, II, III and

English Bazare are forced to drink arsenic mixed water, though they know about the bad effects of arsenic. Mean arsenic level of Kaliachak-I block is 0.2253/L followed by Kaliachak II with 0.1923/L, Kaliachak III with 0.1755/L and English Bazar with 0.1324/L presently Government has introduced arsenic free water project.

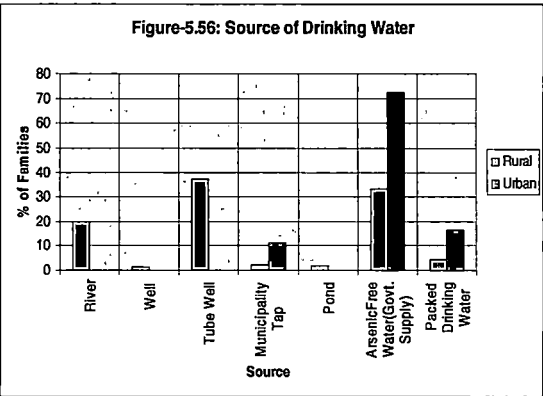
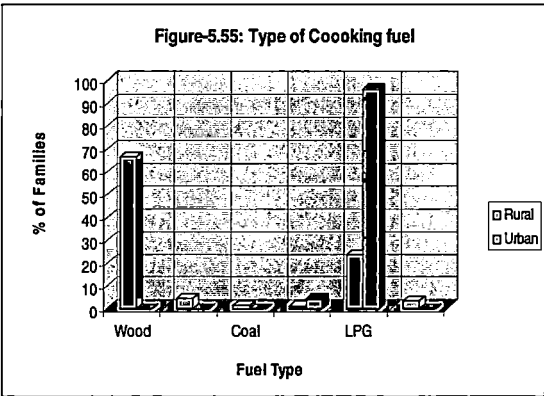
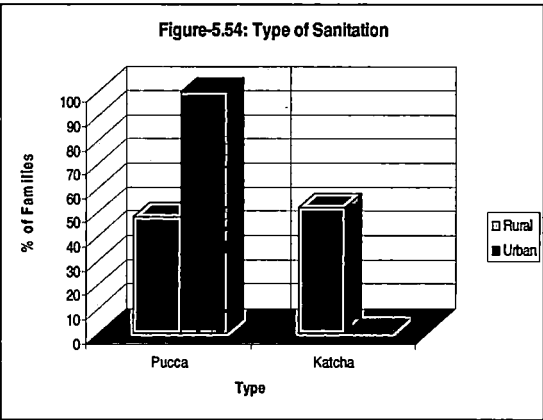
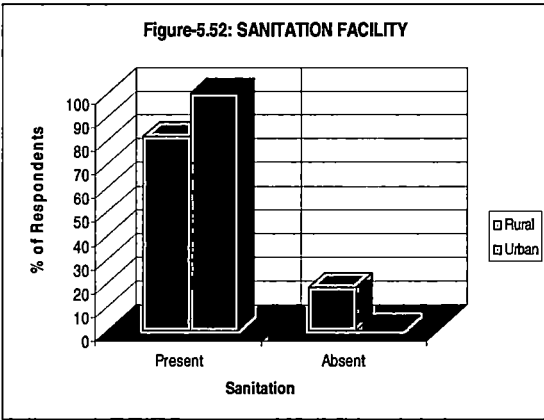
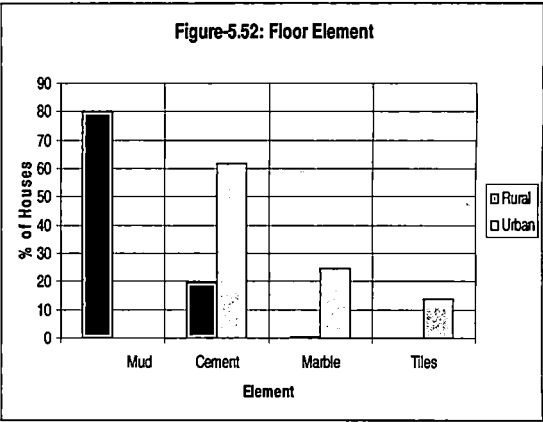
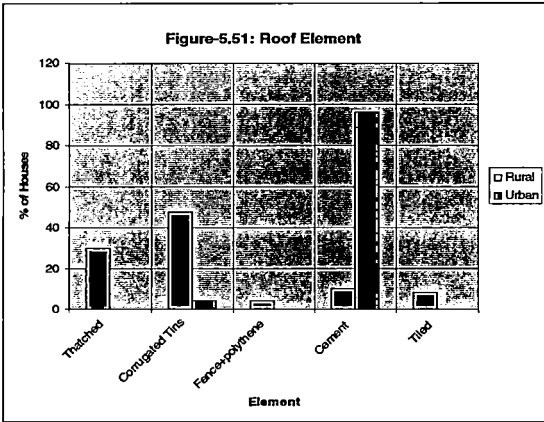


Table – 5.81
Source of Drinking Water

Sources	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
River	214	00	19.98	00.00
Well	16	00	01.49	00.00
Tube Well	396	00	36.97	00.00
Municipality Tap	25	08	02.35	10.96
Pond	21	00	01.96	00.00
ArsenicFree Water(Govt. Supply)	354	53	33.05	72.60
Packed Drinking Water	45	12	04.20	16.44
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source: - Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010.

Maximum rural respondents (36.97%) drink tube well water followed by Govt.supply arsenic free water (33.05%), river (19.98%), municipality tap (02.35%) pond (01.96%) well (01.49%) etc. On the otherhand out of the total 73 urban respondents majority (72.60%) drink arsenic free water, 10.96% use municipality tap and remaining16.44% use packed mineral water as source of drinking water. (Figure-5.56).

5.11.11 Electric Connection: Presence of electric connection in houses is another indication of economic development. Disparity is again observed in the connection of electricity, out of 73 urban households 100% have electric connection while in rural areas out of 1071 households 841(81.32%) have electric connection (Figure-5.57).

Causes for not having electric connection in 230(18.67%) houses are ---

I) Remote Location of houses from main eclectic lines and

II) Poor economic condition of the respondents.

Table – 5.82
Electric Connection in Households

Electric Connection	No. of Households		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Present	841	73	81.32	100
Absent	230	00	18.67	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.11.12 ASSETS

Assets of any family has always been considered as the main indicator while deciding the economic status of that family. So in the present study an effort has been made to assess the socio- economic status of the scheduled castes with the help of their assets. Appendix-XVIII represents that of the total respondents 26.23% and 65.75% are owner of cars and motor bikes whereas in rural areas only 0.47% and 11.48% respondents are owner of cars and motor bikes. Bi-cycle is the main mode of transport of rural respondents (93.46%).

Furnitures: Result of the study of type of furniture used by Scheduled castes respondents is presented in table-5.83. It is clear that only 435 respondents covering about 40.62% of the total rural respondent use chairs while in urban areas all the respondents use it. 50.70%, 12.32% and 5.42% rural respondents use tables, sofa-sets and dining tables. Out of 73 urban respondents all the respondents have tables, 89.04% have sofa sets and dinning tables are present in 80.82% families (Figure-5.58). So, it is, observed that sofa set, dinning tables are used more in urban areas compared to rural areas.

Table – 5.83
Furnitures

Furnitures	Frequency		% to total	
	Rural	Urban	Rural(1071)	Urban(73)
Chairs	435	73	40.62	100.00
Tables	543	73	50.70	100.00
Sofa Sets	132	65	12.32	89.04
Dining Tables	58	59	05.42	80.82

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Use of Electronics Goods: The result of the study on the use of the electronics goods is represented in the table 5.84 . Rural-Urban disparity is again observed in the use of the electric goods.

Though fan and tube lights and bulbs are used widely in both rural and urban areas , in urban areas out of total 71 respondents 47(64.38%) use refrigerator and out of 841 rural respondents only 10(01.19%) have refrigerator due to poor economic condition of the respondents.

Table – 5.84
Use of Electronics Goods

	No. of Families		% to total	
	Rural	Urban	Rural(841)	Urban(73)
Fan	534	73	63.50	100.00
Tube light	453	73	53.86	100.00
Refrigerator	10	47	01.19	64.38
Heater	12	00	01.43	00.00
Electric Press	189	49	22.47	67.12
C.F.L. Light	254	73	30.20	100.00
A.C/Cooler	00	18	00.00	24.66
Micro oven	00	16	00.00	21.92

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The use of A.C., air-cooler, micro-oven in rural areas is nil even majority of the respondents don't know about micro-oven. Of the total urban respondents 18(24.66%) use A.C and Air-cooler and 16(21.92%) use micro-oven.

One interesting fact is that due to the consciousness of the electric consumption C.F.L lights all the urban respondents (100%) use it while it is used only by the 30.20% rural respondents. The use of heater in urban areas is nil while 1.43% rural respondents use it. 67.12% urban and only 22.47% rural respondents use electric press (Figure-5.59).

5.12 Exposure to Mass-Media:

Exposure to mass media is an important indicator of socio-economic development of a society, because it affects knowledge, attitude, and opinion of individual. An attempt has been made to assess the level of exposure of the respondents by asking the questions regarding various sources of mass-media such as radio, T.V., newspaper, computer with internet etc.

5.12.1 T.V:

At present T.V is a very important and popular source of mass media in both rural and urban areas. To know the economic condition beside the level of exposure to mass media the respondents were asked whether they had T.V set or not and whether it is black and white or colour.

Table – 5.85
T.V. Set

Category		No. of Families		%		
		Rural	Urban	Rural		Urban
Present	Black & White	213	04	19.89	57.14	05.48
	Colour	399	69	37.25		94.52
Absent		459	00	42.86		00.00
Total		1071	73	100		100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Out of total 1071 rural respondents 57.14% have T.V. sets . 19.89% respondents have colour and 37.25% have black and white T.V. set. In urban areas out of 73 respondents all of them have T.V. sets .Almost all the urban respondents (94.52%) have colour T.V. while only 5.48% have black and white T.V. set (Figure- 5.60). We can also easily assess the poor economic condition of the rural respondents depending on the more use of black and white T.V. sets compared to the urban respondents.

Table-5.86
Watching TV from neighbour

Response	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Never	10	00	02.18	00
Rarely	203	00	44.23	00
Frequently	246	00	53.59	00
Total	459	00	100.00	00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

The respondents who have no T.V. set many of them watch T.V. from neighbour. Out of total 459 respondents 449 (97.82%) watch T.V. from neighbour. Majority of them, 53.59% watch frequently, and 44.23% watch rarely.

5.12.2 Watching Krishi Darshan and Rural Development Programmes:

The rural respondents, who are depending on agriculture, watch Krishi Darshan Programme for the improvement in agriculture. Of the total 1071 rural respondents

majority (88.70%) watch Krishi Darshan Programme while 10.96% urban respondents also watch rarely this programme. 55.65% respondents of rural areas watch this programme frequently and 33.05% watch rarely to enrich their knowledge on agriculture(Figure-5.61).

Table-5.87
Watching Krishi Darshan Programme

Response		Frequency		%	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
No		121	65	11.30	89.04
Yes	Rarely	354	08	33.05	10.96
	Frequently	596	00	55.65	00.00
TOTAL		1071	73	100.00	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

It is also clear from the table-5.88 that the respondents also watch rural development programme. Of the total rural respondents 42.95% watch frequently and 37.16% watch rarely while 47.95 urban respondents watch rural development programmes rarely(Figure-5.62).

Table – 5.88
Watching of Rural Development Programme

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Never	213	38	19.89	52.05
Rarely	398	35	37.16	47.95
Frequently	460	00	42.95	00
Total	1071	73	100.00	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

T.V. is an important source of mass media for the rural and urban respondents. Their attitude on education, health, environments, entertainment is changing rapidly by watching programmes on T.V.

5.12.3 Watching Movies in Cinema Halls:

Cinema halls are also another source of mass media for the both literate and illiterate respondents. Out of total 1071 respondents 367(34.27%) rural and 52 urban(71.23%) have replied that their family members watch movie in cinema halls frequently, though the frequency is decreasing due to the presence of Dish T.V and cable network in their houses.

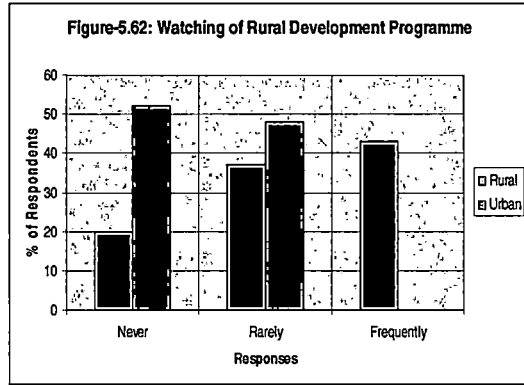
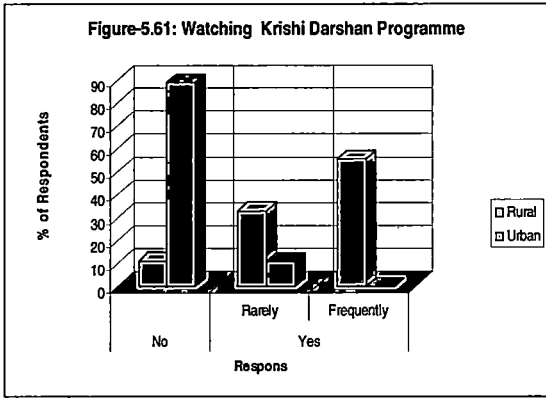
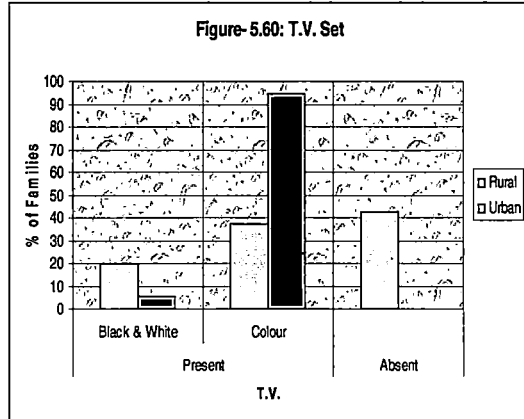
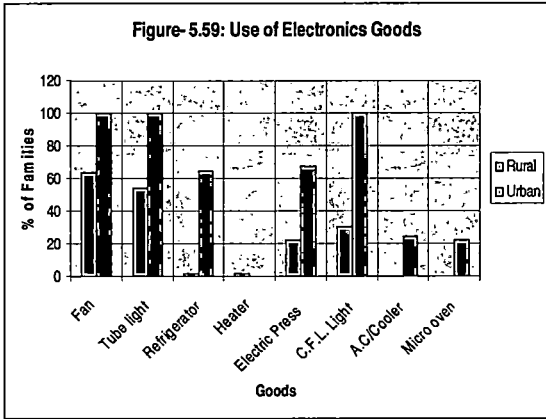
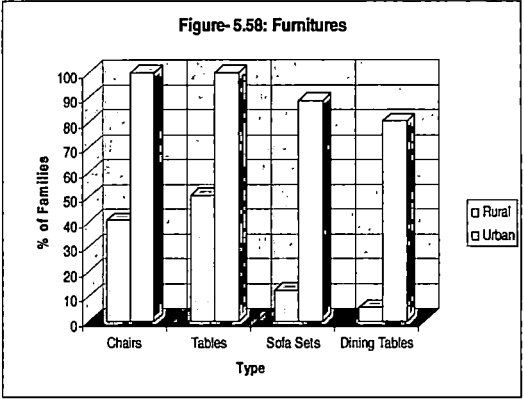
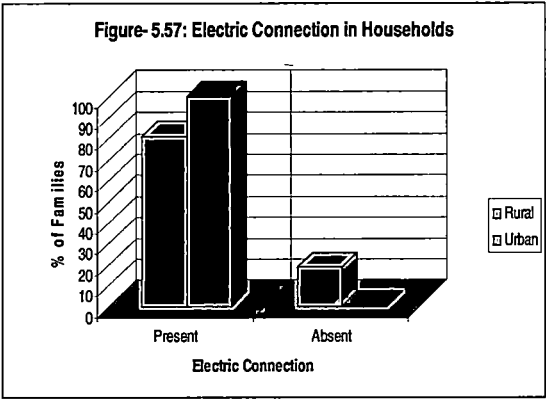


Table – 5.89
Frequency of Watching Movie in Cinema Halls by Family Members

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Never	29	00	02.71	00
Rarely	675	21	63.02	28.77
Frequently	367	52	34.27	71.23
Total	1071	73	100.00	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.12.4 Computer and internet: Out of 73 urban respondents 19(26.03%) have computers whereas only 1.40% rural respondents have computers(Figure-5.63).This figure indicates the rural-urban disparity in economic condition and computer literacy of the households.

Table – 5.90
Computer

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Present	15	19	01.40	26.03
Absent	1056	54	98.60	73.97
Total	1071	73	100.00	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Of the total 15 rural respondents 12 (80%) have internet connection while in urban areas 89.47% have internet connection. Presently students of both rural and urban areas are taking training from different computer centers of the district to enrich them with computer knowledge.

Table – 5.91
Internet Connection in Computers

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rur al	Urban	Rur al	Urban
Present	12	17	80.0 0	89.47
Absent	03	02	20.0 0	10.53
Total	15	19	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Result of the study on purpose of using computers is represented in the table - 5.92. The result shows that out of 19 urban respondents 5(26.3290%) use computer for education ,15.79% use for official work and majority of them 11(57.89%) use it for business purpose. Out of 15 rural respondents majority (86.67%) use computers for business purpose and remaining 13.33% use for official work.

Table – 5.92
PURPOSE OF USING COMPUTER

PURPOSE	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
EDUCATION	00	05	00.00	26.32
OFFICIAL WORK	02	03	13.33	15.79
BUSINESS	13	11	86.67	57.89
TOTAL	15	19	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.12.5 Reading News Papers

Like computer, T.V. radio & cinema halls, newspaper is an important source of mass media. Out of 1071 respondents 606 are literate and remaining 465 read newspaper accounting 43.42% of the total respondents. On the otherhand 69(94.52%) literate urban respondents read news paper. This figure clearly indicates the disparity in literacy level of rural and urban areas. The table 5.93 represents that 76.71% urban respondents read news papers daily whereas only 5.23% rural respondents read news papers daily (Figure-5.64).

Table – 5.93
Reading News Papers

Frequency	No. of Families		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Daily	56	56	05.23	76.71
Rarely	409	13	38.19	17.81
Never	606	04	56.58	5.48
Total	1071	73	100.00	

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13 Mobility of the Respondents

Mobility of the Respondents: To assess the mobility of the respondents they were asked the questions on the frequency of going Market, Bank, P.O., Panchayat office, B.D.O. office etc.

5.13.1 Visit to Market:

Table 5.94 represents the frequency of going to the market of the respondents. 39.41% rural and 45.20% urban respondents go to the market daily, 19.62% rural and 13.70% urban respondents go 2-3 days, 11.76% rural and 27.40% urban respondents go 4-5 days and 29.32% rural and 13.70% urban respondents go weekly (Figure-5.65).

Table – 5.94
VISIT TO MARKET

FREQUENCY	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS		%	
	Rura 1	Urban	Rural	Urban
DAILY	421	33	39.31	45.20
2 -3DAYS IN WEEK	210	10	19.61	13.70
4-5 DAYS IN WEEK	126	20	11.76	27.40
WEEKLY	314	10	29.32	13.70
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13.2 Visit to Market Post Office:

Frequency of going Post Office of the respondents is represented in the table no- 5.95. 13.70% and 31.51% urban respondents go to the P.O. monthly and yearly while in rural areas 24.74% and 28.85% go monthly and yearly (Figure-5.66).

Table – 5.95
Visit to Post Office

FREQUENCY	No. OF FAMILIES		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
MONTHLY	265	10	24.74	13.70
YEARLY	309	23	28.85	31.51
NEVER VISITED	497	40	46.41	54.79
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13.3 VISIT TO BANK

Table-5.96 represents the frequency of going banks of respondents. There are 15.68% rural respondents who never visited the bank. In urban areas all the respondents (100%) have Account Number in banks. 4.20% rural and 4.11% urban respondents go weekly, 13.54% rural and 47.95% go monthly to the banks. In rural areas maximum of the respondents (29.97%) go quaterly (Figure-5.67).

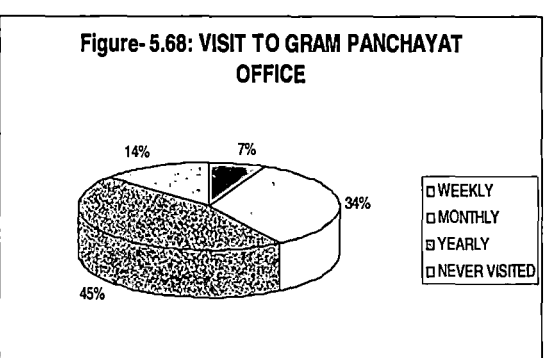
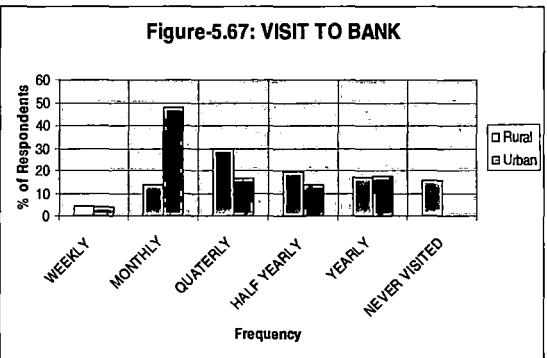
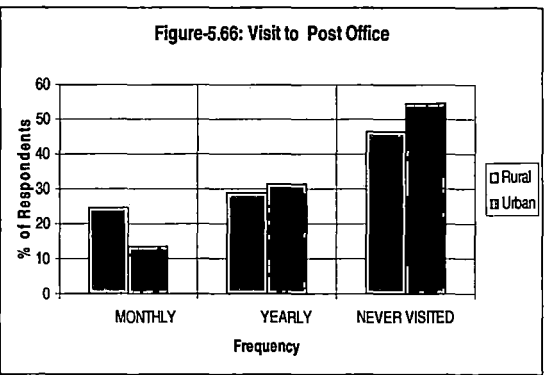
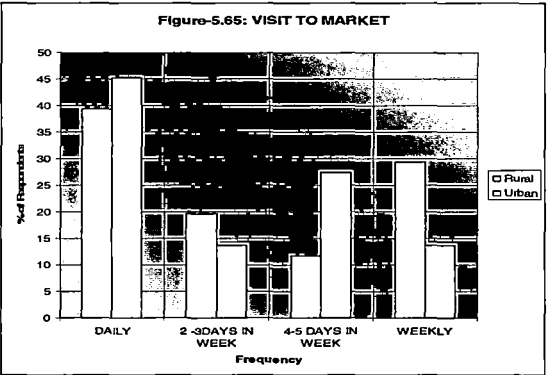
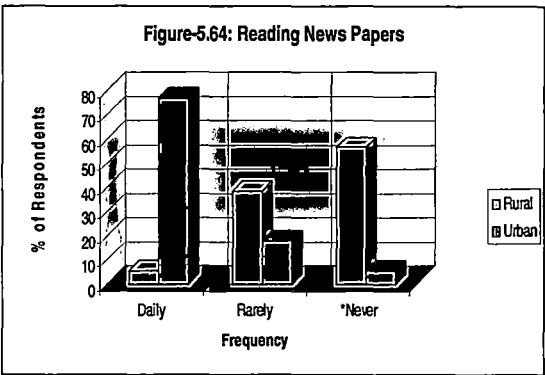
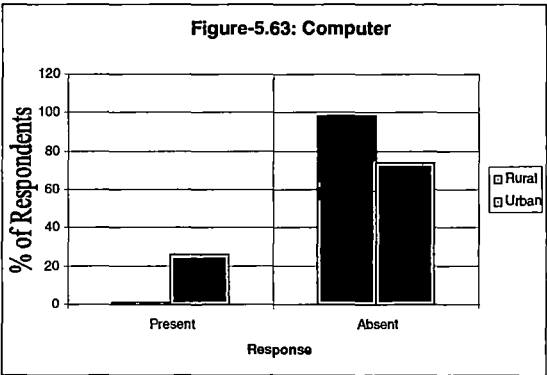


Table – 5.96
VISIT TO BANK

FREQUENCY	No. Of Respondents		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
WEEKLY	45	03	04.20	04.11
MONTHLY	145	35	13.54	47.95
QUATERLY	321	12	29.97	16.44
HALF YEARLY	210	10	19.61	13.70
YEARLY	182	13	17.00	17.80
NEVER VISITED	168	00	15.68	00
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13.4 VISIT TO GRAM PANCHAYAT OFFICE

Panchayats play vital role in the rural development. The frequency of going to the panchayat offices of respondents is represented in the table- 5.97 .Out of total 1071 rural respondents 7.28% go panchayat office weekly, 33.52% monthly and 45.66% yearly (Figure-5.68).

Table – 5.97
VISIT TO GRAM PANCHAYAT OFFICE
By Rural Respondents .

FREQUENCY	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS	%
WEEKLY	78	07.28
MONTHLY	359	33.52
YEARLY	489	45.66
NEVER VISITED	145	13.54
TOTAL	1071	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13.5 VISIT TO BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Table-5.98 representing respondents' frequency of going Block Development Office indicates that 46.50% rural and 24.66% urban respondents go yearly ,0.84% rural and 5.48% urban respondents go weekly, 10.18% rural and 26.03% urban respondents go monthly to the B.D.O office (Figure-5.69).

Table – 5.98
VISIT TO BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

FREQUENCY	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
WEEKLY	09	04	0.84	5.48
MONTHLY	109	19	10.18	26.03
YEARLY	498	18	46.50	24.66
NEVER VISITED	455	32	42.48	43.83
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13.6 VISIT TO D.M. OFFICE

Table-5.99 shows that 84.32% rural and 36.98% urban respondents had never visited the District Magistrate's office. Only 1.49% rural respondents go to the D.M. office monthly whereas 19.18% urban respondents go monthly. 43.84% urban respondents go to the D.M. office yearly while only 14.19% rural respondents go to the D.M. office yearly (Figure-5.70).

Table – 5.99
VISIT TO D.M. OFFICE

FREQUENCY	No. OF HOUSEHOLDS		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
WEEKLY	00	00	00.00	00.00
MONTHLY	16	14	01.49	19.18
YEARLY	152	32	14.19	43.84
Never Visited	903	27	84.32	36.98
TOTAL	1071	73		100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.13.7 Visit to Beauty Parlour and Its Frequency: Table 5.100 represents the frequency of going Beauty parlours of the female family members of the respondents. In urban areas out of total 73 household, female of the all the families go to the parlour whereas females of 55% rural families go to the beauty parlours.

Table – 5.100: Visit to Beauty Parlour

Respon s e	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Yes	589	73	55.00	100
No	482	00	45.00	00
Total	1071	73	100	1000

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Of the total 589 rural households female of 10.02%, 40.92% and 49.06% households go to the beauty parlours weekly, monthly and yearly. On the other hand females of the majority of the urban households (64.38%) go monthly whereas females of 30.14% and 5.48% households go weekly and yearly. So we can say that scheduled castes females of the both rural and urban areas are adopting modern urban culture which is the indication of the socio- cultural transformation of the scheduled castes

Table –5.101
Frequency of going beauty parlor of females:

Category	Frequency	%	
		Rural	Urban
Weekly	59	10.02	30.14
Monthly	241	40.92	64.38
Yearly	289	49.06	05.48
Total	589	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.14 Reservation Related Issues

5.14.1 Respondents Job on Reservation:

“Recognising the relative backwardness of the weaker sections of the society, the Constitution of India guarantees equality before the law (Article 14) and enjoins the State to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally back ward classes or for Scheduled castes (Article 15(4)). It also empowers the State to make provisions for reservation in appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens (Article16 (4))”.⁽⁵⁾

Result of field study revealed that out of 207rural and 59 urban government employees, a majority of the respondents (84.06% rural and 83.05% urban) have utilized the reservation quota for the present job, while only 15.94% rural and 16.95% urban respondents appointed under open category (Figure-5.71).So reservation is very important in employment of the scheduled castes of Maldah district.

Table –5.102
PRESENT JOB THROUGH RESERVATION

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Appointment under reserve category	174	49	84.06	83.05
Appointment under open category	33	10	15.94	16.95
Total	207	59	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

Like entry in job through reserve quota, the promotion in job is also based on reservation, though the candidates have to appear for the departmental examinations and qualify like general candidates. It reveals that a majority 90.91% rural and 75% urban respondents get their current job through promotion under reserve quota, whereas 9.09% rural and 25.00% urban respondents get promotion under open category (They quality entrances exams. securing marks like general candidates) (Figure-5.72). So reservation is very important not only for the appointment of the SCs but also for the promotion in jobs.

Table – 5.103
Nature of promotion

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Under reserve category	30	12	90.91	75.00
Under open category	03	04	9.09	25.00
Total	33	16	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.14.2 Role of Reservation to fulfil the purpose:

Table-5.104 represents that the reservation had fulfilled the purpose of socio-economic development of 531(49.58%) rural respondents and 64(87.67%) urban respondents, while only 12.33% urban respondents replied negative. According to the majority of the rural respondents (50.42%) due to educational backwardness they are failed to receive reservation quota in job (Figure-5.73).

Figure-5.69: VISIT TO BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

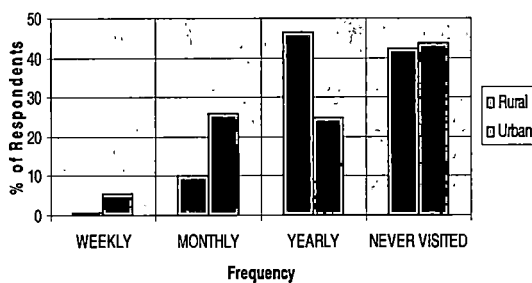


Figure- 5.70: VISIT TO D.M. OFFICE

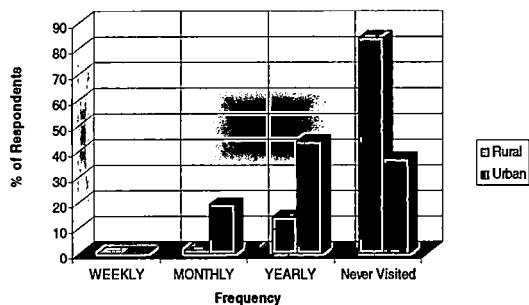


Figure-5.71: PRESENT JOB THROUGH RESERVATION

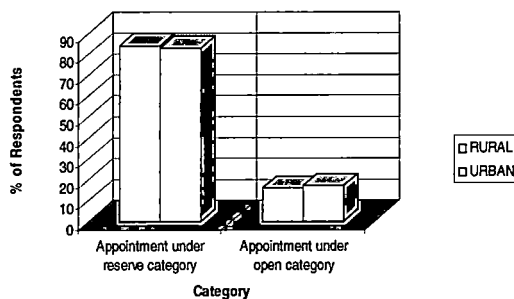


Figure- 5.72: Nature of promotion

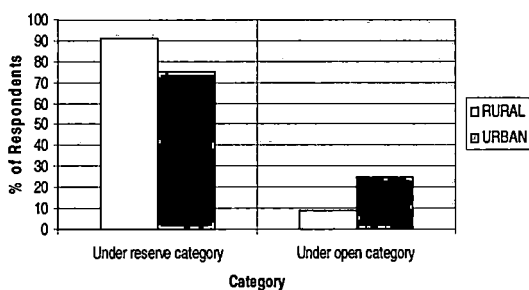


Figure- 5.73: Role of Reservation to fulfill the purpose

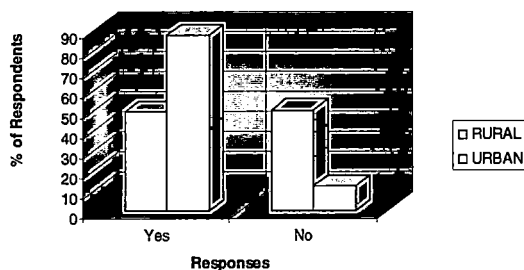


Figure- 5.74: Necessity of Reservation Policy for Children

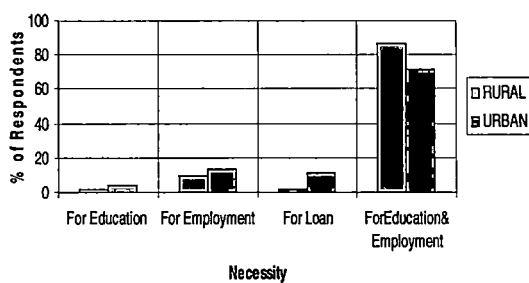


Table – 5.104
Role of Reservation to fulfill the purpose

Response	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Yes	531	64	49.58	87.67
No	540	09	50.42	12.33
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.14.3 Necessity of Reservation Policy for children: Though due to educational backwardness of the respondents they failed to take the advantages of reservation, but all the respondents of rural and urban areas believe that Reservation policy is necessary for the education and employment of their children.

Majority of the rural(86.27%) and urban (71.23%) respondents feel the reservation is very important for the education and employment of their children. Only 1.96% and 9.81% rural respondents want the reservation for education and employment of their children whereas of the total urban respondents 4.11% and 13.70% want reservation for the education and employment of their children. 1.96% rural and 13.70% urban respondents want reservation for government loan (Figure-5.74).

Table – 5.105
Necessity of Reservation Policy for Children

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
For Education	21	03	1.96	4.11
For Employment	105	10	9.81	13.70
For Loan	21	08	1.96	10.96
For Education & Employment	924	52	86.27	71.23
TOTAL	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5. 14. 4: Role of Resevation policy in socio-economic developments: Result of the study on role of Reservation policy in the socio-economic development of respondents is represented in table-5.106. Majority of the rural(92.16%) and

urban(90.41%) respondents believe that reservation policy has improved socio-economic status of scheduled castes to a large extent, while only 7.84% rural and 9.59% urban respondents believe that reservation improved socio-economic status to some extent(Figure-5.75).. An interesting fact is that not a single respondent believes that reservation is not necessary for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled castes of Maldah District. Based on this fact we can easily understand the importance of Reservation policy for the development of socio- economic status of scheduled castes.

Table – 5.106
Role of Reservation Policy in Improving Socio-Economic Status

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
To a large Extent	987	66	92.16	90.41
To some Extent	84	07	7.84	9.59
Not necessary	00	00	00.00	00.00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.14.5 Best Means to Improve Socio-Economic conditions of Scheduled

Castes: The S.Cs respondents were asked about the best means to improve their socio-economic conditions. The table -5.107 shows that a majority (50.70%) have given the priority to financial support in order to improve their socio-economic condition, whereas other means are permanent job (21.28%), educational development (10.46%) , general awareness (10.18%) and strict implementation of reservation(7.38%) . The best means are perceived by most of the urban respondents as best means to improve their socio-economic condition are general awareness (43.83%), educational development (21.55%) and permanent job(17.81%)(Figure-5.76).

It is observed that the S.Cs. respondents' of both urban and urban areas have given common priority to education among the first three priorities. Thus, education is the most important means to improve the socio-economic condition of scheduled castes.

Table – 5.107
Best Means to improve Socio-Economic Conditions

Category	Frequency		%	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Education	112	15	10.46	21.55
Financial Support	543	06	50.70	8.22
Strict Implementation of Reservation	79	07	7.38	9.59
General Awareness	109	32	10.18	43.83
Permanent Job	228	13	21.28	17.81
Separate State	00	00	00	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15 Socio-economic, Political, Religious Situation During Last one Decade:

5.15.1 Annual Income:

Table -5.108 represents trend of respondents annual income during last one decade. Out of total 1071 scheduled castes rural respondents, annual income of 77.31% respondents is increased, 213 (20.89%) have reported that their income is same while 2.80% have reported that their income during last one decade has decreased. Income decreased in case of rural respondent because of the fact that they were forced to sell their property for dowry of their daughters. Whereas in urban areas annual income of 80.82% respondents is increased, of 16.44% is same and it decreases for 2.74% respondents (Figure-5.77).

Table – 5.108
Annual Income During Last one decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Increased	828	59	77.31	80.82
The Same	213	12	20.89	16.44
Decreased	30	02	2.80	2.74
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.2 Economic Condition:

Table 5.109 represents the economic condition of the rural respondents is improved, deteriorated and same for the 69.19%, 2.89% and 27.92% respondents. The economic condition 94.52% urban respondents is improved. There is not a single SCs family in the urban area with the deteriorating economic condition during last one decade (Figure-5.78).

Table – 5.109
Economic Condition during Last One Decade

	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	741	69	69.19	94.52
The Same	299	04	27.92	5.48
Deteriorated	31	00	2.89	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

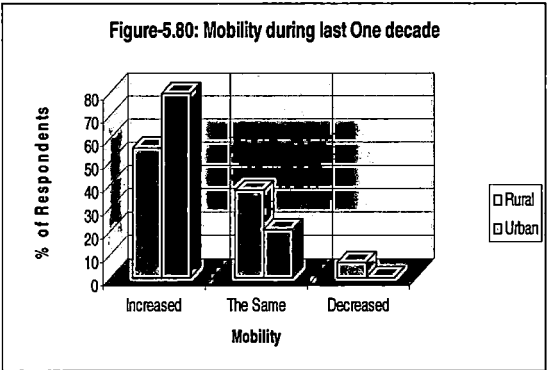
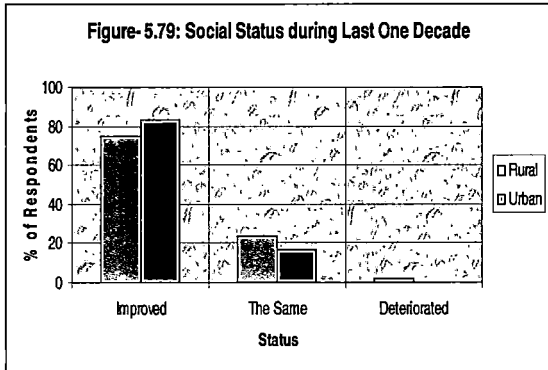
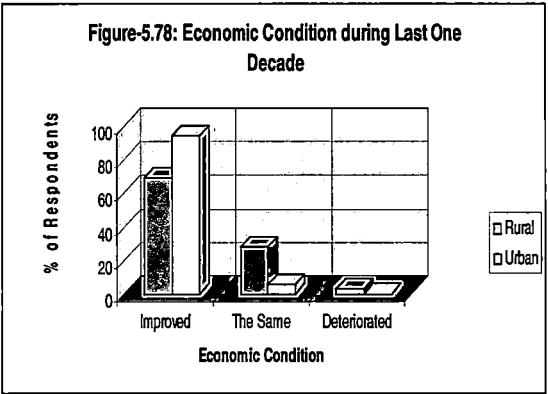
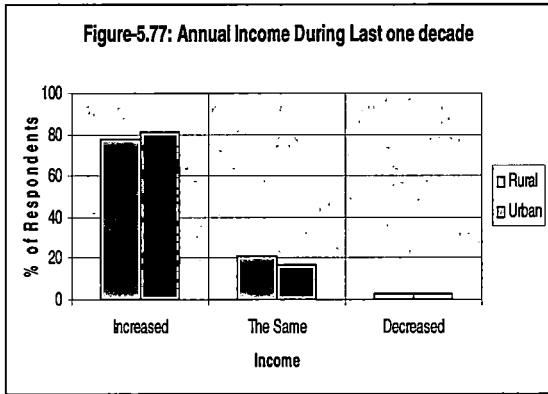
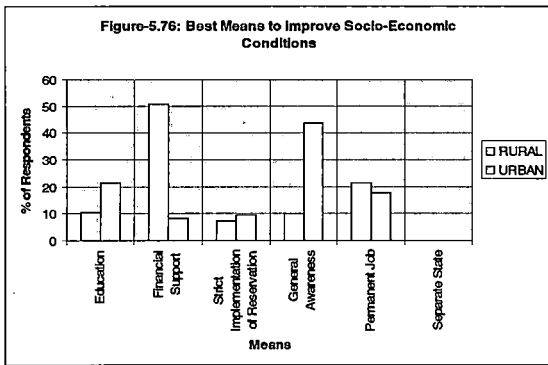
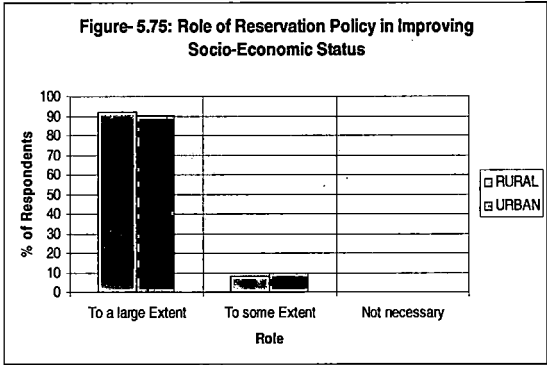
5.15.3 Social Status :

The result of the study on social status of respondents families during last one decade is represented in table-5.110 . The study revealed that the social status of 789 rural families (74.51%) is improved; it is same for 23.53% families while social status of only 1.96% respondents is deteriorated. Out of total 73 urban families social status of 83.56% is improved and social status is same for 16.44% families. So it is observed that the improvement in social status is more in urban families compared to the rural families (Figure-5.79).

Table – 5.110
Social Status during Last One Decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	798	61	74.51	83.56
The Same	252	12	23.53	16.44
Deteriorated	21	00	1.96	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .



5.15.4 Mobility :

Through the process of mobility an individual is physically and mentally exposes to outside of his community and the world. Mobility is the path of progress, while immobility leads to stagnation. By mobility a person gets exposed to a wide range of human endeavour. The mobility of 55.93% rural families increased while in urban areas the mobility increased for 79.45% families. So we can say that urban scheduled castes are more mobile than rural. Mobility is same for 37.54% rural and 20.55%urban families while it is decreased for 6.63%rural families (Figure-5.80).

Table – 5.111
Mobility during last One decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Increased	599	58	55.93	79.45
The Same	401	15	37.44	20.55
Decreased	71	00	6.63	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.5 Religious Condition:

Table –5.112 represents that religious condition of 823rural and 61 urban households accounting 76.84% and 83.56% of total rural and urban families is improved while it is same for 20.82% rural and 13.70% urban families. Only in the 2.34% rural and 2.74% urban families religious deteriorated. So almost all SCs families of rural and urban areas believe in religion strongly for the betterment of their families (Figure-5.82).

Table – 5.112
Religious Conditions during Last One Decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	823	61	76.84	83.56
The Same	223	10	20.82	13.70
Deteriorated	25	02	02.34	02.74
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.6 Educational level of Families:

Encouraging fact is that the educational level of the 80.39% rural and 79.45% urban families has improved during last one decade. According to the respondents facilities given by government or the educational development and employment opportunities through reservation encouraged them for higher education and appointment. So, material facilities, scholarship, reservation in admission and job encouraged this backward section for the upliftment (Figure-5.81).

Table – 5.113
Family Education Level during last one decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	861	58	80.39	79.45
The Same	210	15	19.61	20.55
Deteriorated	00	00	00	00
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.7 Housing Condition: Table-5.114 represents change in housing condition of scheduled castes respondent's during last one decade. 723 rural and 60 urban families accounting 67.51% and 82.19% of the total families reported that their housing condition has improved. It is same for 29.04% rural and 16.44% urban families while 3.45% rural and 1.37% urban families reported that their housing condition is deteriorated (Figure-5.83).

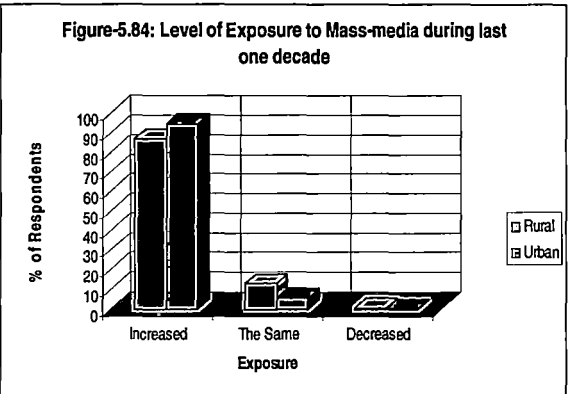
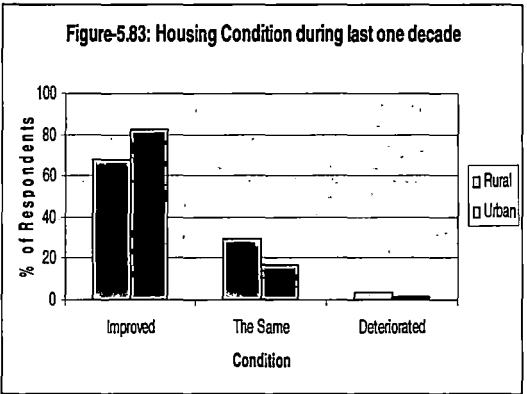
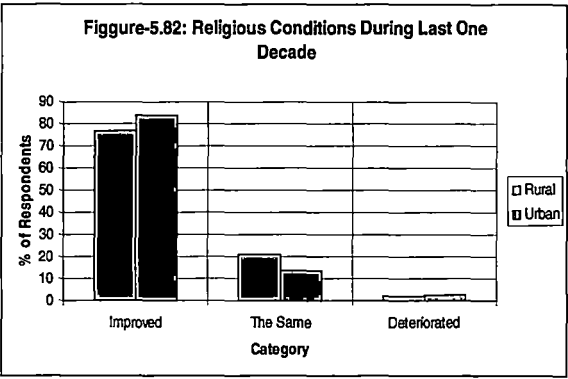
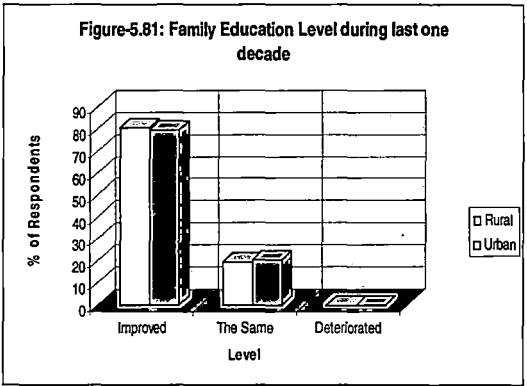


Table – 5.114

Housing Condition during last one decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	723	60	67.51	82.19
The Same	311	12	29.04	16.44
Deteriorated	37	01	3.45	1.37
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.9 Exposure to Mass-media:

Exposure to mass media during last one decade of the scheduled castes respondents is shown in table -5.115. It is clear from the table that exposure to mass media has increased for 87.02% rural and 94.52% urban families, it is same for 12.79% rural and 5.48% families while it is decreased only for 0.19% families (Figure-5.84). Encouraging fact is that the exposure to mass-media for the majority of the scheduled castes has increased due to expansion of electronic media like T.V. and internet and news paper etc.

Table – 5.115
Level of Exposure to Mass-media during last one decade

Category	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Increased	932	69	87.02	94.52
The Same	137	04	12.79	5.48
Decreased	02	00	0.19	00
Total	1071	73	100	100 .

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.10 Agricultural Products:

Out of total 220 rural cultivators 145 (65.91%) have reported that agricultural products has been increased while 11.36% respondents reported decrease in agricultural products during last one decade. The production is same for 22.73% respondents (Figure-5.85). According to the respondents the causes responsible for the decline in agricultural products are-

- I) Change in economic activity
- II) River bank erosion and frequent flood
- III) Lack of irrigational facility,
- IV) Poverty etc.

Figure-5.85: Agricultural Product during last one decade

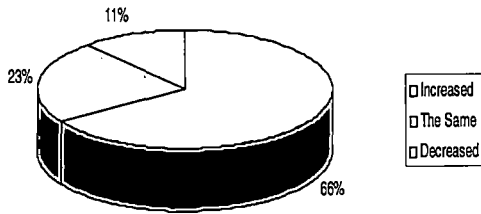


Figure-5.86: Agricultural Technology during last one decade

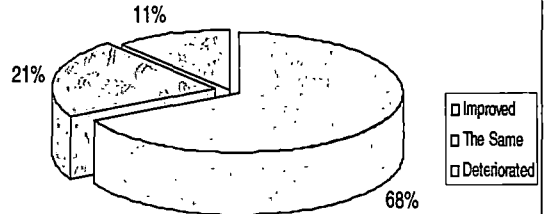


Figure-5.87: Food Habit during last one decade

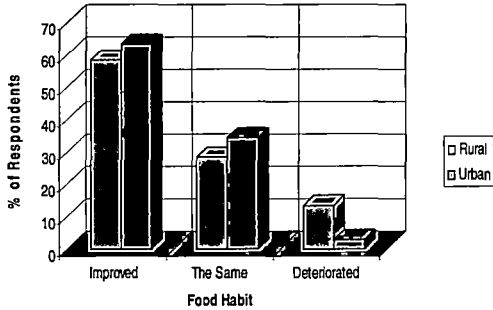


Figure-5.88: Dress pattern during last one decade

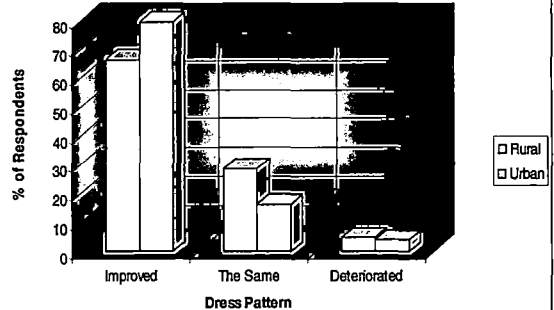


Table – 5.116
Agricultural Product during last one decade

Agricultural Product	Frequency	%
Increased	145	65.91
The Same	50	22.73
Decreased	25	11.36
Total	220	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010

5.15.11 Agricultural Technology: The result of the study on change in agricultural technology is shown in table-5.117 . The table indicates that out of total 220 rural cultivators 148 (67.27%) have changed their agricultural technology while it is same or not changed for 21.37% respondents. Agricultural technology deteriorated for the 11.36% cultivators (Figure-5.86).

Table – 5.117
Agricultural Technology during last one decade

Agricultural Technology	Frequency	%
Improved	148	67.27
The Same	47	21.37
Deteriorated	25	11.36
Total	220	100.00

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.12 Food Habits: Change in food habit of scheduled castes population of Maldah district is shown in the table-5.118. This is clear from the table that food habit has improved for majority of the rural (58.26%) and urban (63.01%) families. (Figure-5.87).

Table – 5.118
Food Habit during last one decade

Food Habit	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	624	46	58.26	63.01
The Same	304	25	28.39	34.25
Deteriorated	143	02	13.35	02.74
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

5.15.13 Dress Pattern: Table-5.119 represents change in dress pattern of scheduled castes during last one decade. The table shows that out of total 1071 rural families,712 (66.48%) and of 73 urban families 79.45% has changed their dress pattern while for 28.57% rural and 16.44% urban families it is same. Dress pattern has deteriorated for 4.95% rural and 4.11% urban families (Figure-5.88).

Table – 5.119
Dress pattern during last one decade

Dress Pattern	Frequency		%	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Improved	712	58	66.48	79.45
The Same	306	12	28.57	16.44
Deteriorated	53	03	04.95	04.11
Total	1071	73	100	100

Source:- Prepared by Researcher based on Field Study, 2010 .

References:

1. Anandabazar Patrika, 17th June, 2009.
2. Tiwari, R. C., 2003: Geography of India, Prayag Pustak Bhawan, Allahabad, p. 361.
3. Phathak, S. N., and Pandey, S.P., 2005: Scheduled Castes Development, Serial Publications, p. 103.
4. Wankhede, G. G., 1999: Social Mobility and Scheduled Castes, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, p. 165.
5. Naidu, R. V. K., 2004: Empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Kalpaz Publications, Delhi, p. 192.

CHAPTER 6

Suggested Strategies for the development of Scheduled Castes of Maldah district

6.0 Suggested Strategies for the development of Scheduled Castes of Maldah district

"The mid-1980s saw the term empowerment becoming popular and widely used in the field of development. In grass root programmes and policy debates alike, empowerment has virtually replaced terms as welfare, upliftment, community participation, and poverty alleviation to describe the goal of development and intervention. Empowerment has become the key solution to many social, economic, political, educational and environmental problems."⁽¹⁾

According to Webster's Dictionary, Empowerment means the process by which power is gained, developed, seized, facilitated or given. Through the process of empowerment an individual or a group moves from a condition of relative powerlessness to relative power.

6.1 Efforts made to uplift Socio-economic Condition of Scheduled Castes in Pre-independence Period:

"The credit of early efforts made to improve the vulnerable condition of Scheduled Castes in India goes to Lord Buddha who argued that birth and occupation are no criteria for demarcation of a section of the society as untouchables. During the medieval period several saints like Ramanuj, Kabir, Chaitanya, Eknath, Tukaram, etc. condemned untouchability and preached the equality of all classes."⁽²⁾

Administrators did not concern themselves with the betterment of Scheduled Castes. In the British period the traditional inequality was displayed by a principle of equality of all before the law. The British principle was accompanied by the British policy of non-interference in caste affairs and aimed a little at social reform which worked against the caste abuse received no protection from the courts.

Mahatma Gandhi and Dr.B.R.Ambedkar worked for the betterment of Scheduled Castes in the early twentieth century and Hindu temples opened for low caste worshipers. After this event few bills were passed in Central and State legislature for the opening of all temples in all over the country to all and the protection of Scheduled Castes from various social disabilities.

To consider the problems of untouchables a council was formed in the name of Harijan Sewak Samaj in 1931. The functions of this organization were-

- Establishment of various institutions for the training of Scheduled Castes in different types of cottage industries in order to improve their economic conditions.
- Opening of many schools to provide free educational facilities to Scheduled Castes.
- Opening of dispensaries to provide health care facilities for Scheduled Castes.
- The Sangh launched a movement to keep residential areas of Scheduled Castes clean and to remove feelings of untouchability from the Hindu Society.

Various voluntary organizations like the Depressed Class Union, Social Service League, the Depressed Class Conference, the Ramkrishna Mission, the Brahm Samaj, the Arya Samaj etc. came forward for the improvement of Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes. The British Government took some concrete steps to uplift Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes owing to the influences of these organizations and reformers like Gandhiji and Ambedkar. The Government listed out the various Scheduled Castes first time in the country and passed the Scheduled Castes Act 1935.

The story of Scheduled Castes at the end of the British rule in India in 1947 was not much different than what it was during the early years, through British Government reserved a portion of its budget for providing educational facilities employment generation opportunities for the improvement of Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes.

6.2 Efforts to improve socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes after Independence

To improve socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes population after independence the Government of India made several efforts. The constitution of India

provided several social, political, economic and religious safeguards to Scheduled Castes.

6.2.1 Constitutional Safeguards: Various Articles providing safeguards to Scheduled Castes are-

Article 46:- Spells out that state responsibility is to promote the welfare of weaker sections in general and Scheduled Castes in particulars.

Article 338:- Sixty Fifth Amendment (act) 1990 provides for the National Commissioner Tribes has been appointed who is assisted in his work by Regional Assistant Commissioner in the State in the welfare works for Scheduled Castes.

Article 335:- Lays down that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into account, consistent with the maintenance of efficiency of administration in making of appointments to services and posts concerning the affairs of the Union or State.

Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18:- Abolish untouchability and prohibit discrimination in the shops, restaurants, hotels, place of entertainment, in use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resorts and in admission to educational institutions.

Article 23:- Forbade forced labour.

Article 25:- Allow untouchables entrance to hindu temples.

Articles 330 and 332:- Provide for reservations in Parliament, State Legislatures, Statutory village panchayats and other local bodies.

Article 320:- Guarantees 12.5% reservation in Public Services to facilitate their adequate reservation to various services, relaxation in the age etc.

The Union and every State Government consult the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Article 339:- Gives power to the President to appoint a commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled castes.

The Constitution Sixty second Amendment (Act) 1989 has extended the reservation of seats for the scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Various Committees, Commissions, working groups, Advisory Board and Panel were set up for the upliftment of untouchables. They are as follows:

- Backward Class Commission January (1953) Chairman Kaka Saheb Kalekar, March 1955.
- Untouchability offence Act (Amendment-1976)Protection of Civil Right Act,1955.
- Centre Advisory Board for Harijan Welfare, Government of India, 1955 and 1969
- Committee on Plan Project (1958), Chairman- Renuka Ray 1959.
- The Protection of Civil Rights Rules, 1977.
- N.R. Malkani Committee on Scavenger (1958), Report,1959. Narain 1960.
- A Study Group on Welfare for Weaker Sections, Chairman-Jai Prakash
- L.Elayperumal Committee (April 1965).Committee on Untouchability of Scheduled Castes Report 1969.Yarde Working Group-1967,Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Three Parliamentary Committee (I-1968,II-1971, and III-1973)for the Implementation of Constitutional safeguard for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.
- Centre Coordination Committee,1974,Chairman-Minister of Home Affair
- Bonded Labour System (Abolition)Act, 1976.
- Joint Committee of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, 14 August,1978.
- The Mandal Commission on Backward Classes (1977), Report.1990, Chairman, B.P. Mandal.
- A Higher Power Panel on Minorities , Scheduled Tribes and other weaker Sections, 1979.

6.2.2 Empowerment of Scheduled Castes through Five Year Plans

The government of India has set up the Planning Commission to look after the task of achieving all round development with emphasis on social justice, based on the Article 38 and Article 39(a), (b) and (c) of the constitution . In order to achieve the goal of bringing rapid economic development, the planning Commission formulated socio-economic programmes to improve the conditions of Scheduled Castes through Five year Plans.

First Five year Plan (1951-56):

In this plan extensive strategy measures were adopted for the welfare of Backward Classes. The First Five Year Plan envisaged a four point programme for the removal of untouchability. These are as follows-

- ❖ First by law,
- ❖ Secondly by persuasive and education process,
- ❖ Development of democratic process and
- ❖ Intervention of State in making employment opportunities available to them including betterment of health, education, economic and living conditions.

Second Five Year Plan(1956-61):

In the second Five Year Plan Period, Both State and Central Government took responsibilities for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes. A sum of Rs.6.25 crores sanctioned for Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the upliftment of dalits during this plan period. The 2nd Five Year Plan earmarked Rs.20.28 crores for the social welfare and economic emancipation of Harijans. About 7000 Harijan students trained in special craft training centres, to encourage small scale and cottage industry, and provide loans to workers to become shareholders in the co-operative societies etc. Simultaneously Untouchability Offence Act 1955 came into power and provision of 3 million scholarships made to 600 schools for Scheduled Castes.

Third Five Year Plan (1961-66):-

The Third Five Year Plan focuses on economic upliftment programmes through voluntary organizations. Several programmes were subsidies for Scheduled Castes with a provision of Rs.38 crores. In the context of economic upliftment programmes, the plan laid special stress on the training in the villages for small-scale industries and introduction of improved techniques in the traditional crafts. The other objectives of this plan were-

- ❖ Eradication of manual scavenging,
- ❖ Establishment of schools, hospitals, industrial centres and providing housing facilities on subsidy for sweepers and scavengers.
- ❖ Making provision for house-sites for landless labourers and persons engaged in unclean occupations,
- ❖ Award of post matric scholarships and aid to voluntary organizations.

Fourth Five Year Plan(1969-74):

A sum of Rs.1350 crores was allotted to backward class welfare, in addition to 30 crores of rupees being committed to non-plan budget. Under the Fourth Five Year Plan, many new programmes were started for the welfare of backward classes of the society particularly Scheduled Castes. These programmes were intensified Rural Emploment Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)etc. A sum of Rs. 68 crores were allotted for the different schemes for Scheduled Castes.

Fifth Five Year Plan(1974-79):

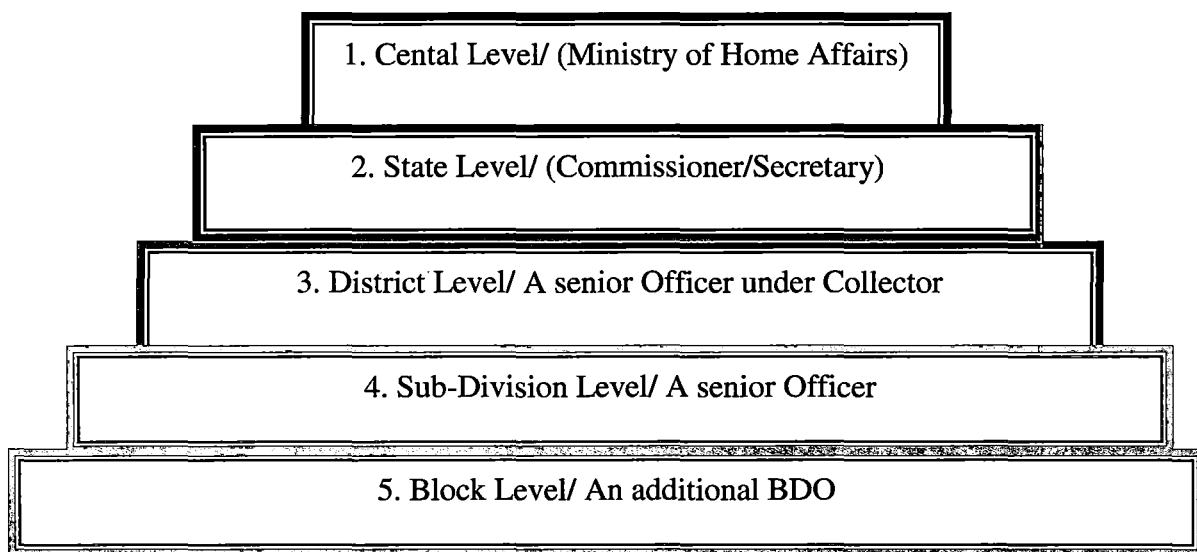
The Fifth Five year Plan envisages a new policy for the welfare of Backward classes. This plan stated that in each sector, schemes which could directly benefit these groups, should be identified and the total investment for such schemes quantified. The outlay for Scheduled Castes for such schemes should be earmarked at least in proportion to their population and then possible weightage may be given to their backwardness. In the plan the development expenditure for the Scheduled Castes and the Backward classes were combined under a single head, i.e., Development of Backward Classes and Social Welfare.'

Sixth Five Year Plan(1980-85):

A significant measure which was initiated in the Sixth Five Year Plan was the formulation of the S.C.P. (Special Component Plan).Following the strategy of development SCP was adopted in this plan.Programmes for the development of Scheduled castes were undertaken by the Central and State Governments.

The recommendations in the Sixth Five Year Plan were as follows-

- 1) A majority of Scheduled Castes are living below poverty line.
- 2) Need based programmes to be formulates for the Scheduled Castes.
- 3) Formulation of SCP to enable the Scheduled Castes to cross the Poverty Line within a short and specified period, if possible, at least half of them in this plan period itself.
- 4)To take note of the development needs of the Scheduled Castes in each occupational category, it was, accordingly to the Planning Commission , necessary to identify the available opportunities suitable for them, and to formulate appropriate programmes in the light of the above.
- 5) The core programmes for economic development would lay emphasis on land development, agricultural production, animal husbandry, dairy farming, leather work, small scale and tiny industry etc.
- 6) The Scheduled Castes Development Corporation should be made active and close links should be established between the programmes of SCP and SCDC activities.
- 7) For the effective implementation of SCP, the following administrative machinery was recommended



Administrative machinery for the effective implementation of SCP

8) During this plan period, various programmes were introduced for the economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes, like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA), Rural Landless Emploment Guarantee Programme(RLEGP) and National Rural Emploment Programme (NREP) Later on RLEGP and NREP were merged into Jawahar Rojgar Yojana(JRY).

Seventh Five Year Plan(1985-90):

During the Seventh Plan, SCP for Scheduled Castes was implemented. Substantial increase in the flow of funds for Scheduled Castes was made resulting expansion of infrastructural facilities and enlargement of coverage. For the rapid economic development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation was assigned primarily to act as the catalytic agent in formulating schemes for employment generation and financing various projects. Special Consideration was made for Scheduled Castes in the implementation of TRDP Programme. A high per capita expenditure is earmarked for Scheduled Castes in SCP by the States New Schemes- planned and non-planed.

The target of coverage SC/ST beneficiaries in the Seventh Plan was 30% of the total number of beneficiaries. Now the target of 50% has been fixed for SC/ST

beneficiaries with effect of April 1990. Since 1990-91, SCs beneficiaries for subsidy purposes, getting 50% subsidy subject upto a ceiling of Rs.5000.

Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97):

The thrust area of 8th Five Year Plan was to streamline the mechanism of planning and implementation of programme covered under Special Component Plan. It was stressed that growth had to be accompanied by a sharper regional focus on reduction of desparity and more dispersed benefits. An outlay of Rs.2548crores in the Cenral sectoral,including Rs.1125 crores as Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes have been given in the 8th plan.

The 8th plan also highlighted the necessity of complete elemination of scavenging. Under the provisions of Protection of Civil Right Act, State Governments were requested to take necessary steps for effective implementationof the Act, setting up of Special Mobile Courts, strengthening of existing police cell,mobile squard and courts for trying atrocities cases. The endeavour during the 8th plan will be to strengthen the enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and undertake programmes for mass awakening leading to attitudinal changes.

9th Five Year Plan(1997-2002):-

The objective of the Ninth Plan was empower the socially disadvantaged groups viz., the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minorities as the agents of socials changes and development.

The strategies of this Plan were as follows-

1) Create an enabling environment that is conductive for SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities to exercise their rights freely, enjoy their privileges and be able to lead a life with confidence and dignity.

2) Adopt a three-pronged strategy of

a)Social Empowerment b)Economic Empowerment c)Social Justice, in empowering these disadvantaged groups.

3) Ensuring the removal of disparities and eliminate exploitation.

4)Ensure the developmental benefits to 'Reach the Unreached' through equitable distribution and with social justice.

5)Ensure participation of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups in the process of planning.

The specific objectives of the 9th Plan were as follows-

a)Substantial reduction in poverty and unemployment;

b)Productive assets creation in favour of Scheduled Castes to sustain the growth likely to accrue through developments efforts.

c)Human resource development by providing adequate health and educational facilities.

d)Provision of physical and financial security against exploitation.

Under the 9th Five Year Plan,most of the schemes under the SCP for the economic development of Scheduled Castes, like Jawahar Rojgar Yojana(JRY),SITRA(Supply of Improved Toolkits to the Rural Artisans), DWACRA,Million Well Scheme,etc, were merged into one SJSY (Swaran Jayanti Swai- Rojgar Yojana).

Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007):

A total outlay of Rs.6526 crore including 2313.40 crore for SCA to SCP has been earmarked in the Central Budget of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (SCs, OBCs and Minorities)in this Plan.

The general approach towards empowering the socially Disadvantaged Groups during the tenth plan, details the group –wise strategy in achieving the much wanted 'Social Empowerment' through removal of the still existing inequalities, disparities and other persisting problems; 'Economic Empowerment' through various employment cum-income generation activities with an ultimate objective of making them economically independent and self reliant; and 'Social Justice' through elimination of all types of discrimination againsts these with the strength and support of legislative measures, awareness generation and change in the mind- set of the people.

6.2.3 Empowerment of Scheduled castes of Maldah District Through Educational Development

6.2.3.1 PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP:-

Pre-matric scholarship was started in 1977-78. The main objective of the scheme was to provide financial assistance for children of those engaged in the so-called unclean occupations, viz., scavenging, tanning, flaying and sweeping.

Central assistance was provided to the state government on 50:50 basis over and above the committed liability. There were certain inherent defects in the scheme and hence the response of the state government was unsatisfactory. The scheme has been modified with effect from 1st November, 1991, and now it covers day scholars from classes (I) to (X) with graded scholarships i.e.

For class I-V Rs 25 per month

For class VI-VIII Rs 40 per month

For class IX-X Rs 50 per month

The modified scheme covers hostelers from classes III to X. For the students of classes III to VIII, the scholarship was Rs200 per month and for the students of classes IX to X was Rs250 per month. The programme has been modified with effect from 1994 and there was no restriction on the number of children of parents up to class VIII, and any number of children of couple can get the scholarship. But if the third or subsequent child is born after 1st April 1993, only two children of the family will be granted scholarship similarly, only two children in a family studying in class IX & X will be eligible for the scholarship. ⁽³⁾

The different facilities under pre-matric scholarship for the scheduled castes students are represented in the table below-

Table-6.1
EXPENDITURE AND BENEFICIARIES ON EDUCATIONAL SCHEME
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS
2007-2010
(PRE-MATRIC SCHOLAR SHIP)

YEAR	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (Rs.)	BOYS'	GIRLS'	TOTAL
2007- '08	BOOK GRANT	1,17,98,560.00	43755	18750	62505
	HOSTEL CHARGE	24,49,800.00	230	209	439
	MAINTANANCE CHARGE	21,09,120.00	2417	1977	4394
2008- '09	BOOK GRANT	1,00,98,825.00	31282	20853	52135
	HOSTEL CHARGE	23,31,000.00	201	257	458
	MAINTANANCE CHARGE	21,60,000.00	2510	1990	4500
2009- '10	BOOK GRANT	1,64,00,560.00	40770	27181	67951
	HOSTEL CHARGE	23,61,000.00	264	216	480
	MAINTANANCE CHARGE	21,57,600.00	3250	1245	4495

Source:-Project Officer-cum-District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, MALDAH DISTRICT-2010.

The table 6.1 represents facilities like book grant,hosted charge and maintainance charge for the scheduled castes students of pre-matric standerd in different years.

BOOK GRANTS:

The Scheme, Book Grant, is introduced to provide text books for the scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes students. In Maldah district, in 2009-2010, an amount of Rs,1,64,00,560 was released to benefit 67,957 scheduled castes students including

40,770 boys and 27,181 girls. In 2008-2009 the amount was Rs 1,00,98,825 and 31,282 boys and 20,853 girls were benefited. In 2007-2008 an amount of Rs1,17,98,560 was released for book grant to benefit 43,755 and 18,750 boys and girls respectively.

Provide Hostel Charges for Scheduled Castes students:

One of the important schemes to spread education among SCs. students is Hostel Charge' paid by the government. In the Third Five Year Plan period, to provide accomodation to girls studying away from their home, the scheme was started 50% of cost of hostels built is brone by centre and 50% by state Government. Like girls 's hostels, scheme for boys hostels for SC/ST was also taken up in 1989-90. During 2007-08, a sum of Rs.24.49 Lakh was released for hostel charge for 439 (230 boys and 209 girls) S.C. students. The amount was 23.31 lakh for 458 S.C. students in 2008-09. In 2009-2010 the amount of hosel charge was 23.61lakh to provide 480 SCs. Students (264 boys and 216 girls).

Maintanance Charge for S.C. students of Maldah District :

Table-6.1 respresents that in 2009-10 the maintainance charge for the SCs students of the district was Rs 21.57 lakh for 4495 students (3250 boys and 1245 girls). The amount was Rs21.09 lakh for 2417 boys and 1977 girls and Rs 21.60 lakh for 2510 boys and 1990 girls in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

6.2.3.2 POST-METRIC SCHOLARSHIPS :

Post-Matric scholarship was launched in 1994-95. The scholarships are granted to students who are children of industrial workers having an income upto Rs.60, 095 per annum. ⁽⁴⁾

Under the post-matric scholarships as sum of Rs114.15 crores was sanctioned as central assistance in 2000-01. The rates of scholarship and stipend were revised from time to time. In Maldah district a sum of Rs.1.44 crores was sanctioned in 2007-08 for 4597 boys and 2179 girls belongs to scheduled Castes. In 2009-10 Rs 2.38 crores is released as post-matric scholarship for 11,419 S.C. students including 7527 boys and 3892 girls.

EXPENDITURE AND BENEFICIARIES ON EDUCATIONAL SCHEME

Table-6.2

POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS

2007-2010

YEAR	AMOUNT (Rs.)	BOYS'	GIRLS'	TOTAL
2007-'08	1,44,96,470	4597	2179	6776
2008-'09	2,83,98,115	9509	4802	14311
2009-'10	2,38,48,805.00	7527	3892	11419

Source:-Project Officer-cum-District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Maldah District-2010.

"There is scope of considerable expansion of this scheme .Ample funds are available with the Ministry of welfare but are not being utilized for want of complete proposals from the state government in time.It is learnt that like few states government of West Bengal did not furnish complete proposals during 1992-1993."⁽⁵⁾So the state government should be aware of this fact.

6.2.3.3 Ashram Hostels for S.C. students in Maldah District:

There are 5 Ashram Hostels in Maldah District, 3 located in Gazole block and one each in Bamongola and Harischandrapur-1 blocks. Names and no of hostellers is shown below-

Table-6.3

LIST OF ASHRAM HOSTELS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS, 2010

Sl.No.	Name of the School	Block	No. of Hostellers
1	Tiyakati High School	Gazole	20
2	Jagdala High School	Bamangola	20
3	Raniganj K.C. High School	Gazole	20
4	Chandrabati Saha Vidyapith	Gazole	20
5	Pipla High School	Harischandrapur-I	20

Source:-Project Officer-cum-District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Maldah District-2010.

Objectives of Ashram Hostels:

These five Ashram hostels are established to provide the following facilities-

- 1) Free meal for S.C. students
- 2) Provide Kerosene, soap, oil, hurricane etc.
- 3) Supply of garments,
- 4) Provide money for games and sports and bedding and
- 5) Medical facilities for S.C. students.

Rate for the above mentioned facilities for SC/ST students in the West Bengal in 2009-10 is shown in the table below-

Table-6.4

MAINTAINANCE OF ASHRAM HOSTELS FOR S.C. & S.T. STUDENTS WEST BENGAL-2009-2010

Sl. No	Item of Expenditure	Rate in Rs.		
		2007-08	2008-09	Rate w.e.f. 01.02.2010
1.	Meal Charge	600/Head/Month	600/Head/Month	750/Head/Month
2.	Other Charges (Purchase of kerosene, soap, oil, hurricane etc.)	300/Head/Anum	400/Head/Anum	400/Head/Anum
3.	Garments	80/ Head/Anum	200/Head/Anum	200/Head/Anum
4.	Sports & Games	50/Head/Anum	100/Head/Anum	100/Head/Anum
5.	Bedding	100/Head/Anum	300/Head/Anum	300/Head/Anum
6.	Medical Facilities	50/Head/Anum	100/Head/Anum	100/Head/Anum
7.	Remuneration of Superintendent	1500 /month	1500/month	1500/month
8.	Remuneration of Cook	850/ month	850/ month	850/ month
9.	Remuneration of Helper	600/ month	600/ month	600/ month

Source:-Government of West Bengal, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Writers Building, Kolkata, 2010

Total requirement for the five Ashram Hostels in the Maldah district was Rs.40.26 Lakh in 2009-10, but sanctioned amount was 38.58 Lakh for 400 students including 380 boys and 20 girls. Against the total allotment of 38.58 Lakh the total expenditure was Rs38 lakh 57 thousand 450. So, District welfare office was unable to utilize the total sanctioned amount.

Table-6.5

**EXPENDITURE AND BENEFICIARIES OF ASHRAM HOSTELS
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES STUDENTS, 2009-2010**

AMOUNT (Rs.)		BENEFICIARIES	
REQUIREMENT	40,26,800	BOYS`	380
ALLOTMENT RECEIVED	38,58,000	GIRLS`	20
EXPENDITURE	38,57,450	TOTAL	400

Source:-Project Officer-cum-District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Maldah District-2010.

Yearly Expenditure of Ashram Hostels in Maldah District:

The yearly expenditure of five Ashram Hostels is given in the table below-

Table-6.6

**YEARLY EXPENDITURE OF ASHRAM HOSTELS
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS, 2007-2010**

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Block	YEARLY EXPENDITURE(Rs.)		
			2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Tiyakati High School	Gazole	1,89,000.00	1,89,000.00	2,01,400.00
2.	Jagdala High School	Bamangola	1,89,000.00	1,89,000.00	2,01,400.00
3.	Raniganj K.C. High School	Gazole	1,89,000.00	1,89,000.00	2,01,400.00
4.	Chandrabati Saha Vidyapith	Gazole	1,89,000.00	1,89,000.00	2,01,400.00
5.	Pipla High School	Harischandra Pur-1	1,89,000.00	1,89,000.00	2,01,400.00
T O T A L			9,45,000.00	9,45,000.00	10,07,000.00

Source:-Project Officer-cum-District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Maldah District-2010.

The table represents that in 2007-08 and 2008-09 the expenditure of hostels was Rs.9,45,000.00 . In 2009-10the expenditure increased to Rs. 10, 07,000.00. It is also observed that the yearly expenditure of all the Ashram hostels is equal in all the financial years.

6.2.3.4 Issue of Caste Certificates

Issue of caste certificates for scheduled Castes is represented in the table -6.7.In 2008-09, 8811 applications were received and 1546 certificates were issued to the candidates. So total pending cases were 7365.In 2009-10, 12007 applications were received and 2973 certificates were issued to the candidates. 8683 cases are pending. There are 351 cases with objection.So, it is clear that scheduled castes are becoming more conscious about their facilities for development and hence the number of applicants is increasing.

Table-6.7

ISSUE OF CASTE CERTIFICATES TO SCHEDULED CASTES,2008-2010

YEAR	APPLICATION RECEIVED	CERTIFICATE ISSUED	PENDING CASES	OBJECTION
2008-2009	8811	1546	7365	NIL
2009-2010	12007	2973	8683	351

Source:-Project Officer-cum-District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, MALDAH .

6.2.4 Empowerment of Scheduled castes of Maldah District Through Economic Development

Poverty alleviation programmes put into action both in urban and rural areas since the 1980s have not only helped the poor people to rise above the poverty line, but also brought down the poverty rates quite effectively⁽⁶⁾

6.2.4.1 Implementation of SCP and SCA in Maldah District:-

Three special mechanisms viz. Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes, Tribal Sub Plan(TSP) for STs and Special Central Assistance (SCA) to SCP and TSP were implemented by the Government during 1970's. The major objective of SCP and TSP was to ensure the financial benefits for the development and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. SCA is a central scheme and is the most

important programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the alleviation of poverty among Scheduled Castes people.

Special Component Plan (SCP):

Eligibility to apply for the scheme:

1. A person belongs to scheduled Castes
2. Family income below Rs19, 954.00 per year (Rural Areas) and below Rs27, 287.00(For urban areas)
3. Age between 18-55 years
4. Permanent Resident of the district
5. Previous experience in any project
6. Ability to recover the loan

Project under scheme:-

Agriculture, Business, Animal Husbandry, pisciculture, small scale industry etc.

No. of Beneficiaries and Project cost:-

Table-6.8 represents number of beneficiaries under S.C.P. in 2008-2010. In 2008-09 total beneficiaries in Maldah district under SCP was 330 including 61(18.48%) women beneficiaries and the project cost was 12.20lakh. During 2009-10 654 SCs were benefited under this scheme including 142 women and the project cost was 28.40lakh. So number of Beneficiaries and project cost in 2009-10 increased nearly 2 times and 2.5 times respectively compared to 2008-09.

Table-6.8

SCHEDULED CASTES WOMEN BENEFICIARIES UNDER DIFFERENT SCHEMES

OF .W.B. SC& ST DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION

Schemes	2008-09			2009-10		
	No. of Beneficiaries		Project Cost (Lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries		Project Cost (Lakh)
	Total	Women		Total	Women	
1.S.C.P	330	61	12.20	654	142	28.40
2.M.S.Y	124	124	24.80	38	38	7.60
TOTAL	454	185	37.00	692	180	36.00

Source:W.B. SC&ST DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION,MALDAH.

Block/ Municipality wise Target and sanctioned cases under S.C.P in Maldah District:

Block/Municipality wise target and sanctioned cases under S.C.P for the Scheduled Castes of the Corporation for the year 2009-2010 is represented in Appendix-XV.

It is clear from the table that in 2009-10, total physical target was 1351 and financial target was Rs. 270.20 lakh under S.C.P. for the district. Encouraging fact is that during this period both the physical and financial sanction was increased under SCP. Physical target was 1351 and 2487 scheduled castes were sanctioned and the financial target was Rs. 270.20 lakh and Rs. 497.40 lakh was sanctioned for beneficiaries in 2009-10.

In 2009-10 in Gazole Block 262 persons are benefited under S.C. and sanctioned project cost was Rs. 52.40 lakh. In Habibpur block the physical target was 212 and it increased to 908 (nearly 4 times) and the financial target was Rs. 42.4 lakh and it also increased to Rs. 181.60 lakh (nearly 4 times) in 2009-10. In three blocks Kaliachak-1, Harischandrapur 1 & 2, there was both physical and Financial target but no one sanctioned S.C.P.

On the otherhand the physical and financial sanction was less from the target in 4 blocks, viz. ,Kaliachak-II, Kaliachak-III, Chanchal II and Manihchak. In 2009-10, no scheduled castes of Kaliachak I, Harsichndrapur I and Harsichndrapur II blocks were benefited under S.C.P., though 62.48, 52.22 and 68.89% families of these blocks are living below poverty line.

6.2.4.2 N.S.F.D.C (National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation Linked Scheme):

It is a National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation Linked Scheme and the eligibility to apply for this scheme are-

- 1) A scheduled castes person whose yearly family income is less than Rs.-40,000 for rural areas and Rs.-55,000/ in urban areas.
- 2) Age between 18-50 years
- 3) Trained/Experienced in same project.

- 4) Able to recover the loan
- 5) Permanent residence of the Maldah District.

Projects under Scheme:-

Cow and pig rearing, medical store, dress making, handloom cloth store, Fishery, computer graphics, small business, auto rickshaw, diesel taxi etc.

Block/Municipality-Wise Target and sanctioned cases under N.S.F.D.C. scheme:-

In 2009-2010 the physical and financial target was 21 and 25.20 lakh respectively for the Maldah district under N.S.F.D.C. scheme, but discouraging fact is that both the targets were declined to 17 for physical and 19.13 lakh for financial. Under N.S.F.D.C. scheme the sanction was more than target in Habibpur, Old Maldah Municipality and Ratua-II. In the remaining blocks the sanction was less or same compared to the target under this scheme.

6.2.4.3 M.S.Y.(Mahila Samridhi Yojona) Scheme:

M.S.Y. is Mahila Samridhi Yojona scheme and the eligibility to apply for the scheme are-

- 1) Scheduled Castes certified holder females whose yearly family income is less than Rs.40,000/- for rural areas and Rs,55,000/- for urban areas
- 2) Age between 18-55 years
- 3) Permanent Residential Proof
- 4) Self Help Groups of 7-20 members with 6 months experience in same project or individual
- 5) Ability to recover the loan etc.

Projects:-

Agriculture, Small scale industry, Animal Husbandry related economy projects between less than Rs. 25,000/-

Block/Municipality wise Target and Sanction of cases under M.S.Y. Scheme:

Table-6.8 represents women beneficiaries assisted under M.S.Y. in 2008-09 and 2009-10 in Maldah district. In 2008-09 total beneficiaries in the district was 124 and the amount of project cost was Rs.24.80 lakh. In 2009-10 the target was 210 (Appendix-XV) and total women beneficiaries declined to 38 from 124 in 2008-09 and the amount of project cost was also declined to 7.60 lakh in 2009-10 (Table-

6.8),because of the facts that the cases were sent to Head Office and due to delay in official processing the cases were pending. In Habibpur block physical and financial target under M.S.Y. cases was 33 and 6.60 lakh but 47 physical and 9.40 lakh financial project cost sent to the Head Office. The physical and financial target for the blocks and municipalities and cases sent to Head Office is represented in appendix-XV

6.2.4.4 M.K.Y. (Mahila Kishan Yojona) scheme:

The eligibility to apply for the Mahila Kishan Yojona is as follows –

- 1) Female members of the families of marginal farmers of rural areas with yearly income not more than Rs, 40,000/- per year.
- 2) Scheduled Castes Certificate Holders.
- 3) Age between 18-50 years
- 4) Ownership of agricultural land individual or jointly.
- 5) Self Help Group of 7-20 members or individual with six months experience in same project.
- 6) Ability to recover the loan etc.

Project: Only for agriculture.

Block wise target and cases sent to Head Office under M.K.Y. in Maldah District:

Very interesting fact is that there was no block wise target for M.K.Y. in the district, though 3 cases of Habibpur with project cost of Rs,1.00 lakh and one case of Manikchak with project cost Rs.0.25 lakh have been sent to the Head Office.

6.2.4.5 N.S.K.F.D.C (National Safai Karmochari Finance Development Corporation) scheme:-

The eligibility for applying for the National Safai Karmochari Finance Development Corporation Scheme are-

- 1) Scheduled Castes Certificate holder Safai Karmochari or depending persons on them.
- 2) Yearly income not more than Rs, 40,000/- for rural areas and Rs,55,000/- for urban areas .
- 3) Age limit 18 years to 55 years

- 4) Experience in related scheme
- 5) Ability to recover the loan etc.

Projects under Schemes:-

Cow rearing, wooden furniture making, garage, diesel taxi, auto, van/ rickshaw etc.

Facilities:-

Facilities given by the government for this scheme are-

- 1) Subsidy for people living below poverty line is 50% or Rs.10,000/-
- 2) 6% interest on loan
- 3) 5% share on loan more than Rs.2.00 lakh.
- 4) Education loan for vocational and technical education.

Target of the district for the N.S.K.F.D.C.:

Target for the NSKFDC of the district for the financial year 2009-10 was 4 physical and 1.84 lakh financial (Table-6.9). But availability of funds in this year was nil. Though 2 cases/applications collected upto 14th August' 09 for this scheme and percentage of recovery upto 30.06.09 is 16.86.

6.2.5 National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC):-

Under Section 25 of Companies Act, 1956 the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set-up. The main objective of NSFDC was financing income generating activities for benefiting SC & ST population living below the poverty line. The NSFDC provide funds at low interest rates to the target group through the State –level Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) and other channelising agencies for implementing various economically feasible and financially viable self employment schemes /projects in sectors such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Minor irrigation, Small industries, Trade and Services and Transport. ⁽⁷⁾

The Corporation also works with the Nationalised Banks and NABARD in improving the flow of financial assistance to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Its chief function is innovative and promotive rather than to replicate the work of other agencies. The promotional role of the corporation is to identify SC clusters

through special surveys and motivating the SCs beneficiaries, assessing their financial needs formulate various remunerative schemes for different occupational groups.

6.2.6 State Scheduled castes Development Corporation:-

The state level Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDCs) was introduced in 1978-79 to uplift the SC/ST population living below the poverty .At present SCDCs are functioning in 25states/Union Territories.The centre contributes 49% to the authorised share capital of the SCDCs against the 51% contributed by the State Government.

Thje main Schemes for the economic development of SC/ST of Maldah District of the west Bengal SCs & STs Development and Finance Corporation are S.C.P, N.S.F.D.C, M.S.Y, M.K.Y, S.S.Y, T.S.P, N.S.T.F.D.C, A.M.S.Y and N.S.K.F.D.C etc.

Table-6.8 represents that in 2008-09, out of total 330 S.C.P beneficiaries of the district 61(20.33%) are female while the percentage of females under this same scheme was 21.71 in 2009-10.So there was slight growth of female beneficiaries in this project .On the other hand the scheme M.S.Y is only for women and number of women beneficiaries decreases from 124 to 38 from 2008-09 to 2009-2010.

It is observed from the table-6.9 that in 2009-10 the target of the district for the Mahila Samridhi Yojana was 210 physical and 42.00 lakh financial.For this purpose 1094 applications were received through special camps whereas enquiry completed for only 262 cases.It was only 23.95% of of the total applicants. Only 29 applicants(13.81% of the total target.) disbursed loan of 2.90 lakh.Unde the scheme NSFDC only 2(0.90%) applicants were disbursed loan.Though applications received for the NSKFDC,MKY and SSY but there was not a single beneficiary under these scheme

Table-6.9

Different Schemes For The Scheduled Castes For The Year 2009-10

(On the Basis of Report upto- 14.08.2009)

Schemes	Target		Applications Received Through Spl.Camps.	Enquiry Completed	Loan Disbursed	
	Physical	Financial (Lakh)			Physical	Financial (Lakh)
1.MSY	210	42.00	1094	262	29	2.90
2.NSFDC	21	25.20	132	34	02	4.80
3.NSKFDC	04	1.84	02	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.MKY	-	-	451	95	-	-
5.SSY	-	-	36	08	-	-

Source:W.B. SC&ST DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION,MALDAH.

Table 6.10 represents that in 2009-10 SC/ST Development Corporation collected 4680 applications for the SCP scheme. For this scheme bank sanctioned Rs. 17.30 lakh for 173 beneficiaries and subsidy released Rs. 16.70 lakh for 167 beneficiaries.

Table-6.10

SCP(SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN), 2009-10

Achievement up to 20th July,2009

Applications Collected through Spl. Camps	Enquiry Completed	Loan Sanctioned by Bank		Subsidy Released	
		Physical	Financial (Lakh)	Physical	Financial (Lakh)
4680 for target 1351 physical	1,084	173	17.30	167	16.70

Source:W.B. SC&ST DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION.

6.3 The Suggestions for the Socio- Economic Upliftment:

The major thrust of the present study is to identify major economic parameters such as occupation of scheduled castes, their standard of living, food, clothes, house type etc. and to identify major social parameters such as education, migration, religion, family planning measures, superstitions, to explore political awareness and involvement etc and to suggest ways for their socio- economic upliftment in pursuit of

these aims occupational status, political awareness and involvement, educational attainment and educational mobility over three successive generations, namely father of respondent, respondent and grandfather of respondent have been examined separately for both rural and urban areas of the district. The study consists of 1144 house holds of 50 sample sites of 15 block of the Maldah district. The scheduled castes are socially oppressed, economically poor, culturally and educationally backward .The suggestions for their socio- economic upliftment are-

1) Majority of them have no knowledge of beneficial and welfare schemes provided to them (like –S.C.P, N.S.F.D.C, M.S.Y, M.K.Y, N.S.K.F.D.C and Education loan up to Rs.7.5 -15lakh for medical, technical, M.B.A. etc) by the state and central government. So, it is suggested that there is need to aware them about these various schemes introduced by the Government for their socio-economic development.

2) There are a number of laws, both central and state, which provide for safeguards to scheduled castes like the protection of civil Rights Act (1955), The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act; 1989, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act,1976,the child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act; 1986, The Minimum Wages Act; 1948,The Pnachayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act; 1996, etc,

The Protection of civil Rights (PCR) Act of 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989, are the two important equipments which prevent the atrocities against scheduled castes. Almost all the scheduled castes have no knowledge about these laws and safeguards. So, both Govt. and Non Governmental Organisations should take steps to aware them that person affected by the practice of untouchability and discrimination may approach the police station and register F.I.R(First Information Report) as per provision under Sections 3 to 7 of the Protection of civil Rights Act. 1955,

3) The educational status of scheduled castes continues to be much lower than that of the society. For the educational development of scheduled Casts students the following steps to be taken by the Government-

a) At present the book grant for the S.C. students of High School level are as follows in 2009-10.

Table-6.11
CLASS-WISE BOOK GRANT FOR SCs STUDENTS

Class	Book grant (In Rs.)
V	20
VI	150
VII	200
VIII	280
IX	500
X	75+160 (Exam fee)

Source: District Welfare Office, Maldah,2010.

It is suggested that the amount of book grant should be increased for them and Government should bear total cost of books for the families living below poverty line and for the students who are first generation learners of poor families .

b) A total of 1144 respondents are covered in this study from all the blocks of Maldah district. The study reveals that the illiteracy rate among scheduled castes is decreasing. The illiterate scheduled castes living below poverty line or who are of low income groups should be aware that in the case of them income might be less important. The facilities for education are being provided by the government with, free education; free Ashram Hostels, scholarships hostel facilities, reservation in admission and employment. So, educational development may not be dependent on income.

c) There are only 595 seats in hostels for the S.C. students studying in class V to X in the 8 block of the Maldah district, of which 461 (77%) seats are in Gazole block, 28 (4.70%) seats are in Habibpur Block, 25 (4.20%) Seats in each Bamangola and Harischandrapur – I block and 24 seats (4%) are in English Bazar block. The students of these hostels get Rs. 750X10 months) in 10 months for their education. The table-6.12 represents the facts

Table-6.12

Block wise Distribution of S.C Students in School Hostel

Maldah District, 2009-2010

Blocks	Qualification	Financial Assistance	Students in Hostels	
			Total No	%
Gazole	Class V To X	Rs. 7500 (Rs. 750X 10 Months)	461	77.48
Habibpur			28	4.71
Bamangola			25	4.20
Old Maldah			12	2.02
Ratua – I			3	0.50
Harishchandrpur-I			25	4.20
Kaliachak-II			17	2.86
Eng. Bazar			24	4.03
Total:			595	100%

Source: Project officer-cum-District Welfare Office, Maldah.

So, it is clear that of the 15 blocks of Maldah district, the students of 7 blocks are out of this facility, though a huge no. of scheduled castes lives in these block. So these types of hostels for S.C. students should be established in all the block of the district for the educational development. It is also suggested that no. of seats should also be increased in these hostels.

d) For the higher education the scheduled castes should be informed by the government or non-government agencies about the 'Education Loan which is introduced in the year 2010 for the scheduled castes students to study medical engineering, M.B.A. etc. The amount of loan is 7.5 Lakh in India and upto 15 lakh in other countries @ 5% interest. The applicant should have the SC certificate and their annual family income not exceeds Rs 53000/- for urban areas and Rs 40,000/- for rural areas. It is suggested that the upper income limit should be increased to Rs. 1.5 lakh for urban areas and Rs. 1.0 lakh for rural areas for the education loan.

e) District welfare Officer has introduced "Job Oriented Course" for the scheduled castes students from the session 2010-11. Majority of the respondents have no informations of these types of courses. So, it is also suggested that they must be informed by advertisement or by special camps. Besides this the no. of seats are very

limited for them (Table-6.13). So, it is also suggested that the government should increase the no. of seats for the “Job Oriented Courses” for their betterment.

Table-6.13

Job Oriented Courses for S.C. Students
Maldah District 2010-11

Course	Qualification	Seats	Financial Assistance
Advanced Diploma in Information Technology	H.S	30	Rs. 750 for the candidates of English Bazar and Rs 1500 for the other regions per month.
Diploma in P.C. Hardware and Networking	M.P.	30	
Diploma in Software Technology	H.S	21	
Diploma in P.C. Hardworking and Networking	H.S	21	
Joint Entrance / IIT etc.	M.P	16	Rs. 400/- per month.

Source: Project Officer-Cum-District Welfare Office, Maldah.

The study revealed that the names of the many schemes for the educational and economic development were never heard by the majority of students as well as respondents of the study area (Appendix-XXI). So, the Government should take proper step to inform them. “Published reports of the department, however, regularity showed thousands of students as having benefited; and huge amounts were shown to have been disbursed. It could not be ascertained where that amount had actually gone year after year.” ⁽⁸⁾So, scheduled castes should be aware of these facts for their development.

Suggestions for Economic Development: The Article 335 states that “the claims of the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of the State.” The constitution also made provisions for their socio-economic and political development besides reservation in employment.

The Article 46 of the constitution states the state shall promote with special care of the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and

in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

According to the above said provisions, steps are being taken to promote economic interest of scheduled casts and the planning Commission, in the Five-year plans, earmarked certain amount. A new strategy was evolved finding the results unsatisfactory in the Sixth Five year Plan (1980-85). The strategy comprises

- 1) The Special Component plans (S.C.P)
- 2) Special Central Assistance and
- 3) The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations.

According to the information of W.B. SC& ST Development and Finance Corporation (Table-6.10), Maldah District Branch, the target of the district under SCP in 2009-2010 was 1351 physical, for this scheme 4680 applications collected through special camps and 1084 enquiry completed up to 20th July, 09. Bank sanctioned loan for 173 persons Rs.17, 30,000 and subsidy released Rs.16,70,000 for 173 physical cases. So, both the physical and financial target should be increased for their economic development.

Problems faced by beneficiaries and suggestion-

1) Few respondents reported that their names were entered as beneficiaries of loans under different schemes but actually the amounts go in to different pockets and in this way they have been deprived.

It is revealed from the study that no person from the concerned government offices had come to their village to inform them about the various government schemes for their economic development. Majority of them were informed about the schemes by the other concerned beneficiaries and by the middleman.

So, it is suggested that the government should take necessary steps to inform them about the schemes and their terms and conditions. It is also revealed from the study that they spent on the average about 7-8 working days per month on pursuing the application relating to loan-cum-subsidy due to illiteracy and backwardness. So, all the banks should take necessary steps that they can get the loan directly without the activity of middleman.

2) Few of the respondents reported that the loan amount they received from the bank was not full amount. Bank gave them their loan amount deducting margin money from their actual loan amount.

As a result sometimes few respondents utilize their loan amount for other purposes and the main objective of the scheme failed. On the other hand they are forced to pay the interest and principle amount of the loan failing which bank declared them as 'Defaulters' and they deprived of future loan. So, it is suggested that the banks should give actual amount of the loan to them and observed strictly the purpose of the loan is fulfilled or not.

3) The M.S.Y (Mahila Samridhi Yojana) scheme is very important for the development of scheduled castes females through agriculture, animal husbandry, small industry etc. At present the rate of interest of bank loan for this scheme is 3%. It is revealed from the study that the rate of interest should be decreased and subsidy for the M.S.Y scheme should be increased.

4) Like M.SY, the rate of interest of the loan of other projects like S.C.P, N.S.F.D.C, Micre Credit, M.K.Y, N.S.K.F.D.C et.c should also decreased and the subsidy amount from the government should be increased.

5) P.M.E.G (Prime Minister Employment Generation) scheme play vital role in economic development of the scheduled castes because-

- There is no upper limit of income of families.
- The maximum loan amount is Rs.25 lakh for industry and Rs.10 lakh for service sector.
- No educational qualification is required for the loan below Rs.10 lakh for industry and below Rs.5 lakh for service sector. Minimum educational qualification of class VIII is required for the loan above Rs.10 lakh for industry and above Rs.5 lakh for service sector.
- No mortgage up to Rs.5 lakh.
- 2-3 weeks of training after the sanction of loan.

Table-6.14
Prime Minister Employment Generation Scheme

Category	Subsidy		Bank Loan	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
General	25%	15%	85%	75%
SC/ST/Minority(Females)	35%	25%	75%	65%
Ex Army/P.H.	35%	25%	75%	65%

Source: District Industrial Centre, Maldah.

The rate of interest of loan under PMEG scheme should be decreased and subsidy should be increased from 35% of rural areas and 25% of urban areas. The number of beneficiaries under this scheme is very few in this district compared to the General castes. At present there are only 47 SC beneficiaries under this in 2009-10(Appendix-III). So, government should take necessary steps to increase the number of beneficiaries from the backward section like scheduled castes of the district.

6) Ceiling of the income of the applicants should be increased for the loan. At present the ceiling of the income for the different schemes for scheduled castes are represented in the table-6.15.

Table-6.15
Ceiling of Income and Schemes for the scheduled castes

Schemes	Ceiling of income(Rs)	
	Rural	Urban
S.C.P	<19,954	<27287
N.S.F.D.C	<40,000	<55,000
M.S.Y	<40,000	<55,000
Micro credit	<40,000	<55,000
Mahila KishanYojana	<40,000	<55,000
N.S.K.F.D.C	<40,000	<55,000

Source: West Bengal scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes Development &Finace Corporation, Maldah, 2010.

At present the annual income of the families have increased and it is suggested that the annual ceiling for loans should be increased from Rs.40,000 to Rs, 1.0 lakh for rural areas and from Rs 50,000 to Rs. 1.5 lakh for urban areas.

7) Government should take necessary steps for the skill development of scheduled castes and to review their development after every 6 months.

8) The infrastructure of the district is not sufficient to train the scheduled castes for different job oriented course .So it is suggested that the infrastructure should be developed for the betterment of the scheduled castes.

9) The co-operation among the different departments which are working for the development of the scheduled castes, should be increased.

10)Animal husbandry,fishing,agriculture,horticulture,floiculture,food processing etc. are the base of economy of the rural people of the district. The people should select their occupation from these and the concerned government department should extend their co-operation.

11) According to Manager, W.B. SC&ST Development and Finance Corporation Maldah, the departments should issue certificates for the trained scheduled castes and the S.C & S.T. Development Corporation can easily sanction loans for the trained scheduled castes.

12) Almost all the fishermen practice fishing in other ponds on lease and hence their rate of development is slow. So, the government should take proper step for the development of the scheduled castes fishermen.

13) “Political pollution” should be checked for the overall development of the scheduled castes.

14)Progress of registration of SCs under District Employment Exchange was 428, 665 and 840 in 2007,2008 and 2009 but only 40,18 and 24 candidates were placed in different jobs in 2007,2008 and 2009 respectively(Appendix-XIII &XIV). So, the government should be aware of unemployment of SCs and to create job opportunities.

15) Indira Awas Yojana for BPL families: In 1985-86 Central Government of India introduced Indira Awas Yojana for the benefit of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers in the rural areas who generally have substandard housing facilities. It is being implemented with the financial assistance released by the Department of Rural Development under the Rural Employment Programme. At present in the Maldah district, under this programme, Rs. 35000/- per unit is being provided for construction of dwelling unit, low-cost sanitation and infrastructure of dwelling unit.

Block wise allotment of IAY was highest in Manikchak block (480 S.C families) followed by Gazole (317), Habibpur (208) and Kaliachak III (188). It was nil for the English bazaar and Kaliachak block (Appendix-XVI.). So, it is suggested that the distribution of IAY fund should be uniform compared to the total Scheduled castes families of the block.

16) Self Help Groups:

The programme of entrepreneurship development among women through the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) has a very positive impact on woman empowerment. Through entrepreneurship development women will not generate income for herself but also generate employment for the other women in the locality. At present SCs are the members of different SHGs. Appendix IX, X, XI and XII represents the involvement of SCs in SHGs. So, the government should take steps to involve the SCs women in large number for their economic development.

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CHAPTER 7

Conclusion

7.0 Conclusion

It is proved from the previous studies that the Scheduled Castes were kept apart from the rest of the society due to the prevalent practice of untouchability. The Indian caste system based on the notion of purity and pollution believed that the Scheduled Castes were impure and polluted. Prior to independence and even later, they had been the poorest of the poor, and socially and economically most backward caste of the country. In spite of many socio-economic securities provided to them in the constitution and by the government, they are still comparatively less educated, backward and in the dilemma of privilege and exploitation. This could be attributed to a variety of reasons such as illiteracy, social evils like gambling, liquor and litigation, superstition, dominance of higher castes, deprivation from socio-economic status due to their treatment as 'Sudras in the society' stratification on Manu system, inferiority complex against other castes and misuse of privileges and rights constitutionally provided to them. The schedule castes are comparatively backward in occupational, educational, social, cultural, religious and political sector.

After independence Scheduled Castes are going under social and economic changes both in rural and urban areas. Various constitutional amendments gave rights to scheduled castes. They are also given reserved quotas on various organizations in order to abolish untouchability and other taboos. All these have led to changes in their attitude towards society and social values and norms. They are gradually not only accepting but have also started practicing certain measures of family planning. They are becoming more conscious about the education and job of their children. Their attitude towards religion, child marriage, superstitions, etc. is changing. Economic transformation is also not lagging behind. By and large, they are no longer bonded or permanent labourers. They are now gradually becoming marginal farmers and have started working in non-agricultural sectors too.

But there are a lot of spatio-temporal variations in the modes of socio-economic status among them and their standard of living with regard to structural relationship among sub-castes and social contacts with other castes of the region of their habitation. The scheduled castes residing in urban areas or in urban fringe or even in

immediate surrounding urban villages are more dynamic in their social change in comparison to their own counterpart living in remote, distant and rural areas. Educationally they are forward and politically aware of their right and privileges provided in the constitution for the welfare of their community. They are now willingly adopting the practice and measures of family planning in order to provide better food, clothes, education and medical facilities to their children. Socially they are adopting modernity and now they believe more in adult marriage, remarriage, love marriage and even in freedom of women but less in litigation, superstition, gambling, drinking and such other social mysticism. But the rural scheduled castes are in slow process of moving out from the grip of old and traditional bound social values like child marriage, widowhood, superstitions etc. Though the social parameters of these scheduled castes are changing and are taking a new shape, yet conservatism is still prevalent in their society. Hence, their social change is slow as compared to that of rural scheduled castes. The old and uneducated generations of rural scheduled castes are still fantastic and they consider any change as providential event and as a human choice. The effect of such conservative ideas may be observed in their large size of family as a measure for social security and instrument for generating economic pursuits. But the new and educated generation of rural scheduled castes which is in contact with their own community in urban areas or in the contact of higher castes of the society does not believe in conservative values regarding size, structure and system of the family. The educated scheduled caste women generally treated backward among backwards among backwards are protesting against traditional social values. They are now motivated by the glamour, customs and costumes of urban elite. The broad changes affected by religious movements and other process of change such as westernization, sanskritisation, individual upward mobility of scheduled castes for material advantages, politico-social power and the infiltration of urbanization to remote and rural areas altogether have affected the social life of these rural scheduled castes to a considerable extent.

The scheduled castes are no more bonded, permanent and landless labourer. They have become more conscious about the economic gain and returns from their

various pursuits. Many of them after getting land by government under different schemes of land distribution to landless, have started agricultural practices and hence, have become marginal farmers. A considerable segment of rural scheduled castes community are now working in non agricultural sectors like building construction, road construction and its maintenance, factories and in private shops in urban centres within and outside the region. The educated rural scheduled castes now prefer non-agricultural activities and the considerable number of such youth is in banking, marketing, education, administration and judicial services.

Education is crucial parameter of social and human development. Thus, education has emerged as the only hope for the deprived and to improve their socio-economic status. While the definition of equality has changed over time, the provisions for positive discrimination incorporated in the Indian Constitution combine equality of access with that of outcome. This explains the preferential treatment in the form of 'reservations' for the Scheduled Castes in the educational institutions and in the Central and State Government organizations.

The policy of reservations enabled the hitherto deprived sections to receive higher education and also move into the organized sector occupations thereby opening channels of mobility for some of the Scheduled Castes. This has given rise to the debate as to whether the Scheduled Caste 'elite' who have benefited from the policy of positive discrimination or affirmative action should continue to enjoy these privileges and whether the policy of positive discrimination or affirmative action should continue to enjoy these privileges and whether the policy should be modified to exclude them. These questions were relevant when this study was undertaken. Even now they continue to be part of the public debate, though almost all the respondents still want the reservation facility for the education and job of their children.

In the five decades since independence, a plethora of studies on the Scheduled Castes have been undertaken. Yet very few have focused on the specific question of

the interlinkages between social context and occupational mobility using education as the intervening variable.

India was declared as Welfare State after independence and the growth of social justice and social order maintenance are considered ultimate objective of social welfare policy. The policy making bodies were constituted by the Union and State government as well as Cabinet and legislature in the parliamentary democracy. The role of planning commission and NDC (National Development Council) in the different type's policy making for the development of Scheduled Castes is very important. Beside these two crucial committees, Estimate Committee and PAC (Public Accounts Committee) at central level are also playing vital role in welfare of backward classes.

There are a number of laws, both central and state which provide safeguards to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The government policy is guided by the protective discrimination towards the weaker sections of the society. After independence Indian constitution has provided special concessions for the development. For this reason, few castes and tribes have been included in the scheduled based on social and economic disabilities.

The constitution of India which contains Directive Principle of the State Policy, laid down in Article 15(4) that the State to make special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Article 16(4) enable the state to make the provisions for the reservational posts in favor of any backward class of citizens. It is specified in Article 46, that the state promote with special care, the education and economic interest of the weaker sections the people and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Specific provisions have been outlined in Articles, 16, 27, 330 & 334 of the constitution of India in order to fulfill the promise of Directive Principle of State policy. Reservations of seats for Scheduled Castes in the State Legislation and in the Parliament are also provided by these Articles. The Article 335 of the constitution needs the state to take into account, the claim of the

number of Scheduled Castes in the appointment in various services. It is clearly mentioned in the Article 17 of the Constitution that untouchability is abolished and the practice in any form is forbidden.

Before the Poona Pact (1932) the representation of the Scheduled Castes in the public services was negligible. The main cause for this situation was educational backwardness amongst the Scheduled Castes. The term 'Scheduled Castes' was used for the first time in the Government of India provided reservation at the rate of 8.33% for the Scheduled Castes in vacancies filled by direct recruitment through open competition in August 1943. Relaxation in the upper age limit and concession in the examination fees prescribed for appointment to a service or post were also announced in favour of Scheduled Castes candidates.

Most of the SCs have experienced dramatic change in their status due to educational and occupational mobility. The occupational mobility is intra generational as well as inter generational. In order words, there is drastic improvement in the occupations of the sons, who are the respondents in the study, in comparison to those of their fathers. In addition, quite a few of them have had to work on temporary, part-time and casual jobs. The present jobs are not necessarily their first jobs although it is the present jobs which have provided occupational mobility and the much desired social mobility.

The rigorous implementation of SC/ST reservation policy not only in employment but also in promotional avenues has given additional incentives to them for white collar jobs. Some scheduled castes have started even their own commercial and industrial enterprises under self-employment schemes of the government. A large number of scheduled castes have been benefited with various schemes of the government such as loans, subsidies and animal husbandry etc. which in turn have brought economic prosperity among them.

Correlation Between Variables:

A correlation is a single number that describes the degree of relationship between two variables. The correlation is one of the most common and most useful statistics. The correlation between variables of the study are represented in the following tables-

Table-7.1 Showing the correlation between *B.P.L Scheduled Castes families* and important socio-economic variables-

Variables(X)	
Large Families(>6 Members)	.811
Crude Literacy Rate	-.739
Head of the Families Between 30-45 age group	-.964
Respondents Preferring Private Nursery School	-.821
Respondents Completing Education on Regular Basis	-.906
Discontinuation in Education	.636
Respondents Discriminated by Higher Castes	.477
Awareness of Laws for Scheduled Castes	-.742
Respondents Preferring Inter-Caste Marriage	-.808
Dowry System Present in Families	.756
Awareness of Family Planning	-.850
High Monthly Expenditure for Food(Rs.>5,000)	-.634
High Monthly Expenditure for Education (Rs.>1,000)	-.687
Mango Production	-.768

Correlation is Significant at the 0.05 Level (2-tailed).

Source: Calculated by Researcher Based on Field Work.

Table- 7.1 represents that among the 14 parameters there are 4 variables which have strong positive correlation with B.P.L families and 10 variables are negatively correlated with the B.P.L families. The values of correlation depicts that there is positive relationship between the percentage of B.P.L families and large families, B.P.L families and discontinuation in education, B.P.L families and discrimination by higher castes and B.P.L families and dowry system present in families. Negative correlation is observed between B.P.L families and crude literacy rate, B.P.L. families and awareness of family planning etc.

Table- 7.2 represents that there are four variables which are positively correlated with the large family size and nine variables have negative correlation with the large family size.

B.P.L. Families, Discontinuation in Education, Dowry System Present in Families ect. are positively correlated with the Large Families. Crude Literacy Rate, Respondents Completing Education on Regular Basis, Awareness of Laws for Scheduled Castes, Respondents Preferring Inter-Caste Marriage, and Awareness of Family Planning etc. are negatively correlated with the large size families.

Table: - 7.2 showing the relationship between *Large Family Size of Scheduled Castes* and important socio-economic variables-

Variables(X)	
B.P.L. Families	.811
Crude Literacy Rate	-.644
Head of the Families Between 30-45 age group	-.840
Respondents Preferring Private Nursery School	-.938
Respondents Completing Education on Regular Basis	-.743
Discontinuation in Education	.593
Awareness of Laws for Scheduled Castes	-.560
Respondents Preferring Inter-Caste Marriage	-.780
Dowry System Present in Families	.621
Awareness of Family Planning	-.619
Fishing Activity	.582
Preference of Medical(Doctor) Profession	-.509
Preference of Engineering Profession	-.821

Correlation is Significant at the 0.05 Level (2-tailed).

Source: Calculated by Researcher Based on Field Work

Table -7.3: represents the positive and negative relationship between **crude literacy rate among SCs and** other variables. It is clear that of the 15 variables four have strong negative correlation with the crude literacy rate while remaining eleven have positive correlation with the crude literacy rate. B.P.L. Families, Discontinuation in Education, Dowry System Present in Families and Large Family Size are negatively correlated with the Crude Literacy Rate. Awareness of Laws for Scheduled Castes, Preference of Inter-Caste Marriage, Awareness of Family Planning, High Monthly Income etc. are positively correlated with the Crude Literacy Rate.

Table: - 7.3: Showing the relationship between *Crude Literacy Rate* of Scheduled Castes and important socio-economic variables-

Variables(X)	
B.P.L. Families	-.739
Head of the Families Between 30-45 age group	.779
Respondents Preferring Private Nursery School	.654
Respondents Completing Education on Regular Basis	.729
Discontinuation in Education	-.591
Awareness of Laws for Scheduled Castes	.730
Respondents Preferring Inter-Caste Marriage	.855
Dowry System Present in Families	-.783
Awareness of Family Planning	.643
Preference of Medical(Doctor) Profession	.525
Preference of Engineering Profession	.658
Large Family Size(>6 Members)	-.644
High Monthly Income(Rs.>10,000)	.638
High Monthly Expenditure for Food(Rs.>5,000)	.687
High Monthly Expenditure for Education (Rs.>1,000)	.643

Correlation is Significant at the 0.05 Level (2-tailed).

Source: Calculated by Researcher Based on Field Work

7.4: Showing the relationship between families with *high monthly income* (Rs.>10,000) and important socio-economic variables-

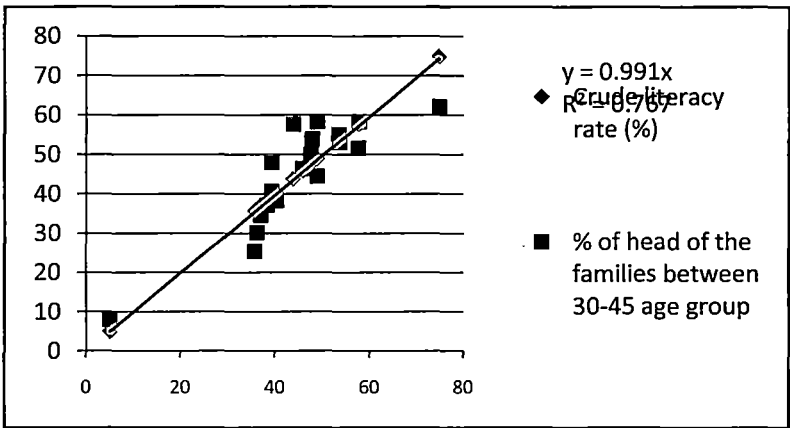
Variables(X)	
Large Family Size (>6 members)	-.320
Crude Literacy Rate	.638
Head of the Families Between 30-45 age group	.651
Respondents Preferring Private Nursery School	.306

Correlation is Significant at the 0.05 Level (2-tailed).

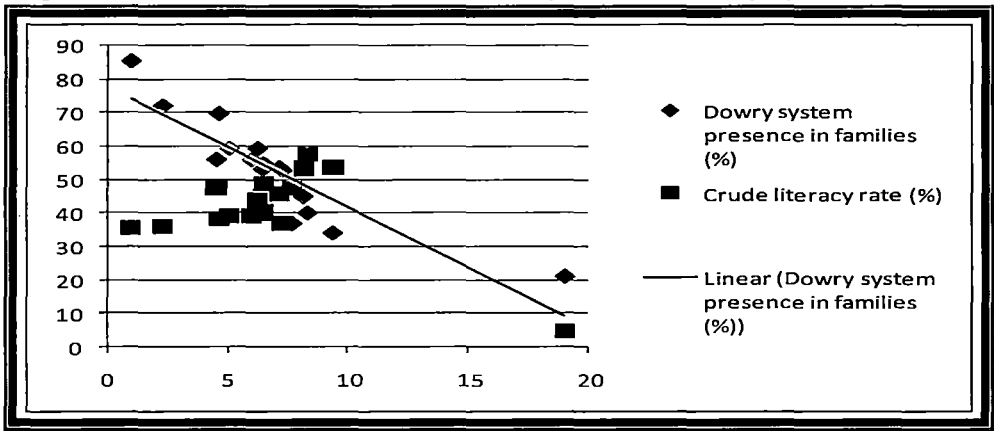
Source: Calculated by Researcher Based on Field Work

-7.4 represents the positive and negative relationship between families with high monthly income and other variables. It is clear that of the 4variables large family size families are negatively correlated while remaining 3(Crude Literacy Rate, Head of the Families Between 30-45 age group and Respondents Preferring Private Nursery School) have positive correlation with the families with high monthly income

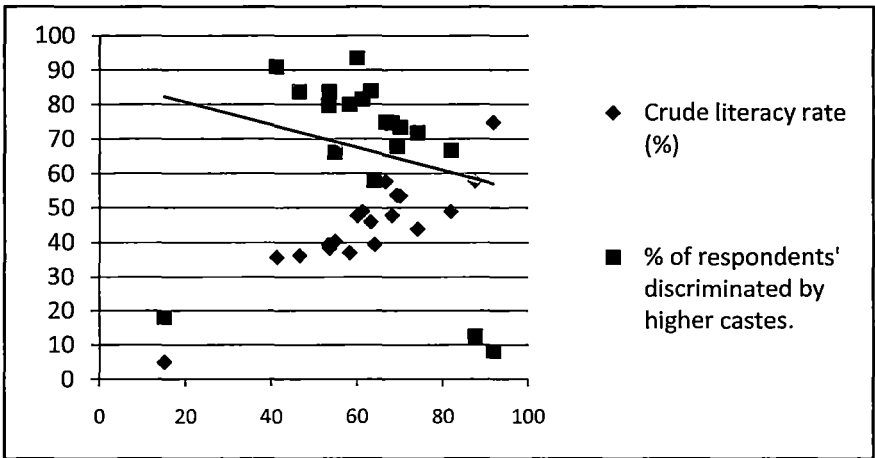
Positive Correlation between Head of the Families Between 30-45 age group and Crude Literacy Rate



Negative correlation between crude literacy rate and dowry system-



Negative Correlation between Crude Literacy Rate and Discrimination by higher castes



The major findings of the study helped to fulfill the seven objectives –

❖ *The first objective of to describe the spatial variations in distribution of scheduled castes of Maldah district with reference to their major demographic characteristics;*

It is revealed from the study that there is high variation in the concentration of the SCs. The highest concentration of SCs is found in Bamangola block (49.87%), while the lowest concentration is found in Kaliachak block (2.68%). Depending on the percentage of the SCs to total population of the block, Maldah district is divided into 3 zones i.e. areas of low concentration (<15%), the areas of moderate concentration (15-30%) and areas of high concentration (>30%).

The blocks –Kaliachak-I, Kaliachak-II, Kaliachak-III, Harischandrapur-II, Ratua-I, Ratua-II and Manikchak with the concentration of SCs <15% falls under areas of low concentration. Harischandrapur-I, Old Maldah and English Bazar are the areas of moderate concentration accounting percentage of SCs 15-30%, to total population of the block. High concentration of the SCs is found in the 3 blocks of the district viz. Gazole, Habibpur and Bamangola with concentration of SCs >30%.

The sex ratio of scheduled castes is highest in Chanchal-II block (996) while it is lowest in English Bazar Block (921). The encouraging fact is that the child sex-ratio (0-6 age) is 1006 and 1020 in Ratua I and Ratua-II blocks respectively. The sex ratio of the total SCs of the district is 946 and the child sex ratio is 966.

The majority respondents are aware of family planning programmes and they are adopting the family planning programmes. The gender biasness is clearly reflected in adopting family planning programmes, because more than 80% respondents have favoured female adaptation while 20% respondents have favoured male adaptation.

In the Maldah district both internal and international migrations among the scheduled Castes respondents have been observed. Out of total 1071 rural respondents 392 (36.60%) are migrated and out of 73 urban respondents 30(41.10%) are migrated. 26.28% rural respondents and 13.33% urban respondents are

international migrants. The main cause for the migration in rural areas is economic and in urban area is social.

❖ *The second objective is to identify the major economic parameters such as occupation of scheduled castes, their standard of living, food, clothes, house type, recreation, mode of transport etc.*

In 7 blocks out of total 15 blocks majority of the Scheduled Castes families are living below poverty line, while there is not a single block in the district which has BPL families more than 50% in terms of total population. In Chanchal II and Ratua II blocks more than 75 % Scheduled Castes families belong to B.P.L. In rural areas 46.04% population are earning and in urban areas 32.73% population are earning population. Among the scheduled castes 23.88% is cultivators, 38.98% agricultural laboures, 8.30% household industry workers and 28.84% is other workers (2001). Of the total cultivators 64.50% produce crops on subsistence basis. 70.14% farmers produce vegetable on subsistence basis. The percentage of Scheduled Castes beneficiaries is very low compared to the general beneficiaries under different schemes of sericulture department. Of the total 827 fruit producers 96.86% produce mango, for which Maldah district is famous.

Majority of the Scheduled Castes respondents (84.06% rural and 83.05% urban) got their job under reserve category. Majority of the Scheduled Castes (90.91% rural and 75% urban) got their promotion under reserve category. According to 49.58% rural and 87.67% urban respondents' reservation had fulfilled their purpose. According to 92.16% rural and 90.41% urban respondents' role of reservation policy in the improvement of their socio-economic status is to a large extent.

The findings of the study on job are –

➤ Majority of the rural respondents (50.70%) joined their first job below 14 years of age, whereas only 1.37% urban respondent joined job before 14 years of age.

➤ Maximum (43.77%) rural respondents leave their job to get better job while maximum urban (47.83%) respondents leave their first job for government job.

➤ Study revealed that of the total 696 rural respondents of low socio-economic status 423 (60.78%) hold low income level occupation while of the 171 respondents of high socio-economic status, 130 (76.02%) hold high income level of job.

Findings on Housing Condition:

➤ In urban area 95.89% respondents have pucca house while in rural areas only 10.27 respondents have pucca house. It indicates the poor condition of the rural areas.

➤ All the urban respondents have sanitation facility while in rural area 81.79% have this facility.

Of the 1071 rural respondents majority (56.86%) have kutcha, only 10.27% have pucca and 32.87% have party pucca and party kutcha house. In urban areas 95.89 % houses are pucca and 4.11% are partly pucca and partly kutcha. Rural-urban disparity is again observed in house type. All the urban respondents have sanitation facility while in rural area 81.79% have this facility.

The monthly income 82.19% urban scheduled castes families is Rs.10, 000/- and above and only 24.74% rural families earn Rs.10, 000/- and above. The consumption for food Rs >5000 per month is found in 82.19% urban and only 9.24 rural families. The educational expenditure of maximum rural families (43.98%) is Rs.<300 per month, while it is for maximum urban families (41.10%) is Rs. 1000 – 2000. Only 51.82% rural respondents have savings for future, whereas 95.89% urban respondents have savings.

The use of A.C., air-cooler, micro-oven in rural areas is nil even majority of the respondents don't know about micro-oven. Of the total urban respondents 18(24.66%) use A.C and Air-cooler and 16(21.92%) use micro-oven. Exposure to mass media is an important indicator of socio-economic development of a society, because it affects knowledge, attitude, and opinion of individual. An

attempt has been made to assess the level of exposure of the respondents by asking the questions regarding various sources of mass-media such as radio, T.V., newspaper, computer with internet etc. It is observed that the urban scheduled castes are more exposed than rural.

71.27% urban and only 12.42% rural families take milk every day in a week. Majority of the urban families (57.53%) eat fish 3 days per week whereas maximum rural families (30.63%) eat fish 2 days per week. Egg is comparatively cheap than fish and meat and used more as food by the both rural and urban families. Meat is very costly and only 347 (32.40%) rural families out of 1071 eat meat regularly in week whereas remaining 67.60% eat occasionally. On the other hand all the urban families consume meat weekly.

The dress pattern of the urban respondents is more developed and modern than rural. Majority of rural respondents purchase dress 1-2 times, whereas majority of urban respondents purchase more than 3 times in a year.

Of the total respondents 26.23% and 65.75% are owner of cars and motor bikes whereas in rural areas only 0.47% and 11.48% respondents are owner of cars and motor bikes. Bi-cycle is the main personal mode of transport of rural respondents (93.46%).

❖ ***The third objective is to identify the major social parameters such as education, migration, marriage, religion, family planning programmes, superstitions, political awareness and involvement.***

Findings on the study of education are –

- Majority of the Scheduled Castes are illiterates throughout all the three successive generations, respondent, father and grandfather.
- The majority of the urban respondents and their father and grand-father are literates over three successive generations.

➤ Of the 216 rural respondents who achieved different educational qualifications compared to their fathers, 211 (97.69%) have moved up where as 5 (2.31%) went down in educational attainment.

➤ Compared to the grandfather out of 455 rural respondents who achieved different educational qualifications, 451 (99.12%) have moved up where as only 4 (0.88%) have moved down in terms of educational attainment.

➤ 269 (95.37%) fathers of the total 281 fathers in rural areas with different qualification compared to the respondents' grand-father have moved up in terms of educational attainment.

➤ Percentage of respondents who completed their education on regular basis is more in urban (88.41%) area than rural area (63.87%).

➤ 190 (40.86%) respondents of rural areas and 9(13.04%) respondents of urban area have discontinuation in education. The rate of discontinuation in education is high (44.21%) at primary level in rural area whereas in urban area the rate is high (66.67%) in college level.

➤ Majority of the urban (55.56%) and rural respondents (84.21%) had discontinued their education due to the financial problem. Dropout rate of children is observed more in rural areas at primary level.

➤ Majority of the urban respondents (52.17%) had completed their education without job during study whereas only 12.69% rural respondents completed their education without job.

➤ Majority of the rural respondents (53.92%) did not avail any facility at school level due to the lack of knowledge and they used to feel bad to disclose their caste.

➤ Majority, 298 (64.09%) of the rural literates belong to the low socio-economic status and of them only 52 (17.45%) achieved high, 87(29.19%) achieve medium and 159(53.36%) achieved low educational level. So, level of literacy of the majority respondents highly depend on the socio-economic status of their families

Findings of the study on migration are –

- 26.28% rural respondents and 13.33% urban respondents are international migrants.
- The main cause for the migration in rural areas is economic and in urban area is social.

Finding of the Study on attitude towards marriage, dowry system and family planning measures:

Followings are the findings of the study on attitude towards marriage, dowry system and family planning measures:

- The attitude of SCs respondents has undergone a major change like discouraging child marriage, encouraging widow marriage, love marriage and inter-caste marriage; 34.97% females are married in rural area in the age group 14-18, whereas no female is married in this age group in urban area.
- They are becoming more liberal and receptive to modern ideologies;
- They are aware of disadvantages and limitations of childhood marriage;
- At present they are conscious about the age of marriage of their child. More than 50% respondents have opted more than 18 years as age of the marriage for their daughter;
- They prefer love marriage which is a sign of social transformation;
- Respondents have given their choice for inter-caste marriage which also indicates the sign of social transformation;
- The dowry system in the society is still prevalent though there are different laws and legislations. According to majority (54.25%) rural respondents'

dowry is prevalent in their society whereas according to only 17.81% urban respondents dowry is prevalent in urban society;

➤ Respondents opted for inter professional marriage for their children. It indicates the social transformation;

➤ The urban respondents are more aware of family planning programmes than rural and they are adopting the family planning programmes; and

➤ That gender biasness is clearly reflected in adopting family planning programmes, because more than 80% respondents have favoured female adaptation while 20% respondents have favoured male adaptation.

Findings on religion –

➤ The majority of respondents believe in religion moderately & strictly;

➤ Percentage of respondents who believe in religion is more in villages compared to towns.

➤ 64.52 % respondent of villages and 56.16 % of respondents of urban areas follow religious rules strictly in routine life.

➤ The majority of urban and rural respondents visit religious places of the district frequently while number of urban respondents who visit religious places of other districts and states frequently is than rural respondents.

➤ Almost all the respondent offer special puja before starting new job.

➤ Almost all the respondents worship more at the time of hardship and distress.

➤ Religious superstition is found in family of majority of respondents.

➤ Rural and urban respondents arrange puja and the expenditure for puja per year exceeds Rs. 1500 of 03.73% rural and 83.56% urban respondents.

➤ 61.72% rural and 47.95% urban respondents have separate place of worship.

➤ More than 90% urban and rural respondents believe that happiness and sorrowness in their families comes from god.

The findings on the study of the political awareness of the respondents are –

- Urban respondents' are more politically aware than rural.
- Number of respondents working of party election is more (43.98%) in rural area than urban (23.29%).
- Almost all the respondents are aware of the fact that frequent holding of election is high expensive for country.

❖ *The fourth objective is to find out the determinants of socio-economic status of scheduled castes of Maldah district.*

Literacy rate and educational attainment:

Literacy rate and educational attainment is very important determinant of the socio-economic status of the scheduled castes. Literacy rate influences the fertility, family planning, choice of schools for the children and preference of job for children. The findings of the study are as follows-

- The literacy rate of the population varies among the scheduled castes in rural and urban areas. In urban areas **81.51%** male and **77.27%** female are literate while **18.49%** male and **22.73%** female are illiterate. In rural areas **60.36%** male and **51.55 %** female are literate and **39.64%** male and **51.55%** female are illiterate. So the gap between male and female literates is about 12% and 4% in rural and urban areas of Maldah district respectively.
- In rural areas maximum (38.66 %) families prefer teaching profession for their daughter and 01.77 % families prefer medical (doctor) profession for their daughter.

➤ In urban areas maximum (47.95%) families prefer teaching profession for their daughter and 21.92% families prefer medical (doctor) profession for their daughter.

➤ Teaching profession is also preferred by the both maximum rural (57.42%) and urban (41.10%) families for their son.

➤ In rural areas 32.68 % families and in urban areas 10.96 % families prefer Nursing or Multipurpose profession for their daughter.

➤ Maximum disparity is observed in rural and urban areas for the choice of medical (doctor) profession due to the poor economic condition and educational backwardness of rural scheduled castes.

Reservation: Reservation plays very vital role in the socio-economic development of the scheduled castes. The findings of the study are-

➤ Majority of the Scheduled Castes respondents (84.06% rural and 83.05% urban) got their job through reservation.

➤ Majority of the Scheduled Castes (90.91% rural and 75% urban) got their promotion under reserve category.

➤ According to 49.58% rural and 87.67% urban respondents' reservation had fulfilled their purpose.

➤ According to 92.16% rural and 90.41% urban respondents' role of reservation policy in the improvement of their socio-economic status is to a large extent.

➤ Majority of the rural respondents (50.70%) think financial support can improve their socio-economic status while according to maximum urban (43.83%) respondents believe that general awareness can reduce the social distance between Scheduled Castes and higher castes.

➤ Though the majority of the respondents reported that their socio-economic condition has improved and political awareness has increased during last

decade, still they are very backward compared to general caste population of the district.

Discrimination and Distance from Higher castes:

The findings of the study are-

- The large numbers of SCs are residing in the regions where the upper castes Hindus live. Though majority of SCs of the district are living in their own colonies, no ecological segregation is enforced on them;
- They are free to construct house in other than own locality is proved from the opinion of the affirmative answers of respondents, who have said that they are free to construct houses outside their locality where upper castes Hindu live;
- At present the SCs of the Maldah are using freely all the live amenities like common public tap, roads, school, hospitals, common place of toilet and common temples;
- The relationship with higher castes is improving day by day. If the respondent is having an intimate friend from upper caste, be it a forward caste or backward caste, he will be invited to have lunch or dinner with them, and it is not the other things that decide the matter;
- A significant number of SCs have commensal relation with upper caste Hindus, however, the majority of them have commensal relations with the backward castes only;
- The majority of SCs having commensal relation with the higher caste Hindu are getting equal treatment with the others, on the occasions of interdining, with a few exceptions;
- All the SCs are allowed to visit all temples in the district and they participate in common village festivals. So, there are no religious restrictions imposed on the SCs;
- The discrimination to some extent is noticed in the work place, when the respondents are very poor and completely dependent on the employer;
- The previous practice of using caste name as suffix or prefix is decreasing due to fear of discrimination by higher castes Hindus. So, this is found

during the study only very few respondents are using their caste name along with their name;

- The large number of SCs respondents feel that they are discriminated by upper class Hindus;

- The SCs respondents feel that unclean occupation and fear of pollution are the reasons for the distance between the SCs and upper castes.

- Almost all the respondents feel that birth in the Scheduled Caste is the significant reason for the upper castes to maintain distance from SCs;

- Majority of SCs feel that the important remedies to reduce the social distance between them and upper castes are economic development ,education and better employment;

- The majority of respondents are not aware of the protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and do not know about the existence of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

❖ ***The fifth objective is to assess the rural urban variations in socio-economic status;***

Rural-urban variation among scheduled castes is observed in all the socio-economic aspects. The study covers 1071 rural and 73 urban households. It is clear from the study of socio-economic condition of the rural and urban respondents that the both socio-economic condition of the urban areas is more developed than rural areas.The result of the study on the rural urban variations in socio-economic status are-

- Both the male and female literacy rate is high in urban areas than rural areas. The percentage of population with higher educational level is more in urban areas.

- The study revealed that the dropout rate in rural scheduled castes is very high and the enrolment of the children of age 5 and above is low compared to the urban areas.

➤ Majority of the scheduled castes are illiterate throughout the three successive generations (respondent, father and grandfather) whereas majority of the urban respondents are literate throughout all the three successive generations.

➤ It is also observed that 52.17 % urban respondents completed their entire education without job during study; on the other hand only 12.69% rural respondents completed their education without job. The urban scheduled castes are more aware about the laws and schemes, political affairs, family planning measures etc.

➤ The income of the majority of the urban respondents is very high compared to the rural respondents. The monthly income 82.19% urban scheduled castes families is Rs.10, 000/- and above and only 24.74% rural families earn Rs.10, 000/- and above.

➤ The consumption for food Rs >5000 per month is found in 82.19% urban and only 9.24 rural families.

➤ The educational expenditure of maximum rural families (43.98%) is Rs.<300 per month, while it is for maximum urban families (41.10%) is Rs. 1000 – 2000.

➤ Only 51.82% rural respondents have savings for future, whereas 95.89% urban respondents have savings.

➤ Out of total 1071 rural respondents only 7.00% and 7.47% are aware of Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. So, majority of the respondents are not aware of these laws whereas the urban respondents are more aware of these laws.

➤ The urban respondents are more aware than the rural about different schemes of educational and economic development.

❖ ***The sixth objective is to suggest practical measures for the upliftment for the socio-economic status of scheduled castes,***

Majority of them have no knowledge of beneficial and welfare schemes provided to them (like –S.C.P, N.S.F.D.C, M.S.Y, M.K.Y, N.S.K.F.D.C and Education loan up to Rs.7.5 lakh-15lakh for medical, Technical, M.B.A. etc) by the

state and central government. So, it is suggested that there is need of aware from urban to rural level about these schemes for their socio-economic development. The rate of interest of loan should be decreased and ceiling of income for loan should be increased for their economic development

There are a number of laws, both central and state, which provide for safeguards to scheduled castes like the Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955), The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act; 1989, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act; 1986, The Minimum wages Act; 1948, The Panchayat (Extension to the scheduled Areas) Act; 1996, etc. SCs must be aware about these social and economic safeguards.

❖ *The seventh objective is to suggest a viable short and long term perspective planning for effective implementation of suggested strategies for their upliftment.*

Pre-matric scholarship was started in 1977-78. The main objective of the scheme was to provide financial assistance for children of those engaged in the so-called unclean occupations, viz., scavenging, tanning, flaying and sweeping. Post-Matric scholarship was launched in 1994-95. The scholarships are given to students who are children of industrial workers having an income upto Rs.60,095 per annum. There are 5 Ashram Hostels in Maldah District, 3 located in Gazole block and one each in Bamongola and Harischandrapur-1 blocks. These schemes are launched for the educational development of scheduled castes. Educational development is vital for their awareness about schemes for development and constitutional safeguards. The Article 335 states that "the claims of the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of the State." The constitution also made

provisions for their socio-economic and political development besides reservation in employment. The programme of entrepreneurship development among women through the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) has a very positive impact on women empowerment. Government should involve mass of the women in SHGs. So, all the scheduled castes must be aware of these facilities.

Out of total 1071 rural respondents only 7.00% and 7.47% are aware of Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. So, majority of the respondents are not aware of these laws. Only 19.89% rural respondents are aware of welfare schemes for economic development. According to the majority of the rural respondents (50.70%) the financial support can improve their socio-economic status while according to maximum urban (43.83%) respondents the general awareness can reduce the social distance between Scheduled Castes and higher castes. To improve the socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes population after independence the Government of India made several efforts and constitution of India provided several social, political, economic and religious safeguards to Scheduled Castes. But the present study reveals that though their socio-economic condition has improved and political awareness has increased during last decade, their socio-economic status is very low compared to the general caste population of the district.

PHOTOGRAPHS



1: Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda Vidyamandir



2: Pirojpur Primary School



3: Nayabazar High School



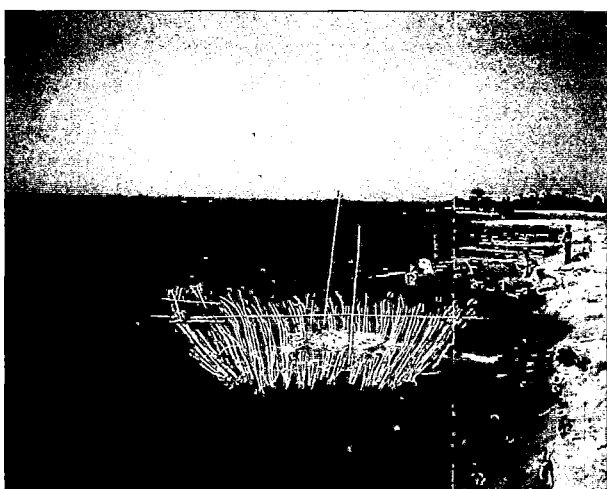
4: Livestocks



5: Poultry Farming



6: Fishing Net



7: Ganga Erosion in Panchanandapur



8: Fishing Boat



9: Vegetable Market



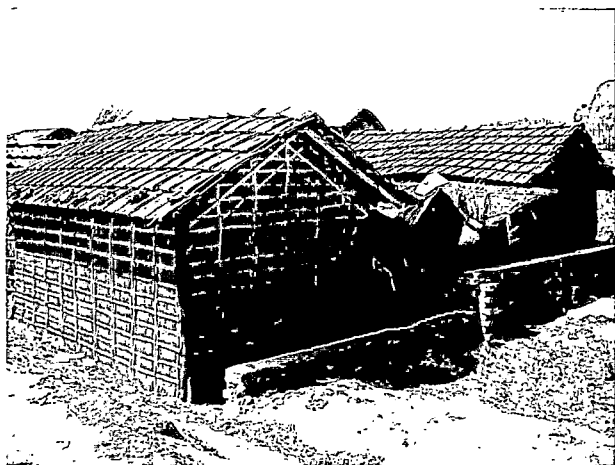
10: Flower Market



11: Mango Orchard



12: Van- Mode of Rural Transport



13: Rural House Type



14: Sanitation Facility



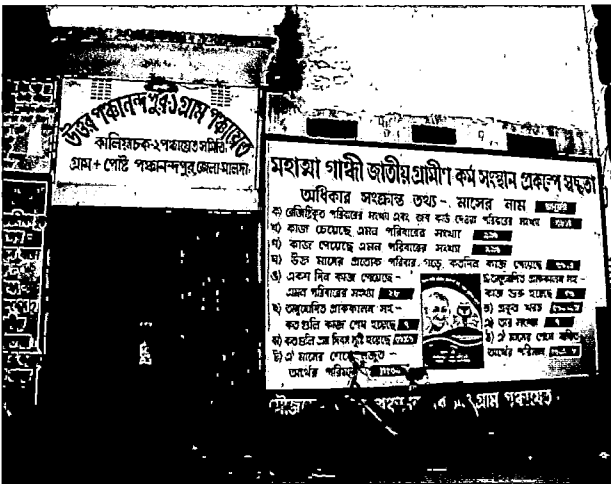
15: Rural Ration Shop



16: Source of Drinking Water



17: Rural Electrification



18: North Panchanandapur-I G.P.



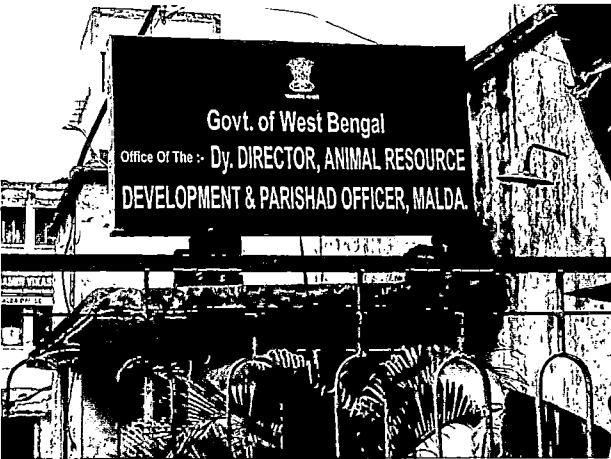
19: West Bengal SC and ST Development and Finance Corporation



20: Malda Tourist Lodge



21: Peddie Silk Reeling Institute



22: Office of Dy. Director of Animal Resource



23: District Panchayat and Rural Development Office



24: Project Officer cum District Welfare Office



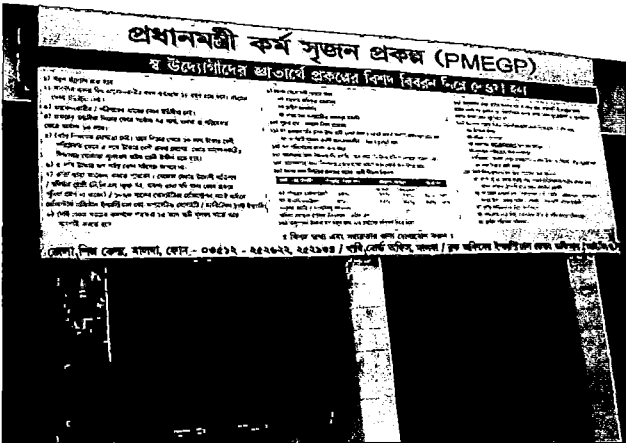
25: District Industrial Centre



26: Directorate of Textiles (Sericulture) Office



27: Food Processing and Horticulture Office



28: P.M.E.G. Scheme

APPENDIX

APPENDIX: I
MALDAH DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Geographical Area	3578 Sq.Km.
Maldah (Sadar) Sub-Division	2496 Sq.Km.
Chanchal Sub-Division	1082 Sq.Km.

ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP.

Number of Sub-Division	02
Number of Police Station	11
Number of out Post	14
Number of Block (Panchayat Samity)	15
Number of Gram Panchayat	146
Number of Gram Sansad	2021
Number of Municipality	02
Number of Mouzas	1814
Number of Villages	3701
Number of Villages connected by roads	294 Km.

POPULATION (2001 CENSUS)

Total Population	3290468
Maldah (Sadar) Sub-Division	2212367
Chanchal Sub-Division	1078101
Male	1689406
Female	1601062
Population density per Sq. km.	881
Urban population	240940
Rural population	3049528
% of rural population to total population	92.68
Rate of population growth	30.68%
Rural population	1565654(Male), 1483874(Female)
Urban population	123752(Male), 117188(Female)
Number of Female per100 Male	95
Total literate –Male	811071(24.65%)

POPULATION (2001 CENSUS)

Total literate-Female	537228(16.32%)
Total population together (Literacy Level)	40.97%
Rate of Male Literacy (Among Male population)	47.98%
Rate of Male Literacy (Among Female population)	33.58%
Total SC Population	554165(16.84)
Total ST Population	227047(6.9%)
Number of Cultivator	288000
Land use (Area in hectare)	37105 hac.
Area under Forest	1680 hac.
Area under Non Agricultural use	84060 hac.
Cold Storage/Multi Chamber Cold Storage	3(Capacity 10240 Mt.)
Ware House	12(Capacity14711Mt)
Number of wholesale Market	06 Nos
Number of Regulated Market	02
Number of Jute Purchasing Centre	05
Number of Mango Research Centre	01

Source: Census of India,2001 and District Statistical Hand Book,Maldah-2006.

APPENDIX: II

Principal Scheduled Caste Groups in Malda Census 2001						
SC Group	Malda Total SC	% of Total SC	Malda Male SC	Malda Female SC	SC FMR Ratio	% Rural SCs
All Scheduled Castes	554165	100	284726	269439	946	93.7
Rajbanshi	144158	26.0	73921	70237	950	96.2
Namasudra	101444	18.3	52284	49160	940	95.7
Bind	30303	5.5	15651	14652	936	97.8
Jhalo Maio	28165	5.1	14457	13708	948	97.9
Paliya	27636	5.0	14111	13525	958	94.7
Tiyar	26669	4.8	13701	12968	947	82.9
Chamar	21450	3.9	10966	10484	956	90.2
Hari	19357	3.5	9845	9512	966	97.4
Jalia Kalbartta	13411	2.4	6919	6492	938	91.7
Keot.	12529	2.3	6467	6062	937	98.0
Dhoba.	10951	2.0	5668	5283	932	90.9
Lohar	10567	1.9	5461	5126	939	83.1
Pod	10211	1.8	5229	4982	953	85.8
Nuniya	10170	1.8	5266	4904	931	84.5
Sunri (excluding Saha)	8564	1.5	4488	4076	908	90.2
Mallah	8096	1.5	4237	3859	911	93.6
Musahar	7617	1.4	3853	3764	977	99.5
Dosadh	7608	1.4	3971	3637	916	85.2
Gonrhi	6187	1.1	3195	2992	936	96.2
Turi	5463	1.0	2787	2676	960	95.2
Koch	5224	0.9	2656	2568	967	96.3
Bhuiya	5093	0.9	2558	2535	991	98.7
Bhuimall	4860	0.9	2481	2379	959	91.9
Mal	3612	0.7	1863	1749	939	88.0
Dom	3229	0.6	1632	1597	979	95.0
Chaupal	3178	0.6	1651	1527	925	73.0
Mahar	2451	0.4	1233	1218	988	93.7
Bagdi	2305	0.4	1170	1135	970	95.6
Khalra	2212	0.4	1169	1043	892	75.4
Other Generic SCs	2002	0.4	1060	942	889	75.0
Rajwar	1815	0.3	899	916	1019	70.2
Patni	1674	0.3	841	833	990	73.1
Beldar	1224	0.2	615	609	990	80.7
Konwar	1068	0.2	567	501	884	78.3
Pasi	911	0.2	457	454	993	73.7
Konai	599	0.1	318	281	884	91.2
Bhogta	474	0.1	242	232	959	99.8
Bantar	464	0.1	241	223	925	99.6
Kaora	324	0.1	164	160	976	99.1
Bauri	284	0.1	144	140	972	91.5
Nat	123	0.02	60	63	1050	100.0
Kaur	112	0.02	58	54	931	84.8
Kami (Nepali)	55	0.01	26	29	1115	65.5
Kandra	54	0.01	27	27	1000	64.8
Kurariar	49	0.01	23	26	1130	71.4
Kadar	44	0.01	20	24	1200	77.3
Khatik	38	0.01	17	21	1235	73.7
Ghasi	35	0.01	17	18	1059	77.1
Bahelia	26	0.005	14	12	857	34.6
Damal (Nepali)	17	0.003	9	8	889	47.1
Kotal	13	0.002	7	6	857	38.5
Doai	7	0.001	3	4	1333	71.4
Dabgar	5	0.001	3	2	667	80.0
Halalkhor	4	0.001	1	3	3000	75.0
Sarki (Nepali)	3	0.001	2	1	500	33.3
Pan	1	0.000	1	0	0	0.0

Source: Census 2001

APPENDIX: III

PRIME MINISTER EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME, 2009-2010

Sl. No.	C.D. BLOCKS	No. Of Scheduled Castes	LOAN AMOUNT (In Rs.)
1.	RATUA-1	00	00
2.	RATUA-2	00	00
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	00	00
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	00	00
5.	KALIACHAK-1	00	00
6.	KALIACHAK-2	00	00
7.	KALIACHAK-3	00	00
8.	HABIBPUR	00	00
9.	BAMANGOLA	01	04.99 LAKH
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	03	26.75 LAKH
11.	OLD MALDAH	03	09.00 LAKH
12.	MANIKCHALK	30(Co-Op.Society)	10.50 LAKH
13.	GAZOLE	08	60.47 LAKH
14.	CHANCHAL-1	01	02.50 LAKH
15.	CHANCHAL-2	01	02.50 LAKH
	TOTAL	47	116.71 LAKH

SOURCE:-DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL CENTER; MALDAH; WEST BENGAL.

APPENDIX: IV
BENEFICIARIES UNDER FISH FARMER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, 2008-
2009

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
GENERAL	35	02	37
S.C.	06	01	07
S.T.	01	NIL	01
MINORITIES	07	NIL	07
TOTAL	49	03	52

SOURCE: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES,MALDAH

APPENDIX: V
BENEFICIARIES UNDER ORNAMENTAL FISH CULTURE
FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
GENERAL	NIL	163	163
S.C.	NIL	198	198
S.T.	NIL	109	109
MINORITIES	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	NIL	470	470

SOURCE: -- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES,MALD

APPENDIX: VI
No. OF SCHEDULED CSTES FISHERMEN OLD-AGE PENSIONERS,2008-2009

SL. No.	Block	No. Of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed(Rs.)
1.	RATUA-1	37	2,03,500.00
2.	RATUA-2	15	82,500.00
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	5	27,500.00
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	7	38,500.00

SL. No.	Block	No. Of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed(Rs.)
5.	KALIACHAK-1	05	27,500.00
6.	KALIACHAK-2	06	33,000.00
7.	KALIACHAK-3	08	44,000.00
8.	HABIBPUR	26	1,43,000.00
9	BAMANGOLA	06	33,000.00
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	25	1,37,500.00
11.	OLD MALDAH	17	93,500.00
12.	MANIKCHALK	08	44,000.00
13.	GAZOLE	42	2,31,500.00
14.	CHANCHAL-1	10	55,000.00
15.	CHANCHAL-2	02	11,000.00
TOTAL		219	12,04,500.00

SOURCE: -- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES,MALDAH

APPENDIX: VII

IDENTITY CARD ISSUED TO SCHEDULED CSTES FISHERMEN,2008-2009

SL. No.	Block	No. Of Identity Card Issued
1.	RATUA-1	00
2.	RATUA-2	280
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	70
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	192
5.	KALIACHAK-1	22
6.	KALIACHAK-2	27
7.	KALIACHAK-3	117
8.	HABIBPUR	305

SL. No.	Block	No. Of Identity Card Issued
9.	BAMANGOLA	00
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	433
11.	OLD MALDAH	403
12.	MANIKCHALK	144
13.	GAZOLE	49
14.	CHANCHAL-1	00
15.	CHANCHAL-2	97
TOTAL		2139

SOURCE: -- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, MALDA.

APPENDIX: VIII

“RANGIN MACHH CHAS MAHILA SOMOBAY LTD.”, 2008-2009

SL.No.	NAME OF SAMITY	BLOCK	No. Of S.C.females
1.	Joy Guru Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	HABIBPUR	80
2.	Maa Chandi Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	DO	90
3.	English Bazar Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	ENGLISH BAZAR	19
4.	Parbatta Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	ENGLISH BAZAR	31
5.	Maa Kali Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	ENGLISH BAZAR	90
6.	52 Bigha Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	ENGLISH BAZAR	20
7.	Sree Maa Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	34

SL.No.	NAME OF SAMITY	BLOCK	No. Of S.C.females
8.	Saraswati Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	17
9.	Sathi Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	22
10.	SarbojoyeeRangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	21
11.	Pabnapara Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	56
12.	Swarnamoyee Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	21
13.	Pally Unnayan Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	GOZOLE	30
14.	Murcha Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	RATUA II	53
15.	Simla Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	RATUA II	16
16.	Milan Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	CHANCHAL-II	20
17.	Mahaldarpara Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	MANIKCHAK	12
18.	Gobindapur Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	MANIKCHAK	18
19	Mongalbari Rangin Machh Chas Mahila Somobay Samity Ltd.	OLD MALDAH	21

SOURCE: -- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES,MALDAH.

APPENDIX: IX
BREAK UP OF SELF HELP GROUPS ((SC,ST,MINORITY)
ENGLISH BAZAR BLOCK,MALDAH-2009-2010

Sl No.	Name Of Gram Panchayats	No. Of SHGs.	No. Of SC SHGs.	No. Of ST SHGs.	No. Of Minority SHGs.	No. Of General SHGs
1.	Sovanagar	87	19	0	54	14
2.	Milki	102	12	2	69	19
3.	Fulbaria	60	6	0	42	12
4.	Amrity	61	11	0	25	25
5.	Kazigram	143	18	5	79	41
6.	Binodpur	98	18	0	58	22
7.	Jadupur I	116	16	5	60	35
8.	Jadupur II	96	19	5	40	32
9.	Mahidipur	93	17	0	38	38
10.	Kotwali	71	35	15	10	11
11.	Narhatta	149	17	5	76	51
TOTAL		1076	188	37	551	300

Source :--B.D.O OFFICE,English Bazar, Maldah .

APPENDIX: X
TOTAL MEMBRS UNDER SELF HELP GROUPS
ENGLISH BAZAR BLOCK,MALDAH-2009-2010

Sl.	CATEGORY	TOTAL SHGs	TOTAL MEMBERS
1	S.C.	188	2256
2	S.T.	37	444
3	Miority	551	6590
4	General	300	3510
Total		1076	12800

Source: DRD Cell, Maldah.

APPENDIX: XI

PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED CASTES UNDER SHGs OF CHANCHAL-II BLOCK

Name of the G.P	Total SHGs Members	SCs. SHGs Members
1.CHANDRAPARA	2412	253
2.JALALPUR	2342	53
MALATIPUR	1934	512
4.BHAKRI	1388	130
5.GOURHAND	1644	431
6.KASHEMPUR	1981	384
7.D/BISHNUPUR	2088	12
TOTAL	13789	1775

Source:B.D.O. Chanchal-II, Maldah

APPENDIX: XII

SCHEDULED CASTES SHGs IN MANIKCHAK BLOCK 2009-10.

Name of the G.P	Total SHGs	SCs. SHGs
1.HIRANANDAPUR	114	45
2.UTTAR CHANDIPUR	169	19
3.D/ CHANDIPUR	84	31
4.NURPUR	153	13
5.NAZIRPUR	100	18
6.MATHURAPUR	72	19
7.MANIKCHAK	108	57
8.DHARAMPUR	43	-
9.ENAYETPUR	50	02
10.C. MIRADPUR	47	04
11.GOPAL PUR	42	06
TOTAL	982	214

Source:B.D.O. Manihchak Block, Maldah.

APPENDIX: XIII
 PROGRESS OF REGISTRATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES
 UNDER EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE, 2007-2009

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2007	229	199	428
2008	396	269	665
2009	561	279	840
TOTAL	1186	747	1933

SOURCE:-DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE, MALDAH.

APPENDIX: XIV
 PLACEMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN DIFFERENT JOBS
 UNDER EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE OF MALDAH DISTRICT
 YEAR : 2007-2009

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2007	30	10	40
2008	13	5	18
2009	18	6	24
TOTAL	61	21	82

SOURCE:-DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE, MALDAH

APPENDIX: XV

Block / Municipality – wise Target and Sanction of Cases under different Schemes

West Bengal Castes & Sch. Tribes Dev. & Finance Corporation, 2009-2010.

Sl.No	Block/Municipality	S.C.P.		N.S.F. D.C.		M.S.Y.		M.K.Y		N.S.K.F.D.C	
		Target	Sanctioned	Target	Sent to H.O	Target	Sent to H.O.	Target	Sent to H.O.	Target	Sent to H.O.
1	Bamangola Phy Fin.	155 31	262 52.40	2 2.40	1 1.45	24 4.80	5 1.00	0 0	0 0.00	0 0	0 0
2	Habibpur Phy Fin.	212 42.4	908 181.60	3 3.60	6 8.78	33 6.60	47 9.40	0 0	3 1.00	0 0	0 0
3	Gazole Phy Fin.	240 48	262 52.40	4 4.80	4 3.50	37 7.40	41 8.20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
4	Old Maldah Phy Fin.	89 17.8	210 42.00	1 1.20	1 0.90	14 2.80	0 0.00	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
5	Old Maldah Phy Municipality Fin.	28 5.60	211 42.20	0 0.00	1 1.00	4 0.80	42 8.40	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
6	English Bazar Phy Fin.	86 17.20	121 24.20	1 1.20	1 1.00	13 2.60	14 2.80	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
7	English Bazar Phy Municipality Fin.	45 9.00	126 25.20	1 1.20	0 0.00	7 1.40	34 6.80	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
8	Kaliachak – I Phy Fin.	20 0.40	0 0.00	0 0.00	0 0.00	4 0.80	0 0.00	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
9	Kaliachak –II Phy Fin.	42 8.40	17 3.40	1 1.20	0 0.00	7 1.40	19 3.80	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
10	Kaliachak-III Phy Fin.	55 11.00	37 7.40	1 1.20	0 0.00	8 1.60	0 0.00	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
11	Ratua – I Phy Fin.	43 8.60	141 28.20	1 1.20	1 1.00	7 1.40	10 2.00	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
12	Ratua – II Phy Fin.	31 6.20	57 11.40	0 0.00	1 0.50	5 1.00	0 0.00	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
13	Chanchal – I Phy Fin.	58 11.60	60 12.00	1 1.20	0 0.00	9 1.80	16 3.20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
14	Chanchal – II Phy Fin.	35 7.00	23 4.60	1 1.20	0 0.00	6 1.20	0 0.00	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
15	Manikchak Phy Fin.	59 11.80	52 10.40	1 1.20	1 1.00	9 1.8	20 4.00	0 0	1 0.25	0 0	0 0
16	H.C.P. – I Phy Fin.	89 17.80	0 0.00	2 2.40	0.00 0.00	15 3.00	6.00 1.20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
17	H.C.P. – II Phy Fin.	54.00 10.80	0.00 0	1 1.20	0.00 0.00	8.00 1.60	1.00 0.20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Phy.		1351	2487	21	17	210	255	0	4	0	0
Total Fin.		270.20	497.40	25.20	19.13	42.00	51.00	0	1.25	0	0

N.B. –Fin. Financial (LAKH)

Phy.-Physical(No. of Cases)

H.O. Head Office.

Source :- District Manager W.B. SC & ST Dev. & Fin. Corpn, Maldah District Branch, Maldah

APPENDIX: XVI

BLOCKWISE ALLOTMENT OF IAY FUND OF 2ND INSTALLMENT OF
THE YEAR 2009-2010

Name of the Block	Category wise Physical Allotment of 2009-10 paid from the Fund of 2009-10 (2 nd Installment)				Total Physical Allotment	Total Allotment (@ Rs. 35000/- per Unit)
	SC	ST	Min	Oth		
Englishbazar	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Old Maldah	101	168	2	46	317	11,095,000.00
Habibpur	208	188	0	25	421	14,735,000.00
Bamongola	107	90	1	71	269	9,415,000.00
Gazole	317	312	29	22	680	23,800,000.00
Manikchak	480	6	31	132	649	22,715,000.00
Kaliachak I	0	0	265	48	313	10,955,000.00
Kaliachak II	130	0	35	197	362	12,670,000.00
Kaliachak III	188	2	72	171	433	15,155,000.00
H.C. Pur I	100	52	8	171	331	11,585,000.00
H.C. Pur II	169	43	92	40	344	12,040,000.00
Chanchal I	26	1	59	37	123	4,305,000.00
Chanchal II	22	82	67	48	219	7,665,000.00
Ratua I	104	29	46	117	296	10,360,000.00
Ratua II	10	12	26	93	141	4,935,000.00
Grand Total	1962	985	733	1218	4898	171,430,000.00

Memo No. : 1147/1(195)/MZP-10 dated 26-03-2010

Source: Additional Executive OfficerMaldah Zilla Parishad, Maldah.

APPENDIX: XVII

Total Sanitation Campaign

Cumulative Physical & Financial Progress Report for SC/ST since inception of the District for the month of May, 2010.

Sl.No	Name of the Block	Household Latrines							
		Constructed				Expenditure (Rs. In Lakh)			
		SC	ST	General	Total	SC	ST	General	Total
1	Harishchandrapur-I	1540	159	3892	5591	1.400	0.54	6.367	8.307
2	Harishchandrapur-II	1921	253	12161	14335	3.208	1.237	14.592	19.037
3	Chanchal-I	1622	192	13830	15644	2.931	1.131	13.332	17.394
4	Chanchal-II	1464	446	11176	13086	4.877	1.88	22.193	28.950
5	Ratua-I	4047	1276	14667	19990	4.175	1.61	18.99	24.775
6	Ratua-II	2030	190	12146	14366	2.162	1.007	11.88	15.499
7	Manikchak	3192	721	13405	17318	16.033	6.15	73.978	96.161
8	Englishbazar	2244	315	10262	12821	4.464	1.721	20.568	26.753
9	Old Maldah	4218	1998	5036	11252	2.531	0.976	11.514	15.021
10	Gazole	13415	5125	9567	28107	5.146	1.968	24.019	31.133
11	Bamongola	11028	5285	8713	25026	6.441	2.46	30.074	38.975
12	Habibpur	9061	3603	3232	15896	4.436	1.701	20.103	26.240
13	Kaliachak-I	3427	471	11028	14926	2.019	0.782	9.237	12.038
14	Kaliachak-II	1938	317	15695	17950	2.198	0.848	10.000	13.046
15	Kaliachak-III	3856	310	19332	23498	4.612	1.77	21.033	27.415
Total		65003	20661	164142	249806	67.083	25.781	307.880	400.744

Source: Additional Executive Officer, Maldah Zilla Parishad, Maldah

APPENDIX: XVIII

Mode of Transport of Scheduled Castes

Mode of Transport	No. of Families		% to total families	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Car	05	19	0.47	26.23
Motor Bike	123	48	11.48	65.75
Bi-Cycle	1001	21	93.46	28.77
Cart	62	-	5.79	-
Van	132	-	12.32	-

Source: Field Study,2010.

APPENDIX: XIX

Block Wise Distribution of Scheduled Castes Workers-2001.

SL. No.	Block	% of worker to total population	% of cultivators to total workers	% of agricultural labourers to total workers	% of household industry workers to total workers	% of other workers to total workers
1.	RATUA-1	40.60	8.74	47.64	4.19	39.43
2.	RATUA-2	43.01	7.13	42.50	5.24	45.13
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	38.49	15.62	58.53	6.90	18.95
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	49.41	17.30	52.72	7.08	22.88
5.	KALIACHAK-1	56.16	1.86	5.70	39.77	52.71
6.	KALIACHAK-2	39.14	21.01	29.84	3.31	45.83
7.	KALIACHAK-3	47.94	9.47	10.15	57.05	23.32
8.	HABIBPUR	43.53	30.22	42.64	8.08	90.06

SL. No.	Block	% of worker to total population	% of cultivators to total workers	% of agricultural labourers to total workers	% of household industry workers to total workers	% of other workers to total workers
9.	BAMANGOLA	39.57	38.12	44.57	2.11	15.20
10.	ENGLISH BAZAR	36.38	8.27	24.29	8.48	58.95
11.	OLD MALDAH	42.50	35.90	30.13	3.60	30.41
12.	MANIKCHALK	39.19	12.37	43.85	5.92	37.86
13.	GAZOLE	42.64	38.27	39.63	2.67	19.42
14.	CHANCHAL-1	41.14	14.08	51.31	7.18	27.43
15.	CHANCHAL-2	46.45	9.33	65.76	5.43	19.48
TOTAL		41.53	23.88	38.98	8.30	28.84

Source: Census of India-2001.

APPENDIX: XX
Literacy Rates of Scheduled Castes, 1961-2011

Census Year	1961		1971		1981		1991		2001	
Category	General	SC	General	SC	General	SC	General	SC	General	SC
Literates (%)	13.79	10.51	17.61	13.49	23.06	20.41	50.30	38.23	57.71	42.18

Source :- Census of India 1961-2001

APPENDIX: XXI

Awareness of Respondents about Different Schemes for Development

Purpose	Schemes	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Educational Development	Only Material Facilities	100.00	100.00
	Reservation in Admission/Job	90.66	100.00
	Education Loan Upto 15 lakhs	06.63	20.55
	Ashram Hostel	17.65	83.56
Economic Development	Free Job Oriented Course,	06.54	52.05
	Welfare Schemes like S.C.P,M.S.Y	19.89	84.93
	P.M.E.G. Scheme	01.12	36.99
	Seed Village Scheme	07.10	x
	Special Training For Cultivations	07.10	x

Source: Calculated by Researcher based on Field Work-2010.

APPENDIX: XXII

Distribution of Sample Villages / Urban Areas

SL. No	C.D. BLOCKS		VILLAGES/URBAN AREAS	No. OF HOUSE - HOLDS	TOTAL POPULATION	Avg. FAMILY SIZE
		Sl No	NAME			
1	RATUA-1	1.	Mahananda Tala	20	96	4.8
		2.	Batna	17	82	4.8
		3.	Satmara	19	92	4.8
2.	RATUA-2	4.	Pirganj	29	101	3.48
		5.	Pukuria	17	61	3.58

SL. No	C.D. BLOCKS		VILLAGES/URBAN AREAS	No. OF HOUSE - HOLDS	TOTAL POPULATION	Avg. FAMILY SIZE
		Sl No	NAME			
		6.	Kutubganj	18	79	4.22
3.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-1	7.	Mobarakpur	22	105	4.77
		8.	Gopinathpur	18	90	5
		9.	Gopalpur	19	82	4.32
4.	HARISCHANDRA PUR-2	10.	Mashaldaha Bazar	20	90	4.50
		11.	Barinathpur	18	82	4.56
		12.	Sripur	17	69	4.05
5.	KALIACHAK-1	13.	Jalalpur	18	108	6.00
		14.	Sultanganj	13	80	6.15
		15.	Chandpur	12	65	5.42
6.	KALIACHAK-2	16.	Ramnathpur	18	85	4.72
		17.	Sahebganj	17	80	4.71
		18.	Mahadebpur	15	66	4.40
7.	KALIACHAK-3	19.	Mahabatpur	15	62	4.13
		20.	Bhagabanpur	14	58	4.14
		21.	Golapganj	14	54	3.86
8.	HABIBPUR	22.	Kachupukur (CT)	12	42	3.50
		23.	Habibpur	30	139	4.63
		24.	Monoharpur	22	121	5.50
9.	BAMANGOLA	25.	Rakhalpukur	72	380	5.28
		26.	Songhat	36	186	5.17
		27.	Makuli	38	190	5.00
10	ENGLISH BAZAR	28.	Bansbari (U)	12	46	3.83
		29.	Krishna pally (U)	13	51	3.92
		30.	New Gayeshpur (U)	12	46	3.83
		31.	Lakhipur	48	235	5.00
		32.	Milki	50	245	4.90

SL. No.	BLOCKS		VILLAGES/UR BAN AREAS	No.OF HOUSE HOLDS	TOTAL POPULATION	Avg. FAMILY SIZE
		Sl No	NAME			
11	OLD MALDAH	33.	Yatradanga	26	130	5.00
		34	Narayanpur	36	180	5.00
		35.	Collegepara (U)	12	47	3.92
		36	Netaji pally (U)	12	43	3.58
12.	MANIKCHALK	37.	Enayatpur	16	69	4.31
		38.	Gopalpur	15	63	4.20
		39.	Mathurapur	15	61	4.07
13.	GAZOLE	40.	Eklakhi	40	165	4.12
		41.	Katna	46	185	4.02
		42.	Mayna	30	121	4.03
		43.	Katekandur	25	101	4.04
		44.	Lakhipur	41	163	3.98
14.	CHANCHAL-1	45.	Haripur	20	95	4.75
		46.	Balarampur	20	98	4.90
		47.	Kaligram	20	86	4.30
15.	CHANCHAL-2	48.	Rampur	20	95	4.75
		49.	Malotipur	17	76	4.47
		50.	Kashirampur	18	75	4.17

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE FOR FIELD STUDY
ON

“Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Castes Population” – A case study of Maldah
District of WEST BENGAL .

Schedule Number :-

(General Information – Personal and Household characteristics)

1. Name of the respondent :-
2. Religion :-
3. Sub-Caste:-
4. Village:-
5. Block :-
6. Whether your family belongs to B.P.L.a)Yes b) No
7. Family Details:-

	Name	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Occupation	Literate Or. Not	Educational Attainment	Any other information
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								

S O C I A L S T A T U S

8. Where do you prefer your children to study ?

Children	Within Village	Outside Village	Outside District	Outside State (For Higher Education)
Daughter				
Son				

9. Preference regarding the profession of your children

Children	Doctor	Engineer	Lawyer	Teacher	Businessman	Other
Daughter						
Son						

10. Do you prefer private nursery school? a) Yes b) No.

Why

.....

11. Last limit of educational attainment would be -

Children	M.P	H.S.	Graduation	P.G.	As they like
Daughter					
Son					

12. Education on Regular / Non-Regular Basis.

Category	Tick (✓)	Cause
Regular		
Partly Regular Partly Non-Regular		

13. A)Discontinuance in Education.

No of Member	Category	Tick (✓)	Reason	Tick (✓)
	At Primary Level		Financial Problem	
	At High School Level		Domestic Problem	
	At College Level		Social Discrimination	
	At University Level		Lack of Educational Facility.	

B)Drop out student _____ Class _____

14. Higher Education With / Without Job

Category	Tick (✓)
Entire Education without job	
Entire Education with job	
Partly with job, Partly without job.	

15. Facility During Higher Education.

Category	Give (✓)
No. Facility	
Material Facility (Scholarship, Hostel, Books, Clothes etc.)	
Reservation in Admission	
Material and Reservation	

16. Facility availed of by Children

No. of children's benefited _____ .

Facilities	School Level	College Level	University Level	Total
No facility Availed				
Only Material				
Only Reservation				
Material + Reservation				
Fee studentship				

17. Inter – Generational Educational Mobility.

Generation	Education Level					
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduation	P.G
Respondent						
Father						
Grandfather						

18.Respondent’s Efforts to complete Education.

Education	Efforts		
	Low degree	Medium degree	High degree
Low I - V			
Medium V - XII			
High XII +			

19. Respondents Education and their Socio – Economic Status (SES)

Education	SES		
	Low	Medium	High
Low			
Medium			
High			
Total			

20. “Are you allowed to construct house in other than your locality ?”a)Yes b)No

21. Making use of the civic amenities.

Particulars	Yes	No
Public Tap / Bore Well		
Roads / Streets		
Schools		
Gas. Hospitals		
Common Place of Toilet		

22. “Do you dine with higher Castes?” _____

23. “Are you being food served in common batches ?” _____

24. “Do you fell discriminated in the following places ?”

Place of Interaction	Yes	No
Work Place		
Common Gathering		
Hotel		
Shops / Restaurants		
In Schools / College		
Bus / Trains		
Marriages & Ceremonies of Higher Castes		
Common Village festivals		
Visiting common village temples		
Marriages with higher castes		

25. “Do you use Caste Name along with your name ?” _____

26. Do you fell Higher castes discriminate you ?” _____

27. “What do you thing are reasons for upper castes to keep you at distance ?”

Response given by Respondents	Give (✓)
Unclean Occupation	
Food Habit	
Fear of Pollution	
Poor Economic Condition	
Illiteracy	
Birth in the Castes	

28. “What do you think the measures that can reduce the social distance between the S.C. & Upper Castes ?”

Response	Give (✓)
Education	
Economic Development	
Better Employment	
Steps by Govt.	
Changes in food habit	
Protest against upper class discrimination	
Changes in behavior pattern	
Others	
No. answer	

29. Responses of the respondents about their awareness to the different laws for them :-

Acts	
1) The Unsociability (Offences) Act, 1955 OR Protection of civil Rights Acts, 1955	Yes / No
2) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	Yes / No

30. A)“Do all the children (5+) in your family go to school ?”

B)Drop Out Children_____

ATTITUDES TOWARDS MARRIAGE AND FAMILY PLANNING.

31.

32. At what age marriage use to take place :

	At Present	5 Years before	10 Yeas Before
Daughters			
Son			

33. Where do you want to marry your children .

Category	Why
Village	
Town	

34. Do you prefer : Arranged / Love marriage .

35. Do you Like inter caste marriage ? : Yes / No

36. Do you like dowry system ? Yes / No

37. Does the dowry system is prevalent in you're a) Family b)
Village

38. Forms of downs :-

Category	Give (✓)	Amount
Cash		
Land		
Furniture		
Ornaments		
Others		

39. Do you prefer to marry your children with a person of ?

a) Your Profession b) Service c) Business d) Other

38. Are you aware of family planning programme? a) Yes b) No

39. If yes, do you practice it ? Yes / No

40. Who should adopt it ? a) Husband / b) Wife

41. "Large family is detrimental to economic development" – Do you agree it ? a) Yes
/ b) No

Why ? _____

42. Do you think small family is a happy family ? Yes / No

Why ? _____

Religion

43. Do you believe in religion ?

a) Somewhat b) Moderately c) Strictly.

44. Do you follow religious rules in your routine life ?

a) Somewhat b) Moderately c) Strictly.

45. Do you visit religious places ?

Category	With in village	With District in	With in State	Out side state (Mention Place)
Never				
Ravels				
Frequently				

46. Do you offer special pooja before taking up new jobs? Yes / No.

47. Do you worship more at the tune of hardship and distress ? Yes / No.

48. Religious superstitions are prevalent in you family :- a) Yes b) No

Type of superstitions _____

49. You arrange 'pooja' in your family in a year –

Category	With priest	With out priest	Total Expenditure
< 2 Times			
2 – 4 Times			
5 & above Times			

50. Is there any separate place of worship in your house ? Yes / No.

Type : Pucea / Katcha

51. Do you think that “Happiness and sorrowness in your family comes from God” ?

Yes / No.

Political Awareness.

52. Do you know your ?

M.P : Yes / No : Name _____

M.L.A : Yes / No : Name _____

Chief Minister : Yes / No : Name _____

Prime Minister : Yes / No : Name _____

53. Your assessment of performance of the :

A) Panchayat / Municipality : Good / Bad / No idea

B) State Govt. : Good / Bad / No idea .

C) Central Govt. : Good / Bad / No idea.

54. have you worked for any parts in election ? Yes / No.

Category	Yes	No
a) Panchayat / Municipality Election		
b) Assembly Election		
c) M.P Election		

55. Do you go to listen to political leaders when they come to your area ?

Always / Never / Rarely .

56. Do you cast your vote at the time of election ? Regularly / Rarely / Never.

57. Do you like frequent holding of elections ?

Category	State Reasons
Yes	
No	

58. Do you think that coalition government will be successful? Yes / No

Why _____

59. Your opining about present political situation

Category	Good	Bad	Satisfactory	No idea
In West Bengal				
In India				

60. Your opinion about Industrialization in West Bengal.

Industrialization	Why
Allover West Bengal	
Only in North Bengal	
Only in South Bengal	

61. Your opinion regarding shifting of ‘TATA NANO’ Project from West Bengal to other State :-

Harmful	Fruitful	Don't know

Occupational Status

62. What are the sources of income of your family ?

a) Agriculture b) Service c) Business d) Labors e)

Others _____

63. Total monthly income of your family (In Rs.) _____

64. Monthly Consumption pattern for :-

Categories	Rs.
a) Food	
b) Cloth	
c) Education	
d) Medical	
e) Transport	
f) Housing	
g) Others.	

65. The main economic activity of your family belongs to a) Primary sector b) Secondary Sector c) Tertiary sector d) Quaternary sector.

Farming Characteristics

66. Does your family own any cultivable land ?

a) Yes b) No If yes how much (Bigha)

67. How many times do you cultivate your land in a year ?

1	2	3	4

68. What type of crops do you cultivate :-

Name of Crops	
Paddy	
Jute	
Wheat	
Potato	
Sugarcane	
Tobacco / Ginger	
Chilies	

69. Production of Fruits and Vegetables :-

Type Of Farming

A) Commercial_____

B)Subsistence_____

Fruits
Mango
Banana
Pineapple
Papaya
Guava
Jackfruit
Vegetables
Tomato
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Peas
Brinjal
Onion

70. Source of irrigation :- With Seasons Rhafif (K), Rabi (R),

Tank	HDTW	MDTW	LDTW	STW	RLI	Other

Note:- HDTW – High capacity Deep Tube Well, MDTW – Middle capacity Deep Tube Well,

LDTW – Low capacity Deep Tube Well, STW – Shallow Tube Well,

RLI – River Lift irrigator.

71. The yield of your crops during last 5 years :-

Increased	Decreased	The Same

Why _____

72.

- A. Use of Chemical Fertilizers : Frequently/Rarely/Never
- B. Use of Bio-Fertilizer: Frequently/Rarely/Never
- C. Use of New Varieties of Seed: A. Frequently B .Rarely C. Never
- D. Use of Insecticides and Pesticides: A. Frequently B .Rarely C. Never

73. Size – class of holdings

Marginal (Below 1.0 hectare)/ Small (1.0 hectare) to 2.0 hecares/ Semi Medium (2 – 4 hectares)/ Semi Medium (2 – 4 hectares)

74. ‘Warehousing’ and ‘cold Storage’ Facility for agricultural products – a) taken b) Not taken, why _____

75. Causes for decline in agricultural products : _____

76. Do you sale agricultural Product: - - _____

77. A) Place of sale agriculture product _____

B) Mode of Transport _____

78. No of Live-stocks and monthly income:

Category		Number	Monthly income (Rs.)
Cattle	Cows		
	Bull and Bullocks		
	Young stock		
Sheep	Cows		
	Bull and Bullocks		
	Young stock		
Sheep			
Goals			
Horses			
Pig			
Other:			

79. No. of Fowls Ducks and monthly income:

Poultry	Number	Monthly income is Rs.
Fowls		
Ducks		

80. Dairy Farming

a)

Animals	Number	Amount of milk per year (Kg.)
Cows		
Buffaloes		

b. Production of milk – 1) Commercial Basis 2) Subsistence Basis.

Place of sale of milk and milk product : _____

Do you purchase and sale milk ? Yes / No. Place of purchase _____,

Place of Sale _____

Monthly Income Rs. _____

81. FISHING

a) Do you practice fishing ? Yes / No. If yes since when _____

b) Commercial / Subsistence Basis:

c) Main/Subsidiary Source: _____

d) Where do you sell it ?

e) Peak season of fishing : Summer / Winter / Rainy Season

f) Do you purchase and sell fishes ? : Give details

g) You practices fishing in _____

h) Government Help forFishing _____

82. When occupation is Labour.

a. Place of practice _____

b. Do you go as seasonal labourer outside of your village ? : Yes /No

c. If yes, how much do you earn in a season ? : _____

d. Do you work as : Agricultural Labourers / Construction Labourers / Any other labour .

e. Do you practice labour on : Daily wages basis / Contract basic .

f. If daily wages basis, how much you get in a day?

g. If contract basis, do you work individually / As a team :

Is it more profitable ? _____

83. MIGRATION ,

Length of Residence in Maldah _____

84. Previous residence _____

85. Causes of changing Residence: _____

86. No of Family member migrated at present:

No of member	Type	Duration of staying	Reason
	To other State		
	To other District		
	To other Counters		

87. Loan Recipients :

Purpose	Amount (Rs)	Period (Years)
Rickshaw		
Biogas		
Cattle		
Fertilizer		
Cultivation		
Others		

88. Present job through Reservation / Promotion:

Category	Frequency
Appointment under Reserve Category	
Appointment under open category	
Promotion under Reserve category	
Promotion under open category	
Total	

89. Length of Present Job : _____

90. Total number of Promotion in Present job.

Category	Frequency
One Promotion	
Two Promotion	
Three Promotion	
Four Promotion & Above	
Without Promotion	

91. Number of jobs held by members: _____

92. Type of First job _____

93. Education level of Respondents :

At First Job (_____)			Present Job (_____)		
Category	Frequency	%	Category	Frequency	%
Below V			Below V		
V – X			V – X		
X – XII			X – XII		
XII – UG			XII – UG		
UG – PG			UG – PG		
Total			Total		

94. Respondent's age at first job entry : _____

95. Reasons for leaving the first job : _____

96. Respondent's first job and present job : _____

97. Respondent's occupations and SES :

Occupation (On income)	SES (Socio – Economic Status)			
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Low				
Medium				
High				

98. Respondent's Occupation and wives occupation:

99. Respondent's Occupation and views on whether Reservation had fulfilled the purpose?

100. Opinion about necessity of reservation policy for their children in future:

Category	Give (✓)
For Education	
For Employment	
For Govt. Loan	

101. Contribution of Reservation policy in improving socio – economic Status:

Category	Give (✓)
To a Large Extent	
To some Extent	
Not Available	
Not Necessary	

102. Awareness of different Schemes -----

Educational (Material facility/Reservation/Education Loan/Asgram Hostel)

Economic (Free Job Oriented Course/Welfare Schemes/PMEG/Seed Village Scheme/Special Training for Farmers)

103. Best means to improve Socio – Economic Conditions:

Education/ Financial Support/ Strict Implementation of Reservation/
General Awareness/ Permanent Job/ Separate state/Others___

104. Well –off Scheduled casts forget their own people : True/ Partially True/ No
comment

105. Respondents whether disclose caste

Category	Give Tick
Yes	
Whenever Necessary	
Never	
No Answer	
Total	

106. a) Housing Condition

No. of Rooms

Categories	Number
Bed Room	
Guest Room	
Dining Room	
Kitchen	
Cattle Shed	

b)Wall Element_____

c)Roof Element_____

d)Floor Element_____

107. Is there a separate : i) Bath Room (Yes /No)

ii) Toilet (Yes / No) / (Pucca / Ktacha)

108. Type of houses : Kucha _____ Pucca _____ Kucha-
Pucca_____

109. Building Materials : _____

110. It is single stored / double stored / Triple stored

111. The year and approximate cost of construction : Year_____ Cost

112. Do you have : Chairs (Yes / No); Sofa set (Yes / No) ; Table (Yes / No) ;
Dining Table (Yes / No)

113. Electricity:

a) Have you taken electricity connection ? Yes / No

b) If yes, Do you have: Fan (Yes / NO) : Tube light (Yes / No) :

Electric press (Yes / No) Freeze (Yes / No): Heater (Yes / No) :

114. Which cooking fuel do you use? Wood / Cow dung / Coal / Oil / LPG

115. What is the source of your drinking water ? Tube Well / River / Well / Hand
pump / Tank / Municipality tap / Pond.

116. Arsenic free water – yes/no.

❖ Exposure to Mass Media.

117. If no, do you listen to elsewhere ? Frequently / Rarely / Never.

118. Do you listen to Krishi Darshan Programme ? Yes / No. Never / Rarely /
Frequently .

119. Do you have a T.V set ? Yes / No. If yes, year of purchase

120. If no, do you watch from your neighbor ? Never / Rarely / Frequently .

121. Do you watch Rural Development Programme ? Never / Rarely / Frequently .

122. Do you go to movie ? Yes / No if yes, place and frequency

123. Do you have computer : (yes / No)

If yes – a) with internet b) without internet .

124. How many time do you take foods :

Category		Type of Foods
Morning (Break fast)		
(Lunch)		
After noon		
Night (Diner)		

125. Weekly consumption pattern for food :

Categories	Source (From Market own Product)	No. of Days
Milk		
Fish		
Eggs		
Meat		
Vegetables + Dal		
Rice / what		
Milk Products		

126. Purchase of dresses in your :

a) Times (1 / 2 / 3 / 4) b) When requires.

127. Mode of Transport:_____.

128. Do you think that during last one decade your:

a) Annual income: Increased / the same / decreased

b) Economic Condition: Improved / the same / decreased.

c) Social Status: Improved / the same /deteriorated

d) Mobility: Improved / the same / decreased

e) Religious condition: Improved / the same/ deteriorated

f) Family educational level: Improved / the same/ deteriorated

- g) Housing Condition: Improved / the same/ deteriorated
- h) Level of exposure to mass media: increased / the same / decreased.
- i) Agricultural Production: Increased / the same / decreased.
- J) Agricultural technology: Improved / the same/ deteriorated
- K. Food habit: Improved / the same/ deteriorated
- l. Dress: Improved / the same/ deteriorated

129 Any Other Information _____

_____.

Your Suggestions for Socio – Economic Development:-

- 1.
- 2.

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