

GENDER DISPARITY REGARDING LITERACY STATUS OF SAHAPUR GRAM PANCHAYAT, HOWRAH DISTRICT

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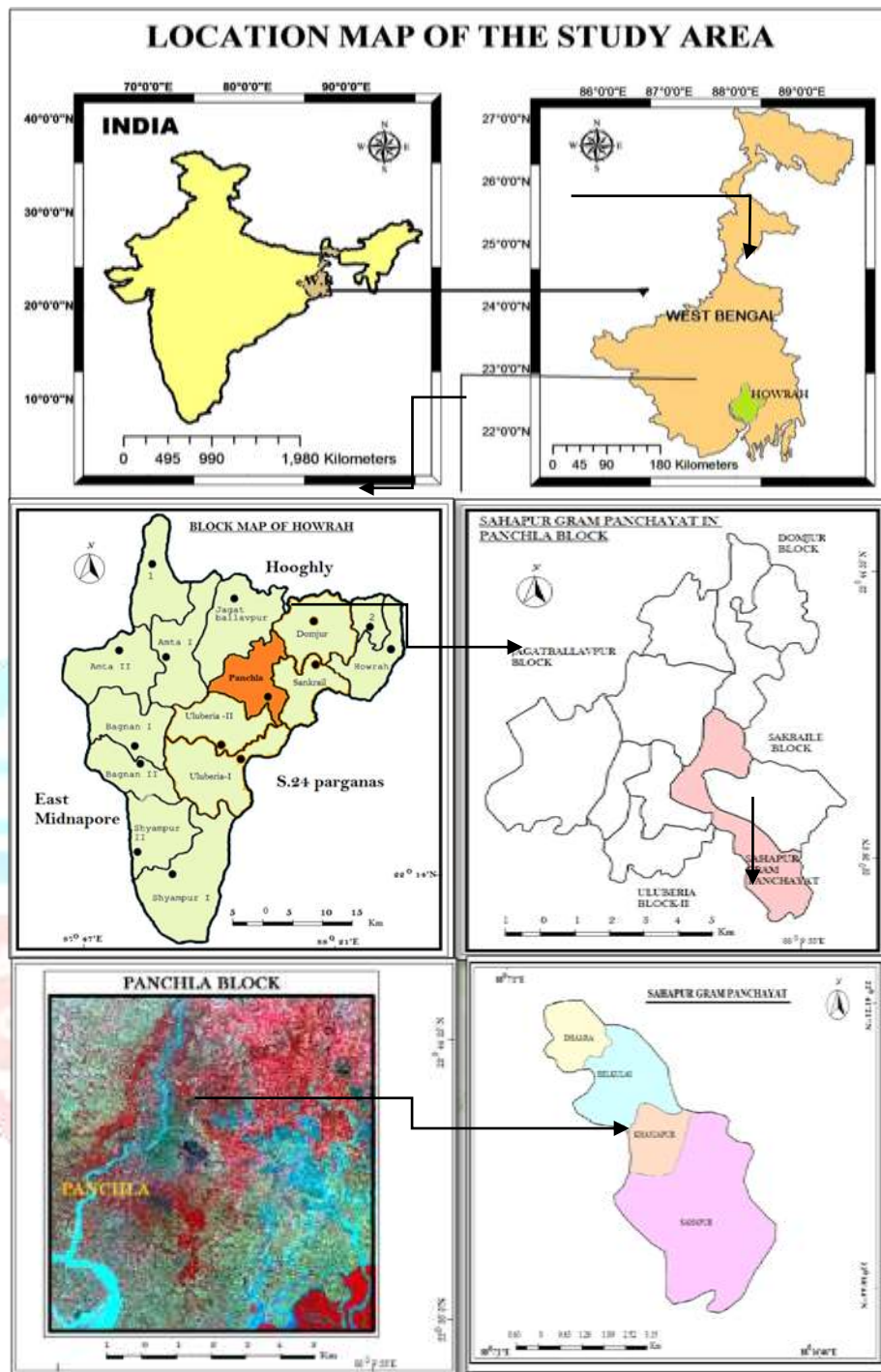
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➤ INTRODUCTION:

Women constitute almost half of the population in the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them suffer a lot as they were denied equal opportunities in different parts of the world. The rise of feminist ideas has, however, led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Access to education has been one of the most pressing demands of these women's rights movements. **Women education** is a catch-all term for a complex set of issues and debates surrounding education (primary education, secondary education, tertiary education, and health education in particular) for girls and women. It includes areas of gender equality and access to education, and its connection to the alleviation of poverty. Also involved are the issues of single-sex education and religious education in that the division of education along gender lines as well as religious teachings on education have been traditionally dominant and are still highly relevant in contemporary discussions of educating females as a global consideration. In addition, Education increases a woman's (and her partner and the family's) level of health and health awareness and it can increase the level of resources available to women.

➤ AREA AND LOCATION:

This study area is located in Panchla Block of Howrah District, West Bengal. This consists of 4 villages and the total area is about 5.0448 sqkm. with the total population of 17824(2011 census). This area is extending from 22^o 42'38" North to 22^o44'8"North and 88^o 15'East to 88^o16'51" East longitude (Fig.1.1)



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(Fig. No. 1.1- Source: Land and Land reforms office, govt. of W.B & Panchayat office)

- **OBJECTIVES:**

Education for all is milestone of development because it enables people to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. Gender discrimination can only be abolished through the provision of adequate and functional education for all. No matter how rich or vast a nation is, without an effective, adequate and functional education

for all its citizens (men and women), a nation would find it difficult to stand on its own. Women education plays an important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population. Though gender discrimination still persists in India and lot more needs to be done in the field of women's education. The gap in the male-female literacy rate should be reduced. The need for women education is also informed by the fact that occupational achievement and satisfaction is ensured only by effective education.

- This paper is an important attempt to analyse the educational disparity among male and female population of Sahapur Gram Panchayat, Howrah District.
- To examine the disparity of concentration of male and female population.
- Finally to assess the inequality regarding development between male and female population.

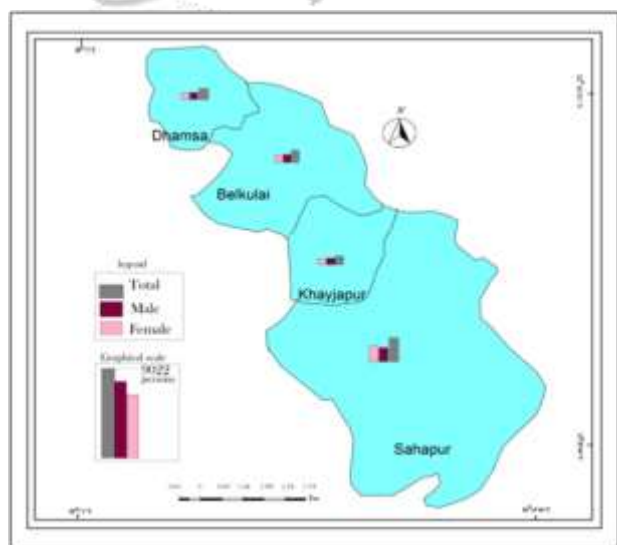
➤ **Sampling size:**

Total number of household of the study area is 3945(2011 census. Only13% of total houses has been surveyed.

Type	Total No.	Percentage of survey	Sample size
Household	3945	13%	500

➤ **Demographic structure of Sahapur Gram Panchayat:**

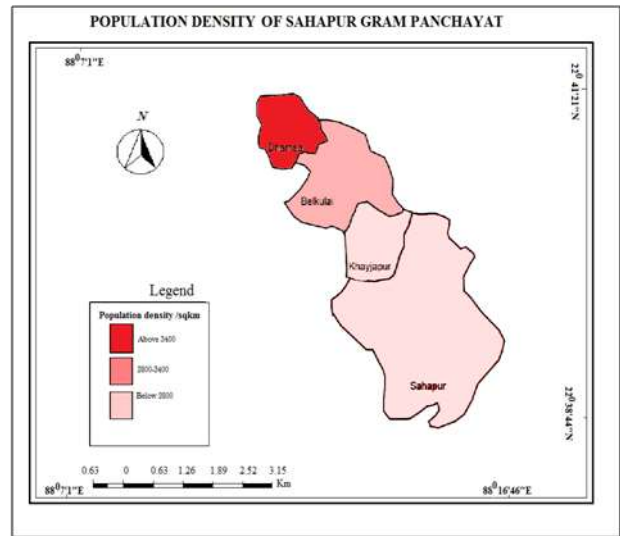
- Sahapur Gram Panchayat is established in 1986.This gram panchayat occupies an area of 5.04sq km and includes total population of 17824(census 2011) among which 9168(51.44%) are male and 8656(48.56%) are female.(Fig. 1.2).
- Among four villages of this study area, Sahapur village has the highest population (9022) and Khayjapur village has the lowest



population(2155).Disparity regarding total number of male and female population,is maximum in case of Belkulai village and it is minimum at Dhamsa village.

Fig No. 1.2- Demographic structure (Source: census, 2011)

- Average sex ratio of the study area is 944 which is more than national average sex ratio (940).

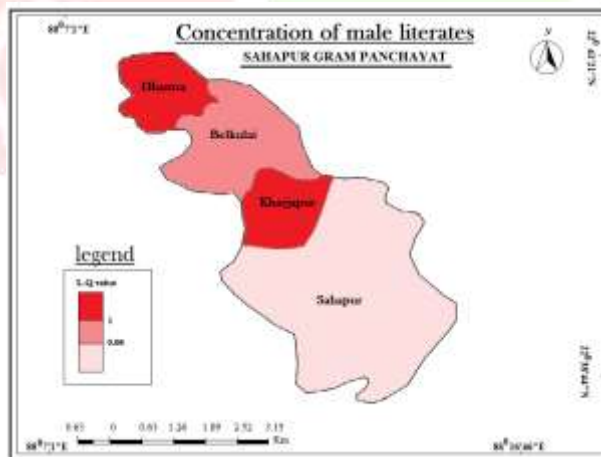


- Regarding population density, Dhamsa village has the highest population density(4786 persons/sqkm) and Belkulai has the lowest population density (2702persons/sqkm). (Fig. 1.3)

Fig No. 1.3- population density (Source: census, 2011)

➤ **Disparity in literacy rate:**

Male and female literacy rate of this study area is 53.82% and 46.18% respectively. Among four villages, male literate



number (3379) is highest in Sahapur

village and lowest (800) in Khayjapur village.On the other hand, female literate number is highest (2868) in Sahapur village and lowest (718) in Khayjapur village (Fig no. 1.4 And 1.5). Almost every village has minimum one primary school

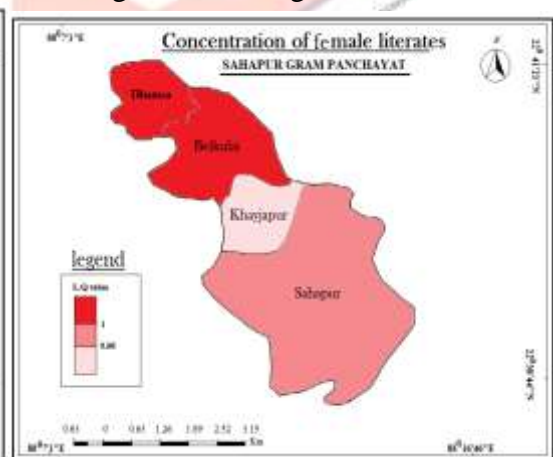


Fig no. 1.4-Source: census 2011

Fig no. 1.5-Source: census 2011

- Among males, maximum people are Graduate. But in case of females, maximum educational level is up to higher secondary. Number of female graduates are very low.
- Among four villages, very high disparity in male and female literacy rate is observed in the village named Sahapur. Medium disparity in literacy rate presents in Belkulai and Dhamsa villages. Lowest disparity in literacy rate is found in Khajapur village. (Fig.1.6)

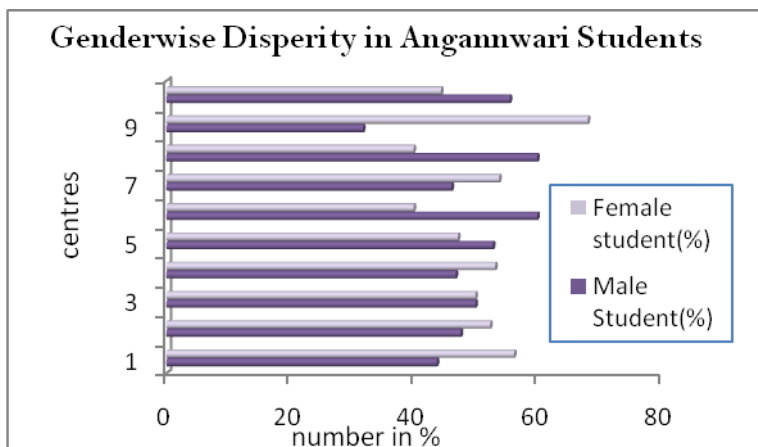


Fig no. 1.6-Source: primary survey,2016

- In case of teachers, there is also a large disparity noticed. Number of male teachers is much higher than female teachers. But, in few kindergartens, only female teachers are working. (fig.no.1.7)

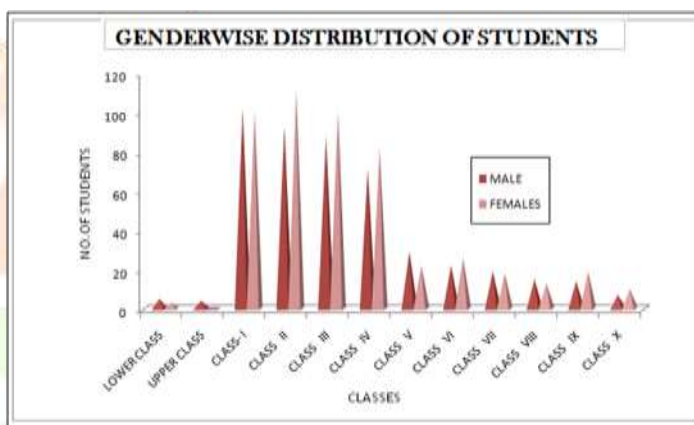


Fig no. 1.7-Source: primary survey,2016

- Acc. to the house hold survey, it is clear that the number of dropout candidate is maximum among females. In case of female population, dropout rate is 0.7% to 3.7% and among male population 0.1% to 0.7% are dropout candidates.
- In Sahapur gram panchayat, there are ten Anganwari Centres which also shows a clear disparity among boys and girls (students). [Fig no. 1.8]

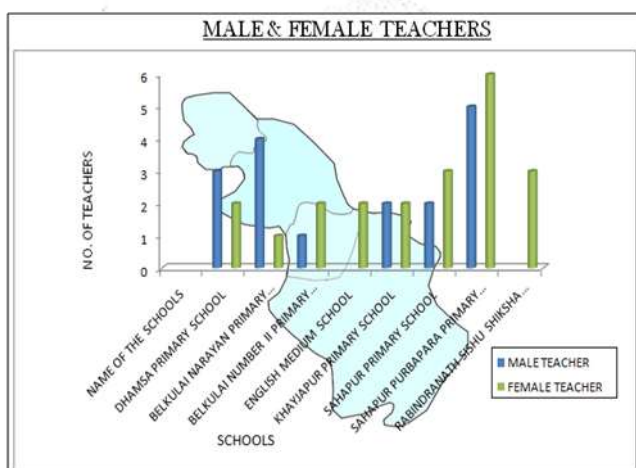


Fig no. 1.7-Source: primary survey,2016

➤ **Major Findings:**

- There is wide disparity of population concentration among male and females.
- All villages have very poor sex ratio except Dhamsa village.
- Female educational institutions are much less in numbers in Sahapur Village area.
- Low female literacy rate is noticed and it is mainly due to the conservativeness, male dominance, lack of social acceptance etc.
- The overall development regarding education, per capita income is much higher among male population than females.

➤ **There are some problems hindering the development of female education rather overall education. Such as:**

- It is unfortunately true of our society that children are sent to school not according to their intelligence or aptitude but according to their sex.
- The reasons for not sending girls to school are both economic and social. In rural areas, girls are required to help in household work.
- Low income level of people one of the major problem as it is difficult for the parents to spend much money for their children's educational purpose.
- Large distance of school from home.
- Deficiency of teacher.

➤ **SUGGESTION:**

- Increase the number of teacher
- Provision of school buses.
- No. of female educational institutions should be increased in male dominated areas.
- More and more facilities should be given to the female workers to minimize the gap between male and female work participation rate.
- Provide Scholarships to the female students to control the Drop out Problems.
- Take special plan to provide job opportunities especially for Muslim females.
- Strengthen the administrative set up
- arrangements for monthly parent-teachers meeting

- Provide training for untrained teachers.

➤ **CONCLUSION:**

Gender Disparity always leads to weaker Economic growth, while the stronger socio-economic condition usually leads to the reduction in gender disparity. Thus, it is our prime concern to overcome this problem of gender disparity between various communities. It needs more and more awareness among people .And various Government grants and the co-operation of non-governmental agencies are also needed to minimize this gender disparity.

Inadequate education or no education is the most important factor contributing to the backwardness of our masses, especially women. The low literacy rate among women ultimately brings down the national literacy rate. Many educational programmes should be provided to enhance the education for women.

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