



WOMEN AND THEIR EDUCATION OF PURBA MEDINIPUR DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

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Abstract: Women education is very important for the proper social and economic growth of the country. Nowadays, the importance of women's education is growing day by day. Education for women is the best way to improve the health, nutrition and economic status of a household that constitute a micro unit nation development. But position of girl's education is not improving according to determined parameter for women. Even though the Indian government has taken some measures such as the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' and also the government of West Bengal special scheme for girl child, i.e. 'Kanyashree Scheme', but the attitude towards girl child is very negative in our society even on today. Hence, this study is mainly framed to design to know the educational status of women along with the socio economic status, marital status, first baby gender preference, and mother's age at first baby born. The study has been conducted during the month of September to October 2023 in Moyna block under Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. It has been found that about 42% women whose age during marriage was below 18 years in Moyna block of Purba Medinipur district. In the study area, 30% women under studied expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as 'boy'. In the study area, surprisingly no woman wants a baby girl as her first child. It has been found that 60.68% women's age were below 19 years when their first baby was born. Though there is no illiterate woman in the study area, but only 5.09%, 5.09%, 20.38% passed Class VIII, matriculation, and higher-secondary examination respectively. About 15.28% and 6.36% women passed B.A. and M.A. respectively, though their employment scenario is not good, most of them are housewife.

Keywords: Women Education, Socio-Economic Status, Marriage and Child-birth

Introduction:

Women education is very important for the proper social and economic growth of the country. Nowadays, the importance of women's education is growing day by day. Education for women is the best way to improve the health, nutrition and economic status of a household that constitute a micro unit nation development. It is not only important to educate girls and women, but also it is necessary to provide them with basic facilities and awareness regarding their rights. There are many reasons why women are still not given similar rights to enjoy and get educated. They are thought to be the burden of a family. Even today, female feticide is practised. It indicates that this girl child has less value in society. We need to educate the entire society regarding the social rights of all genders. Motivating women's education in the country, the women get the opportunity to achieve their goals in each sector. Women should get educated to understand their rights as well self-employment. Free and compulsory education to the children between the ages of 6 to 14 is a fundamental right of Indian citizens according to the Indian constitution under the 86th Amendment made in 2002. But position of girl's education is not improving according to determined parameter for women. Generating awareness of the rights of women and making them free from all kinds of exploitation and violence are utmost important along with health awareness. Even though the Indian government has taken some measures such as the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' and the government of West Bengal special scheme for girl child, i.e. 'Kanyashree Scheme', but the attitude towards girl child is very negative in our society even on today. Hence, this study is mainly framed to design to know the educational status of women along with the socio economic status, marital status, first baby gender preference, and mother's age at first baby born of Moyna block under Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal.

Objectives of the Study: The objectives of the present study are:

- 1) To know the educational status of women of Moyna block under Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal.
- 2) To know the socio economic status of women of the said area.
- 3) To enquire the marital status, first baby gender preference and mother's age at first baby born of the said area.

Methodology of the Study:

The present study has been conducted in Moyna Block of Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. We have taken four big villages of Moyna block namely Changra, Garh Moyna, Banki, Tilkhoja. The data have been collected through a self-made interview schedule and house hold survey schedule. We have covered 119 household surveys among these four villages of Moyna block and also taken interview of one elderly women

respondent from each household. The study has been conducted during the month of September to October 2023. The collected data then have been analyzed qualitatively.

Findings and Discussion: The details findings of this study along with discussion are given:

- a) **Age during Marriage:** It has been found that about 42% women under the study whose age during marriage were below 18 years and 58% women whose age during marriage were above 18 years.

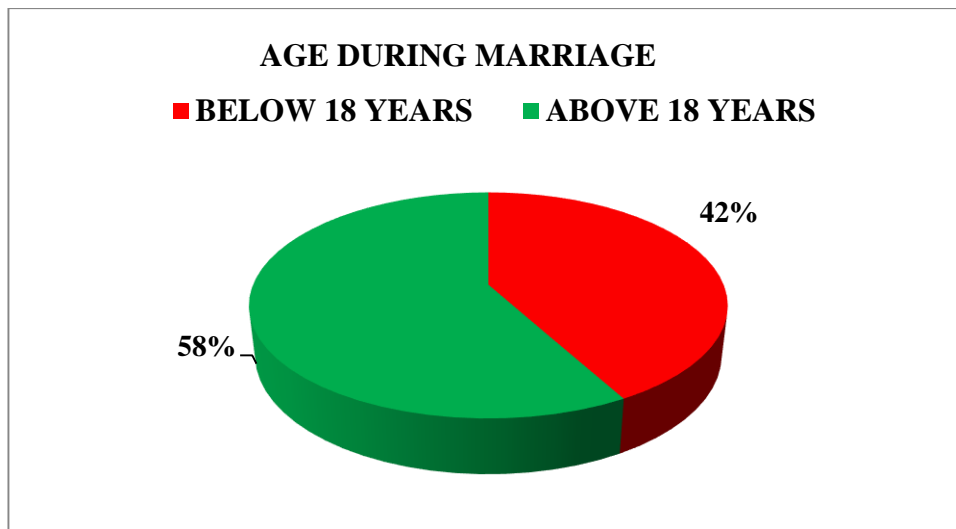


Figure 01: Age during Marriage

Source: Field Survey

- b) **Marital Status:** It has been found that about 56% of women in the studied area are married and 44% of women are single.

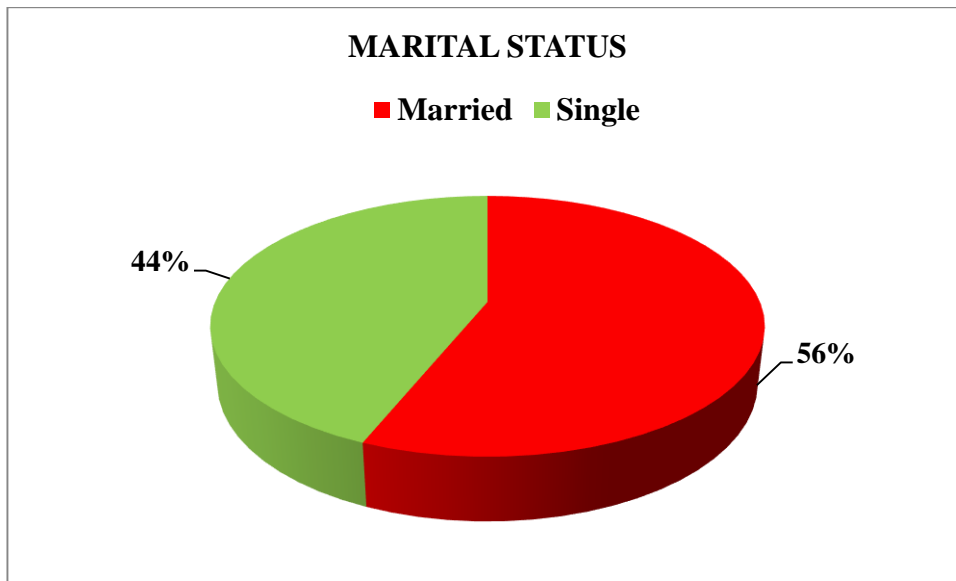


Figure 02: Marital status

Source: Field study

- c) **First Baby Gender Preference:** 30% women under studied expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as 'boy'. About 70% women have no such special gender preferences in their married life. Surprisingly no woman wants a baby girl as her first child.

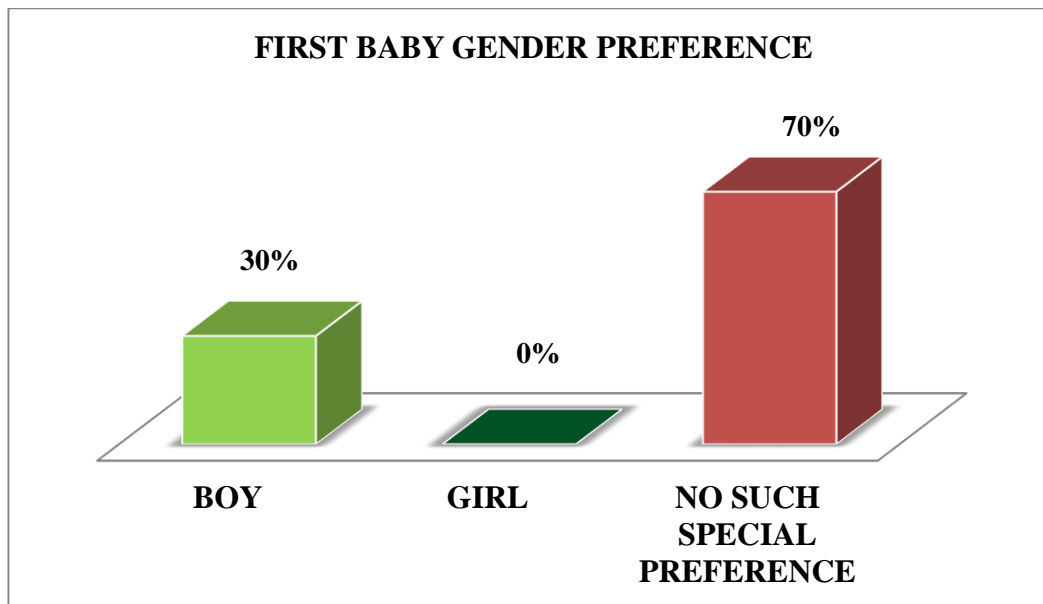


Figure 03: First Baby Gender Preference

Source: Field Study

- d) **Mother's Age at First Baby Born:** It has been found that in this study area 60.68% women's age were below 19 years when their first baby was born and 39.32% women's age were above 19 years their first baby was born.

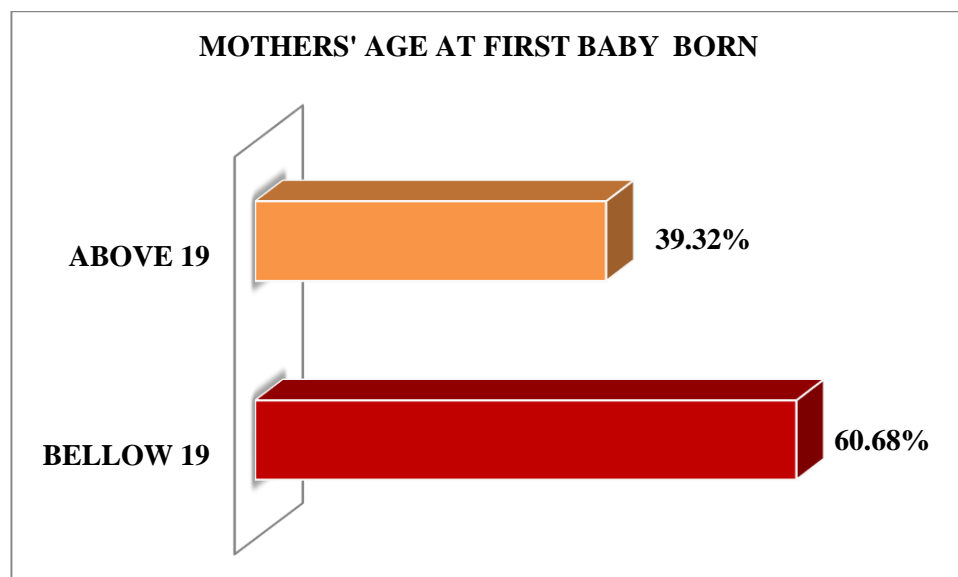


Figure 04: Mother's Age at First Baby Born

Source: Field Study

- e) **Educational Qualification of respondent and Household:** It has been found that in this study area there are no illiterate women. About 7.64% women are below class IV and 5.09% women are IV passed. About 10.82% women are below class VIII and 5.09% women are VIII passed. About 2.54%

women are below Secondary level i.e. below class X and 16.56% women are X passed. About 7.00% women are under below higher secondary level (H.S.) and 20.38% passed higher secondary level (H.S.). About 1.91% women below B.A. and 15.28% women are B.A. passed. About 1.91% women under below M.A. and 6.36% women are M.A. passed and 1.27% women are pursuing their B.Ed. course.

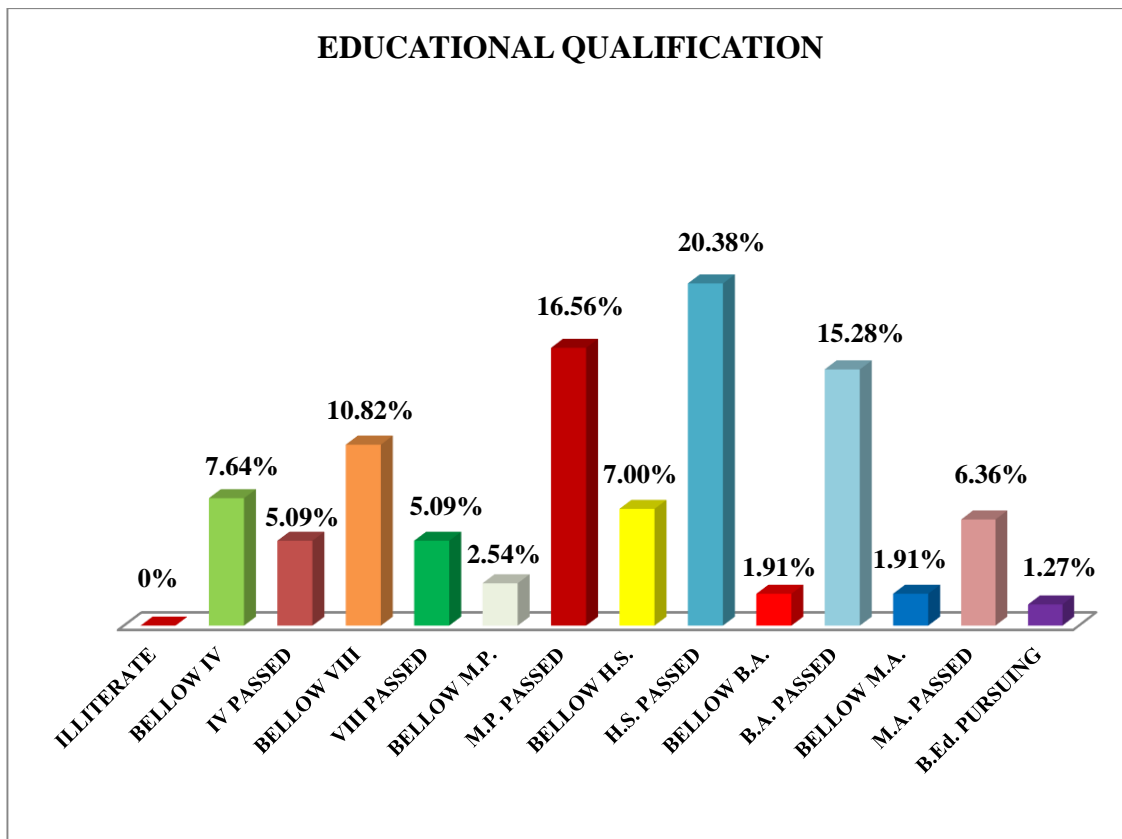


Figure 05: Educational Qualification

Source: Field Study

f) **Occupation of Respondent:** In this study, it has been found that 78% of women are housewife, 8% of women are working in government sectors, 8% of women are working in private sectors. 4% of women are pensioner and 2% of women do small business or self-employed like online e-commerce business, beauty-parlors etc.

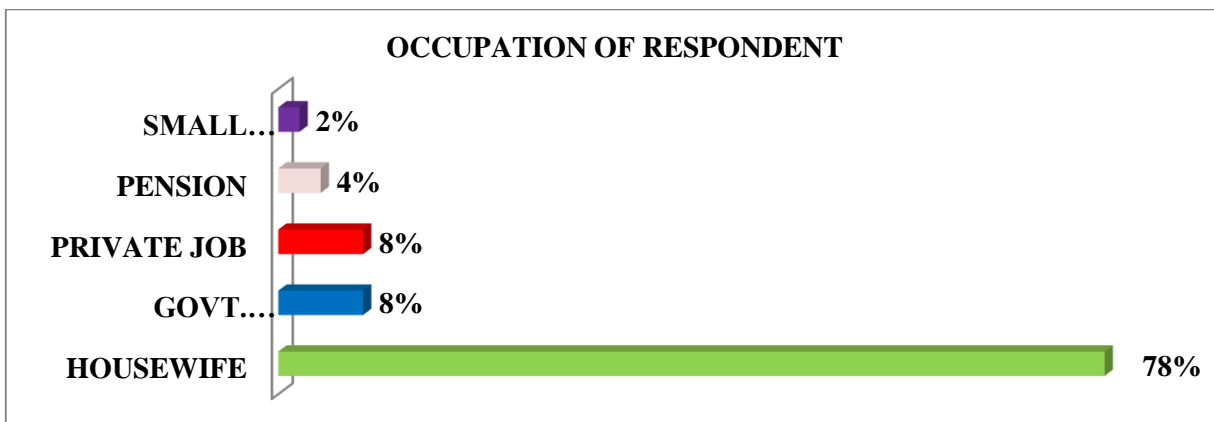


Figure 06: Occupation of Respondent

Source: Field Study

f) **Monthly Family Income:** It has been found that in this study area 2% family whose monthly income between Rs. 10000 to Rs. 15000. About 12% family whose monthly income 15001 to Rs. 20000, and 30% family whose monthly income 20001 to Rs. 30000 and 28% family whose monthly income 50001 to Rs. 1 Lakh, and 14% family whose monthly income above Rs. 1 Lakh.

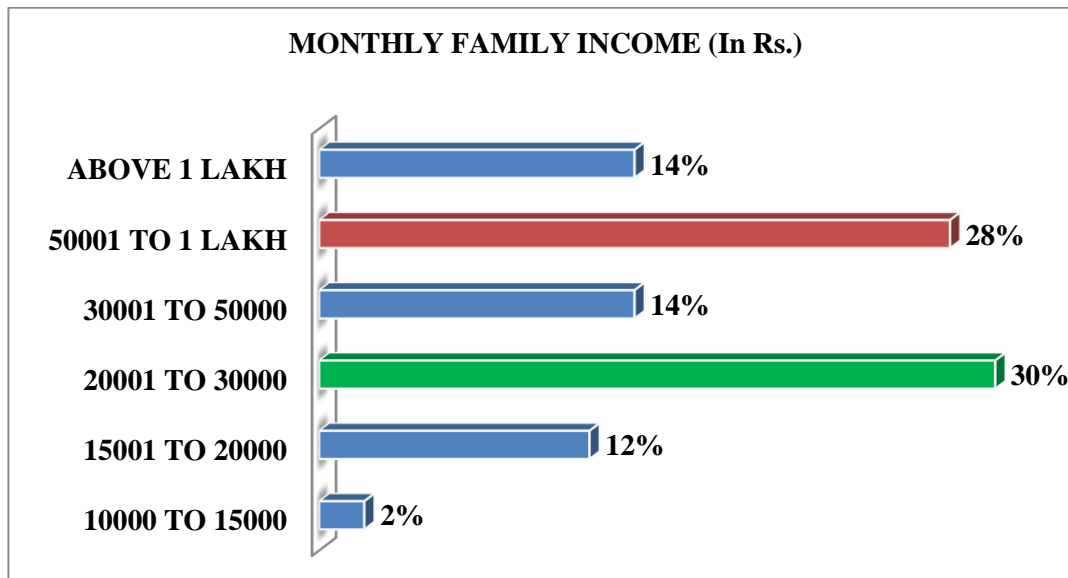


Figure 07: Monthly Family Income

Source: Field study

Major Findings: The major findings of this study are:

- 1) It has been found that about 42% women under the study whose age during marriage were below 18 years.
- 2) In this study area 30% women under studied expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as 'boy'.
- 3) In the study area, surprisingly no woman wants a baby girl as her first child.
- 4) It has been found that in this study area, 60.68% women's age were below 19 years when their first baby was born.
- 5) It has been found that in this study area there are no illiterate women.
- 6) It has been found that 5.09% women are IV passed.
- 7) In this study found that 5.09% women are VIII passed.
- 8) In this study area 16.56% women are matriculation examination (M.P.) passed
- 9) In this study area 20.38% women passed higher secondary examination (H.S.).
- 10) It has been found that 15.28% women are B.A. passed.
- 11) In this study area 6.36% women are M.A. passed.
- 12) It has been found that 1.27% women are pursuing their B.Ed. course.
- 13) It has been found that 78% of women are housewife.

14) About 2% of women do small business or self-employed like online e-commerce business, beauty-parlors etc.

Conclusion:

In conclusion we may highlight that in the study area, it has found that about 42% women whose age during marriage was below 18 years. In the study area, 30% women under studied expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as 'boy'. In the study area, surprisingly no woman wants a baby girl as her first child. It has been found that 60.68% women's age were below 19 years when their first baby was born. Though there is no illiterate woman in the study area, but only 5.09%, 5.09%, 20.38% passed Class VIII, matriculation, and higher-secondary examination respectively. About 15.28% and 6.36% women passed B.A. and M.A. respectively, though their employment scenario is not good, most of them are housewife.

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