

Socio-Demographic Inequalities among Scheduled Caste Women: A Block Level Analysis of Malda District of West Bengal, India

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Abstract

This work attempt to study the block wise inequalities of the different socio-demographic variables (SC female population growth, sex ratio, child sex ratio, female literacy, female work participation) of Scheduled Caste women and their present status in Malda district with the help of secondary data which has been collected from the District Census Hand Book 2001 and 2011. Different methods have been applied for the depiction of result i.e. growth rate, Gender Disparity Index, Standardized Score (Z-Score) and Composite Score. Result tells about the increasing pattern of women's participation in different developmental sector with the increase of female literacy and work participation.

Key Words: *Inequality, Female work participation rate, Gender disparity.*

1. Introduction:

Regional differentiation is the main matter of geography which deals with the analysis of inequalities on the different elements of the region to region (Dholakia, 2003; Chandna, 2014). As because social geography also deals with the study of the regional inequalities or differentiation of the human behaviour (Rai, 2015), their regional custom, their means of livelihood (Banerjee, 1989), their educational as well as economic situation and it is obviously seen that there are various inequalities among them according to their region or living place (Ghosh, 2006; Rustogi, 2010). Scheduled Caste are the termed as the depress class or fifth class or untouchable or Dalit of the society who are originally backward in terms of economic

as well as education (Benjamin, 1991; Pai, 2000). In British rule as the result of faulty and neglected educational policy, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes were far distance from the main stream of the society (Chaterjee, 2000). Though after that Indian government has been taken different initiatives or policies or safe guards which helps them to acquire higher social status (Francis, 1993) as well as higher education and economic opportunities (Khatoon, 2013) also. Though the male populations of the Scheduled Caste category are more developed than the Scheduled Caste women (Manohar, 1989), they also are going forward in terms of education and social status (Isaac, 1997). Scheduled caste women status has been studied under the large umbrella concept of woman empowerment and equality. Great strides have been made toward equality in modern era (Menon, 2000). The Constitution also provides safeguards to sc woman from all possible arising problems and expressing them in public. Even they have joined their hands together to fight against social illness and injustice (Sharma & Ashis, 2014). They have full right to take bold decision and lead the world independently. It has still limited effect on women's conditions (Kusum, 1974). No doubt, that sc male get much more advantage, only SC women's are avoided. Basically the country is moving away from male dominated culture (Khan et al, 2012), discrimination on a wide range of ground can be highly seen in rural as well as urban areas in small villages and even metropolitan cities in almost all spheres of life (Williamson, 1965). Only women are considered as disadvantage in this regard. In some remote space sc women have failed

in seeking their own space in modern society (Nayar, 2008). SC women- men equality is linked with sustainable development where both can enjoy all the opportunities and access to all the rights of decision making (Kurian, 2000) with regard to age at marriage, distribution of power, financial independency, contraceptive use, develop their personal ambitions and interests and may more alike (Rafikul, 2010). Gender equality does not mean that they should be dealt on the same scale but they should have accessibility to all resources and should not be discriminated or constrained on the ground of gender. In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyze demographic data to measure the socio-demographic inequalities among the Scheduled Caste female population among the different blocks of Malda district and it also investigates the roots of gender disparities which more and more from years to years.

2. Materials and Methods:

The entire work had been done on the basis of secondary data collected from District Census Hand Book (DCHB) 2011 of Malda district. The essential cartographic techniques such as maps, diagrams and tables used with the help of GIS-Arc software. For the fulfillment of the study many parametric measures have been used such as –

i) **Modified Gender Disparity Index:** The modified disparity index proposed by Kundu & Rao (1986) is-

$$DI_{KR} = \log \frac{X_2}{X_1} + \log \frac{(200-X_1)}{(200-X_2)}$$

Where,

X₁= Value of Deprived Group (Female)

X₂= Value of Dominant Group (Male)

This (Disparity Index by Kundu & Rao) method is most suitable to measure the inequality between two variables. The value of DI 0 means the perfect equality between two variables. Greater the value indicates higher gender inequality.

ii) **Standard Score (Z-Score):** To analyse the spatial distribution of different socio-demographic characteristics of Scheduled Caste women standard score has been applied which is the sign number of standard deviations an observation or datum is above the mean. It is a dimensionless quantity that involves the varying means and varying standard deviations and therefore, it can be suitably used to examine the pattern of regional distribution of a variable (Sarkar, 2013; Bhandarkar et al., 2005). Standard Score (Z-Score) has been calculated using the following formula-

$$Z = \frac{(X-\mu)}{\sigma}$$

Where

x = the variable to be examined

μ = the mean value and

σ stands for standard deviation

In standard score analysis, a positive value specifies a datum above the sample mean, where a negative value shows the result a datum below the sample mean.

iii) **Composite Index after Iyengar & Sudarshan’s Method:** This index have been used for showing the status of Scheduled Caste women of the different blocks of Malda with the help of composite score. In 1982 Iyengar & Sudarshan put forwarded this method following modified dimension index. They used dimension index for making data standardized in this compositing approach. Using dimension index they transformed original data in to a new form of data set. Divided data set summed up region/block/district wise and after that ranked on that data set by descending order. This value range from 0 to 1, greater the value of compositing indicate higher development. The following formula have been used-

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{X_{id} - X_{id \min}}{X_{id \max} - X_{id \min}}$$

3. Analysis:

3.1 Growth of Female Population:

Growth of population is the rate in the number of people living in a particular area between two given points of time. The net change between the two points of time is expressed in percentage and is described as the growth rate of population. Table 1 gives the highlights of growth rate of SC female population Malda District over the decade (2001-2011). In Malda Total population in 2001 was 554165 including female population of 269439. In 2011, the value reached up to 281265 and 133247 respectively (DCHB of Malda).

3.2. Trend of Sex Ratio among SC population:

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand of males. Of all the demographic attributes of population, sex ratio is the most fundamental as it determines the reproductive potential, marital status, work force, migration pattern, growth of population, and the socio-economic relationship. In fact it is an important demographic indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time.

3.2.1. Inter Block Variation in Sex Ratio Among Scheduled caste population in Malda District:

This section describes the inter-block variation spatio-temporal analysis of Sex ratio of Scheduled Caste population of Malda district. Malda has not been able to beat the West Bengal scenario. From the table 2 it is very clear the overall sex ratio of Malda block is far better in the year 2001 and the

rate of sex ratio decreases in the decade of point difference (996 in 2001 and 943 in 2011).
2011.Chanchal –II block has registered highest

Table 1. Block Wise Variation in SC Population of Malda District 1901

| CD Block | 2001 | | 2011 | | Growth rate of Total Sc Population | Growth Rate of Female Sc Population |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Total | Female | Total | Female | | |
| Ratua-I | 17646 | 8537 | 30538 | 14561 | 0.731 | 0.706 |
| Ratua-II | 12812 | 6281 | 12880 | 6140 | 0.005 | -0.022 |
| Harischandrapur-I | 40806 | 19885 | 49,069 | 23,723 | 0.202 | 0.193 |
| Harischandrapur-II | 22126 | 10645 | 32294 | 15423 | 0.460 | 0.449 |
| Kaliachak-I | 8337 | 4000 | 15033 | 7259 | 0.803 | 0.815 |
| Kaliachak-II | 17349 | 8382 | 32686 | 15768 | 0.884 | 0.881 |
| Kaliachak-III | 22351 | 10850 | 105698 | 51572 | 3.729 | 3.753 |
| Habibpur | 86865 | 42634 | 105386 | 51002 | 0.213 | 0.196 |
| Bamangola | 63459 | 30649 | 71176 | 34078 | 0.122 | 0.112 |
| English Bazar(R) | 35085 | 16823 | 47532 | 22952 | 0.355 | 0.364 |
| Old Maldah(R) | 36572 | 17750 | 50287 | 24418 | 0.375 | 0.376 |
| Manikchalk | 24192 | 11665 | 74816 | 35903 | 2.093 | 2.078 |
| Gazole | 98649 | 47966 | 128464 | 62485 | 0.302 | 0.303 |
| Chanchal-I | 23736 | 11660 | 27370 | 13184 | 0.153 | 0.131 |
| Chanchal-II | 14518 | 7243 | 17112 | 8305 | 0.179 | 0.147 |
| Malda District | 554165 | 269439 | 835430 | 402686 | 0.508 | 0.495 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

It may be lack of education facilities and lack of economic development. Ratua – II block also experienced sharp fall of about 51 points in sex ratio since 2001. Substantial decline in sex ratio has also been observed in Ratua –I, Harischandrapur –I and II, Kaliachak – II , Habibpur, Bamangola, Manikchak, Gazole, Chanchal –I. While some block viz. Kaliachak –I and III, English Bazar and Old Maldah have shown remarkable improvement in the figures. Few states like Kaliachak – I and III, English Bazar and Manikchak blocks have shown a

marginal increase in the number of females to males from 2001. But a much number of blocks have shown a marginal decrease in the number of females to males from 2001. All the blocks are struggling to achieve the female favored sex ratio values. Table 2 clearly indicates a constantly deteriorating condition of sex ratio in Malda since 2011. Continuous gender gap is evident in every successive census enumeration. In 2001 and 2011 the male – female proportion has become low. It has decreased by 7 points since 2001. It means for

Table 2. Block wise Sex Ratio of Malda (2001- 2011)

| Block | Sex Ratio | | Change | Z Score(Sex Ratio) |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | 2001 | 2011 | | |
| Ratua-I | 937 | 911 | -26 | -1.54 |
| Ratua-II | 962 | 911 | -51 | -1.54 |
| Harischandrapur-I | 950 | 936 | -14 | 0.385 |
| Harischandrapur-II | 927 | 914 | -13 | -1.309 |
| Kaliachak-I | 922 | 934 | 12 | 0.231 |
| Kaliachak-II | 935 | 932 | -3 | 0.077 |
| Kaliachak-III | 943 | 953 | 10 | 1.695 |
| Habibpur | 958 | 938 | -20 | 0.539 |
| Bamangola | 934 | 919 | -15 | -0.924 |
| English Bazar | 921 | 934 | 13 | 0.231 |
| Old Maldah | 943 | 944 | 1 | 1.001 |
| Manikchak | 931 | 923 | -8 | -0.616 |
| Gazole | 946 | 944 | -2 | 1.001 |
| Chanchal-I | 966 | 929 | -37 | -0.154 |
| Chanchal-II | 996 | 943 | -53 | 0.924 |
| Malda | 946 | 939 | -7 | 0.616 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

every thousand male, more than hundred females are should be required for the region. Since 2001 inter blocks of Malda districts had never experienced the value of sex ratio as equal to district of Malda. The region has shown fluctuations. Malda district demonstrated a wide increase in gender gap of around 7 points in 2011.

3.2.2. Inter Block Variation in Child Sex Ratio among Scheduled caste population in Malda District:

This section describes the inter-block variation spatio-temporal analysis of child Sex ratio of Scheduled Caste population of Malda district. Malda has not been able to beat the West Bengal scenario. From the table 3 it is very clear the overall child sex ratio of Malda block is far better

in the year 2001 and the rate of sex ratio decreases in the decade of 2011. Ratua –II block has registered highest point difference (1020 in 2001 and 935 in 2011). It may be due to backwardness of socio- economic development. Chanchal – II block also experienced sharp fall of about 65 points in sex ratio since 2001. Substantial decline in sex ratio has also been observed in Ratua –I, and II, Kaliachak – II , Habibpur, Bamongola, Manikchak, Gazole, Chanchal –I and II. While some block viz. Harishchndrapur -I , Kaliachak –I and III, Bamongola, English Bazar and Old Maldah have shown remarkable improvement in the figures , where Bamongola shows the little trend of improvement in child sex ratio which denote its increasing manner of socio- economic condition.

Table 3 Block wise Child Sex Ratio of Malda District 2001-2011

| Block | Child Sex Ratio | | Change | Z- Score |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | 2001 | 2011 | | |
| Ratua-I | 1006 | 942 | -64 | -0.432 |
| Ratua-II | 1020 | 935 | -85 | -0.758 |
| Harischandrapur-I | 928 | 966 | 38 | 0.688 |
| Harischandrapur-II | 964 | 999 | 35 | 2.227 |
| Kaliachak-I | 914 | 943 | 29 | -0.385 |
| Kaliachak-II | 996 | 947 | -49 | -0.199 |
| Kaliachak-III | 914 | 974 | 60 | 1.061 |
| Habibpur | 988 | 923 | -65 | -1.318 |
| Bamangola | 958 | 971 | 13 | 0.921 |
| English Bazar | 938 | 968 | 30 | 0.781 |
| Old Malda | 927 | 962 | 35 | 0.501 |
| Manikchak | 998 | 941 | -57 | -0.479 |
| Gazole | 974 | 944 | -30 | -0.339 |
| Chanchal-I | 987 | 933 | -54 | -0.852 |
| Chanchal-Ii | 986 | 921 | -65 | -1.411 |
| Malda | 966 | 958 | -8 | 0.314 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

3.3. Scheduled Caste Female Literacy Rate:

Literacy is one of the vital qualitative factors for the improvement of a person as well as socio-economic development of human society. Literacy helps to acquire a higher social status through the process of social mobility. Being one of the most important key factors of socio-economic change, study of literacy pattern and its differential on gender of an area is very valuable. A person aged 7 and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate by the Indian Census. Female literacy is considered to be the more sensitive index of social development compared to overall literacy rates. Without female’s development any country cannot be developed. In spite of all the special constitutional provisions and government efforts in

the field of education, the disparity between males and female are still large.

3.3.1. Inter-Block Variation in Literacy Rate among Scheduled Caste Population in Malda:

This section describes the inter-block variation Spatio-temporal analysis of literacy rate of Scheduled Caste female population of Malda district. From the table 4 it is very clear that the overall literacy rate of Malda district is increased in the year 2011 as well as the literacy rate of all blocks of Malda district also increased . From this table it can be seen that Bamongola block maintained its top position with 48.42 per cent total literacy in 2001 and 70.7 per cent in 2011. The percentage among males are 77.61 and females 61.81 (in 2011) which are the highest among all the district. Chanchal –II stood at the bottom with total literacy of 46.02 percent (males 54.15 and

females 37.43) in 2011. The literacy rate of Chanchal- II block is respectively better than 2001 but this block can not beat the literacy rate of other districts, in 2001 the condition of literacy rate is

very poor in respect all other blocks and in 2011 it also situated in same condition. Chanchal – II block is lagging behind than other districts on the ground of female literacy.

Table- 4 Block wise Male – Female Literacy in Malda District (2001-2011)

| Block | Female Literacy Rate | | Change | Z-Score |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2001 | 2011 | | |
| Ratua-I | 26.8 | 49.78 | 22.98 | 0.003 |
| Ratua-II | 28.96 | 46.28 | 17.32 | -0.5 |
| Harischandrapur-I | 20.7 | 37.26 | 16.56 | -1.795 |
| Harischandrapur –II | 20.22 | 42.72 | 22.5 | -1.011 |
| Kaliachak-I | 38.02 | 56.07 | 18.05 | 0.907 |
| Kaliachak-II | 28.72 | 51.16 | 22.44 | 0.202 |
| Kaliachak-III | 22.94 | 49.12 | 26.18 | -0.092 |
| Habibpur | 33.25 | 54.61 | 21.36 | 0.697 |
| Bamangola | 37.48 | 61.81 | 24.33 | 1.732 |
| English Bazar | 34.28 | 56.2 | 21.92 | 0.926 |
| Old Maldah | 33.13 | 51.41 | 18.28 | 0.238 |
| Manikchak | 23.63 | 48.2 | 24.57 | -0.224 |
| Gazole | 35.88 | 56.57 | 20.69 | 0.979 |
| Chanchal-I | 20.22 | 47.73 | 27.51 | -0.291 |
| Chanchal-II | 16.95 | 37.43 | 20.48 | -1.772 |
| Malda | 31.96 | 51.59 | 19.63 | 0.263 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

3.3.2 Gender Disparity in Literacy among Scheduled Caste Population:

In India, women face much more discrimination at every level in society; they are not treated at par with men, socially, economically or politically and as a result they far behind men in almost all spheres of life. The following factors are responsible for poor female literacy rates: gender –based inequality, social discrimination and economic exploitation the occupational of the girl child in domestic chores, the low enrollment of girls in schools, their low retention rate and high dropout rate. The education of Scheduled Castes has been

characterized by low literacy rates, high dropout rates as well as by the persistence of highly discriminatory malpractices (Pai). Literacy is a tool to empower women in the wider struggle against inequality and injustice in society (Patel & Dighe, 1997) There is a need to implement literacy programmes as an integral part of an integrated rural development programme with a provision for vocational skill development and income generation programmes because literacy has link with both societal needs and national development (Das & Singh, 2002)..

Table-5 Spatio-temporal variation on Gender Disparity in literacy

| Block | 2001 | | Gender Disparity | 2011 | | Gender Disparity |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | Male | Female | | Male | Female | |
| Ratua-I | 49.41 | 26.8 | 0.281 | 68.65 | 49.78 | 0.156 |
| Ratua-II | 47.42 | 28.96 | 0.229 | 62.67 | 46.28 | 0.148 |
| Harischandrapur-I | 39.87 | 20.7 | 0.299 | 55.14 | 37.26 | 0.185 |
| Harischandrapur –II | 42.62 | 20.22 | 0.338 | 59.4 | 42.72 | 0.159 |
| Kaliachak-I | 55.38 | 38.02 | 0.179 | 68.35 | 56.07 | 0.102 |
| Kaliachak-II | 50.29 | 28.72 | 0.258 | 68.8 | 51.16 | 0.145 |
| Kaliachak-III | 42.22 | 22.94 | 0.279 | 64.1 | 49.12 | 0.132 |
| Habibpur | 53.54 | 33.25 | 0.222 | 70.88 | 54.61 | 0.130 |
| Bamangola | 58.65 | 37.48 | 0.210 | 77.61 | 61.81 | 0.116 |
| English Bazar | 50.93 | 34.28 | 0.187 | 69.29 | 56.2 | 0.107 |
| Old Maldah | 53.19 | 33.13 | 0.221 | 68.04 | 51.41 | 0.138 |
| Manikchak | 44.01 | 23.63 | 0.284 | 64.61 | 48.2 | 0.143 |
| Gazole | 57.16 | 35.88 | 0.218 | 73.29 | 56.57 | 0.129 |
| Chanchal-I | 39.52 | 20.22 | 0.305 | 63.66 | 47.73 | 0.141 |
| Chanchal-II | 36.25 | 16.95 | 0.344 | 54.15 | 37.43 | 0.176 |
| Malda | 51.73 | 31.96 | 0.224 | 67.79 | 51.59 | 0.135 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

Table 5 describe about the Spatio-temporal variation of gender disparity in literacy of different blocks of Malda district. From this table the clear picture has been shown that the female literacy has been increased from 2001 to 2011 which is good scenario for the women empowerment. From 2001 census to 2011 census the district average SC female literacy rate is increased about 19.63% and also gender disparity has been decreased from 0.224 to 0.135. The highest increased of SC female literacy rate is found in Chanchal-I block i.e. 27.51% followed by Kaliachak-III (26.18%) and Bamangola (24.33%) and low degree of change is found in Harischandrapur-I (16.56%) block. A good scenario of females education is found by the decreasing trend of gender disparity in literacy has been showed in the table 5. In 2011 the highest gender disparity is found in Harischandrapur-I block i.e. 0.185 followed by Chanchal-II (0.176) and Harischandrapur-II (0.159) where lowest value is found in Kaliachak-I (0.102) and followed by English Bazar (0.107). Six blocks namely Kaliachak-I (0.102), Kaliachak-III(0.132), Habibpur (0.130), Bamangola(0.116), English Bazar (0.107) and Gazole(0.107) has the less gender disparity than the district average (0.135) in 2011 census

3.4. Scheduled Caste Female Work Participation Rate:

Population is dynamic as because the entire concept related with population such as demographic structure of work force are dynamic with the changes in size, composition and distribution of population (Chandna, 2014).The workforce may be defined as the number of people engaged in or available for work, and conceptually includes all persons who contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country's economy(Rai, 2015).The study of labour force occupies an important position in the field of population studies(Chandna, 2014). Work force influences socio- economic development of a nation and also provides the information about the productive capacity of that country (Sinha, 2005). Work Force Participation Rates are useful for an understanding of the extent to which women, children and the aged participate in economic activity (Bhagat & Das, 2008). The work force participation varies from region to region, across culture, different age group, stages of economic development and between sexes. India is one of the traditional countries where found different diversity in culture, religion, custom and so on (Singh & Mishra, 2013). The role of women in India is mainly found in household and some domestic works only. But in some cases it is found that a few number of women's are engage in nurses' doctors' teachers' engineers' philosopher' geologist and astronomer also (Banerjee, 1989& Rustagi, 2010).

Table 6. Block Wise Variation in Female Work Participation Rate (2001 – 2011)

| Block | SC Female WPR | | Change in WPR | Z-Score |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 2001 | 2011 | | |
| Harischandrapur-I | 16.9 | 26.71 | 9.81 | 3.021 |
| Harischandrapur-II | 23.08 | 25.69 | 2.61 | 2.888 |
| Chanchal-I | 19.21 | 29.34 | 10.13 | 3.363 |
| Chanchal-II | 24.72 | 29.05 | 4.33 | 3.326 |
| Ratua –I | 14.35 | 21.66 | 7.31 | 2.363 |
| Ratua –II | 22.73 | 18.79 | -3.94 | 1.99 |
| Gazole | 18.29 | 34.07 | 15.78 | 3.979 |
| Bamangola | 13.76 | 27.29 | 13.53 | 3.096 |
| Habibpur | 22.86 | 34.7 | 11.84 | 4.061 |
| Old Maldah | 22.44 | 31.15 | 8.71 | 3.599 |
| English Bazar | 19.01 | 23.84 | 4.83 | 2.647 |
| Manikchak | 16.8 | 28.08 | 11.28 | 3.199 |
| Kaliachak-I | 42.28 | 43.76 | 1.48 | 5.241 |
| Kaliachak-II | 19.83 | 36.87 | 17.04 | 4.343 |
| Kaliachak-III | 34.47 | 46.75 | 12.28 | 5.63 |
| Malda | 20.35 | 32.5 | 12.15 | 3.775 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

The study of female work participation of all the blocks of Maldah District in 2001 and 2011 has shown great incensement in the percentage. As per census of India 2001, Kaliachak –I (42.28 per cent) is the only block having high proportion of

economically active female population. But in 2011, Kaliachak – III(46.75 per cent) as the top ranking block in female work participation rate. Bamongola (13.76 per cent) had the lowest proportion of economically active female

population in 2001. Unfortunately Ratua –II experienced great decline (22.73 per cent in 2001 to 18.79 per cent in 2011) in the proportion of economically active females. On the other hand a highly improvement can be seen particularly in the block of Kaliachak – II(19.83 per cent in 2001 to 36.87 per cent in 2011) as having approximate increment of 17 point . In terms of progress on Female work participation rate not only Kaliachak – II block, even also Gazole (15.78) , Bamongola(13.53) and Kaliachak –III (12.28) have given better performance in FWP during 2001-2011.

The least improvement in economically active FWP in overall has shown by Kaliachak – I (1.48 per cent), Harischandrapur – II (2.61 percent point) and Chanchal – II (4.33 per cent) during 2001-2011. Finally it also can be seen that the percentage of economically active female population of Maldah district also great increased (12.15 per cent point) during 2001- 2011.

3.5. Socio-Demographic Status of SC women:

The status of SC women of the different blocks of Malda district with the help of compositing score of Dimension index given by Iyengar and Sudarsan in 1982. Dimension index of different socio-demographic factor has been calculated and after that all the score has been summed up and then ranked the blocks as per total compositing score in ascending order. With the help of composite score three class have been identified i.e. low, moderate and high. In low status of SC women is found in Harischandrapur-I, Chanchal-I, Ratua-I, Ratua-II and Kaliachak-II having the composite score between 0.79 to 1.71. In moderate status of SC women has been found in Harischandrapur-II, Chanchal-II, Manikchak, English Bazar, Malda(old), Habibpur, Bamangola and Kaliachak-I block having the score between 1.71 to 2.64 where in high status is found in only two blocks namely Gazole and Kaliachak-I having score greater than 2.64.

Table 7: Block Wise Composite Score on Different Demographic Variables in Malda District, 2011

| CD Block | SC Population Growth | Dimension Index | Sex Ratio | Dimension Index | Child Sex Ratio | Dimension Index | Female Literacy Rate | Dimension Index | Female Work Participation Rate | Dimension Index | Composite Score | Rank |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|
| Ratua-I | 0.706 | 0.17 | 911 | 0.00 | 942 | 0.27 | 49.78 | 0.51 | 26.71 | 0.28 | 1.23 | 14 |
| Ratua-II | -0.022 | 0.00 | 911 | 0.00 | 935 | 0.18 | 46.28 | 0.37 | 25.69 | 0.25 | 0.79 | 15 |
| Harischandrapur-I | 0.193 | 0.05 | 936 | 0.60 | 966 | 0.58 | 37.26 | 0.00 | 29.34 | 0.38 | 1.60 | 13 |
| Harischandrapur-II | 0.449 | 0.11 | 914 | 0.07 | 999 | 1.00 | 42.72 | 0.22 | 29.05 | 0.37 | 1.77 | 9 |
| Kaliachak-I | 0.815 | 0.19 | 934 | 0.55 | 943 | 0.28 | 56.07 | 0.77 | 21.66 | 0.10 | 1.89 | 7 |
| Kaliachak-II | 0.881 | 0.21 | 932 | 0.50 | 947 | 0.33 | 51.16 | 0.57 | 18.79 | 0.00 | 1.61 | 12 |
| Kaliachak-III | 3.753 | 0.86 | 953 | 1.00 | 974 | 0.68 | 49.12 | 0.48 | 34.07 | 0.55 | 3.57 | 1 |
| Habibpur | 0.196 | 0.05 | 938 | 0.64 | 923 | 0.03 | 54.61 | 0.71 | 27.29 | 0.30 | 1.73 | 10 |
| Bamangola | 0.112 | 0.03 | 919 | 0.19 | 971 | 0.64 | 61.81 | 1.00 | 34.7 | 0.57 | 2.43 | 3 |
| English Bazar(R) | 0.364 | 0.09 | 934 | 0.01 | 968 | 0.60 | 56.2 | 0.77 | 31.15 | 0.44 | 1.92 | 6 |
| Old Maldah(R) | 0.376 | 0.09 | 944 | 0.79 | 962 | 0.53 | 51.41 | 0.58 | 23.84 | 0.18 | 2.16 | 4 |
| Manikchak | 4.357 | 1.00 | 923 | 0.02 | 941 | 0.26 | 48.2 | 0.45 | 28.08 | 0.33 | 2.06 | 5 |
| Gazole | 0.303 | 0.07 | 944 | 0.79 | 944 | 0.29 | 56.57 | 0.79 | 43.76 | 0.89 | 2.83 | 2 |
| Chanchal-I | 0.131 | 0.03 | 929 | 0.43 | 933 | 0.15 | 47.73 | 0.43 | 36.87 | 0.65 | 1.69 | 11 |
| Chanchal-II | 0.147 | 0.04 | 943 | 0.76 | 921 | 0.00 | 37.43 | 0.01 | 46.75 | 1.00 | 1.81 | 8 |

Source: Calculated From DCHB, Malda (2001-2011)

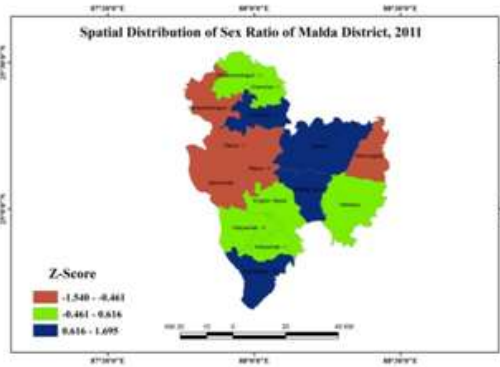


Figure-1 Spatial Distribution of Sex Ratio

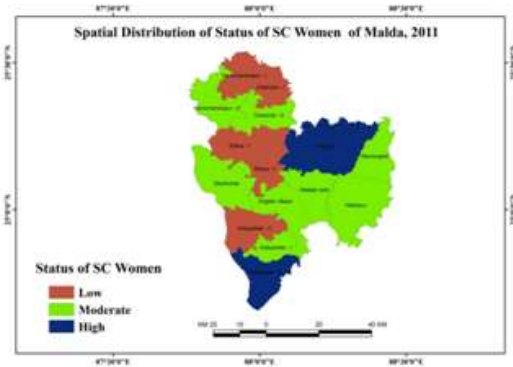


Figure-5 Spatial Distribution of Status of SC Women of Malda, 2011

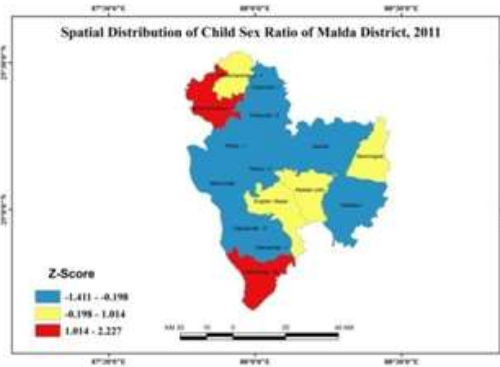


Figure-2 Spatial Distribution of SC Child Sex Ratio

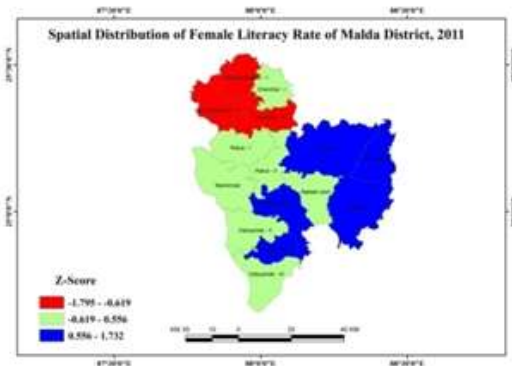


Figure-3 Spatial Distribution of SC Female Literacy

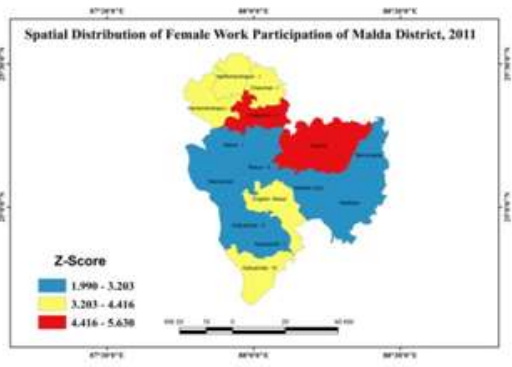


Figure-4 Spatial Distribution of Female Work Participation

3. Findings:

i) Growth rate of SC female is highest in Kaliachak- (3.753 per cent) in 2011, which is much better than the district growth rate of SC female population (0.495 per cent).

ii) The highest sex ratio found in Chanchal – II (996 female per thousand male) in 2001 where the highest sex ratio is found in Kaliachak – III (953 per thousand male) in 2011. It may be pointed out that the district sex ratio decreased 7 point (946 in 2001, 939 in 2011) and sex ratio of all the districts respectively decreased in 2011.

iii) Child sex ratio was highest in Ratua – II (1020 in 2001) which is much greater than district child sex ratio, while Harischandrapur- II occurs highest position in 2011 (999 per thousand male) which is 21 point less than 2001 child sex ratio. It also point to be noted that district sex ratio also decreased 8 point (966 in 2001 and 958 in 2011) and it also less than Harischandrapur – II block.

iv) Female literacy rate is highest in Kaliachak – I (38.02 per cent) in 2001 which is better than district female literacy rate (31.96 per cent), while Bamangola occurs highest position in 2011 (61.81 per cent) which is also much better than district female literacy rate (51.59 per cent in 2011).

v) Gender disparity in literacy was highest in Chanchal – II block in 2011 (0.379 per cent) which high from the district Gender disparity (0.263 per cent), while Harischandrapur – II occurs highest position in 2001 (0.221 percent) which is also high from district Gender disparity (0.169 per cent).

vi) Female work participation rate was highest in Kaliachak – I (42.28 per cent) in 2001 which is much better than district female work

participation rate (20.35 per cent) while Kaliachak – III occur highest position in 2011 (46.75 per cent) which is also better from district FWPR (12.15 per cent) n 2011. The rate of changing in FWPR is high in Kaliachak – II (17.04).

4. Conclusion:

Socio-demographic characteristics are the most important factors to know the quality of population of any region and also deal about the study of regional inequality as well as gender inequality. Among the Scheduled Caste population these inequalities are always prevailed at any place. In Malda SC women's status is increasing day by day through the different governmental developmental initiatives, policies and programmes. Educational attainment is the most important instrument which can abolish these types of inequalities. Women's participation is the most important issue for any kind of development. Finally it can be said that all the literate persons have to take the responsibilities for the awareness of the women's section for as they go ahead and take a major part of the society's developmental works.

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