

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON EDUCATION IN CANNING SUBDIVISION OF SOUTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

Education is a fundamental human right. An educated society can facilitate the development of healthy behavior and good communication skills among its members. Education play various vital roles like for citizenship, for democracy, for international understanding and for a new social order. The Canning Subdivision is situated in the north-eastern part of South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal. There are four Community Development (C.D.) blocks. Out of C.D. blocks under the study area, Basanti and Gosaba blocks are dissected by the tidal rivers and estuaries in active deltaic region of Ganges. The main objective of the study is to know the status of education in the area under study. Secondary data have been collected from different official sources. Primary data have been generated through questionnaire based survey following random method of sampling. In the subdivision, Teacher – student ratio in primary level education have reduced over time. The number of schools has increased in the study area. After implementation of various education related schemes by Government the number of students has increased in the Institutions.

KEYWORDS: Primary, Level, Education, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, Lifestyle, Socio, Economic, Development

INTRODUCTION

Education is essential for human emancipation and social development; it contributes to better human health, higher productivity, greater income, human freedom, capability and esteemed living, increased participation in community life (Human Development Report, 2006). According to Rousseau, Child is a book; the teacher has to read from page. ‘An uneducated person is like animal without tail and horns’ runs a Sanskrit saying. Education means to unfold the latent qualities of man and there-by giving full development to him (Chaudhri Singh, 1962). People may be educated by various ways. They acquire knowledge from educational institutions like school, colleges, universities, coaching centers etc. On the other hand, they learn more things like behavior, life style, communication skill, manners etc from their adult ones from home as well as society through invitation, observation and guided follow up. So home, society and educational institutions are important agencies of education.

Source of Education

People can learn from their days of early childhood to till their death. They can gather knowledge from various sources. There are three important sources from where they can acquire basic education.

- **Home as a Source of Education:** It is the place where the process of learning is initiated. It is also where a person learns his mother language. In the social and political matters he attends the meetings of his elders and thus picks up all the traditions necessary for a full social life.

- **Society as a Source of Education:** All societies have to pass it to their respective members. To pass their heritage it requires educating its members so that there may be no embraces in the unquestioned loyalty to it.
- **School as a Source of Education:** Looking into the demands of the modern times upon the future generation all types of societies- autocratic, socialistic and democratic, have laid much emphasis on school to shoulder responsibilities. Now it is considered the only organ to bring about the desired effects. The school has also to work for social guidance so that social efficiency may be attained (Chavdhri Singh, 1962).

OBJECTIVES

Some objectives have been formulated for the study. These are as follows:

- To know the literacy rate in the study area
- To study the causes behind educational backwardness of the area
- To highlight the condition of educational infrastructure in the study area

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

For this, study both primary and secondary data have been collected. Primary data have been gathered through household survey by random sampling technique. Secondary data were collected from different Government sources. At last, both data have been calculated for cartographic presentation followed by interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

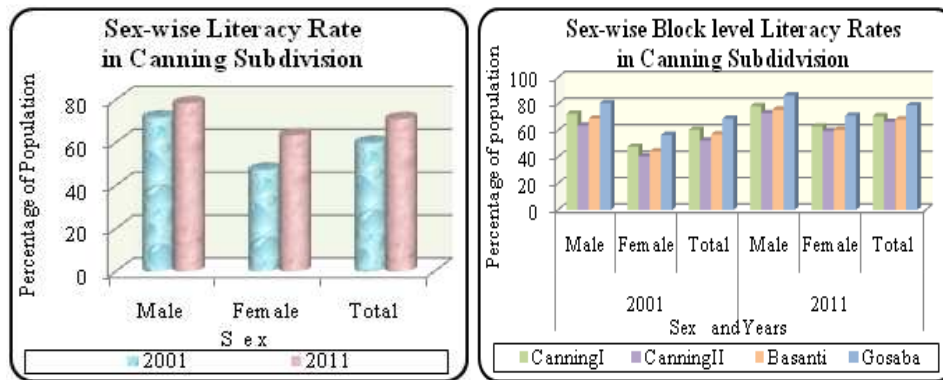


Figure 1: Data Source District Statistical Handbook Figure 2

Literacy is an important indicator of socio-economic development. It facilitates the acquisition of specific skills and occupational competence and accelerates the process of social change (Singh, 2009). Female literacy rate is low than male literacy rate in the study area. Literacy rate have increased in the subdivision. In 2001, total literacy rate was 59.90 percent. In 2011, total literacy rate is 70.98 percent. From the year 2001 to 2011, Male literacy rate have increased by about seven percent. Female literacy rate during this period has increased by about 16 percent. So, Female literacy rate have rapidly increased in the study area in comparison to male literacy rate. From the year 2001 to 2011, total literacy rate of Canning II block have increased more than other C.D. (Community Development) blocks under the study area. The percentage of

literate people is high in Gosaba block in Canning subdivision while literacy rate is low in Canning II block (Mistry, D. 2015). Literacy rate have increased in the subdivision. In 2001, total literacy rate was 59.90 percent. In 2011, total literacy rate is 70.98 percent. From the year 2001 to 2011, Male literacy rate have increased by about seven percent. Female literacy rate during this period has increased by about 16 percent. So, Female literacy rate have rapidly increased in the study area in comparison to male literacy rate. From the year 2001 to 2011, total literacy rate of Canning II block have increased more than other C.D. (Community Development) blocks under the study area. The percentage of literate people is high in Gosaba block in Canning subdivision while literacy rate is low in Canning II block (Mistry, D. 2015).

Literacy Rate among Scheduled Caste (SC) Population: The people belonging to scheduled castes are considered as one of the backward population in the society. Near about 40 to 50 percent population in the study area belongs to Scheduled Caste population. Out of total Scheduled Caste population, male population is more educated than female in the study area. According to 2001 census, literacy rate in Gosaba block is maximum than other C.D. blocks in the study area. Canning II block is the backward class block in terms of education among SC population in the study area.

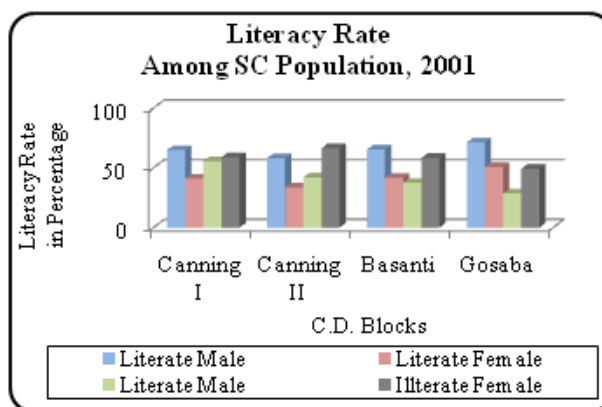


Figure 3: Data Source: District Statistical Handbook

Both male and female literacy rates are high in Gosaba block in Canning subdivision. Due to some religious obligation and socio- economic barrier, female literacy rate among SC population is relatively poor in the study area. In recent times, Government of West Bengal has taken initiatives like Kanyasree Prakalpa, Cycle distribution among girl students etc. to increase female literacy rate. To increase the literacy rate, Government of India has also launched various programmes like Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Programme etc.

Literacy Rate among Scheduled Tribe (ST) Population: The percentage of Scheduled Tribe population is very low in the study area. It has further decreased over time. In 1991, percentage of ST population was 6.06. But in 2011, percentage of ST population has declined to about 5.43. According to 2001 Census, Literacy rate among ST population is below 50 percent in the study area. Female literacy rate among ST population is poor in the study area. Female literacy rate among ST population is low in Basanti block. On the contrary, illiteracy among female population is comparatively low in Canning II block than other C.D. blocks in Canning subdivision. Basically, people who belong to Scheduled Tribe community are very poor. Most of them belong to below poverty line group of population. Both male and female population works in various primary activities to make the provision for food. So, they have to leave school at an early age.

As a result literacy rate is very low among them in the study area.

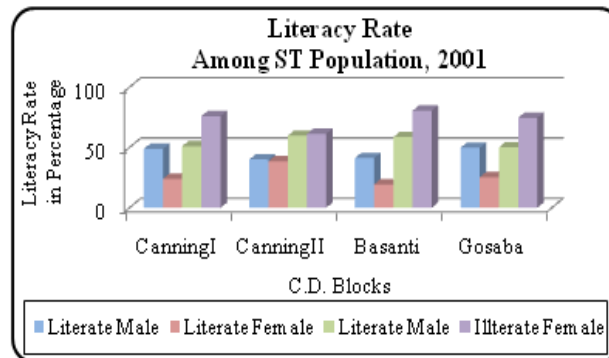


Figure 4: Data Source: District Statistical Handbook

Primary Level Education: Primary level education is achieved in primary school where child learn to read and write. From the ratio among various primary level educational infrastructures, it is observed that maximum number of students per institution was high in Canning II block. From 2001 to 2011, number of primary level educational institutions has slightly increased in the study area. But number of students in Government run primary school has reduced over time. People who have better economic condition willing to admit their child in Kinder Garden or Private English medium school. In the study area, student per institution is decreasing. In 2001, number of student per teacher was high in Canning I block than other C.D. blocks. In 2011, number of students per teacher is high in Canning II block (Table-1). Teacher-student ratio has decreased in Canning I block, because number of teacher has appointed more in Canning I block than C.D. block. But over all status of primary level education is better in Gosaba block than other C.D. blocks in Canning subdivision.

Table 1: Block-Wise Primary Level Education

Subdivisions	Institution-Student Ratio		Teacher-Student Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Canning I	1:274	1:191	1:109	1:51
Canning II	1:315	1:242	1:80	1:72
Basanti	1:247	1:187	1:85	1:52
Gosaba	1:169	1:116	1:52	1:33

Number of teacher was more in Gosaba block during 2011 than other C.D. block in the study area. So, number of student per teacher in primary level education is low in this dissected block.

Upper Primary Level Education: After completing primary level education, children go to upper primary school or high school for study. In upper level education, pupil can study up to the class VIII. In recent time most of the upper primary school is converted in to secondary school in West Bengal. As a result, number of upper primary schools has reduced in the study area. In 2001, number of upper primary school was more in Gosaba block. So, number of student per school was less in Gosaba block. During 2011, there is no upper primary school in Canning II block (Table-2).

Table 2: Block-Wise Upper Primary Level Education

Subdivisions	Institution-Student Ratio		Teacher-Student Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
CanningI	1:255	1:250	1:42	1:50
Canning II	1:221	00	1:36	00
Basanti	1:220	1:200	1:36	1:50
Gosaba	1:164	1:262	1:21	1:46

Number of students per teacher is near about same in each block under the study area except Canning II block. From the year 2001 to 2011, number of student per institution in upper primary level school has increased in Gosaba block. Due to fragile location of Gosaba block, most of the teachers have to transfer to a better location. As a result number of teachers has come down in this block.

Secondary Level Education: In West Bengal, up to class ten or up to the Board Examination is considered as secondary level education. In recent time, many secondary schools have been upgraded into higher secondary school.

Table 3: Block-Wise Secondary Level Education

Subdivisions	Institution-Student Ratio		Teacher-Student Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
CanningI	1:532	1:765	1:39	1:50
Canning II	1:606	1:588	1:45	1:45
Basanti	1:533	1:557	1:49	1:50
Gosaba	1:597	1:462	1:46	1:54

So, teacher-student ratio has increased in the study area. According to census 2001, number of student per institution was high in Canning II block. During 2011, new set up secondary schools are increased in Canning II and Gosaba blocks. So, number of students per institution has come down in these blocks. Due to infrastructural facilities, Government appointed teachers have to be transferred into a better location from Gosaba block (Table-3). So, number of students per teacher is more in Gosaba block than C.D. blocks. In 2011, number of students per institution is more in Canning I block than other C.D. blocks in Canning subdivision.

Higher Secondary Level Education: For class eleven and twelve or up to the Council Examination in West Bengal is considered as higher Secondary Level Education. From 2001 to 2011 number of higher secondary schools has increased in the study area.

Table 4: Block-Wise Higher Secondary Level Education

Subdivisions	Institution-Student Ratio		Teacher-Student Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
CanningI	1:1088	1:1798	1:42	1:96
Canning II	1:775	1:1505	1:42	1:83
Basanti	1:846	1:1710	1:39	1:80
Gosaba	1:722	1:1319	1:43	1:72

In Gosaba block, number of student per institution was minimum than other C.D. blocks in the study area. In 2001, number of student per teacher was less in Basanti block than rest of the block under the study area. According to 2011 census, teacher-student was less in Gosaba block than C.D. blocks in Canning Subdivision (Table-4). By the initiatives of *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* in West Bengal, number of students has increased in the study area. As a result, both institution- student and teacher-student ratio have increased in the study area.

College Level Education

After competing of Higher Secondary Level Education, student admits in college for graduation degree. But in Canning subdivision, there are not adequate colleges. There are only four general degree colleges. One college is in each C.D. block under the study area. These colleges are situated at Pathankhali in Gosaba block, at Tangrakhali in Canning I block, at Kultali in Basanti block, at Jibantala in Canning II block. There is only one Engineering and Management College that is situated at Betberia in Canning I block. Due to infrastructural facilities and lack of subject combination in these colleges, many meritorious students have to go Kolkata city for higher studies.

Public Library in Canning Subdivision

There are few public libraries in the study area where people gathered to read news paper, story books, novels etc. In 2001, total number of population was 18. In Canning subdivision, person per library was 12,051. According to census 2011, total number of population was 264,589 in the study area. During this decade, near about 46,657 persons has increased in Canning subdivision. But number of public libraries is not increased with time to time. In 2011, person per library was near about 14,700 in the study area. Number of person per library is less in Gosaba block than other C.D. blocks in the study area. And person per library is more in Basanti block.

FINDINGS

Literacy rate under the area have increased over time. Literate person among Scheduled Caste population are more in Gosaba block than other C.D. blocks. Due to awareness about education among Scheduled caste population, literacy rate is low in Canning II block. Among Scheduled Tribe population, percentage of female literate people is more in Canning II block. Lack of social consciousness and socio-economic barrier, percentage of female literate people among Scheduled Tribe population is less in Gosaba block. From 2001 to 2011, number of students in primary level education has reduced. In the study area, people who have better economic condition and socially aware usually sent their children to Montessori or English medium school. As a result number of students in Government or Government aided school has

reduced over time. Recently both Government of India and Government of West Bengal have taken such initiative like Mid-day-meal, *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*, *Kanyasree Prakalpa*, Cycle distribution in rural areas, postponed of promotion-demotion process up to class VIII etc. As a result dropout rate and early marriage of girl child have reduced in the study area. As a result number of students in secondary and higher secondary level education has increased. But number of required teachers is not increased in the study area. From the year 2001 to 2011, number of public libraries has not increased in Canning subdivision. There are no Universities in the study area. Lack of higher level educational infrastructural facilities, many meritorious students goes to the city or outside the study area for higher studies. After completion of higher studies, they join either a reputed company or Government sector for a better income. They do not want to return their native place. As a result number of higher educated person is less the study area. In spite of geographically fragile location, overall education scenario is better in Gosaba block than other C.D. blocks in Canning subdivision.

CONCLUSIONS

From the ancient period to modern time, Education was necessity for a better living. Education is the main part of human resource. If the rate of literacy is to be increased, then it will be easy to free the society from superstition and taboos. Education is the function of the society and also that the education must function for the society. If all societies want to perpetuate it must transmit its experience to the next generation. People can learn by different ways like, they can gathered knowledge form various educational institutions. On the other hand, they can learn from their adults through different socio-cultural activities.

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