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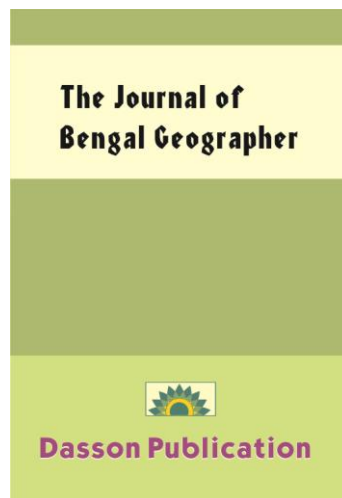
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Analysis of educational level of literate population in West Bengal 2011

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Abstract: Education is the back bone of the socio-economic development of any community. Literacy rate is one of the important parameter to measure the educational development. The population with higher educational levels indeed has more opportunities to better their socio-economic condition. Higher educational level also allows grabbing a white-color job. This is so true for especially for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST); as they are bound to work a menial and traditional job due to low educational levels. The percentage of the literate population with various educational levels like up to the primary level, from upper primary to higher secondary and graduate and above differs in different districts. SC and ST are well behind in this regard with the total population. Kolkata and its surrounding districts have fewer percentage populations with low educational levels and vice versa and it is true for the SC and ST population also. In this paper, an attempt has been made to show the spatial variation of the districts in terms of percentage of the literate population with educational level and compare the districts with total, SC and ST perspective.

INTRODUCTION: A person aged 7 years and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is taken as literate. The educational level defines the highest level of education a person has completed (District Census Handbook Birbhum, 2011). The literacy rate of West Bengal has progressed from 29.3% in 1961 to 76.26% in 2011; for SC from 13.58% to 69.43% in 2011; for ST 6.55% in 1961 to 57.93% in 2011. The spatial distribution of literacy is uneven throughout the districts and this is so true for SC and ST. The population with higher educational levels indeed has more opportunities to better their socio-economic conditions at least in   Higher educational facilitating to grab more white color job. This is so true for especially for the SC and ST. The representation of SC and ST in the central government is 17.49% and 8.47 % in 2016. SC representations found below norms in State Government services in the States namely, Punjab, Orissa and West Bengal (National Commission for Scheduled Caste, 2016-17). Higher educational levels certainly increase the percentage of representation in the higher government jobs of these communities.

OBJECTIVES: Major objectives of this study are

1. To access and compare the spatial variation of the literate population up to primary level among Total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.
2. To evaluate and compare the spatial variation of the literate population from upper primary to higher secondary level education of Total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.
3. To examine and compare the spatial variation of the literate population with graduates and above of Total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.
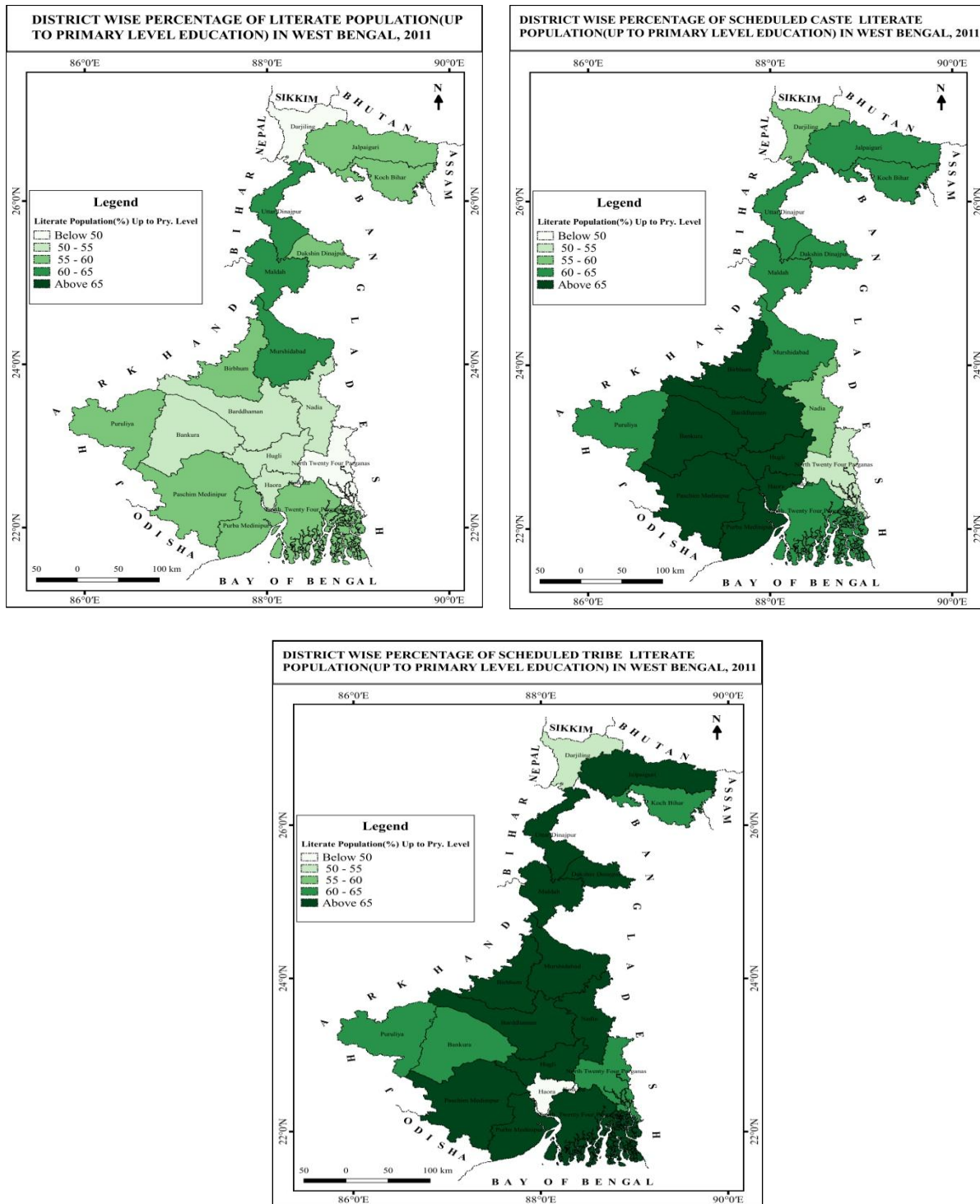
STUDY AREA: West Bengal, the fourth populous state in India, is located in the eastern part shares borders with neighbor's countries Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and with an area of 88752 km^2. The Latitudinal and Longitudinal extension of the state are 21˚ 38́ N to 27˚ 10́ N and 58˚ 50́ E to 89˚ 50́E. The total population of West Bengal is 91,276,115 of which 21463270 belongs to Scheduled Caste and 5296953 is Scheduled Tribe according to 2011 Census. West Bengal comprises 10.66% Scheduled Caste and 5.07% Scheduled Tribe population with respect to total SC and ST of India. The concentration of the SC population is much higher than India's average. 23.5 percent population of the state belongs to this Scheduled Caste community and whereas for the Scheduled Tribe it is 5.80 %. The literacy rate, enrolment rate, educational level of SC and ST is much lower than the other communities in the state.

DATA: This study is purely based on the secondary data which has been collected from the census of India; Table-C8 data is compiled and calculated for this discussion. The thematic map has been prepared by QGIS 2.14 version software. Literate without education, below the primary level and primary level population has been added together to show the percentage of the literate population up to the primary level. Literate population with upper primary, secondary and higher secondary level taken together to demonstrate the percentage of the population with educational level from upper primary to higher secondary level. The districts are the study points.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION:

(a) **Spatial variation of Percentage of Literate Population up to Primary level education:** It is clear from fig-1a that out of the 19 districts of West Bengal, 16 districts comprise more than 50 % literate population up to primary education. Less than 50 % literate population up to the primary level for the total is observed in Darjiling, North 24 Parganas and Kolkata; Bardhhaman, Hugli, Haora, Bankura, Nadia are in 50-55% range; Puruliya, Paschim Medinipur, Jalpaiguri,

Figure-1 Showing district-wise percentage of literate population (upto primary level) of total, SC and ST in 2011

Purba Medinipur, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur, Koch Bihar and South 24 Parganas are in 55-60 % range whereas Maldah, Uttar Dinajpur, Murshidabad are in the 60-65% range.

Only Kolkata recorded less than 50% literate population up to the primary level for the SC. North 24 Parganas fall in the 50-55%; Darjiling and Nadia in 55-60%; South 24 Parganas, Koch Bihar, Maldah, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Puruliya, Dakshin Dinajpur and Murshidabad are in 60-65%: Purba Medinipur, Barddhaman, Haora, Paschim Medinipur, Hugli, Birbhum and Bankura are above 65% range.

The percentage of the literate population up to primary level is less than 50% in Kolkata and Haora for the ST; 50-55% in Darjiling; 60-65% in Koch Bihar, North 24 Parganas, Bankura, Puruliya and above 65 % in the districts Maldah, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, South 24 Parganas, Hugli, Paschim Medinipur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia, Uttar Dinajpur, Barddhaman and Birbhum.

Table-1: Percentage distribution of the Districts of West Bengal in terms of literate population (up to primary level)

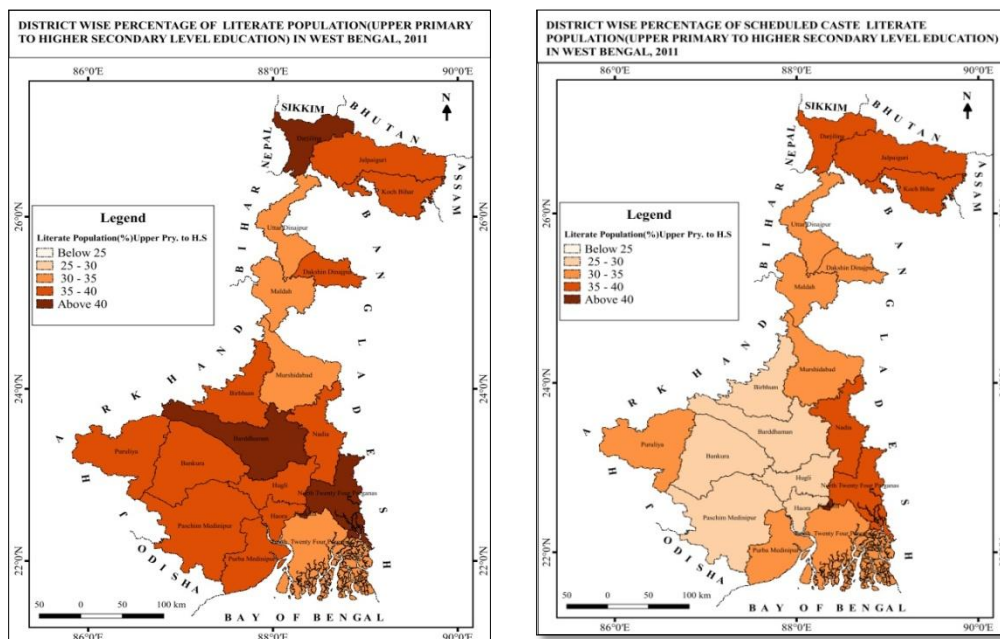| Category/ Range	Below 50	50-55	55-60	60-65	Above 65
Total	3(15.78%)	5(26.31%)	8(42.10)	3(15.78%)	N.A
SC	1(5.26%)	1(5.26%)	2(10.52)	8(42.10)	7(36.84%)
ST	2(10.52%)	1(5.26%)	N.A	4(21.05%)	12(63.15%)

It is clear from table 1 that the majority percentage (68.41%) of districts has a literate population with educational level up to primary between 50-60 whether for this percentage for SC (78.94%) in 60-65% and ST (63.15%) in above 65%.The literate population up to the primary level of SC and ST is higher than the total population throughout the districts.
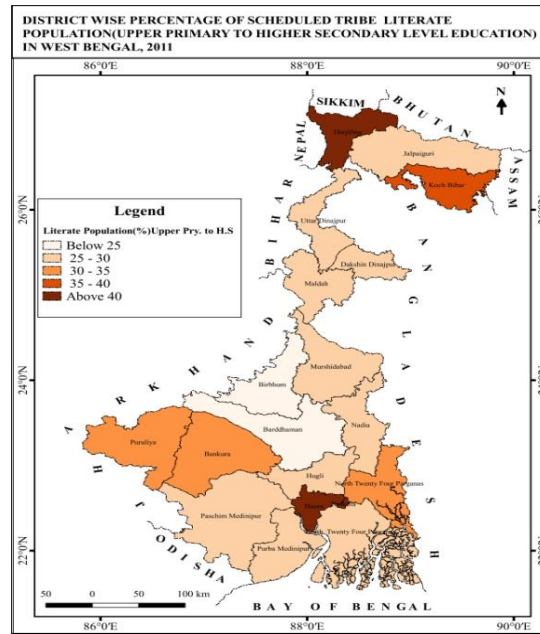
(b) Spatial variation of Percentage of Literate Population from upper primary to higher secondary level:
Literate population with educational level from upper primary to higher secondary is observed 30-35% in Murshidabad, Uttar Dinajpur, Maldah, South 24 Parganas; 35-40% in Birbhum, Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Haora, Hugli, Nadia, Puruliya and Bankura; Above 40% in Barddhaman, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata and Darjiling.

SC literate population with educational level from upper primary to higher secondary is 25-30% in Bankura, Hugli, Birbhum, Haora, Paschim Medinipur, Barddhaman; 30-35% in Purba Medinipur, Murshidabad, Dakshin Dinajpur, Puruliya, Uttar Dinajpur, Maldah and South 24 Parganas; 35-405 in Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Nadia, Darjiling, North 24 Parganas and above 40% in Kolkata.

Figure-2:Showing district-wise % of literate population (upper primary to HS level) of total, SC and ST in 2011

The percentage of literate ST population with educational level from upper primary to higher secondary is below 25% in Birbhum and Barddhaman; 25-30% in Uttar Dinajpur, Nadia, South 24 Parganas, Dakshin Dinajpur, Purba Medinipur, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad and Maldah; 30-35% in North 24 Parganas, Puruliya, Bankura; 35-40% in Koch Bihar and above 40% in Darjiling, Haora and Kolkata.

Table-2: The distribution of the District of West Bengal in terms of literate population (Upper Primary to Higher Secondary)

Category\ Range	Below 25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Above 40
Total	N.A	N.A	4(21.05%)	11(57.89%)	4(21.05%)
SC	N.A	6(31.57%)	7(36.84%)	5(26.31%)	1(5.21%)
ST	2(10.52%)	10(52.63%)	3(15.78%)	1(5.21%)	3(15.78%)

Table 2 indicates that the distribution of the district of the literate population with educational level from upper primary to higher secondary for the total population is 78.94% in the range above 35% range whether this percentage stood at 68.41% in the range 25-35 and for ST 63.15% in below 30.
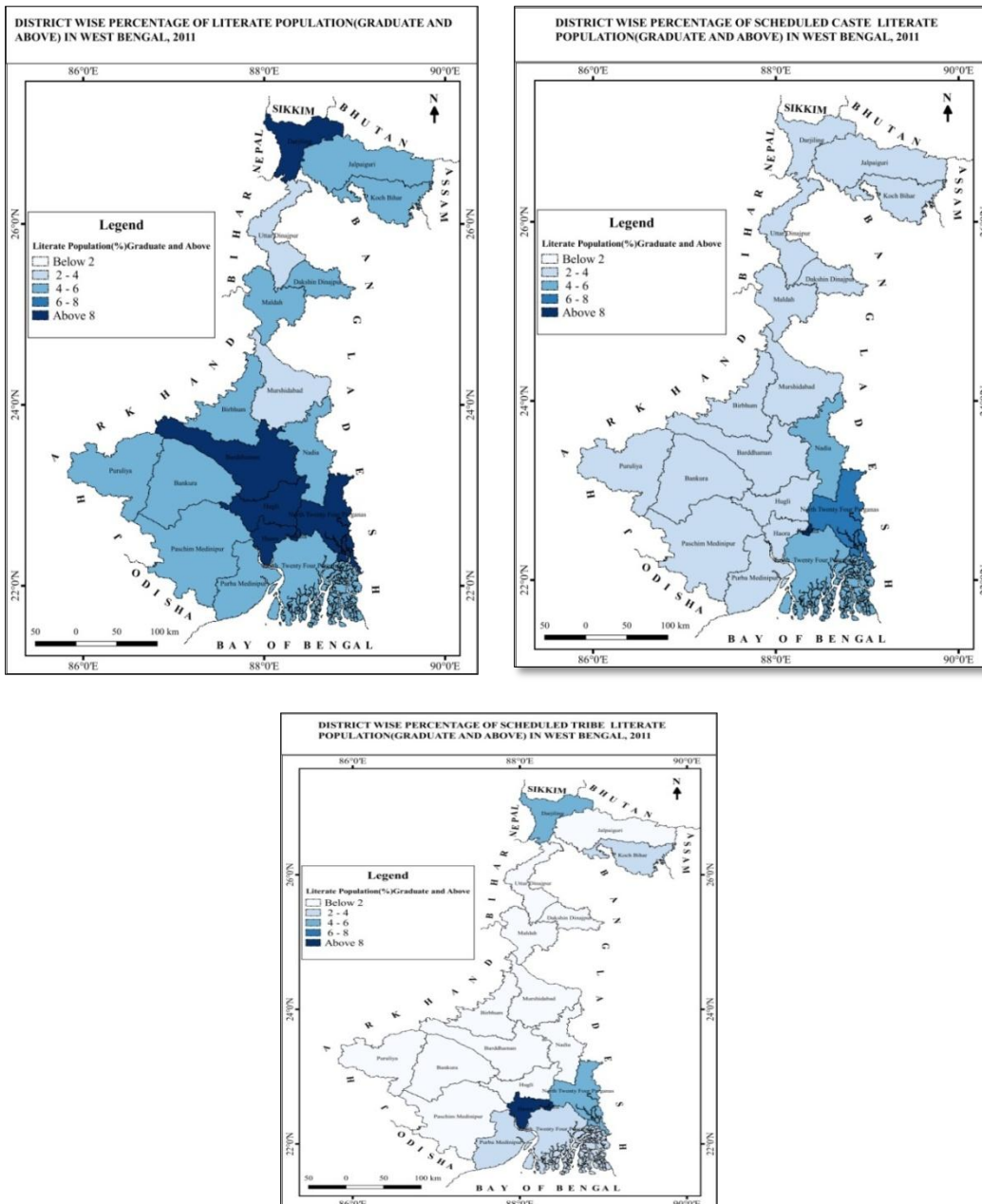
(c) **Spatial variation of Percentage of Literate Population with graduate and above:** The percentage of the literate population (total) with graduate and above is observed 2-4 % in Uttar Dinajpur, Murshidabad; 4-6% in Maldah, Purba Medinipur, Puruliya, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Paschim Medinipur, Birbhum, South 24 Parganas, Bankura and Nadia; above 8% in Barddhaman, Haora, Darjiling, Hugli, North 24 Parganas, and Kolkata. Out of the 19 districts 15 districts namely Birbhum, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Puruliya, Barddhaman, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Hugli, Murshidabad, Haora, Purba Medinipur, Maldah and Darjiling recorded 2-4% SC literate population with graduate and above; Nadia and South 24 Parganas have 4-6 % whereas6-8% in North 24 Parganas and above 8% in Kolkata. Literate population with graduate and above is extremely low(below 2%) among the ST in Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Paschim Medinipur, Jalpaiguri, Nadia, Barddhaman, Murshidabad, Puruliya, Hugli, Bankura, and Maldah. 2-4 % in South 24 Parganas, Koch Bihar, Purba Medinipur, 4-6% in North 24 Parganas, Darjiling, above 8 5 in Haora, Kolkata.

Table-3: The distribution of the District of West Bengal in terms of literate population (Graduate and above)

Category/Range	Below 2	2-4	4-6	6-8	Above 8
Total	N.A	2(10.52%)	11(57.89%)	N.A	6(31.57%)
SC	N.A	15(78.94%)	2(10.52%)	1(5.26%)	1(5.26%)
ST	12(63.15%)	3(15.78%)	2(10.52%)	N.A	2(10.52%)

57.89% percent of districts have literate population with graduate and above in the range 4-6 % for the total population; for SC 78.94% in the range 2-4% and ST 63.15% in below 2%.

Figure-3: showing the district-wise % of literate population (graduate & Above) of Total, SC & ST

This discussion has thrown some interesting scenario about the spatial variation of percentage of literate population of different educational level. It is clear from the discussion that Kolkata and its surrounding districts like South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hugli, Nadia has low percentage of literate population with low educational level(Up to primary) and high percentage of literate population with higher educational level like from upper primary to higher secondary and graduate and above. Darjiling from the north has also recorded the similar picture. This is also true for the SC literate population. Lower percentage of literate population with low educational attainment (up to primary) is observed in the districts of Kokata, South 24 Parganas, Nadia from the south Bengal and Darjiling, Kochbihar and Jalpaiguri from the north Bengal. After the independence of India in 1947 and Bangladesh in 1971, millions of people came from Bangladesh and so called East Pakistan and settled in the border districts like Nadia, S 24 Parganas and Jalpaiguri; the then government of West Bengal gave most of Hindu migrant as Scheduled Caste. Namasudra and Poundra and Rajbanshi are the major sub-caste of North and South 24 Parganas and Jalpaiguri. Historically these communities are more literate than the rest of the sub caste. Apart from that the influence of Harichand Thakur and Matua movement creates awareness and imparts education among the Namasudra community. But in case of ST literate population, lower percentage of literate population is observed in Howrah, Kolkata, and South 24 Parganas from south Bengal and Darjiling from the North Bengal and these districts also have recorded higher percentage of Literate population with educational level upper primary to higher secondary and graduate & above. Many affluent and educated ST of Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Puruliya settled in Howrah; due to the high connectivity of South Eastern Railway and close proximity of Kolkata. It is discernable that higher percentage of literate population with graduate and above is observed in Kolkata and its surrounding districts and low in rural districts. The availability of educational facilities, growing awareness and communication facilities are the major cause of behind the higher percentage of literate population with higher educational attainment. Apart from that the job available in and around Kolkata demands higher educational qualification and skill. In contrary to that lack of educational facilities, consciousness, and availability of traditional job in the rural district like Birbhum, Murshidabad, Maldah, Uttar Dinajpur somehow discourage in higher educational attainment.

CONCLUSION: It has been observed that SC, ST are lagging in literacy rate with the total population. The disparity has also been seen in the educational attainment. There is huge inter district variation of percentage of literate population with educational level. More enrolment in higher education of the population especially for the SC and ST can minimize the disparity. The correlation coefficient between stages of educational attainments are 0.963, 0.809 for total and 0.987, 0.319 for SC & 0.967, 0.756 for ST.

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