

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT: SOME REFLECTIONS

8.1 Introduction

Until now, the primary concern has been with the issues relating to overall human development in the district of South 24 Parganas. To assess the causes and remedies thereafter, in respect of decline in quality of life (QOL), the issue of vulnerability has also been dealt with. In the journey traversed so far, we have devoted ourselves to a somewhat broader analysis of overall economic well-being, paying very little, if at all any, attention to social inequality. While such inequality, it may be emphasized at this stage, may have various dimensions such as area of residence, religion, race, social community, gender etc, development theoreticians consider gender as the most important one. For a fuller treatment of HDR of South 24 Parganas, one therefore, makes an attempt in this chapter to examine the extent to which the fruits of human development are being enjoyed equally by both genders and identifies the areas revealing gender disparities, for proper policy interventions.

This chapter attempts to highlight three major facets of gender and development in the district. (1) After a brief overview of the history of 'Gender and Development', we take up the issues related to gender disparity in human development viz., work participation, health care and educational attainment. (2) While vulnerability in different spheres adversely affects QOL of human beings in general, the nature of

trafficking, domestic violence and various other crimes against women reveal that they are doubly victimized in this respect and this is dealt with separately. (3) Quality of life of women is never up to the mark unless they are empowered to challenge patriarchy and global inequality and this forms the basis of analysis in the section on 'Gender and Empowerment'. Here, an endeavour is made to assess, among other aspects, whether and how political participation (in Panchayat) and economic participation (economic activities taken up by Self Help Groups (SHGs), in particular women SHGs) can reshape the existing power relation between the genders and make the marginalized group, especially women, empowered. In this entire exercise the focus is on inter-regional and inter-block variation in an attempt to identify the better and the poorly performing regions/blocks for proper policy formulations. The study analysed so far has revealed, quite expectedly, better performance of Region-I (Blocks in Kolkata surroundings) in the process of human development of the district while Region-III (Blocks in Sundarbans) has been designated as the poorly performing one. It would therefore be quite interesting to study whether the regional differences remain invariant in the analysis of gender and development as well or not. The final section sums up the major findings of the analysis.

8.2 Gender and Development: A Brief History

The discourse on Gender and Development has a long and eventful history. This section makes an attempt to highlight the major theoretical underpinning in this regard.

It dates back to the 1970s when an endeavour was made for the first time to integrate women into the development process (WID approach). Women in Aid agencies argued that development programmes had hitherto ignored and excluded women. Ester Boserup in her pioneering work 'Women's Role in Economic Development' argued that modernization had not benefited women, denying them access to land, training, education and technology. She condemned the tendency of planners to see women as secondary earners and to concentrate on their roles as housewives (Boserup, 1970). WID advocates saw themselves as pragmatic, non-ideological development practitioners (Tinker, 1982), but in fact most of them accepted the basic postulates of neo-classical economic theory and were influenced by the liberal feminist arguments for women's equality (Jagger, 1983).

In the mid-1970s a critique of WID emerged from the analytical work of feminist scholars at the Institute of

Development Studies. Their point of departure was that unequal power relations between men and women prevent women from getting equal access in different spheres of life. Furthermore, they were of the opinion that women's inequality is not solely a problem of developing countries; women in the so-called developed countries also face a gendered labour market with women's jobs (and pay levels) at the lower end of the job hierarchy and they are also absent from the corridors of power (whether in politics, religion or finance). Women's reproductive work is not given social value. As such, they avoided the division that the WID approach appeared to make between First and Third World women (Young et al., 1984).

Using the concept of gender (the socially acquired notions of masculinity and femininity) and gender relations (the socially constructed form of relations between men and women), Gender and Development (GAD) activists analysed how development strategies reshape these power relations. They noted how economic and social change, whether planned or unplanned, often gives greater opportunities to one gender and showed how, in many societies, the development of

the market economy had shifted the balance sharply in men's favour (Young, 1989). In so doing they questioned the conventional liberal belief that the market economy would help spread egalitarian values and undermine authoritarian and male-biased traditional attitudes. GAD activists also highlighted one important aspect of unequal relations - violence against women, which in many areas inhibited women from taking up opportunities targeted to them, whether literacy classes, credit, agricultural extension, etc.

However, some activists and theorists from the South and a few from the North began to recognize the limitations of even this advance. They began to argue that

women would never develop unless they are empowered to challenge patriarchy and global inequality. Many of their arguments were taken up by development scholars working with UNDP, which began to call for a focus on human development rather than economic development alone. Reflections of these thoughts were manifested, in course of time, in the form of the indices viz., the Human Development Index (1990), and the Gender Equity Sensitive Indices viz., Gender-related Development Index (1995) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (1995) in various Human Development Reports (HDR) published regularly since 1990.

8.3 Gender Disparity in Human Development

In this section, one makes an attempt to assess the level of gender inequality that exists in the development process of the district and then tries to analyse whether the situation has changed for the better over time. The HDR of the UNDP measures the gap between the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) to highlight the gender disparity. The HDI and the GDI, it may be mentioned at this stage, are based on the same three indicators viz., standard of living (measured by adjusted real per capita

income), longevity (measured by life expectancy at birth) and knowledge (assessed by adult literacy rate with two-third weight and gross enrollment ratio with one-third weight). However, while the HDI measures the average achievement or overall development of a region without imposing any penalty for the existence of gender inequality, the GDI adjusts the average achievement in accordance with the disparity in achievement between men and women. Hence, the need to construct both the indices is to understand the level of

gender inequality.

Unfortunately, however, data on some important variables viz, real income per capita, adult working population, life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, gross enrollment ratio etc are not available at the sub-district or block level — a fact which prevents us from using the standard UNDP procedure to construct the HDI. We have, however used some proxy variables after properly justifying the rationality behind their use, calculated the dimension index for each of the indicators viz, standard of living, health care, educational attainment and constructed the HDI as an unweighted average of three dimension indices.

Problem however crops up when we try to construct the GDI by using proxy variables as a number of such variables are obtained in the aggregate form either at household level (e.g., QOL indicators of Rural Household Survey (2005), using which we construct the Standard of Living Index) or for population as a whole (e.g., indicators of hospital performance, sanitation facility, availability of drinking water etc. in respect of public health care, utilizing which health care index is constructed). Clearly, such data cannot provide us with any information separately for male and female achievement on a specific indicator— a fact that makes it impossible for us to construct GDI using

data on proxy variables. We have, however attempted to compute some important sub-indices viz., equally distributed equivalent indices (EDEI) from the indicators considered and ranked the blocks using these sub-indices. But before we describe these indices (Box 1) it seems worthwhile to explain our methodology in detail for analyzing gender disparity in this section.

Of all forms of such disparities, it is argued, the most common one is noticed in the functioning of the labour market—the low female work participation rates according to accepted definition of work and the differential treatment meted out to women even when they are employed. Any kind of gainful work for women brings with it some sense of economic independence, so to say, and enhances their self-confidence, which in turn empowers them to get recognized and involved in decision-making. It is thus very important to examine the extent of female work participation rates, particularly in relation to males and see whether there has been any improvement over time in this regard. Our assessment of gender disparity in human development therefore begins with an analysis of work participation rates by gender.

We basically ask two very important questions viz., (1) how alarming has been the extent of gender-bias? and (2) has there

been any change for the better over time? We attempt to address these two issues mainly on the basis of Population Census data for 1991 and 2001.

How can we measure gender disparity in work participation? We measure it simply by the ratio of female to male work participation rates (%). In other words, it is the female work participation rates as a percentage of male work participation rates.

To give a concrete example we consider the value of such ratio for overall (main + marginal) category for the district as a whole in 1991 and find that it is 13% (Table 8.1). What does it mean in respect of gender disparity? It means that work participation rates of females are almost 87% lower than the same of their male counterparts. Thus, the extent of gender gap is, alarmingly high. This is not a surprising result at all, but the ray of hope is that this ratio increases to 23% in 2001 to indicate a decline in the extent of such inequality. Besides considering such ratio, we calculate EDEI on work participation to understand the extent of gender-related development in this respect. We also consider the issue of occupational diversification of female workers and some other relevant issues in the sub-section 8.3.1.

We next consider gender disparities in educational attainment and health care. It is well known that education and health are

not only the basic objectives of development but important ends in themselves also. These two human capital issues are treated together because of their close relationship and have been dealt with in detail in chapters 5 and 6 respectively. In two subsequent sub-sections viz., 8.3.2 and 8.3.3 we attempt to make brief analyses of gender gaps in these two facets of human capital formation.

We first consider the issue of health care (Sub-section 8.3.2) which, however owing to lack of relevant data, as discussed earlier, reduces to an analysis of maternal and child (0-6 years) health care. There are two basic data sources viz., Office of the CMOH and the District ICDS. Both however provide with recent data i.e. for 2006-07. We consider the following issues viz., delivery (home and institutional) reports, maternal mortality deaths and status of immunization using the CMOH data. The ICDS data, on the other hand, are used (a) to calculate gender-specific infant mortality rates and (b) to understand (i) the status of beneficiary pregnant and nursing mothers as well as (ii) children (0-6 years) and (iii) nutritional status of children (0-6 years) covered by Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). Here also, we calculate the EDEI on health care for children. However, owing to lack of proper data we confine ourselves to considering below 1

year children only.

Our analysis on educational attainment begins in Sub-section 8.3.3 with the block-wise literacy rates of males, females and female to male ratio of such rates, based on Census data for 1991 and 2001. We calculate next, as in the case of work participation, equally distributed equivalent indices on literacy for these two periods. Educational attainment has another dimension viz., combined gross enrollment ratio. However, owing to data constraint at the tertiary level, as mentioned earlier, we

calculate, using the District Information on School Education (DISE), female to male enrollment ratios for the children in the age group viz., 5-14 years for the periods viz., 2001 and 2007. Attendance ratios are more relevant in this regard and to have an idea about such ratios, we next consider corresponding ratios for drop out children in the same age group. However, data for 2001 being unavailable for such children, we base our analysis on the periods viz., 2002 and 2007 and hope that such an adjustment would affect our results only marginally.

Box 1: The Equally Distributed Equivalent Index (EDEI)

The EDEI on any indicator is the Harmonic Mean (H.M.) of Male and Female dimension indices, considered to penalize the difference in achievement between men and women in that indicator.

$$EDEI = \left[\frac{1}{\text{Female Population Share (Female Index)}^{-1}} + \frac{1}{\text{Male Population Share (Male Index)}^{-1}} \right]^{-1}$$

Male and Female dimension indices on each indicator are calculated according to the general formula

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{Actual value} - \text{Minimum value}}{\text{Maximum value} - \text{Minimum value}}$$

In the present chapter, we construct EDEI on Work Participation, Literacy and Infant Health Care. Of these indices, the combined dimension index on the last one is calculated as an unweighted average of dimension indices on infant survival rate, full immunization of children (%) and children in 'Normal' grade in Nutrition status(%), separately for female and male children below 1 year.

Goalposts for computing the EDEIs on Work Participation, Literacy and Infant Health care		
Indicator	Maximum Value	Minimum Value
WPR(%)	100	0
Literacy Rate (%)	100	0
Infant Survival Rate per 1000 Live births	1000	0
Fully Immunised Children (%)	100	0
Proportion of children in 'Normal' grade to Total children weighed(%)	100	0

- Sources:
- (i) Technical Notes, Various HDRs.
 - (ii) District Census Handbooks, South 24 Parganas, 1991, 2001.
 - (iii) Monthly Reports, Office of the CMOH, South 24 Parganas, 2006-07
 - (iv) Monthly Progress Reports, I.C.D.S., South 24 Parganas, 2006-07

8.3.1. Gender and Work Participation

To begin our analysis we consider the district scenario (Table 8.1) to find that

- South 24 Parganas remains predominantly a rural district, despite a fall in the percentage of rural population (from 87% in 1991 to 84% in 2001). In the population, slightly less than 50% are females in 1991 irrespective of the sector considered and remain more or less the same in 2001 as well.

sector and a slightly less than 48 % in the urban sector. Such rates too rise to more than 50 % in all the sectors.

This brings us to the analysis of female work participation rates. In 1991, we find that

- these rates are very small both in absolute terms and relative to male work participation rates.
- The absolute rates are 6% in total sector, 6.5 per cent in rural sector and around

Table 8.1 Percentage Distribution of Population and Workers along with Work Participation Rates by Gender: Rural and Urban, South 24 Parganas, 1991-2001

Sector	Census Year	Population (lakh)	Population (per cent)		Workers (lakh)	Workers (per cent)		Person	Work Participation Rate (%)		
			Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	Female/male(%)
Total	1991	57.1	51.62	48.38	16.2	89.48	10.52	28.29	48.84	6.18	12.65
	2001	69.0	51.83	48.17	22.4	82.38	17.62	32.47	51.82	11.83	22.82
Rural	1991	49.5	51.50	48.50	14.1	88.92	11.08	28.47	49.05	6.52	13.29
	2001	58.1	51.61	48.39	18.9	81.55	18.45	32.57	51.58	12.39	24.02
Urban	1991	7.6	52.27	47.70	2.1	93.32	6.68	27.15	47.55	3.89	8.17
	2001	10.9	53.29	46.71	3.5	86.88	13.12	31.93	53.08	8.77	16.53

Source: District Census Handbooks, South 24 Parganas, 1991 and 2001

- However, among the workers themselves, numerical strength of females is meagre—around 11 % in the total and the rural sector and 7 % in urban sector. During 1991-2001, there has, however, been a rise in the relevant percentages—around 18 % in total and rural sector and 13 % in the urban sector.
- Work participation rates for populations as a whole are very low in 1991— not even 1 out of 3 persons is employed. The situation however improves, to an extent, in 1991-2001.
- Male work participation rates vary around 49 % in the total and the rural

4% in urban sector.

- Female to male ratio in work participation rates is least in the urban sector (8.2%) while slightly higher in total and rural sectors (13%).

During 1991-2001, this ratio is found to improve considerably in all sectors in 2001 - total (23%), rural (24%) and particularly in the urban sector (16.5%) In view of the fact there is little difference in the results of total and rural sectors, majority of the population being rural, we base our analysis henceforth, without any loss of generality, only on the total sector. Coming next to block-wise performance

(Table 8.2), we find that in 1991,

- overall (i.e. main+marginal) work participation rates for persons as a whole are highest in Namkhana (44.57%) followed by Gosaba (35.93%) and Patharpratima (32.59%)— all in Region-III. Falta (30.86%) in Region-II follows them suit while others display more or less the same numerical strength (around 26 to 28 %).

Disaggregating further we find that

- in case of main work participation rates, the relevant figures vary, on an average, around 26 %, the better performing blocks being Gosaba (28.93 %), Falta (28.41 %) and Namkhana (28.14 %).
- Interestingly, Namkhana shows the highest numerical strength in marginal work participation rates (16.43 %) as well, followed remotely by Gosaba (6.99 %) and Patharpratima (6.26 %).

Coming to overall (main+ marginal) female work participation rates, we observe that

- these rates are considerably meager in Region-I (4.69%) and Region-II (4.14 %). A slightly better performance in Region-III (8.75%) is attributed mainly to Namkhana (33.47%), remotely followed by Gosaba (17.50%) and Patharpratima (12.94 %).
- As in case of overall work participation rates for persons, here also, Namkhana displays highest numerical strength in both main category (5.36%) and marginal category (28.11%). But the interesting point to note is that in case of main category, while there are little variations in the values of the blocks, in marginal category; the variations are much higher, particularly in Region-II where Namkhana is followed remotely by Gosaba (12.59%) and Patharpratima (9.85 %).

The least value in female marginal work participation rates, it may be mentioned, is noticed in Thakurpukur- Mahestala (0.27 %).

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Table 8.2: Block-wise Work Participation Rates (%) by Categories of Work in South 24 Parganas : Rural + Urban Sectors, 1991-2001

Block	WORK PARTICIPATION RATES (%)																	
	Main + Marginal						Main						Marginal					
	Person	Female	Female/ Male (%)	Person	Female	Female/ Male (%)	Person	Female	Female/ Male (%)	Person	Female	Female/ Male (%)	Person	Female	Female/ Male (%)			
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	27.02	33.95	3.64	12.45	7.62	22.98	26.65	28.13	3.37	8.05	7.12	17.12	0.37	5.82	0.27	4.40	57.52	61.53
Budge Budge - I	27.42	30.11	4.64	6.68	9.62	12.99	25.46	20.68	3.87	2.97	8.55	8.07	1.96	9.44	0.77	3.71	25.35	25.36
Budge Budge - II	26.95	31.88	3.24	8.35	6.72	15.55	25.24	22.27	1.84	3.17	3.98	7.93	1.70	9.61	1.40	5.18	70.99	37.76
Bishnupur - I	28.53	32.87	5.50	10.90	11.02	20.42	27.39	26.33	3.87	5.99	7.86	13.23	1.14	6.54	1.63	4.91	237.75	60.80
Bishnupur - II	28.91	32.71	6.62	10.53	13.31	19.62	27.10	25.89	3.29	5.51	6.68	12.19	1.81	6.82	3.32	5.03	842.77	59.03
Sonarpur	27.43	31.49	5.20	9.20	10.91	17.51	27.05	26.50	4.69	6.67	9.90	14.74	0.38	4.99	0.50	2.53	190.01	34.58
Region I	27.60	32.29	4.69	9.88	9.69	18.54	26.63	25.22	3.56	5.50	7.48	12.59	0.98	7.07	1.13	4.38	135.40	45.63
Baruipur	27.19	29.79	4.33	8.34	8.96	16.74	26.18	24.78	3.00	5.25	6.30	12.19	1.01	5.01	1.33	3.10	187.72	45.50
Bhangar - I	28.37	31.06	4.70	10.31	9.24	20.27	27.39	25.34	2.95	4.93	5.83	11.00	0.98	5.72	1.75	5.38	711.47	88.92
Bhangar - II	25.49	28.36	1.81	5.42	3.78	10.92	25.05	23.85	1.24	2.95	2.60	6.81	0.44	4.51	0.57	2.48	184.24	38.76
Falta	30.86	32.95	7.36	9.85	13.96	18.01	28.41	23.64	3.94	3.87	7.71	9.15	2.45	9.31	3.42	5.98	219.59	48.11
Diamond Harbour - I	26.23	28.89	3.72	6.17	7.87	12.34	25.41	23.52	2.85	3.22	6.14	7.59	0.82	5.37	0.87	2.95	112.18	38.78
Diamond Harbour - II	27.43	30.02	4.36	7.26	8.86	14.06	25.47	22.13	2.58	3.61	5.48	9.09	1.96	7.89	1.78	3.65	83.85	30.63
Magrahat - I	24.90	29.21	2.70	7.69	5.91	15.58	23.89	22.38	1.66	3.81	3.72	9.59	1.02	6.83	1.04	3.88	104.24	40.42
Magrahat - II	27.26	28.73	5.55	7.73	11.69	15.95	25.66	23.35	2.71	4.10	5.78	9.90	1.60	5.38	2.83	3.63	624.72	51.59
Kulpi	26.45	29.44	3.32	6.79	6.90	13.35	24.16	19.95	1.40	2.87	3.07	7.94	2.28	9.50	1.93	3.92	73.58	26.55
Mandirbazar	24.88	30.49	2.71	10.60	5.94	21.58	23.77	22.44	1.84	4.74	4.15	12.16	1.11	8.05	0.87	5.85	65.22	57.90
Region II	26.98	29.89	4.14	8.07	8.57	16.01	25.58	23.21	2.43	4.03	5.16	9.76	1.40	6.68	1.71	4.04	154.03	44.10
Canning - I	27.56	32.32	4.76	12.64	9.67	24.71	26.09	24.02	2.95	6.68	6.14	16.46	1.47	8.31	1.81	5.96	157.55	56.43
Canning - II	27.02	30.28	3.81	11.16	7.73	23.02	26.40	22.70	2.81	4.11	5.73	10.18	0.62	7.57	1.00	7.05	393.60	87.23
Basanti	29.87	32.01	8.30	12.35	16.48	24.35	26.63	22.01	2.82	3.97	5.73	10.12	3.25	10.00	5.48	8.38	485.30	72.70
Gosaba	35.93	38.62	17.50	20.40	32.84	36.40	28.93	22.93	4.91	3.99	9.52	9.73	6.99	15.69	12.59	16.41	728.79	109.33
Joynagar - I	26.05	30.76	3.65	10.85	7.77	22.00	24.63	24.16	2.00	6.12	4.37	14.93	1.42	6.60	1.65	4.74	136.89	56.81
Joynagar - II	25.22	32.44	3.22	14.40	7.02	29.23	24.23	23.20	1.89	5.10	4.17	12.73	1.00	9.24	1.34	9.30	198.06	101.19
Mathurapur - I	26.10	27.69	4.04	5.60	8.63	11.55	24.35	19.10	2.08	2.96	4.61	8.64	1.75	8.59	1.95	2.64	124.52	18.58
Mathurapur - II	28.89	32.70	5.98	10.92	11.98	20.67	26.68	24.03	2.48	4.20	5.08	9.91	2.21	8.68	3.50	6.72	341.44	64.14
Kultali	26.30	31.30	3.76	9.75	7.91	18.99	24.69	22.30	1.31	2.92	2.81	7.23	1.60	9.00	2.45	6.84	304.97	62.08
Patharpratima	32.59	42.60	12.94	29.60	25.24	53.83	26.34	26.65	3.09	8.73	6.38	19.97	6.26	15.95	9.85	20.87	347.40	185.31
Kakdwip	29.47	34.90	8.12	16.24	16.32	30.86	26.06	23.44	2.55	4.52	5.27	10.92	3.41	11.46	5.57	11.72	407.08	104.44
Namkhana	44.57	42.83	33.47	29.03	60.77	51.87	28.14	25.92	5.36	6.14	10.79	13.72	16.43	16.91	28.11	22.89	522.63	204.12
Sagar	27.22	40.56	5.41	27.66	11.30	52.47	24.77	23.22	1.58	4.51	3.39	11.03	2.45	17.34	3.83	23.16	331.35	195.28
Region III	29.74	34.65	8.75	16.40	17.66	31.61	26.05	23.46	2.78	5.06	5.78	12.39	3.69	11.19	5.97	11.34	388.22	102.67
District	28.29	32.47	6.18	11.83	12.65	22.82	26.09	24.30	2.89	5.01	6.06	11.81	2.20	8.18	3.28	6.82	275.92	72.26

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

During the period 1991-2001,

- overall work participation rates for persons as a whole, fall in the main category (Thakurpukur- Mahestola being the only exception, where the situation is the other way round) but rise substantially in the marginal category in all blocks (except Namkhana, where it falls marginally). This explains a rise in overall work participation rates in the blocks in the above period.
- Overall female work participation rates, however, rise in this period in all blocks except Namkhana. Such rates rise in main category in majority of the blocks and in marginal category in all blocks. In Namkhana overall female work participation rates decline to 29.03% because a fall in such rates in marginal category (28.11% in 1991 to 22.89% in 2001) outweighs the rise in the

rates in main category (5.36% in 1991 to 6.14% in 2001).

Analysis of work participation rates of persons as a whole and those of females separately show that in 1991 the female to male ratios of work participation rates are alarmingly low — 10% in Region-I, 9% in Region-II and 18% in Region-III.

Disaggregating such ratios further into main and marginal categories considerable gender inequality is noticed in main category, where the ratios are substantially lower in all blocks (Fig.8.1). Ironically, however, such ratios are higher than 100% in marginal category in all three regions as females outnumber their male counterparts as marginal workers (Fig.8.2). During 1991-2001, these ratios rise in the main category and fall in the marginal category in all three regions—a fact that points toward improvement in the relative status of female workers.

Fig 8.1: F/M Ratio for Main WPR

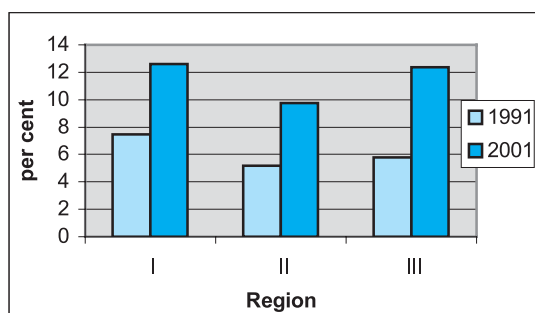
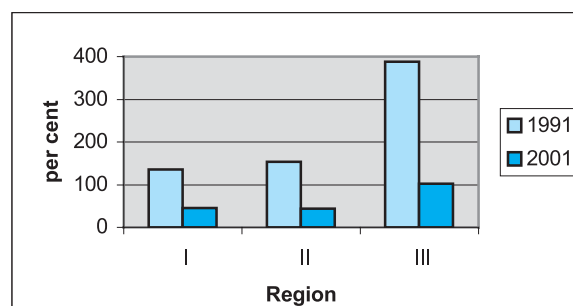


Fig 8.2 : F/M Ratio for Marginal WPR



The equally distributed equivalent indices on work participation considered next (Tables 8.3 and 8.4), shows a rise in the values of such indices during 1991-2001 for all the blocks except Namkhana — a fact which clearly indicates an improvement in respect of gender-related

development in work participation. This is quite an interesting result where Namkhana, Patharpratima, Gosaba and Kakdwip - all in Region-III, emerge as better performing blocks in both the periods.

Table 8.3: Block-wise Dimension and Equally Distributed Equivalent Indices on Work Participation (Main+Marginal) : South 24 Parganas, 1991

Block	Population (per cent)		Work Participation Rate(%)			Dimension Index on Work Participation			E D E I on Work Participation	Rank
	Female	Male	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female		
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	47.0	53.0	27.02	47.73	3.64	0.270	0.477	0.036	0.071	21
Budge Budge - I	47.8	52.2	27.42	48.29	4.64	0.274	0.483	0.046	0.088	15
Budge Budge - II	47.3	52.7	26.95	48.19	3.24	0.269	0.482	0.032	0.064	25
Bishnupur - I	48.1	51.9	28.53	49.91	5.50	0.285	0.499	0.055	0.102	10
Bishnupur - II	48.3	51.7	28.91	49.73	6.62	0.289	0.497	0.066	0.120	7
Sonarpur	47.6	52.4	27.43	47.66	5.20	0.274	0.477	0.052	0.097	12
Baruipur	48.1	51.9	27.19	48.34	4.33	0.272	0.483	0.043	0.082	16
Bhangar - I	48.8	51.2	28.37	50.90	4.70	0.284	0.509	0.047	0.088	14
Bhangar - II	48.6	51.4	25.49	47.85	1.81	0.255	0.478	0.018	0.036	29
Falta	48.1	51.9	30.86	52.67	7.36	0.309	0.527	0.074	0.133	6
Diamond Harbour - I	48.2	51.8	26.23	47.22	3.72	0.262	0.472	0.037	0.071	22
Diamond Harbour - II	48.5	51.5	27.43	49.17	4.36	0.274	0.492	0.044	0.082	17
Magrahat - I	48.2	51.8	24.90	45.59	2.70	0.249	0.456	0.027	0.053	28
Magrahat - II	48.2	51.8	27.26	47.46	5.55	0.273	0.475	0.055	0.102	9
Kulpi	48.5	51.5	26.45	48.19	3.32	0.264	0.482	0.033	0.064	24
Mandirbazar	48.3	51.7	24.88	45.63	2.71	0.249	0.456	0.027	0.053	27
Canning - I	48.7	51.3	27.56	49.20	4.76	0.276	0.492	0.048	0.089	13
Canning - II	49.0	51.0	27.02	49.31	3.81	0.270	0.493	0.038	0.072	19
Basanti	48.7	51.3	29.87	50.36	8.30	0.299	0.504	0.083	0.145	4
Gosaba	48.5	51.5	35.93	53.28	17.50	0.359	0.533	0.175	0.268	2
Joynagar - I	48.2	51.8	26.05	46.91	3.65	0.260	0.469	0.036	0.070	23
Joynagar - II	48.5	51.5	25.22	45.94	3.22	0.252	0.459	0.032	0.062	26
Mathurapur - I	48.4	51.6	26.10	46.77	4.04	0.261	0.468	0.040	0.076	18
Mathurapur - II	47.9	52.1	28.89	49.92	5.98	0.289	0.499	0.060	0.111	8
Kultali	48.5	51.5	26.30	47.55	3.76	0.263	0.475	0.038	0.071	20
Patharpratima	48.7	51.3	32.59	51.28	12.94	0.326	0.513	0.129	0.210	3
Kakdwip	48.7	51.3	29.47	49.73	8.12	0.295	0.497	0.081	0.142	5
Namkhana	48.6	51.4	44.57	55.08	33.47	0.446	0.551	0.335	0.419	1
Sagar	48.6	51.4	27.22	47.86	5.41	0.272	0.479	0.054	0.099	11

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

It is well-known that agricultural growth over a period of time has remained lower than the growth in non-agricultural sectors. The gap between the growth in

these two sectors began to widen since 1981-82 and more particularly since 1996-97, because of acceleration in the growth of industry and service sectors as well as

Table 8.4: Block-wise Dimension and Equally Distributed Equivalent Indices on Work Participation (Main+Marginal) in South 24 Parganas : 2001

Block	Population (per cent)		Work Participation Rate (%)			Dimension Index on Work Participation			E D E I on Work Participation	Rank
	Female	Male	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female		
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	48.5	51.5	33.95	54.18	12.45	0.339	0.542	0.125	0.206	7
Budge Budge - I	47.6	52.4	30.11	51.43	6.68	0.301	0.514	0.067	0.123	25
Budge Budge - II	48.1	51.9	31.88	53.69	8.35	0.319	0.537	0.084	0.149	20
Bishnupur - I	48.3	51.7	32.87	53.40	10.90	0.329	0.534	0.109	0.185	11
Bishnupur - II	48.6	51.4	32.71	53.67	10.53	0.327	0.537	0.105	0.180	14
Sonarapur	48.6	51.4	31.49	52.55	9.20	0.315	0.526	0.092	0.160	19
Baruipur	48.3	51.7	29.79	49.85	8.34	0.298	0.498	0.083	0.146	21
Bhangar - I	48.8	51.2	31.06	50.87	10.31	0.311	0.509	0.103	0.174	16
Bhangar - II	48.1	51.9	28.36	49.64	5.42	0.284	0.496	0.054	0.101	29
Falta	48.5	51.5	32.95	54.68	9.85	0.329	0.547	0.098	0.171	17
Diamond Harbour - I	48.2	51.8	28.89	50.02	6.17	0.289	0.500	0.062	0.113	27
Diamond Harbour - II	48.7	51.3	30.02	51.65	7.26	0.300	0.517	0.073	0.130	24
Magrahat - I	48.4	51.6	29.21	49.37	7.69	0.292	0.494	0.077	0.136	23
Magrahat - II	48.4	51.6	28.73	48.44	7.73	0.287	0.484	0.077	0.136	22
Kulpi	48.6	51.4	29.44	50.85	6.79	0.294	0.508	0.068	0.122	26
Mandirbazar	48.3	51.7	30.49	49.11	10.60	0.305	0.491	0.106	0.178	15
Canning - I	48.9	51.1	32.32	51.14	12.64	0.323	0.511	0.126	0.205	8
Canning - II	48.8	51.2	30.28	48.48	11.16	0.303	0.485	0.112	0.184	12
Basanti	48.8	51.2	32.01	50.73	12.35	0.320	0.507	0.124	0.202	9
Gosaba	48.9	51.1	38.62	56.04	20.40	0.386	0.560	0.204	0.302	4
Joynagar - I	48.3	51.7	30.76	49.33	10.85	0.308	0.493	0.109	0.182	13
Joynagar - II	48.2	51.8	32.44	49.25	14.40	0.324	0.493	0.144	0.227	6
Mathurapur - I	48.4	51.6	27.69	48.44	5.60	0.277	0.484	0.056	0.103	28
Mathurapur - II	48.0	52.0	32.70	52.84	10.92	0.327	0.528	0.109	0.186	10
Kultali	48.2	51.8	31.30	51.36	9.75	0.313	0.514	0.098	0.168	18
Patharpratima	48.8	51.2	42.60	54.99	29.60	0.426	0.550	0.296	0.388	1
Kakdwip	48.7	51.3	34.90	52.61	16.24	0.349	0.526	0.162	0.252	5
Namkhana	48.8	51.2	42.83	55.96	29.03	0.428	0.560	0.290	0.385	2
Sagar	48.5	51.5	40.56	52.72	27.66	0.406	0.527	0.277	0.366	3

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

fall in investment in agriculture. It would therefore, be instructive to see to what extent this phenomenon has led to a higher growth in employment in the non-agricultural sectors and thereby resulted in occupational diversification in a predominantly rural district like South 24 Parganas. We try to analyze such diversification in respect of female workers exclusively and consider percentage distribution of female main workers over four broad industrial categories (Table 8.5) for 1991 and 2001. One important

point needs to be mentioned here. An industrial category is a sector where a person is employed while an occupation denotes his/her type of job or employment. However, looking at the broad industrial categories, one can ascertain as to whether a person is engaged in 'Agricultural Occupations' (as Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers) or in 'Non-agricultural Occupations' (Workers in 'Household Industry' and 'Other Workers').

Table 8.5: Block-wise Percentage Distribution of Female Main Workers by Occupation in South 24 Parganas : 1991-2001

Block	Cultivator		Agricultural Labour		Non-agricultural workers			
					in Household Industry		Other workers	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	3.38	5.33	17.79	6.49	12.65	7.56	66.18	80.62
Budge Budge - I	1.25	2.97	9.38	3.47	20.72	6.86	68.65	86.70
Budge Budge - II	9.29	5.48	23.84	9.60	10.91	20.38	55.96	64.54
Bishnupur - I	18.85	8.55	38.48	17.99	14.71	25.49	27.97	47.98
Bishnupur - II	8.39	3.10	22.37	5.49	37.71	40.07	31.54	51.33
Sonarpur	6.84	8.78	26.01	11.19	3.05	4.63	64.10	75.41
Region I	7.60	6.24	23.60	10.08	14.06	18.75	54.75	64.92
Baruipur	9.13	7.87	18.76	8.21	12.79	13.21	59.32	70.71
Bhangar - I	16.00	11.49	46.66	27.04	18.12	16.00	19.22	45.48
Bhangar - II	24.88	10.81	32.67	20.22	11.89	16.76	30.57	52.21
Falta	15.76	7.25	22.14	12.11	20.44	26.84	41.67	53.80
Diamond Harbour - I	7.31	6.87	4.07	9.04	34.75	15.09	53.88	69.00
Diamond Harbour - II	9.95	5.91	14.06	6.02	23.90	12.76	52.08	75.31
Magrahat - I	12.76	6.86	21.95	11.65	22.08	33.59	43.20	47.90
Magrahat - II	24.86	7.00	29.00	11.52	17.48	25.51	28.66	55.97
Kulpi	12.35	6.30	6.70	2.66	33.50	18.38	47.45	72.65
Mandirbazar	10.56	7.79	3.38	3.79	30.54	15.62	55.52	72.80
Region II	14.35	7.91	21.36	11.33	20.96	19.29	43.32	61.47
Canning - I	8.80	4.46	10.04	6.32	6.78	16.85	74.39	72.36
Canning - II	13.70	12.49	69.00	47.81	1.87	5.54	15.43	34.16
Basanti	19.56	20.50	44.36	25.24	3.91	6.83	32.17	47.43
Gosaba	24.30	19.24	54.89	32.71	1.40	2.64	19.40	45.40
Joynagar - I	12.54	7.85	12.77	7.60	22.62	17.88	52.07	66.66
Joynagar - II	14.53	10.91	17.67	10.60	33.19	39.50	34.61	38.99
Mathurapur - I	12.59	4.49	6.01	5.00	33.15	22.02	48.25	68.49
Mathurapur - II	26.31	14.96	16.20	13.86	30.98	17.81	26.51	53.38
Kultali	30.99	13.38	37.31	21.21	3.11	7.98	28.59	57.43
Patharpratima	50.81	21.00	26.22	13.12	3.35	3.69	19.62	62.20
Kakdwip	20.64	18.89	8.22	11.90	17.59	12.09	53.54	57.11
Namkhana	40.10	27.39	11.50	14.70	6.85	5.70	41.55	52.20
Sagar	28.02	31.66	18.31	26.21	7.43	5.35	46.24	36.78
Region III	25.12	16.15	28.04	16.67	10.72	12.02	36.11	55.16
District	16.01	9.78	23.63	11.48	14.06	13.45	46.30	65.29

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

Table 8.5 clearly indicates

- occupational diversification in 1991, in all three regions, to a much greater extent in Region-I followed by Region-II, which gets intensified further in 2001.
- While there has been a decline in the

percentage of female workers as both Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers during 1991-2001 in majority of the blocks, it is primarily a substantial rise in such percentages in 'Other Workers' category, which explains this diversification. In fact, in the category viz., 'Household Industry' there has

been a decline of the relevant percentages in a number of blocks.

- There exist inter-block variations in each region, in particular in Region-III in regard to such diversification. Mention, however must be made of Sagar in this region, where the concentration of female workers has increased in both the categories viz., Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers during 1991-2001.

Some pertinent comments before we pass on to the next sub-section.

- (1) The analysis of work participation by gender, carried out so far, is based, however, on accepted definition of 'work', an appraisal of which indicates 'gender-bias', for not including many activities carried out by women,

particularly in rural areas.

- (2) This analysis has been undertaken for population as a whole and not for SC/ST population separately owing to lack of data at such level of disaggregation. Also, it has been done for workers of all ages including those, in the age- group viz., 5-14 years (i.e. Child Labourers). For fuller treatment of gender-specific work participation we should consider both these issues.
- (3) In view of the fact that female work participation rates are very low, we feel it worthwhile to consider the issue of unemployed female workers and the employment generation schemes to absorb such workers along with their male counterparts (Box 2).

Box 2: Some Employment Generation Schemes

1. Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

In the district, this scheme has been implemented by the District Industry Centre since it was launched in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Here, actual number of cases for which loans were sanctioned, though exhibits a rise (387 in 2005-06 to 636 in 2007-08), falls much short of the number of target cases (2020 in 2005-06 to 2520 in 2007-08). Number of unemployed women whose loans were sanctioned, rose from 43 in 2005-06 to 100 in 2007-08.

2. Self Employment Scheme for Rural Unemployed (SESRU)

Implemented by the Deputy Director, Employment in the district since its inception in 1985, it provides loans (maximum coverage of Rs.35,000/-) in the major trades viz., Tailoring, Grocery, Push sale of Readymade Garments etc. This scheme displays a very slow progress in the meagre numerical strength of both the proposed cases of loans to be sanctioned (16 in 2006 to 24 in 2007) and the number of women whose loans were sanctioned (3 in 2006 to 4 in 2007)

3. Special Component Plan/ Mahila Samridhi / Adibasi Mahila Swashaktikaran Yojana (SCP/MSY/AMSY)

All these three schemes are implemented by the District Manager, SC/ST Corporation since inception. SCP and MSY provide loans for major trades viz., Tailoring, Vegetable vending, Muri making, Duckery, Poultry etc. AMSY, on the other hand, provides financial help for the trades like Goatery, Piggery etc. particularly in the blocks having a concentration of tribal population (Gosaba, Canning I, Mathurapur II and Sonarpur). Of these three schemes, SCP performed the best in the last few years with a rise in the number of unemployed women having their loans sanctioned (4181 in 2006-07 to 12,841 in 2007-08). However, in the other two schemes, there has been a fall in the abovementioned number of unemployed women (MSY-157 in 2006-07 to 143 in 2007-08; AMSY- 242 in 2006-07 to 104 in 2007-08).

- Sources:
- (1) PMRY- District Industry Centre,
 - (2) SESRU- Deputy Director, Employment,
 - (3) SCP/MSY/AMSY - District Manager, SC/ST Corporation

8.3.2 Gender and Health Care

8.3.2.1 Delivery Reports and Maternal Deaths

Our analysis of maternal and child health care begins with the summary of delivery reports (Table 8.6). We designate those blocks as better performing ones which opt for safe motherhood i.e. where incidence of either institutional deliveries or deliveries by trained birth attendants in case of home deliveries (owing to lack of proper infrastructural set up) is higher.

- Quite expectedly, all blocks except Budge Budge II in Region-I emerge as better performing ones with more than 50 % institutional deliveries, Thakurpukur-Mahestola topping the list (78%).
- In case of distribution of home deliveries in this region, we find that more than 50 % are done by trained birth attendants.

While looking at the relevant percentages of safe deliveries in these blocks, one would say that this is not a very rosy picture and there is enough room for improvement. One also gets a very depressing scenario in this regard by considering the performance of blocks in other two regions, particularly in Region-III. Here, we find that in all blocks percentages of institutional deliveries are quite low.

- In Region-III, Canning-I (29%) records the highest percentage followed by Mathurapur-II (28%) and Joynagar-I (26%) while Canning-II (3%) displays the least value closely followed by Kakdwip (6%), Basanti (7%), and Joynagar-II (9%). However, percentage distribution of home deliveries suggests that barring a few blocks viz., Sagar (31%), Patharpratima (49%), Basanti (51%) Kakdwip (57%), other blocks opt for at least more than 60% home deliveries by trained birth-attendants.
- Blocks in Region-II, follow those in Region-III in terms of performance in this regard. Falta (59%) records highest percentage of institutional deliveries followed by Baruipur (48%) and Diamond Harbour-II (48%). Bhangar-II (11%), on the other hand, displays the least percentage, followed by Bhangar-I (12%) and Diamond Harbour-I (15%). Interestingly, however, in quite a good number of blocks where incidence of home deliveries is higher, at least 60 % of deliveries are performed by trained birth attendants.

We next consider the recorded figures for maternal mortality deaths and find that such values irrespective of causes mentioned, are surprisingly low — either nil or insignificant in almost all the blocks

Table 8.6: Block-wise Percentage Distribution of Deliveries by Place of Birth and then by Attendance at Birth : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	% OF HOME DELIVERIES(HD)		% OF INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES (ID)			
	% OF HD BY TBA	% OF HD BY UTBA	% OF ID AT BPHC	% OF ID AT PVT INST	% OF ID AT SDH	% OF ID AT RH
THAKURPUKUR - MAHESHTALA	22		78			
	62	38	0	100	0	0
BUDGE BUDGE I	42		58			
	58	42	1	99	0	0
BUDGE BUDGE II	51		49			
	50	50	0	52	0	48
BISHNUPUR I	45		55			
	56	44	0	100	0	0
BISHNUPUR II	30		70			
	76	24	5	83	0	12
SONARPUR	40		60			
	57	43	0	23	0	77
Region I	39		61			
	59	41	1	79	0	20
BARUIPUR	52		48			
	63	37	0	0	100	0
BHANGAR-I	88		12			
	36	64	81	19	0	0
BHANGAR-II	89		11			
	39	61	5	95	0	0
FALTA	41		59			
	39	61	5	95	0	0
DIAMOND HARBOUR I	85		15			
	72	28	26	74	0	0
DIAMOND HARBOUR II	52		48			
	75	25	23	77	0	0
MAGRAHAT I	72		28			
	66	34	12	88	0	0
MAGRAHAT II	70		30			
	58	42	17	83	0	0
KULPI	74		26			
	67	33	41	59	0	0
MANDIRBAZAR	82		18			
	60	40	4	96	0	0
Region II	69		31			
	56	44	14	59	27	0
CANNING I	71		29			
	81	19	0	0	100	0
CANNING II	97		3			
	76	24	100	0	0	0
BASANTI	93		7			
	51	49	8	92	0	0
GOSABA	90		11			
	67	32	46	54	0	0
JOYNAGAR I	74		26			
	69	31	0	1	0	99
JOYNAGAR II	91		9			
	69	31	0	3	0	97
MATHURAPUR I	76		24			
	68	32	0	48	0	52
MATHURAPUR II	72		28			
	63	37	0	30	0	70
KULTALI	93		7			
	72	28	0	0	0	100
PATHARPRATIMA	82		18			
	49	51	85	15	0	0
KAKDWIP	74		6			
	57	43	0	0	100	0
NAMKHANA	81		19			
	68	32	93	7	0	0
SAGAR	81		19			
	31	69	7	0	0	93
RegionIII	83		17			
	64	36	17	15	30	38

Source: Monthly Report ,Office of the CMOH, South 24 Parganas, 2006-07

Notes: TBA- Trained Birth Attendant, UTBA- Untrained Birth Attendant, BPHC-Block Primary Health Centre,PHC-Primary Health Centre SDH-Sub Divisional Hospital, RH- Rural Hospital, PVT INST-Private Institution

(Table 8.6A). This fact raises doubts about the quality of such data and makes it impossible for us to analyze the maternal mortality rates. We feel that such important reports need to be properly documented for policy formulation.

8.3.2.2 Infant Mortality Rates

The infant mortality rates (Table 8.7) considered next, are found to be higher for the male children in each of three regions, with Region-III showing the highest values for both groups of children (Fig 8.3).

Table 8.6A : Block-wise Number of Maternal Deaths : South 24 Parganas, 2006-07

Block	No. of Live Births	No. of Maternal Deaths			
		During pregnancy	During Delivery	Within 6 weeks of delivery	Total
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	2185	0	0	0	0
Budge Budge - I	1820	0	0	2	2
Budge Budge - II	2815	1	1	1	3
Bishnupur - I	3738	3	2	2	7
Bishnupur - II	3434	1	5	0	6
Sonarpur	2278	0	3	0	3
Region I	16270	5	11	5	21
Baruipur	8536	1	7	0	8
Bhangar - I	4713	0	1	0	1
Bhangar - II	4745	0	3	2	5
Falta	4889	1	3	3	7
Diamond Harbour - I	2669	0	2	8	10
Diamond Harbour - II	3462	5	1	2	8
Magrahat - I	5111	0	4	1	5
Magrahat - II	5561	4	5	2	11
Kulpi	5372	3	1	0	4
Mandirbazar	3646	0	5	2	7
Region II	48704	14	32	20	66
Canning - I	6433	1	2	0	3
Canning - II	5267	2	0	2	4
Basanti	6036	1	14	2	17
Gosaba	2972	2	0	0	2
Joynagar - I	5161	2	1	2	5
Joynagar - II	3976	0	0	0	0
Mathurapur - I	3935	3	3	5	11
Mathurapur - II	4503	0	1	1	2
Kultali	4169	1	1	0	2
Patharpratima	5030	1	2	0	3
Kakdwip	4891	5	5	5	15
Namkhana	3188	1	0	1	2
Sagar	3169	0	0	0	0
Region III	58730	19	29	18	66

Source: Same as in Table 8.6

Fig 8.3: Region-wise Gender-specific Infant Mortality Rates : 2006-07

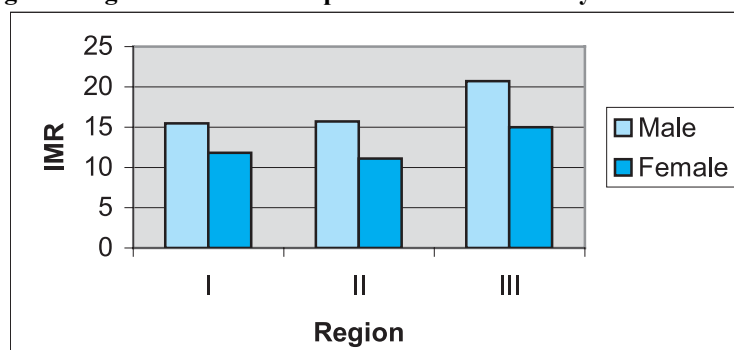
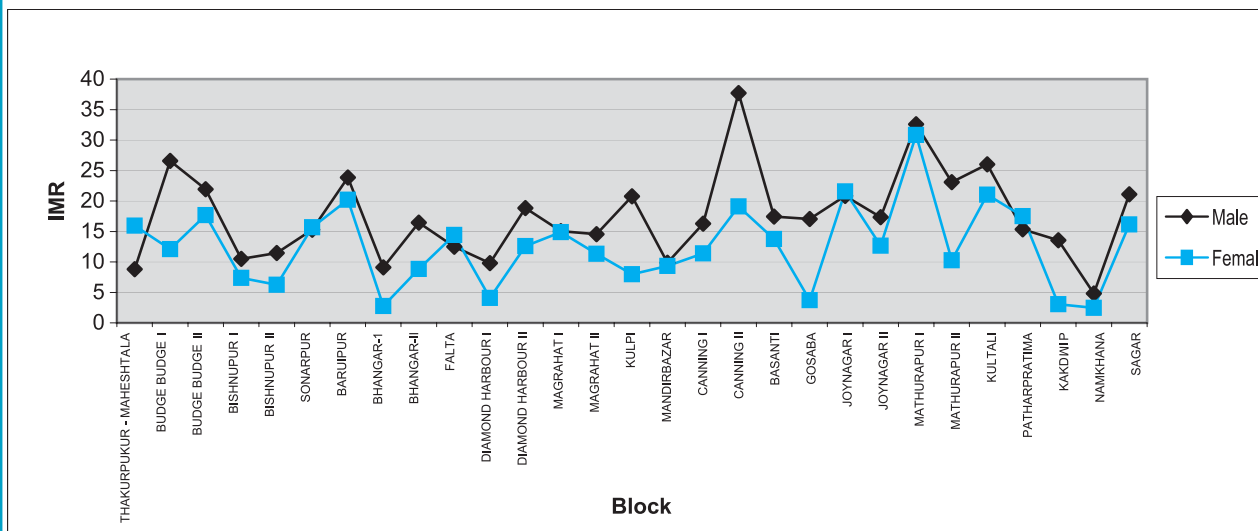


Table 8.7: Block-wise Infant Mortality Rates : South 24 Parganas, 2006-07

Block	Infant Mortality Rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	12.05	8.81	15.96
Budge Budge - I	19.49	26.59	12.08
Budge Budge - II	19.94	21.92	17.67
Bishnupur - I	9.02	10.51	7.36
Bishnupur - II	8.89	11.48	6.25
Sonarpur	15.48	15.27	15.70
Region I	13.71	15.47	11.80
Baruipur	22.12	23.85	20.21
Bhangar - I	6.01	9.09	2.75
Bhangar - II	12.77	16.45	8.83
Falta	13.41	12.48	14.40
Diamond Harbour - I	6.95	9.81	4.08
Diamond Harbour - II	15.94	18.84	12.58
Magrahat - I	14.97	15.04	14.90
Magrahat - II	13.05	14.54	11.32
Kulpi	14.50	20.75	7.98
Mandirbazar	9.60	9.86	9.34
Region II	13.53	15.74	11.15
Canning - I	13.91	16.26	11.40
Canning - II	29.03	37.70	19.11
Basanti	15.61	17.45	13.76
Gosaba	11.01	17.05	3.73
Joynagar - I	21.17	20.82	21.56
Joynagar - II	15.11	17.33	12.67
Mathurapur - I	31.75	32.59	30.82
Mathurapur - II	16.89	23.08	10.27
Kultali	23.61	26.01	21.02
Patharpratima	16.35	15.35	17.52
Kakdwip	8.50	13.54	3.07
Namkhana	3.65	4.83	2.46
Sagar	18.73	21.10	16.14
Region III	17.96	20.68	14.99

Source: Monthly Progress Reports, ICDS, South 24 Parganas, 2006-07

Fig 8.4: Block-wise Gender-specific Infant Mortality Rates : 2006-07



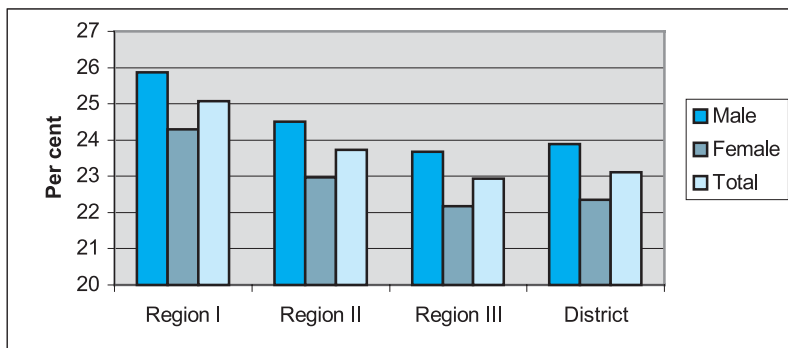
- There however, exists, sufficient inter-block variation, for children of both genders and in each region we can identify some blocks where such rates are higher for female children. These are, it may be mentioned, Thakurpukur-Maheshtala in Region-I, Falta in Region-II and Joynagar in Region-III (Fig 8.4).
- Namkhana renders the best performance among all the blocks showing least value for both groups of children (IMR for males-4.83 and

IMR for females-2.46). Mention may also be made of Bhanganar-I and Diamond Harbour-I where IMR of both genders are less than 10.

8.3.2.3 Immunisation Programmes

Immunization programmes undertaken by the State Government for the children belonging to different age groups are preventive measures against the childhood diseases. To understand to what extent children of a particular age group are benefited by such programme, we need to know what percentages of child population

Fig 8.5: Percentage of fully Immunised children below 1 year



(planned) of that age group are fully immunized. The full immunization programme obviously is different for different age groups. For our purpose, we have considered such programme for children below 1 year (Table 8.8)

where a child needs immunization doses of BCG, up to DPT III, up to OPV III and of Measles. We notice that (Fig 8.5)

- Region-I performs the best, followed by Region-II. Performance of Region-III, on the other hand, is more or less same as that of the district as a whole.
- Percentages of fully immunized children vary, but are only around 25 %,

Table 8.8 : Block-wise Percentages of Fully Immunised Children below 1 Year : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	Fully Immunised Children %		
	Male	Female	Total
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	25.34	24.74	25.04
Budge Budge - I	26.29	23.62	24.95
Budge Budge - II	25.12	25.05	25.08
Bishnupur - I	25.86	23.40	24.63
Bishnupur - II	24.34	23.40	23.87
Sonarpur	28.06	25.68	26.87
Region I	25.87	24.29	25.08
Baruipur	22.52	21.50	22.01
Bhangar - I	24.87	22.78	23.82
Bhangar - II	24.99	24.62	24.81
Falta	26.89	24.38	25.64
Diamond Harbour - I	26.15	24.40	25.28
Diamond Harbour - II	25.29	23.58	24.44
Magrahat - I	24.80	24.01	24.41
Magrahat - II	25.34	23.01	24.18
Kulpi	23.13	21.17	22.15
Mandirbazar	23.31	22.08	22.69
Region II	24.50	22.97	23.74
Canning - I	23.23	21.92	22.58
Canning - II	35.99	32.92	34.46
Basanti	19.42	18.22	18.82
Gosaba	17.24	15.55	16.39
Joynagar - I	20.69	19.59	20.14
Joynagar - II	26.69	25.43	26.06
Mathurapur - I	23.53	21.64	22.59
Mathurapur - II	25.29	24.61	24.95
Kultali	23.02	22.21	22.61
Patharpratima	24.68	22.52	23.60
Kakdwip	23.21	21.76	22.48
Namkhana	26.32	24.54	25.43
Sagar	17.96	17.23	17.60
Region III	23.68	22.18	22.93

Source: Same as in Table 8.6

on an average. This is indeed a matter of concern in regard to health care provision for the infants and needs to be taken cognizance of properly by the authorities.

- In majority of the blocks, such percentages of immunized female children are lower than the same of their male counterparts; the extent of gender

Table 8.9A : Block-wise Percentages of SNP Beneficiary Mothers : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	Beneficiary Mothers (%)	
	Pregnant	Nursing
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	92.21	92.35
Budge Budge - I	83.86	84.07
Budge Budge - II	80.46	80.27
Bishnupur - I	65.13	66.21
Bishnupur - II	81.90	80.86
Sonarpur	69.80	67.35
Region I	76.83	77.01
Baruipur	71.37	75.26
Bhangar - I	75.30	77.05
Bhangar - II	76.15	77.03
Falta	74.17	74.16
Diamond Harbour - I	96.11	95.51
Diamond Harbour - II	76.15	77.03
Magrahat - I	81.20	82.34
Magrahat - II	52.17	51.86
Kulpi	69.37	66.30
Mandirbazar	77.84	77.37
Region II	73.32	73.28
Canning - I	66.59	67.68
Canning - II	50.78	48.25
Basanti	52.11	51.86
Gosaba	81.60	81.45
Joynagar - I	68.30	68.42
Joynagar - II	52.13	49.62
Mathurapur - I	49.05	51.72
Mathurapur - II	84.80	86.49
Kultali	48.76	48.79
Patharpratima	60.11	58.72
Kakdwip	87.34	87.71
Namkhana	82.34	87.12
Sagar	60.26	60.25
Region III	64.34	64.11

Source: Same as in Table 8.7

gap, however, is not large.

- Among the blocks again, for children of both genders, Sagar, Gosaba and Basanti in Region-III display relatively small values (around 18 %) while Canning-II of the same region records the highest value (male children 35.99%, female children 32.92%).

8.3.2.4 Supplementary Nutrition Programme

The district ICDS provides for Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) for pregnant and nursing mothers (in the first 6 months of lactation) as well as for children in the age groups viz., below 1 year, 1-3 years and 3-6 years, through the

Table 8.9B : Block-wise Percentages of SNP Beneficiary Children : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	Beneficiary Children (%)							
	Below 1 year		1-3 years		3-6 years		0-6 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	91.83	91.87	92.02	92.07	92.28	92.24	92.13	92.14
Budge Budge - I	85.70	84.23	82.74	85.18	78.30	76.95	80.85	80.88
Budge Budge - II	80.78	81.99	77.99	78.80	66.56	69.20	73.27	74.82
Bishnupur - I	74.65	78.51	77.73	78.51	70.23	71.75	73.83	75.20
Bishnupur - II	82.90	83.26	84.66	84.51	73.61	75.26	79.23	79.80
Sonarapur	66.47	66.69	68.42	69.06	63.91	63.85	66.02	66.25
Region I	79.49	80.42	80.00	80.63	73.56	74.28	76.86	77.49
Baruipur	69.87	66.92	67.98	71.65	62.44	63.89	65.50	67.32
Bhangar - I	76.22	73.63	78.68	78.06	73.84	73.34	75.85	74.93
Bhangar - II	80.74	80.06	78.79	76.78	66.09	68.88	72.62	73.14
Falta	74.87	74.70	73.72	73.95	59.78	60.54	66.90	67.27
Diamond Harbour - I	93.69	94.32	95.07	94.36	83.09	83.06	88.98	88.59
Diamond Harbour - II	63.07	63.30	62.31	64.02	46.86	48.62	55.38	56.47
Magrahat - I	79.68	81.45	80.60	80.30	63.57	65.25	72.92	73.54
Magrahat - II	55.22	56.56	49.30	50.13	44.69	45.31	47.52	48.26
Kulpi	64.31	69.22	64.07	64.82	54.03	54.78	59.19	60.25
Mandirbazar	79.89	82.14	75.56	77.22	65.53	67.41	71.62	73.32
Region II	73.10	73.48	71.70	72.29	61.31	62.46	66.79	67.53
Canning - I	67.14	67.09	63.59	64.16	53.82	55.81	58.96	60.12
Canning - II	46.17	45.97	47.13	48.66	47.90	48.36	47.44	48.22
Basanti	51.07	50.82	48.31	47.91	46.55	47.28	47.86	47.98
Gosaba	82.40	80.17	78.31	79.36	73.10	75.37	76.20	77.43
Joynagar - I	67.25	66.20	65.76	67.03	51.48	54.41	58.45	60.31
Joynagar - II	48.70	49.97	48.96	49.91	39.71	41.41	43.97	45.32
Mathurapur - I	31.96	32.57	47.71	48.60	47.07	48.45	45.75	46.87
Mathurapur - II	83.95	86.56	88.87	87.11	67.52	72.57	77.52	79.78
Kultali	48.69	48.75	48.53	48.06	40.07	41.22	44.06	44.48
Patharpratima	50.94	55.37	58.44	56.69	54.16	49.36	55.38	52.83
Kakdwip	85.70	87.85	82.16	86.63	77.36	79.45	80.19	83.21
Namkhana	89.47	88.90	90.82	89.84	85.92	87.34	88.30	88.52
Sagar	62.17	63.70	58.44	58.51	58.15	59.38	58.74	59.51
Region III	61.96	62.59	62.28	62.65	55.22	56.43	58.69	59.47

Source: Same as in Table 8.7

functioning Anganwadi Schemes (AWS) for more than 15 days per month in each block. Now, in any block, such schemes providing SNP remain open for either 15-21 days or more than 21 days in a month. For our purpose, we consider the percentages of AWS remaining open for more than 21 days per month to total AWS functioning in that block for the entire period of 12 months in 2006-07. Considering the beneficiary mothers first (Table 8.9A), we find that

- Region-I performs the best followed by Region-II.
- Among all blocks, Diamond Harbour-I in Region-II performs the best (96.11% beneficiary pregnant mothers, 95.51% beneficiary nursing mothers) followed by Thakurpukur-Maheshtala (in Region-I), Kakdwip, Namkhana, Gosaba (all in Region-III).
- Blocks like Joynagar-II, Mathurapur-I, and Kultali in Region-III exhibit least percentage values (less than 50 %) for either beneficiary pregnant mothers or beneficiary nursing mothers or both. Mention may also be made of Bisnupur-I and Sonarpur in Region-I, which show considerably lower percentage values compared to other blocks in this regard.

Considering next the percentages of SNP

beneficiary children for the age group, 0-6 years (Table 8.9B) we find that.

- Region-I performs the best followed by Region-II.
- In each region and in majority blocks of a region the relevant percentages are higher for females¹. In each region there exists sufficient inter-block variation.
- Among the blocks, the better performing ones are Thakurpukur-Maheshtala followed by Diamond Harbour-I, Namkhana, Kakdwip and Budge Budge-I where the relevant percentages of children for both genders are higher than 80%.
- The poorly performing blocks are Canning-II, Basanti, Joynagar-II, Mathurapur-I and Kultali where the said percentages vary around 44 percent to 48%.

The enrolled children for SNP programme are weighed and grouped into the following categories according to their nutritional status viz., (a) normal (b) grade I (c) grade II (d) grade III and grade IV. Children in the last two grades, considered together, are categorized as severely malnourished while those in grade II suffer from moderate malnutrition. Though grade I children weigh less than the normal children, their degree

¹ We have considered such percentages of SNP beneficiary children below 1 year, in 1-3years and in 3-6 years but report the result only for the first group of children. This feature is noticed in each age group. This explains, to an extent, the lower values of IMR for the girl children.

of malnutrition is not even moderate. For our purpose, we therefore consider two categories viz., normal and grades II-IV (Table 8.10). We find that

Table 8.10: Block-wise Percentages of Normal and Malnourished Children : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	Percentage of Normal Boys in Total Boys Weighed	Percentage of Normal Girls in Total Girls Weighed	Percentage of Malnourished Boys in Total Boys Weighed	Percentage of Malnourished Girls in Total Girls Weighed
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	57.09	48.84	9.12	13.13
Budge Budge - I	53.82	46.09	9.20	12.77
Budge Budge - II	55.33	50.01	10.48	13.69
Bishnupur - I	55.98	47.82	7.95	11.68
Bishnupur - II	58.99	45.81	10.27	17.46
Sonarpur	58.05	50.27	9.83	13.39
Region I	56.61	48.03	9.48	13.81
Baruipur	54.59	44.30	10.76	15.79
Bhangar - I	56.96	53.93	13.82	15.73
Bhangar - II	56.43	46.56	6.18	11.17
Falta	60.02	51.59	11.02	14.83
Diamond Harbour - I	57.27	51.41	11.69	15.00
Diamond Harbour - II	53.34	40.24	13.00	18.68
Magrahat - I	52.44	42.93	12.17	18.48
Magrahat - II	49.60	43.08	15.44	20.10
Kulpi	51.04	48.17	14.64	16.44
Mandirbazar	42.38	38.13	16.84	19.66
Region II	53.98	46.89	12.31	16.26
Canning - I	47.02	41.16	14.58	18.20
Canning - II	41.40	38.05	20.01	23.20
Basanti	52.57	47.19	13.71	16.65
Gosaba	51.85	47.27	13.53	16.86
Joynagar - I	46.40	37.56	15.52	20.56
Joynagar - II	40.87	36.65	18.55	21.37
Mathurapur - I	47.95	41.91	15.52	19.93
Mathurapur - II	53.22	44.60	12.39	17.36
Kultali	43.58	42.61	14.06	15.42
Patharpratima	49.39	45.18	15.80	18.72
Kakdwip	51.88	45.66	13.11	16.01
Namkhana	56.48	53.26	12.46	15.04
Sagar	46.18	38.59	14.94	20.19
Region III	48.14	43.01	14.97	18.35

- percentages of female children in the 'Normal' category to total female children weighed are smaller than the corresponding percentages of male children, while for 'Grade II-IV'

- category the picture is the other way round. Considering children in the 'Normal' category first, it is noted that
- percentages of both male and female children in the age-group viz., 0-6

years are highest in Region-I (males-56.61%, females -48.03) followed by Region-II (males 53.98%, females -46.89%) Disaggregating the result for age groups viz., below 1 year, 1-3 years and 3-6 years², we find that

- in majority blocks, such percentages of male children are highest in the

age-group viz., below 1 year, fall substantially in the age-group viz., 1-3 years to rise again in 3-6 years. No such definite conclusion however can be drawn for female children who have otherwise highest percentages below 1 year in this regard in majority of the blocks. So far as the percentages of

Table 8.11: Block-wise Percentages of Girl Children to Total Children Weighed by Nutritional Status : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	Percentages of Girl Children to Total Children by Nutritional Status			
	Normal	Grade I	Grade II	Grades III & IV
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	45.44	52.20	58.25	63.05
Budge Budge - I	45.94	52.31	57.85	74.47
Budge Budge - II	47.01	51.02	55.95	63.56
Bishnupur - I	45.56	52.32	59.02	58.61
Bishnupur - II	43.06	53.85	61.83	69.10
Sonarpur	46.86	52.52	58.01	70.47
Region I	45.57	52.43	58.72	66.22
Baruipur	43.80	52.54	58.28	65.83
Bhangar - I	49.53	51.84	53.91	62.97
Bhangar - II	44.89	53.23	63.79	69.89
Falta	45.22	52.60	55.95	64.28
Diamond Harbour - I	46.65	50.81	55.24	66.38
Diamond Harbour - II	42.59	51.82	58.31	67.76
Magrahat - I	44.86	52.32	59.62	68.70
Magrahat - II	46.21	51.09	56.35	53.26
Kulpi	49.23	51.43	53.52	57.98
Mandirbazar	46.87	50.10	52.93	68.22
Region II	46.28	51.91	56.44	65.13
Canning - I	45.78	50.51	54.61	56.15
Canning - II	47.79	49.07	53.29	60.76
Basanti	46.79	54.22	54.23	57.35
Gosaba	46.42	49.61	54.31	50.94
Joynagar - I	44.27	51.71	56.35	64.60
Joynagar - II	46.30	50.27	52.35	64.49
Mathurapur - I	46.32	50.78	55.47	66.67
Mathurapur - II	44.60	51.55	57.38	57.23
Kultali	49.17	49.49	51.69	68.37
Patharpratima	47.37	50.50	53.39	59.80
Kakdwip	46.38	51.81	54.49	62.42
Namkhana	48.29	51.19	54.52	51.25
Sagar	44.45	50.13	56.32	75.22
Region III	46.60	50.87	54.32	60.53

Source: Same as in Table 8.7

² Though we have considered these results for children in the age groups below 1 year, 1-3 years, 3-6 years, to avoid a cumbersome presentation, we report the results for children in the age group viz., 0-6 years.

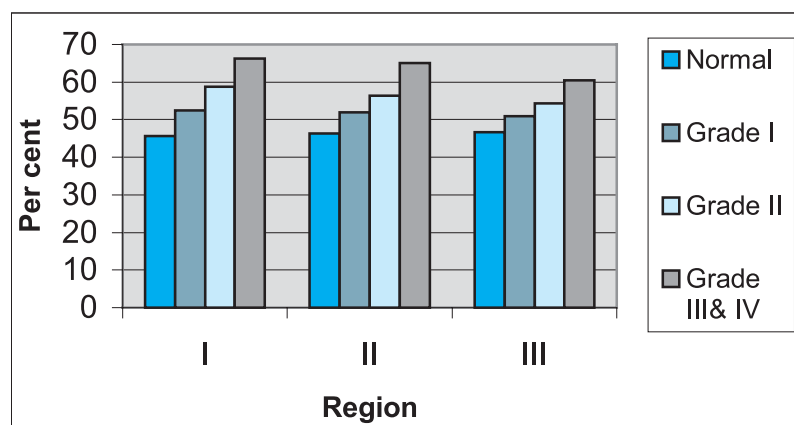


- malnourished children are concerned,
- Region-I again emerges as the best performer with least values for children of both genders (males-9.48%, females -13.81%) followed by Region-II ((males-12.31%, females -16.26%).
- While for female children, these percentages are highest in the age-group viz., 1-3 years in majority blocks, particularly in Region-II, for

male children the corresponding percentages continuously rise in such blocks.

We next consider the percentages of female children weighed to total (female+male) children weighed in the age-group viz., 0-6 years (Table 8.11) to find that such percentages are least in 'Normal' category but rise with increase in the grade of malnutrition. This observation clearly indicates gender disparity when children are evaluated by their nutritional status.

Fig 8.6: Percentages of Girl Children to Total Children (age 0-6 years) by Nutritional Status



At this stage, it may be pointed out that we have calculated the equally distributed equivalent index on health care for children below 1 year using the following indicators viz., (i) male and female infant survival rates (ii) percentages of fully immunized male and female children and (iii) percentages of male and female children normal grade in nutritional status. We have also computed

the dimension index in these indicators as well (Table 8.12). Interestingly however, this result does not indicate gender inequality measured as the difference of these two indices in relative terms. This is an important result, no doubt, but calls for further research to understand the gender disparity in health-care provision among children above 1 year.

Table 8.12: Block-wise Dimension and Equally Distributed equivalent Infant Health Care : South 24 Parganas, 2006-2007

Block	Dimension Index on Nutritional Status		Dimension Index on Infant Survival		Dimension Index on Full Immunisation		Dimension Index on Health care		Population per cent		EDEI on Infant Health care		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	0.674	0.568	0.623	0.991	0.984	0.988	0.250	0.639	0.600	0.620	0.506	0.494	0.619
Budge Budge - I	0.624	0.564	0.595	0.973	0.988	0.981	0.250	0.620	0.596	0.608	0.525	0.475	0.608
Budge Budge - II	0.607	0.575	0.591	0.978	0.982	0.980	0.251	0.612	0.603	0.607	0.514	0.486	0.607
Bishnupur - I	0.652	0.570	0.611	0.989	0.993	0.991	0.246	0.633	0.599	0.616	0.516	0.484	0.616
Bishnupur - II	0.704	0.590	0.648	0.989	0.994	0.991	0.239	0.645	0.606	0.626	0.513	0.487	0.625
Sonarpur	0.652	0.588	0.620	0.985	0.984	0.985	0.269	0.639	0.610	0.625	0.509	0.492	0.624
Baruipur	0.664	0.541	0.607	0.976	0.980	0.978	0.220	0.622	0.579	0.602	0.515	0.485	0.600
Bhangar - I	0.579	0.547	0.564	0.991	0.997	0.994	0.238	0.606	0.591	0.599	0.511	0.489	0.599
Bhangar - II	0.690	0.607	0.649	0.984	0.991	0.987	0.248	0.641	0.615	0.628	0.521	0.479	0.628
Falta	0.687	0.619	0.653	0.988	0.986	0.987	0.256	0.648	0.616	0.632	0.513	0.487	0.632
Diamond Harbour - I	0.653	0.605	0.630	0.990	0.996	0.993	0.244	0.635	0.615	0.625	0.518	0.482	0.625
Diamond Harbour - II	0.674	0.567	0.623	0.981	0.987	0.984	0.244	0.636	0.597	0.617	0.511	0.489	0.616
Magrahat - I	0.653	0.571	0.613	0.985	0.985	0.985	0.244	0.629	0.599	0.614	0.515	0.485	0.614
Magrahat - II	0.566	0.501	0.533	0.985	0.989	0.987	0.242	0.602	0.573	0.587	0.515	0.485	0.588
Kulpi	0.531	0.503	0.516	0.979	0.992	0.985	0.221	0.581	0.569	0.574	0.514	0.486	0.575
Mandirbazar	0.460	0.418	0.439	0.990	0.991	0.990	0.227	0.561	0.543	0.552	0.517	0.483	0.552
Canning - I	0.569	0.487	0.530	0.984	0.989	0.986	0.226	0.595	0.565	0.581	0.510	0.490	0.580
Canning - II	0.489	0.468	0.479	0.962	0.981	0.971	0.345	0.604	0.593	0.598	0.514	0.486	0.598
Basanti	0.544	0.470	0.507	0.983	0.986	0.984	0.188	0.573	0.546	0.560	0.512	0.488	0.560
Gosaba	0.576	0.537	0.557	0.983	0.996	0.989	0.164	0.577	0.563	0.570	0.509	0.491	0.570
Joynagar - I	0.549	0.454	0.502	0.979	0.978	0.979	0.201	0.578	0.543	0.561	0.517	0.483	0.561
Joynagar - II	0.494	0.453	0.474	0.983	0.987	0.985	0.261	0.581	0.565	0.573	0.519	0.481	0.573
Mathurapur - I	0.550	0.474	0.510	0.967	0.969	0.968	0.226	0.584	0.553	0.568	0.515	0.485	0.569
Mathurapur - II	0.644	0.540	0.594	0.977	0.990	0.983	0.249	0.625	0.592	0.609	0.519	0.481	0.609
Kultali	0.451	0.461	0.456	0.974	0.979	0.976	0.226	0.552	0.554	0.553	0.520	0.480	0.553
Patharpratima	0.546	0.512	0.529	0.985	0.982	0.984	0.236	0.592	0.573	0.583	0.512	0.488	0.583
Kakdwip	0.611	0.554	0.583	0.986	0.997	0.992	0.225	0.610	0.589	0.600	0.513	0.487	0.600
Namkhana	0.623	0.585	0.604	0.995	0.998	0.996	0.254	0.627	0.609	0.618	0.512	0.488	0.618
Sagar	0.580	0.477	0.529	0.979	0.984	0.981	0.176	0.579	0.544	0.562	0.515	0.485	0.562

Sources:
(1) Same as in Table 8.6
(2) Same as in Table 8.7



8.3.3 Gender and Educational Attainment

We first consider the district scenario (Table 8.13) and note that gender gap in literacy rates, though considerably high, particularly in the rural sector of the district —declines during 1991-2001.

The literacy rates in blocks in both 1991 and 2001— for population as a whole and males and females separately are considered next (Table 8.14). Our main task is to assess gender gap in literacy rates, measured by female to male ratio of such rates. Considering the region-wise performance in this regard we observe that

- Region-I performs the best followed by Region-II in each of these cases viz., literacy rates of persons, male and female and gender gap in such rates in 1991 and 2001 (Fig 8.7). Intertemporal variations in each case

for other two regions too indicate an improvement. Inter-block variation is not so much pronounced in Region-I compared to such in other two regions, in particular Region-III.

- One important point to note is that during 1991-2001, female literacy rates rise at a faster rate than male literacy rates— a fact which causes the gender gap in literacy rates to decline in this period . While this feature is noticed in all three regions, it is the blocks in Region-III, the poor performers in 1991, who perform the best in 2001.

Table 8.13: Literacy Rates by Gender : Rural and Urban South 24 Parganas, 1991–2001

Sectors	Census Year	Literacy Rate			
		Person	Male	Female	Female/Male(%)
Total	1991	55.1	68.45	40.57	59.27
	2001	69.45	79.19	59.01	74.51
Rural	1991	52.3	66.6	36.89	55.39
	2001	67.4	77.94	56.15	72.04
Urban	1991	72.02	79.26	63.64	80.29
	2001	79.84	85.41	73.7	86.29

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

Fig 8.7: Female to Male Ratio of Literacy Rates (%)

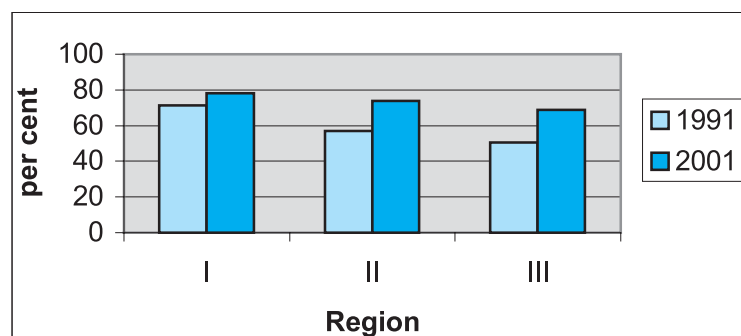


Table 8.14 : Block-wise Literacy Rates by Gender : South 24 Parganas, 1991-2001

Block	Person		Female		Male		Female/ Male (%)	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	68.57	74.78	59.68	67.14	76.32	81.95	78.19	81.93
Budge Budge - I	60.85	73.98	50.54	65.82	70.14	81.36	72.05	80.90
Budge Budge - II	58.74	72.46	46.92	64.01	69.21	80.24	67.80	79.77
Bishnupur - I	55.31	71.93	39.94	60.61	69.48	82.47	57.49	73.49
Bishnupur - II	59.57	73.42	46.84	64.54	71.32	81.77	65.68	78.93
Sonarpur	68.99	70.74	58.47	61.07	78.45	79.87	74.53	76.46
Region I	63.79	72.73	52.59	63.52	73.82	81.30	71.24	78.13
Baruipur	54.95	68.86	40.78	59.17	67.97	77.88	60.01	75.97
Bhangar - I	43.90	60.55	29.89	51.05	56.97	69.57	52.47	73.37
Bhangar - II	44.82	65.65	32.44	57.78	56.27	72.89	57.65	79.26
Falta	59.68	71.89	45.27	61.86	73.03	81.25	61.99	76.14
Diamond Harbour - I	56.48	67.13	41.71	56.93	70.11	76.53	59.49	74.39
Diamond Harbour - II	58.59	70.75	45.13	61.50	71.20	79.53	63.39	77.32
Magrahat - I	52.86	67.34	38.98	56.54	65.63	77.39	59.40	73.06
Magrahat - II	50.99	67.24	34.52	55.85	66.17	77.89	52.17	71.71
Kulpi	52.01	67.74	35.04	55.59	67.91	79.15	51.59	70.23
Mandirbazar	51.50	65.99	33.60	53.29	68.10	77.83	49.34	68.47
Region II	52.71	67.46	37.82	57.08	66.51	77.15	56.86	73.99
Canning - I	46.45	60.49	30.19	47.79	61.76	72.56	48.88	65.86
Canning - II	33.32	52.36	17.60	40.36	48.25	63.68	36.48	63.37
Basanti	39.88	56.98	24.13	44.33	54.63	68.95	44.17	64.29
Gosaba	53.61	68.93	38.47	56.60	67.69	80.74	56.84	70.10
Joynagar - I	51.26	65.77	34.35	53.57	66.78	77.07	51.44	69.51
Joynagar - II	41.81	59.23	22.80	45.35	59.44	72.08	38.36	62.93
Mathurapur - I	51.79	65.41	33.93	52.53	68.42	77.38	49.59	67.89
Mathurapur - II	52.87	68.24	34.67	54.89	69.44	80.56	49.92	68.14
Kultali	41.16	60.09	22.01	44.58	58.93	74.45	37.35	59.88
Patharpratima	54.15	72.77	37.80	60.64	69.67	84.30	54.25	71.94
Kakdwip	52.14	70.53	36.14	59.05	67.22	81.39	53.76	72.56
Namkhana	62.24	78.40	46.30	67.63	77.37	88.64	59.84	76.30
Sagar	65.05	77.87	49.61	67.12	79.62	87.96	62.30	76.31
Region III	49.56	65.82	32.89	53.33	65.15	77.56	50.48	68.77
District	55.10	69.45	40.57	59.01	68.45	79.19	59.27	74.51

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

We next calculate the equally distributed equivalent indices on literacy for the blocks in 1991 and 2001 (Tables 8.15A and 8.15B).

- Interestingly, majority of the blocks belonging both to the group of better performing ones and the group of poorly

performing ones in 1991, though interchange their position within their respective group, remain in the same group in 2001 as well. While Thakurpukur-Mahestala, Budge Budge-I, Sagar, Namkhana and Bishnupur-I

figure in the better performing group, Canning-II, Joynagar-II, Basanti and Bhangar-I remain in the poorly performing group.

- While in 1991, Thakurpukur-Maheshtala tops the list jointly with Sonarpur; in

2001, it is Namkhana which emerges as the best performer. Sonarpur performs moderately in 2001 and remains no longer in the group of top ten better performing blocks.

Table 8.15A : Block-wise Dimension and Equally Distributed Equivalent Indices on Literacy : South 24 Parganas, 1991

Block	Population (per cent)		Literacy Rate (%)			Dimension Index on Literacy			E D E I on Literacy	Rank
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female		
Thakurpukur-Maheshtala	53.0	47.0	68.57	76.32	59.68	0.686	0.763	0.597	0.675	1
Budge Budge - I	52.2	47.8	60.85	70.14	50.54	0.609	0.701	0.505	0.592	4
Budge Budge - II	52.7	47.3	58.74	69.21	46.92	0.587	0.692	0.469	0.565	7
Bishnupur - I	51.9	48.1	55.31	69.48	39.94	0.553	0.695	0.399	0.512	12
Bishnupur - II	51.7	48.3	59.57	71.32	46.84	0.596	0.713	0.468	0.569	6
Sonarpur	52.4	47.6	68.99	78.45	58.47	0.690	0.785	0.585	0.675	2
Baruipur	51.9	48.1	54.95	67.97	40.78	0.549	0.680	0.408	0.515	11
Bhangar - I	51.2	48.8	43.90	56.97	29.89	0.439	0.570	0.299	0.395	25
Bhangar - II	51.4	48.6	44.82	56.27	32.44	0.448	0.563	0.324	0.415	23
Falta	51.9	48.1	59.68	73.03	45.27	0.597	0.730	0.453	0.564	8
Diamond Harbour - I	51.8	48.2	56.48	70.11	41.71	0.565	0.701	0.417	0.528	10
Diamond Harbour - II	51.5	48.5	58.59	71.20	45.13	0.586	0.712	0.451	0.556	9
Magrahat - I	51.8	48.2	52.86	65.63	38.98	0.529	0.656	0.390	0.494	15
Magrahat - II	51.8	48.2	50.99	66.17	34.52	0.510	0.662	0.345	0.459	20
Kulpi	51.5	48.5	52.01	67.91	35.04	0.520	0.679	0.350	0.467	18
Mandirbazar	51.7	48.3	51.50	68.10	33.60	0.515	0.681	0.336	0.455	22
Canning - I	51.3	48.7	46.45	61.76	30.19	0.464	0.618	0.302	0.409	24
Canning - II	51.0	49.0	33.32	48.25	17.60	0.333	0.483	0.176	0.260	29
Basanti	51.3	48.7	39.88	54.63	24.13	0.399	0.546	0.241	0.338	26
Gosaba	51.5	48.5	53.61	67.69	38.47	0.536	0.677	0.385	0.495	13
Joynagar - I	51.8	48.2	51.26	66.78	34.35	0.513	0.668	0.344	0.459	19
Joynagar - II	51.5	48.5	41.81	59.44	22.80	0.418	0.594	0.228	0.334	27
Mathurapur - I	51.6	48.4	51.79	68.42	33.93	0.518	0.684	0.339	0.459	21
Mathurapur - II	52.1	47.9	52.87	69.44	34.67	0.529	0.694	0.347	0.469	17
Kultali	51.5	48.5	41.16	58.93	22.01	0.412	0.589	0.220	0.325	28
Patharpratima	51.3	48.7	54.15	69.67	37.80	0.541	0.697	0.378	0.494	14
Kakdwip	51.3	48.7	52.14	67.22	36.14	0.521	0.672	0.361	0.474	16
Namkhana	51.4	48.6	62.24	77.37	46.30	0.622	0.774	0.463	0.583	5
Sagar	51.4	48.6	65.05	79.62	49.61	0.651	0.796	0.496	0.615	3

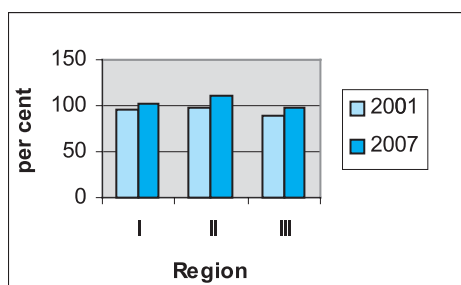
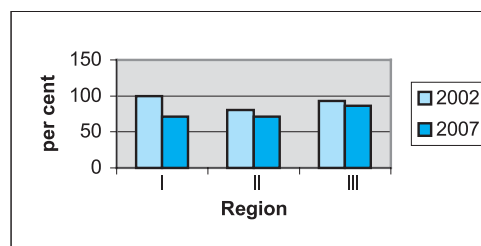
Source: Same as in Table 8.1

Table 8.15B: Block-wise Dimension and Equally Distributed Equivalent Indices on Literacy : South 24 Parganas, 2001

Block	Population (per cent)		Literacy Rate (%)			Dimension Index on Literacy			E D E I on Literacy	Rank
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female		
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	51.5	48.5	74.78	82.62	67.64	0.748	0.826	0.676	0.746	3
Budge Budge - I	52.4	47.6	73.98	82.05	66.28	0.740	0.821	0.663	0.737	4
Budge Budge - II	51.9	48.1	72.46	80.98	64.94	0.725	0.810	0.649	0.724	6
Bishnupur - I	51.7	48.3	71.93	82.71	60.72	0.719	0.827	0.607	0.704	9
Bishnupur - II	51.4	48.6	73.42	82.62	65.39	0.734	0.826	0.654	0.732	5
Sonarpur	51.4	48.6	70.74	80.47	61.4	0.707	0.805	0.614	0.699	11
Baruipur	51.8	48.2	68.86	78.79	60.09	0.689	0.788	0.601	0.685	13
Bhangar - I	51.7	48.3	60.55	70.59	52.04	0.606	0.706	0.520	0.601	25
Bhangar - II	51.2	48.8	65.65	73.88	58.57	0.656	0.739	0.586	0.656	20
Falta	51.6	48.4	71.89	81.98	62.57	0.719	0.820	0.626	0.713	8
Diamond Harbour - I	51.4	48.6	67.13	77.17	57.69	0.671	0.772	0.577	0.664	17
Diamond Harbour - II	51.7	48.3	70.75	79.91	62.04	0.707	0.799	0.620	0.701	10
Magrahat - I	51.6	48.4	67.34	78.49	57.5	0.673	0.785	0.575	0.667	15
Magrahat - II	51.3	48.7	67.24	78.38	56.32	0.672	0.784	0.563	0.659	19
Kulpi	51.1	48.9	67.74	79.85	56.16	0.677	0.799	0.562	0.663	18
Mandirbazar	51.2	48.8	65.99	78.27	53.68	0.660	0.783	0.537	0.641	23
Canning - I	51.9	48.1	60.49	73.24	48.53	0.605	0.732	0.485	0.586	26
Canning - II	51.5	48.5	52.36	64.43	40.35	0.524	0.644	0.404	0.499	29
Basanti	51.6	48.4	56.98	70.12	45.48	0.570	0.701	0.455	0.555	28
Gosaba	52.0	48.0	68.93	81.39	57.43	0.689	0.814	0.574	0.676	14
Joynagar - I	51.1	48.9	65.77	78.01	54.4	0.658	0.780	0.544	0.645	22
Joynagar - II	51.7	48.3	59.23	72.99	46.21	0.592	0.730	0.462	0.570	27
Mathurapur - I	51.2	48.8	65.41	77.88	53.19	0.654	0.779	0.532	0.636	24
Mathurapur - II	51.8	48.2	68.24	81.03	55.85	0.682	0.810	0.559	0.666	16
Kultali	51.8	48.2	60.09	74.9	56.16	0.601	0.749	0.562	0.645	21
Patharpratima	51.5	48.5	72.77	84.99	61.31	0.728	0.850	0.613	0.715	7
Kakdwip	51.2	48.8	70.53	82.22	59.86	0.705	0.822	0.599	0.696	12
Namkhana	51.2	48.8	78.40	89.55	68.69	0.784	0.896	0.687	0.780	1
Sagar	51.3	48.7	77.87	88.87	68.31	0.779	0.889	0.683	0.775	2

Source: Same as in Table 8.1

We next consider the gender – gap in enrollment and drop-out of children in the age group viz., 5-14 years for the blocks in 2001 and 2007. For drop-out children

Fig 8.8: Female to Male Enrolment Ratio (5-14 years)**Fig 8.9: Female to Male Drop-out ratio (5-14 years)**

we do not have data for 2001 and base our analysis on 2002 (Tables 8.16A and 8.16B).

- Region-II performs the best in respect of both indicators where female to male ratio for enrollment is highest

and the same for drop-out are the least (Figs. 8.8 and 8.9).

- Interestingly, figures of the relevant ratios for enrollment of children in 5-14 years exceed 100 in a number of blocks in 2007, implying thereby that the absolute number of female enrollment has been higher than that of their male counterparts.(Table 8.16A). Similar reasoning can be

applied to understand such figures (greater than 100) of dropout ratios in a few blocks in 2002 (Table 8.16B). Inter-temporal variation suggests an improvement in enrollment ratios and a decline in drop-out ratios in majority of the blocks, implying thereby an improvement of the attendance of female children relative to male children in the above age group.

Table 8.16A : Block-wise Female to Male Enrolment ratio of Children by Age-groups : South 24 Parganas, 2001-2007

Block	Female to Male Enrollment Ratio by Age-group(years)					
	5-8		9-14		5-14	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	105.64	95.57	73.57	101.76	89.20	98.84
Budge Budge - I	99.61	97.77	95.49	116.37	97.45	107.45
Budge Budge - II	101.95	101.64	95.90	95.60	98.99	98.79
Bishnupur - I	100.01	101.05	72.67	99.35	89.88	100.33
Bishnupur - II	98.26	101.49	120.27	126.47	107.85	113.34
Sonarpur	97.22	99.62	70.88	83.41	85.34	92.45
Region I	100.09	100.12	89.98	104.07	95.52	101.97
Baruipur	97.32	97.23	85.72	105.80	92.84	100.61
Bhangar - I	97.48	104.45	88.31	124.83	94.63	112.23
Bhangar - II	101.17	107.13	137.59	173.24	111.03	130.58
Falta	96.33	104.41	104.10	119.13	99.43	110.82
Diamond Harbour - I	99.59	108.85	94.31	138.11	97.93	120.58
Diamond Harbour - II	101.80	99.00	95.25	107.03	99.09	102.65
Magrahat - I	104.40	111.69	104.57	117.99	104.46	114.16
Magrahat - II	101.80	105.64	87.72	117.69	96.36	110.54
Kulpi	97.12	104.09	76.56	104.00	90.03	104.06
Mandirbazar	98.95	106.18	102.83	132.26	100.33	115.86
Region II	99.49	104.40	95.64	120.55	98.11	110.81
Canning - I	93.50	98.19	67.59	93.67	84.38	96.43
Canning - II	92.23	101.94	80.26	116.03	90.16	104.94
Basanti	90.70	97.39	76.54	96.06	85.91	96.88
Gosaba	95.16	93.61	79.48	94.07	87.57	93.81
Joynagar - I	93.04	101.43	88.86	102.07	91.59	101.67
Joynagar - II	92.56	101.94	80.57	104.27	88.82	102.67
Mathurapur - I	95.99	105.10	81.40	114.68	91.39	108.73
Mathurapur - II	92.06	94.13	78.76	102.21	86.77	97.66
Kultali	92.02	95.80	72.28	96.81	85.38	96.19
Patharpratima	94.93	95.05	79.99	101.76	88.94	98.35
Kakdwip	99.84	99.72	82.22	95.85	92.24	97.81
Namkhana	96.97	98.36	74.19	95.56	86.69	96.91
Sagar	98.05	96.93	84.53	95.74	93.39	96.38
Region III	94.35	98.35	79.21	99.35	88.83	98.76

Source: District Information on School Education, South 24 Parganas, 2001 and 2007

Table 8.16B : Block-wise Female to Male Ratios of Drop-out Children by Age-groups : South 24 Parganas, 2002-2007

Block	Female to Male Ratio of Drop-out by Age-group (years)					
	5-8		9-14		5-14	
	2002	2007	2002	2007	2002	2007
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	97.35	58.67	86.40	48.28	88.58	52.36
Budge- Budge - I	137.84	46.15	121.26	64.34	128.99	62.68
Budge- Budge - II	73.24	60.76	79.89	54.30	77.96	55.43
Bishnupur I	112.93	109.92	99.55	80.60	104.12	86.40
Bishnupur II	99.58	78.48	100.98	68.99	100.28	71.26
Sonarpur	N.A	70.27	N.A	93.97	N.A	88.24
Region I	101.57	79.51	97.64	69.33	99.34	71.55
Baruipur	93.44	112.57	85.15	89.84	87.93	94.23
Bhangar - I	N.A	63.71	N.A	65.03	N.A	64.57
Bhangar - II	70.66	65.17	50.80	38.24	53.73	41.21
Falta	95.53	89.00	108.15	83.44	105.21	83.81
Diamond Harbour - I	92.18	100.88	76.32	100.56	80.40	100.64
Diamond Harbour - II	106.70	74.75	109.57	63.36	108.18	65.91
Mograhat - I	N.A	77.24	N.A	58.64	N.A	63.09
Mograhat - II	72.38	89.20	107.65	88.49	91.19	88.68
Kulpi	120.65	70.29	95.14	70.28	102.06	70.28
Mandirbazar	63.64	85.01	95.65	76.72	87.91	79.43
Region II	90.53	81.11	77.18	68.39	80.80	71.05
Canning - I	91.80	87.01	68.66	95.98	79.69	93.71
Canning - II	96.64	75.81	97.34	87.80	97.14	83.59
Basanti	102.61	88.93	96.30	100.79	98.85	97.74
Gosaba	101.60	92.88	93.28	87.06	95.58	89.05
Joynagar - I	104.24	100.77	98.44	86.65	100.44	91.02
Joynagar - II	115.63	84.56	113.59	81.05	114.29	82.16
Mathurapur - I	82.35	95.41	69.11	68.10	72.15	75.61
Mathurapur - II	97.40	94.00	102.55	85.59	100.47	87.71
Kultali	92.63	93.99	62.76	87.97	66.67	89.87
Patharpratima	94.12	109.41	92.46	80.51	92.90	83.78
Kakdwip	108.82	82.38	102.94	83.93	105.88	83.51
Namkhana	79.31	100.00	94.44	65.14	88.51	65.54
Sagar	118.18	91.30	100.00	66.73	109.84	71.10
Region III	98.19	91.75	91.11	84.06	93.34	86.19

Source:- District Information on School Education, South 24 Parganas, 2002 and 2007

While the functioning of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and its various components like Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) can account for this impressive result to a great extent, the district ICDS too assumes very important role in

providing pre-school education and SNP to the children in the age group viz., 3-6 years. And it is sincerely felt that provision of SNP to children above 6 years, particularly to girl children in their adolescent period can yield further better result in this regard.



8.4 Women and Vulnerability

While vulnerability in different spheres adversely affects QOL of human beings in general, trafficking, domestic violence and various other crimes against women make their lives more vulnerable than their male counterparts. Crimes against women, in particular gender-based crimes, are in general, rooted in ideological differences between men and women. These are usually related to the concentration of power in men's hands and a belief that women are men's possessions to be treated as they wish. Despite the existence of much special

legislation for providing protection to women, the proportion of crime against women in the country has not deteriorated over time.

8.4.1 Crimes against Women: An Overview

The categories of Crimes against women (CAW) under the Indian Penal Code are as follows;-

1. Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)
2. Kidnapping and Abduction for different purposes (Sec. 363-373 IPC)

Table 8.17: District-wise incidence of crimes against women (CAW) in West Bengal, 2000 and 2003

District	Total no of IPC CAW cases	
	2000	2003
Bankura	194(2.36)	264(2.76)
Birbhum	353(4.31)	367(3.84)
Bardhaman	727(8.87)	739(7.73)
Coochbehar	336(4.10)	369(3.86)
Darjeeling	133(1.62)	146(1.52)
Hoogly	583(7.12)	567(5.93)
Howrah	267(3.26)	237(2.48)
Jalpaiguri	297(3.62)	376(3.93)
Paschim Medinipur	904(11.04)	530(5.54)
Purba Medinipur	----	402(4.20)
Murshidabad	440(5.37)	814(8.52)
Malda	213(2.60)	275(2.87)
Nadia	595(7.26)	600(6.28)
24 Parganas North	843(11.29)	1128(11.81)
24 Parganas South	975(11.90)	1214(12.71)
Purulia	259(3.16)	187(1.95)
Uttar Dinajpur	225(2.74)	170(1.77)
Dakshin Dinajpur	242(2.95)	227(2.37)
Kolkata	602(7.35)	679(7.10)
Total (excluding cases Registered by Govt. Railway Police)	8188(100.00)	9551(100.00)

Source: - A situational analysis of violence against women in West Bengal vis-à-vis India, Women Studies Research Centre, Calcutta University (2007)

Note: - Figures in parentheses are percentages to total for West Bengal

3. Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their attempts (Sec. 302/304B IPC)
4. Torture/Cruelty - both physical and mental - (Sec.498A IPC)
5. Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)
6. Sexual Harassment/Eve-Teasing (Sec. 509 or 294 IPC)
7. Importation of girls up to 21 years of age (Sec. 366B IPC)

This section highlights some major forms of crimes against women prevalent in the district of South 24 Parganas.

The total no of IPC CAW cases (Table 8.17) in the district over the years 2000

and 2003 show a distinctly rising trend in crimes against women with South 24 Parganas leading among the districts both in terms of absolute numbers and in relative terms.

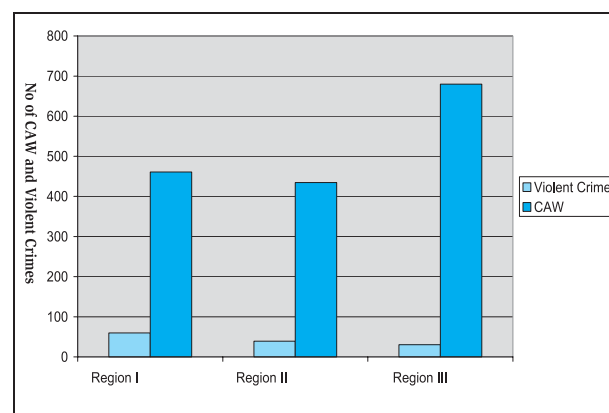
Within South 24 Parganas there is tremendous interregional variation in overall crime rates as well as in CAW. Taking the average values of the total incidence of crime over three years from 2005 to 2007 it is seen that on an average no of violent crimes decrease as one moves away from Kolkata towards Sunderbans but the incidence of CAW is particularly high in the Sunderbans.

Table 8.18 ; Average Incidence of Crime in South 24 Paragans : 2005-07

Region	Violent Crimes	CAW
I	59.78	460.67
II	39.17	434.67
III	30.17	680.00

Source: - A situational analysis of violence against women in West Bengal vis-à-vis India, Women Studies Research Centre, Calcutta University (2007)

Figure 8.10 : Average incidence of Violent Crime & CAW in South 24 Parganas : 2005-07



The higher incidence of crimes against women in the Sunderbans area has been consistent over the years as depicted in the table below where a temporal dimension

is associated with block level CAW occurrence. The fact gets portrayed in the Table 8.19 and figure 8.11 below.

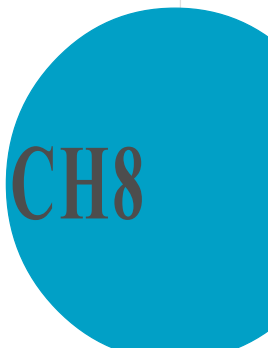
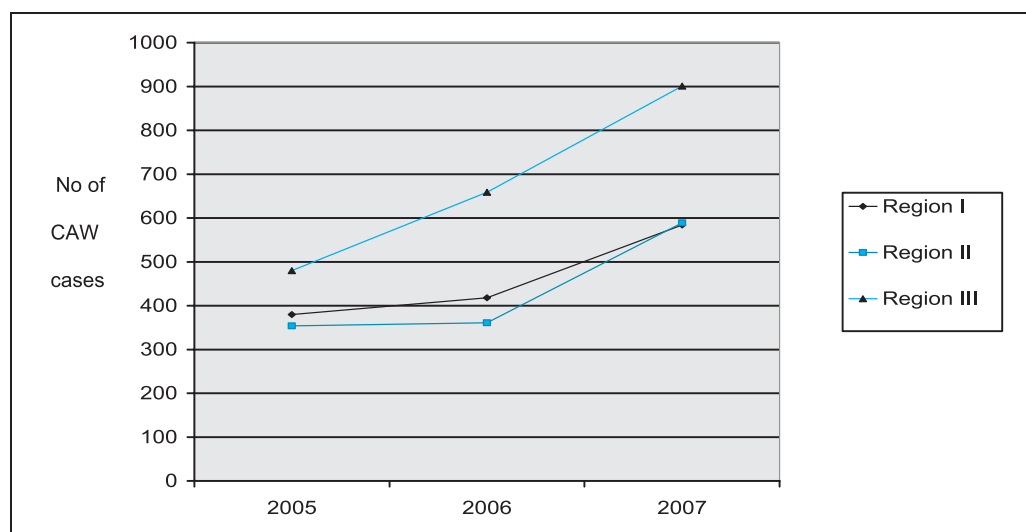


Table 8.19 : Block-wise Distribution of IPC – CAW : South 24 parganas, 2005-2007

	Block	NO. OF CRIME AGAINST WOMAN (CAW)		
		2005	2006	2007
Region I:	THAKURPUKUR- MAHESHTALA	134	142	184
	BUDGE BUDGE I	33	35	48
	BUDGE BUDGE II	24	47	42
	BISHNUPUR I-II	80	69	91
	SONARPUR	109	125	219
Region II:	BARUIPUR	31	38	53
	BHANGAR I-II	87	100	190
	FALTA	31	29	55
	DIAMOND HARBOUR I-II	38	36	81
	MAGRAHAT I	38	36	81
	MAGRAHAT II	52	52	46
	KULPI	48	42	59
	MANDIRBAZAR	29	28	24
	Region III:	CANNING I-II	98	170
BASANTI		22	52	66
GOSABA		17	14	21
JOYNAGAR I-II		60	82	118
MATHURAPUR I		28	30	44
MATHURAPUR II		20	43	34
KULTALI		79	30	105
PATHARPRATIMA		35	46	88
KAKDWIP		51	90	78
NAMKHANA		20	49	46
SAGAR		50	53	86

Source: - A situational analysis of violence against women in West Bengal vis-à-vis India-Calcutta University (2007)

Figure 8.11 : Trends in incidence in number of CAW Cases in South 24 Parganas, 2005-2007

Several NGO-s are involved in studies and implementation programmes in the domain of CAW including trafficking. A few relevant case studies are included for information and deeper understanding.

Case study 1

HARIPUR AMRA SABAI UNNAYAN SAMITI (HASUS), has been working on the establishment of social and economic rights of women for a couple of years in South 24 Parganas. In the experience of the organisation, among women who have migrated to the city in search of work, every day hundreds are found missing.

The facts and figures gathered by the organisation shows that from villages of Mandirbazar, Mathurapur I and II, Magrahat I and II, Kakdwip and Kulpi Blocks, many girls below 18 years have been trafficked to Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai on the pretext of jobs. The statistics shows, surprisingly, that the girls who have been trafficked for prostitution have gone with strangers. Their parents are not very sure whether they are actually working as domestic help or being used for some other purpose. Girls between 13 to 14 years of age do not seem to communicate with their parents or guardians after they have migrated to the city in search of work but girls who got married and have left their children at home keep contact with their family members. Child marriage is another major issue which is increasing at a very alarming rate with each passing day. Girls who are above 16 years of age are rarely seen in the villages as they are married off as soon as they reach the age of 14-15 years.

Case study 2

In the experience of GARAN BOSE GRAM BIKASH KENDRA in Canning I,II and Basanti Blocks there are many instances where young migrant girls, taken away with the pretext of jobs, have been forced into prostitution. It is interesting to note that the number of hotels and shanties surrounding the 'Mazar' has increased. The young girls of Ghutiarisharif and other nearby villages come to these hotels for prostitution. In general traffickers use the methods like kidnapping, promises for a better job, and procuring through marriages (quite often fake marriages) in trafficking. Very often women and girls are sold by their own kins. Rape victims are also sold into prostitution as they are unfit to lead a normal life.

Another glaring feature of crimes against women is revealed by the following table which infers that South 24 Parganas is one of the high rankers in terms of incidence of sexual assaults as compared to the State comprising 18 districts.

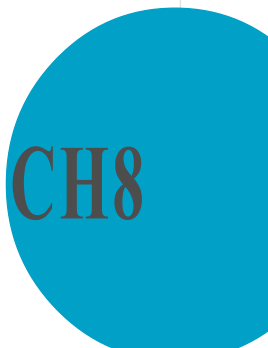
Table 8.20: Incidence of Sexual Assaults against Women in South 24 Parganas vis-à-vis West Bengal in 2002

District	Recorded no of Rape cases in 2000											
	Custodial		Gang		Others		Molestation		Eve-teasing		Total	
	No of Cases	No of Persons arrested	No of Cases	No of Persons arrested	No of Cases	No of Persons arrested	No of Cases	No of Persons arrested	No of Cases	No of Persons arrested	No of Cases	No of Persons arrested
24 Parganas (S)	NA	NA	11	13	54	41	73	52	NA	NA	138	106
West Bengal	NA	NA	82	136	697	543	905	753	9	23	1,693	1,455

Source: Sexual Violence and the Law: West Bengal Commission for Women, Kolkata 2002

8.4.2 Post marital violence and dowry deaths

The composition of crime in the districts is biased towards post marital violence accounting for more than half of the total crimes in 2002. In terms of share of total CAW cases in the state, South 24 Parganas takes the lead among all 18 districts as per



the report of the West Bengal Commission for Women. The absolute IPC CAW component figures in three time periods depict a rapid increase in torture and cruelty by husbands and relatives.

The prevalence of dowry deaths and the temporal dimension as reported in the crime figures do not provide a conclusive picture. The year 2001 depicts a sharp decline which could just be accidental.

On the aspect of age of marriage in South

24 parganas the following facts were revealed.

- In rural areas 65.49% of married population in the age group of 10-14 is girls. While for urban areas this is only 6.5%.
- In rural areas 91.33% of married population in the age group of 15-19 is girls. While for urban areas this is 88.19%.

A study conducted by Calcutta University

Table 8.21: Incidence of crime against women (CAW) and persons arrested in South 24 Parganas

District	No of cases of Torture/ cruelty by Husbands/ relatives			No of Dowry Deaths			No. of Arrests for CAW	
	1995	2000	2003	1995	2000	2003	2000	2003
24 Parganas South	469	692	884	2	49	44	930	1759

Source: Sexual Violence and the Law: West Bengal Commission for Women, Kolkata 2003

Table 8.22: Number of dowry deaths in South 24 Paraganas: 1997–2005

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2003	2004	2005 upto May
Cases	49	25	47	42	11	47	43	15

Source: Sexual Violence and the Law: West Bengal Commission for Women, Kolkata 2005

- A situational analysis of violence against women in West Bengal vis-à-vis that in India-Calcutta University (2007) in Ramchandrapur and Kalinagar villages of Diamond Harbour I Block revealed the dimensions associated with dowry. In Ramchandrapur the overall scenario had a reflection of well being. Employment was reported to be mostly in organized service sectors, or in family business. But in Kalinagar the standard of living is low, and people are mostly working as migrant labor in unorganized sectors or as household

labour. The following points were revealed from the study

- Dowry is common and takes place in a cyclical manner with dowry taken in son's marriage and given off in daughter's marriage.
- Family is thus an institution of gaining capital in the process.
- The level of dowry is Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 40,000.
- Dowry torture is common.
- Poverty is one of the reasons of child marriage and dowry.

- Groom's family is poor and so needs some capital for maintenance of the bride in the family and this is how villagers justify dowry.
- Suicide of brides is also heard of in dowry tortures.
- The general age of marriage of girls starts from 12.
- Even educated brides and their parents confidently express the existence of dowry in their own lives in a supportive way.
- Dowry is not looked upon as humiliation of the bride by any family.

In 1998 Women Studies Research Centre, Calcutta University, undertook a project on the status of muslim women in West Bengal. As a part of the study survey was conducted in three villages in the district of South 24 parganas. Survey revealed that all the respondents confessed that they had to go through the exchange of dowry in marriage and also confessed to accepting it as a custom and felt there was no way of combating it. Other studies in the domain of post marital violence infer similar points and hence could be considered as a general deduction.

8.4.3 Trafficking

Trafficking in women and girl children is a matter of great concern all over the world. In South Asia cross-border trafficking, sourcing, transit to destination is a big problem. Even more prevalent is the movement of persons within the countries for exploitation in various forms. West Bengal falls within the wide criminal network where South 24 Paraganas acts as a major sending point Trafficking and consequent white slavery with sexual exploitation is a multi billion-dollar business - as important as dealings in drugs and ornaments. Extensive consultations verified that there is a severe lack of concrete data from which an accurate picture of the scope of trafficking may be drawn. Traffickers go to great lengths to avoid monitoring of their illegal activities and any available data must be treated with caution.

Sanlaap, a renowned NGO, has been involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of minor girls who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. During the course of restoring these trafficked victims back to their families, they have been able to identify those eight districts from where these girls have been trafficked, South 24 Parganas being identified as one of the most vulnerable.

Case study 3

Study conducted by

ASHURALI GRAMONNAYAN PARISHAD

The areas covered under the study are three villages under the Kalatalahat Gram Panchayat of Diamond Harbour II block of South 24 Parganas district.

The Majority of the girl children are married off in the age group of 15-17 years. However, the distribution in the other age ranges is also remarkable. The fact that child marriage occurs in the age range of below 9 is alarming by itself irrespective of the number or percentage. Quite a number of these are married off to Bihar through mediators who come to work from Bihar in the Falta export-processing zone and growth Centre. There are also cases when men from Bihar have directly got married to the local girls of these villages and have taken them away to Bihar. There have been incidents where the girl has been married off to places like Delhi through mediators from Bihar and have been found to be missing till date.

Indian Express, the daily, reported on _____ from North and South 24 Parganas.
the plight of the vulnerable section

The Indian Express, 14 August 2007 reports.....

Five minors rescued from Maharashtra brothels

NEWS, Kolkata, August 5: The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), which was inaugurated a month back, has rescued seven young girls from Mumbai and other suburbs of Maharashtra and brought them back to Kolkata. A six-member team went to Maharashtra to rescue the girls, who were trafficked from South 24-Parganas and North 24-Parganas. The girls were sold in various parts of Maharashtra for being used as commercial sex workers.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) present a large burden of disease and debility. As per a recent STI prevalence study of National Aids Control Programme (NACP-III), over 5% of adult population in the country suffers from STIs. In South 24 Parganas the RTI data reveals some very interesting features. The blocks Kultali, Canning-I, Canning-II, Basanti, Baruipur, Gosaba, Falta, Magrahat-I & II, Diamond Harbour I & II specially attract attention in terms of prevalence. In these blocks RTI/SI rates are very high among females. In Kultali block cases detected is 808, cases treated is 335 and cases referred is 473 while in Canning-II the number of cases is very high accounting to 3058 cases detected, 792 cases treated and 2266 cases referred. Further, Falta and Diamond Harbour also are pretty high in terms of cases detected, treated and referred - 2288, 1114 and 1171 in Falta and 1793, 1599 and 194 in Diamond Harbour-I respectively. On the other hand these blocks are identified as human trafficking and migration prone areas. This establishes a very strong relationship between the occurrence of disease and the extent of trafficking and migration. As indicated in South 24 Parganas, a large

section of men migrate to Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and other parts of West Bengal. On the other hand, women and girls leave their abode either in search of work or are trafficked from these areas.

8.5 Gender and Empowerment

Development practitioners and policy makers from all perspectives seem to agree that empowerment is a necessary ingredient for women's development and gender equity in this world. A detailed study of women's participation in the socio-economic-political arena of South 24 Parganas helps us to identify the following issues to be contributing significantly to the process of women's empowerment. These are:

- Distribution of surplus ceiling land to women
- Provision of vocational training to adolescent girls under *Kishori Shakti Yojana*
- Functioning of Self Help Groups (SHGs), in particular of Women SHGs.

These activities are coordinated by the administrative body viz., Panchayat. It is the Panchayat again, where the criterion of minimum reservation of seats may help women to take part as office bearers in the decision-making processes. The analysis in this section, therefore, begins with the

The migrated people when they come back home, infect their wives and on the other side the trafficked girls when rescued from the brothel are often infected by the sexually transmitted diseases.

discussion on women representatives in the Panchayat.

8.5.1 Women in Panchayat

At the outset, it seems worthwhile to mention a few known facts for ready reference. First, Panchayat is a three-tier administrative body with the administrative units viz., Zilla Parishad at the district level, Panchayat Samity at the block level and Gram Panchayat at the village level. Second, the procedure of reservation of seats for SC/ST women is different from the same for general women. In case of SC/ST population in any block, say, proportion of their seats reserved to total seats in each tier of Panchayat is equal to their proportion in total population in that block. And then, out of the total seats reserved for SC/ST population, 33.33% is reserved for SC/ST women. Of the remaining total seats, 33.33% is reserved for general women. While we are interested in assessing both the current situation and the inter temporal variation in women's representation in the Panchayat, non-availability of data on

Table 8.23A : Block-wise Women Representatives in Gram Panchayat : South 24 Parganas, 2003

Block	Total No. of seats	Seats Reserved for SC/ST Population	Seats Reserved for SC/ST Women	Percentage of reservation for SC/ST women	Percentage of excess over minimum reservation	Total seats for general Population	Seats reserved for General women	Percentage of reservation for General women	Percentage of excess over minimum reservation
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	117	56	20	35.71	2.38	61	21	34.43	1.10
Budge Budge - I	85	18	7	38.89	5.56	67	23	34.33	1.00
Budge Budge - II	157	30	11	36.67	3.34	127	46	36.22	2.89
Bishnupur - I	174	90	33	36.67	3.34	84	27	32.14	-1.19
Bishnupur - II	177	31	10	32.26	-1.07	146	53	36.30	2.97
Sonarpur	142	93	34	36.56	3.23	49	16	32.65	-0.68
Region I	852	318	115	36.16	2.83	534	186	34.83	1.50
Baruipur	300	137	52	37.96	4.63	163	56	34.36	1.03
Bhangar - I	155	42	17	40.48	7.15	113	38	33.63	0.30
Bhangar - II	150	38	15	39.47	6.14	112	38	33.93	0.60
Falta	200	53	21	39.62	6.29	147	50	34.01	0.68
Diamond Harbour - I	105	22	9	40.91	7.58	83	28	33.73	0.40
Diamond Harbour - II	134	36	13	36.11	2.78	98	34	34.69	1.36
Magrahat - I	181	43	18	41.86	8.53	138	46	33.33	0.00
Magrahat - II	224	92	34	36.96	3.63	132	43	32.58	-0.75
Kulpi	195	69	29	42.03	8.70	126	40	31.75	-1.58
Mandirbazar	170	82	32	39.02	5.69	88	28	31.82	-1.51
Region II	1814	614	240	39.09	5.76	1200	401	33.42	0.09
Canning - I	192	103	48	46.60	13.27	89	27	30.34	-2.99
Canning - II	132	51	21	41.18	7.85	81	27	33.33	0.00
Basanti	235	118	45	38.14	4.81	117	35	29.91	-3.42
Gosaba	207	158	58	36.71	3.38	49	17	34.69	1.36
Joynagar - I	173	77	28	36.36	3.03	96	35	36.46	3.13
Joynagar - II	157	67	26	38.81	5.48	90	29	32.22	-1.11
Mathurapur - I	134	55	22	40.00	6.67	79	26	32.91	-0.42
Mathurapur - II	162	52	20	38.46	5.13	110	38	34.55	1.22
Kultali	147	80	29	36.25	2.92	67	24	35.82	2.49
Patharpratima	237	59	22	37.29	3.96	178	61	34.27	0.94
Kakdwip	176	57	22	38.60	5.27	119	42	35.29	1.96
Namkhana	129	33	12	36.36	3.03	96	32	33.33	0.00
Sagar	151	41	17	41.46	8.13	110	35	31.82	-1.51
Region III	2232	951	370	38.91	5.58	1281	428	33.41	0.08
Total	4898	1883	725	38.50	5.17	3015	1015	33.67	0.34

Source: District Panchayat & Rural Development Office, South 24 Parganas 2003

previous general election of Panchayat confines our analysis exclusively to the seat allotment of 2003 general election. Performance of a block is evaluated on the basis of its having excess of percentage of seats actually reserved over the percentage of minimum reservation of seats. In other words, the higher the value of the excess seats over minimum reserved seats in percentage form, higher is the rank of a block.

Examining the situation at the Gram Panchayat level first (Table 8.23A) one finds that

- for the SC/ST women, all blocks barring Bishnupur-II in Region-I exhibit excess over minimum reservation(%). While in Bishnupur-II, the criterion of minimum reservation of seats (%) fails, it is interesting to note that no block of Region-I figures in the list of top ten better performing blocks. These are, it may be mentioned, Canning-I, Kulpi, Magrahat-I, Sagar, Canning-II, Diamond Harbour-I, Bhangar-I, Mathurapur-I, Falta and Bhangar-II.
- Unfortunately however, for the general women, the situation is not so rosy and in ten blocks, the criterion of minimum reservation of seats (%) does not hold good. The blocks are

Bishnupur-II, Sonarpur in Region-I; Magrahat-II, Kulpi, Mandirbazaar in Region-II and Canning-I, Basanti, Joynagar-II, Mathurapur-I Sagar in Region-III. In all other blocks, however, there exist excess over minimum reservation of seats (%).

Next, at the level of Panchayat Samiti (Table 8.23B) the data reveal that

- a number of blocks show minimum reservation strength (%) for the SC/ST women. These are Thakurpukur-Maheshtala, Bhangar-II, Falta, Canning-II, Joynagar-I, Joynagar-II. Rest of the blocks has excess over minimum reservation (%).
- For the general women, however, we again get a somewhat mixed result where some blocks fail to satisfy even the criterion of minimum reservation of seats (%). These are Budge Budge-I, Sonarpur, Kulpi, Mathurapur-I, Mathurapur-II, and Patharpratima, Kakdwip, Canning-I and Namkhana.
- Blocks like Joynagar-II, Kultali, Joynagar-I, Canning-II in Region-III and Diamond Harbour-II, Magrahat-I, Magrahat-II, Bhangar-II, Falta in Region-II are designated as the better performing ones. Rest of the blocks exhibits minimum reservation of seats (%).

Table 8.23B: Blockwise Women Representatives in Panchayat Samity : South 24 Parganas, 2003

Block	Total No. of seats	Seats Reserved for SC/ST Population	SC/ST Women	Percentage of reservation for SC/ST women	Percentage of excess over minimum reservation	Total seats for general Population	Seats reserved for General women	Percentage of reservation for General women	Percentage of excess over minimum reservation
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	18	9	3	33.33	0.00	9	3	33.33	0.00
Budge Budge - I	16	4	2	50.00	16.67	12	4	33.33	0.00
Budge Budge - II	27	5	2	40.00	6.67	22	7	31.82	-1.51
Bishnupur - I	31	16	6	37.50	4.17	15	5	33.33	0.00
Bishnupur - II	32	5	2	40.00	6.67	27	9	33.33	0.00
Sonarpur	27	17	6	35.29	1.96	10	3	30.00	-3.33
Region I	151	56	21	37.50	4.17	95	31	32.63	-0.70
Baruipur	50	23	8	34.78	1.45	27	9	33.33	0.00
Bhangar - I	25	7	3	42.86	9.53	18	6	33.33	0.00
Bhangar - II	25	6	2	33.33	0.00	19	7	36.84	3.51
Falta	34	9	3	33.33	0.00	25	9	36.00	2.67
Diamond Harbour - I	19	4	2	50.00	16.67	15	5	33.33	0.00
Diamond Harbour - II	24	7	3	42.86	9.53	17	6	35.29	1.96
Magrahat - I	31	8	3	37.50	4.17	23	8	34.78	1.45
Magrahat - II	38	15	6	40.00	6.67	23	8	34.78	1.45
Kulpi	36	13	5	38.46	5.13	23	7	30.43	-2.90
Mandirbazar	28	13	5	38.46	5.13	15	5	33.33	0.00
Region II	310	105	40	38.10	4.77	205	70	34.15	0.82
Canning - I	29	16	6	37.50	4.17	13	4	30.77	-2.56
Canning - II	23	9	3	33.33	0.00	14	5	35.71	2.38
Basanti	38	20	7	35.00	1.67	18	6	33.33	0.00
Gosaba	37	28	10	35.71	2.38	9	3	33.33	0.00
Joynagar - I	32	15	5	33.33	0.00	17	6	35.29	1.96
Joynagar - II	28	12	4	33.33	0.00	16	6	37.50	4.17
Mathurapur - I	24	10	4	40.00	6.67	14	4	28.57	-4.76
Mathurapur - II	30	10	4	40.00	6.67	20	6	30.00	-3.33
Kultali	25	14	5	35.71	2.38	11	4	36.36	3.03
Patharpratima	42	10	4	40.00	6.67	32	10	31.25	-2.08
Kakdwip	30	10	4	40.00	6.67	20	6	30.00	-3.33
Namkhana	21	5	2	40.00	6.67	16	5	31.25	-2.08
Sagar	25	7	3	42.86	9.53	18	6	33.33	0.00
Region III	384	166	61	36.75	3.42	218	71	32.57	-0.76
Total	845	327	122	37.31	3.98	518	172	33.20	-0.13

Source : Same as in Table 8.23A

Thus, both at the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti, particularly in the former, SC/ST women are better represented compared to the women in general category. Such a conclusion, however, cannot be drawn at the Zilla Parishad level (Table 8.23C) where total number of seats varies between 1 and 3.

This analysis of women's participation in Panchayat seems to be incomplete without information about the socio-economic profile of the women representatives, posts held by them as office-bearers and instances of their being involved in decision making and thereby motivating commoners, particularly women at home to

enhance their participation in Panchayat. It is only then that we can infer whether the women representatives have been able to reshape gradually the existing power relation between men and women in political arena over time.

8.5.2 Women *Pattadars*

We next consider the percentages of women *Pattadars* in different blocks of the district up to February 2008 (Table 8.24). At this stage, we may recall, percentage distribution of female workers in 1991 by industrial categories clearly indicates occupational diversification, which gets further accentuated during the inter-census period 1991-2001. Percentage of rural

population too declines from 87% in 1991 to 84% in 2001. Despite these facts, South 24 Parganas remains pre-dominantly a rural district where women have very little access to land ownership. In such a situation government programme of redistributing surplus ceiling land to women (either in their single names or

jointly), particularly of BPL households, may not only help them to enhance the QOL of the members of their households but increase their self- confidence and self-esteem also. In this way, this act of gender-mainstreaming may lead them towards empowerment.

Table 8.23C: Block-wise Women Representatives in Zila Parishad : South 24 Parganas, 2003

Block	Total No. of seats	Seats Reserved for SC/ST Population	SC/ST Women	Total seats for general Population	Seats reserved for General women
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	2	1	0	1	0
Budge Budge - I	1	0	0	1	0
Budge Budge - II	2	1	0	1	1
Bishnupur - I	2	1	1	1	0
Bishnupur - II	2	0	0	2	1
Sonarpur	2	1	0	1	1
Region I	11	4	1	7	3
Baruipur	3	0	0	3	1
Bhangar - I	2	0	0	2	1
Bhangar - II	2	1	0	1	0
Falta	3	1	1	2	0
Diamond Harbour - I	2	1	0	1	0
Diamond Harbour - II	2	0	0	2	1
Magrahat - I	3	1	0	2	1
Magrahat - II	3	2	0	1	1
Kulpi	3	2	1	1	0
Mandirbazar	2	1	1	1	0
Region II	25	9	3	16	5
Canning - I	3	0	0	3	1
Canning - II	2	1	1	1	0
Basanti	3	1	0	2	1
Gosaba	3	2	1	1	0
Joynagar - I	2	0	0	2	0
Joynagar - II	2	1	0	1	0
Mathurapur - I	2	1	0	1	0
Mathurapur - II	2	1	0	1	0
Kultali	2	1	1	1	1
Patharpratima	3	1	0	2	1
Kakdwip	2	1	0	1	1
Namkhana	2	1	1	1	0
Sagar	2	1	0	1	0
Region III	30	12	4	18	5
Total	66	25	8	41	13

Source : Same as in Table 8.23A

Table 8.24: Block-wise Distribution of Women and Other Pattadars by Single and Joint Holdings of Patta up to Feb 2008

Block	Number of Joint Pattadars	Number of Single Pattadars		Total Number of Pattadars	Percentage of Pattadars	
		Women	Others		Women (Alone)	Joint
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	47	0	0	47	0.0	100.0
Budge Budge - I	0	7	69	76	9.2	0.0
Budge Budge - II	85	67	396	548	12.2	15.5
Bishnupur - I	95	141	329	565	25.0	16.8
Bishnupur - II	0	80	344	424	18.9	0.0
Sonarpur	182	194	2644	3020	6.4	6.0
Region I	409	489	3782	4680	10.4	8.7
Baruipur	235	8	4145	4388	0.18	5.4
Bhangar - I	505	655	4665	5825	11.2	8.7
Bhangar - II	152	10	3078	3240	0.3	4.7
Falta	264	154	1838	2256	6.8	11.7
Diamond Harbour - I	28	107	1169	1304	8.2	2.1
Diamond Harbour - II	28	10	1206	1244	0.8	2.3
Magrahat - I	16	351	2927	3294	10.7	0.5
Magrahat - II	162	85	1298	1545	5.5	10.5
Kulpi	995	173	3641	4809	3.6	20.7
Mandirbazar	535	76	1505	2116	3.6	25.3
Region II	2920	1629	25472	30021	5.4	9.7
Canning - I	493	1403	7358	9254	15.2	5.3
Canning - II	8678	1557	890	11125	14.0	78.0
Basanti	6954	1503	940	9397	16.0	74.0
Gosaba	20941	525	4710	26176	2.0	80.0
Joynagar - I	304	595	1151	2050	29.0	14.8
Joynagar - II	1281	80	4582	5943	1.3	21.6
Mathurapur - I	118	147	1889	2154	6.8	5.5
Mathurapur - II	1276	123	6911	8310	1.5	15.4
Kultali	1686	82	9940	11708	0.7	14.4
Patharpratima	4186	1438	20254	25878	5.6	16.2
Kakdwip	1467	557	9997	12021	4.6	12.2
Namkhana	5470	923	8800	15193	6.1	36.0
Sagar	1761	503	11086	13350	3.8	13.2
Region III	54615	9436	88508	152559	6.2	35.8
Region Total	57944	11554	117762	187260	6.2	30.9

Source: District Land & Land Reforms Officer, South 24 Parganas

- The relevant official statistics obtained up to February, 2008, yield a promising picture for the district as a whole where the combined percentages (37.1%) of single women Patta holders and joint patta holders are much higher than the same for the state.
- Within the district, however, it is the single men pattaholders who dominate in the redistribution programme of surplus ceiling land in majority of the blocks.
- There exists sufficient inter-block variation, however, in each region.
- The percentages of single women pattaholders are highest in Joynagar-I

(29%) followed by Bishnupur-I (25%) while least in Thakurpukur-Mahestala (nil), followed by Bhangar-II (0.3%) and Kultali (0.7%).

- Region-III shows considerably higher percentages of joint patta holders (35.8%), mainly due to the performance of Canning-II (78%), Basanti (74%) and Gosaba (80%)
- In Thakurpukur-Mahestala block of Region-I, it may be mentioned, all pattas are redistributed jointly.

8.5.3 Vocational Training under Kishori Shakti Yojana

At the penultimate stage of this section we consider the Vocational Training Programme for improvement of individual as well as social status of adolescent girls in the age-group viz., 11-

18 years, launched under *Kishori Shakti Yojana* (KSY) in 2006-07 in all districts of West Bengal. KSY, it may be mentioned, is a component of centrally sponsored ICDS (General) scheme and in West Bengal, it is run by the district ICDS in each district under the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. In South 24 Parganas district all blocks except Bhangar I, have undertaken this training programme during 2006-07. Before we consider the blockwise report of the training programme of KSY in this district (Table 8.25), a brief overview of the guideline of the programme in general is given in Box 3.

Box 3: Vocational training under KSY: A Guideline

In this programme, in a particular block, 4 to 5 groups, each consisting of 30-35 Kishories living in 2 to 3 adjacent Gram Panchayats are selected from survey lists of Anganwadi workers by the CDPO, who is in charge of the project. In selection procedure preference is given to those Kishories who belong to BPL families and/or drop out from schools, and/or victims of early marriage mishaps etc. The primarily selected Kishories assemble and go through the following sections:-

- (1) Adolescent group formation- After counseling their parents about the training programme, the selected girls are given lessons about group dynamics so as to make them understand the necessity for group formation and realize that self help initiative along with collective efforts can improve social status.
- (2) Life cycle training – They are made acquainted (know thyself) about themselves through an understanding of personal hygiene, sanitation, population education particularly regarding psycho-sexual issues and changes towards potential womanhood. At this stage, anemic girls are given deworming tablets like Iron and Folic Acids.
- (3) Social Safety net – They are given lessons to (a) understand their families neighbours and communities; (b) be aware of domestic violence, social issues like early marriage, dowry and trafficking, abuse and atrocities on women in our society in different forms and (c) understand the importance of education for self security
- (4) Exploring unique qualities for future advancement- Talents of selected girls are nurtured, with a belief that every human being possesses some unique quality, through regular dialogues and exposures in writing abilities, painting, dance, drawing, food processing, music, acting, recitation, embroidery work, boutique work etc with an objective to understand their aptitude for vocational training.

At the end of this preparatory phase, progress report of the KSY preliminary efforts are placed before the District & Project Officials, experts from NGOs & Panchayat representatives. Finally, arrangements for vocational training of 240 hours stretched over 3 months are made after considering, among other factors, (a) suitable trade as per need of the locality, (b) availability of master trainer in the area (c) infrastructural facilities and (d) availability of raw materials and market linkage after production. After successful completion of the programme, the Institute imparting training and the CDPO provide certificates jointly.

Source :District ICDS, South 24 Parganas

We may now consider the block-wise report in South 24 Parganas (Table 8.25) to find that

- there exists variation in the nature of vocational trade imparted owing to difference in market linkages in region. Thus in Namkhana, a block adjacent to Sunderban in Region-III, the adolescent girls are given training on fish net-making apart from food processing. Similar instances may also be given.
- However, despite such variation, cutting and tailoring emerge as largest vocational trades in majority blocks followed by Zari work in a number of blocks.

Table 8.25 : Block-wise Report of Training under Kishori Shakti Yojana : South 24 Parganas, 2006-07

Block	Title of Vocational Trade	Duration of the Course	No. of Girl Trainees at each Venue	Date of Commencement of Training	Budget Estimate (Approved) Rs.	Training imparted by
Thakurpukur-Mahestala	Cutting, Tailoring.	240 hrs.	52	21.11.06	110000	INDIVIDUAL
Budge Budge - I	Cutting, Tailoring, Embroidary, Health attendant, Beautician course & Aromatheraphy	240 hrs.	110	11.01.07	110000	NYK , St.John Am. & OSVT
Budge Budge - II	Cutting ,Tailoring,Zori work, Nursery Kitchen garden, Food processing.	240 hrs.	120	26.12.06	110000	NYK
Bishnupur - I	Cutting, Tailoring, Beautician.	240 hrs.	130	Dec,' 06	110000	St.John Ambulance & SND Memorial
Bishnupur - II	Ladies & Kids, Garments.	240 hrs.	50	20.01.07	110000	CINI & BANDHAN
Sonarpur	Tailoring,Jam Jelly, Poultry.	240 hrs.	80	18.04.07	110000	SVMS
Region I						
Baruipur	Zori & Beautician Course.	240 hrs.	47	07.03.07	110000	NISTHA
Bhangar - I						
Bhangar - II	Cutting ,Tailoring & Rural Health.	240 hrs.	80	20.02.07	110000	SHIS
Falta	Cutting, Tailoring.	240 hrs.	10	01.02.07	110000	NYK
Diamond Harbour - I	Cutting ,Tailoring, Zori work, Sola work.	240 hrs.	140	05.03.07	110000	NYK
Diamond Harbour - II	Cutting, Tailoring, Zori work.	240 hrs.	12	15.03.07	110000	CINI & NYK
Magrahat - I	Cutting Tailoring.	240 hrs.	14	1st. Week of March,' 07	110000	NYK
Magrahat - II	Cutting, Tailoring.	240 hrs.	14	2nd week of March,' 07	110000	NYK
Kulpi	Cutting, Tailoring,Zori work, Sola work.	240 hrs.	12	15.03.07	110000	CINI & NYK
Mandirbazar	Cutting, Tailoring, Zori & Sola work.	240 hrs.	139	01.03.07	110000	NYK
Region II						
Canning - I	Cutting, Tailoring, Embroidary, Beautician course	240 hrs.	12	06.03.07	110000	CINI & NYK
Canning - II	Cutting, Tailoring.	240 hrs.	128	13.12.06	110000	School of Medical Techn.
Basanti	Cutting ,Tailoring,Zori work, Poultry Social Forestry.	240 hrs.	80	04.04.07	110000	CMS & KMS
Gosaba	Tailoring, Poultry, Jam, Jelly, Net making.	240 hrs.	80	14.02.07	110000	RKM-LSP/SVMS
Joynagar - I	Home Nursing, Zori work.	240 hrs.	40	12.03.07	110000	SUCHETANA
Joynagar - II	Zori work, Jute Rope making.	240 hrs.	30	19.01.07	110000	INDIVIDUAL
Mathurapur - I	Cutting Tailoring, Zori work, Sola work.	240 hrs.	120	14.03.07	110000	NYK
Mathurapur - II	Cutting, Tailoring, Zori work, Sola work.	240 hrs.	140	14.03.07	110000	CINI & NYK
Kultali	Zori work,	240 hrs.	60	22.01.07	110000	KSS
Patharpratima	Poultry & Duckery.	240 hrs.	60	Feb,' 07	110000	HDC & ANGIKAR
Kakdwip	Cutting, Tailoring,Zori work.	240 hrs.	40	1st. Week of Feb,' 07	110000	K-CERA
Namkhana	Fishing Net making, Food processing.	240 hrs.	40	27.12.06	110000	K-CERA , RKM (Nimpith), LSP
Sagar	Cutting, Tailoring.	240 hrs.	45	06.03.07	110000	Tagore Society & SSJS
Region III						

Source :District Programme Officer ICDS,South 24 Parganas

Some pertinent questions arise at this stage:

- What happens to the adolescent girls after they complete training and receive certificates? We need follow-up studies.
- What is the basic objective of such training? Is it imparted just for the sake of giving them certificates or for integrating them properly into the labour market so that they can later join the Self Help Groups, undertake economic activities jointly and uplift their families above poverty line or they can as individuals begin some economic activities and thereby attempt to improve the quality of life of their families?

Although success stories of some girls in a number of blocks indicate that they have formed Self Help Groups later on while others have individually begun economic activities, it seems that no proper monitoring of the job market provisions of such girls has been done in the last year after completion of training. We sincerely feel that such vocational training under KSY, has tremendous potential and can help change lives of adolescent girls for the better in the following ways :

- It can help the adolescent girls, who are victims of early marriage mishaps or domestic violence, to be economically independent and lead a respectful life.
- It can combat the problem of trafficking due to migration by preventing the poor young girls from

going away from their home in search of job and thereby help in reduce the prevalence of diseases like S.T.I.

- Lastly, it has a good potential for income generation if it can be integrated with the SGSY. And to realize why we do feel it, we need to understand the process of gender empowerment through the functioning of Self Help Groups (SHGs), in particular, women Self Help Groups, under the SGSY in the blocks of South 24 Parganas. It is to this that we turn next.

8. 5.4 Functions of Self Help Groups under SGSY

It dates back to 1st April, 1999 when the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana was launched as a long- term rural self-employment programme, after integrating the earlier programmes like IRDP, DWACRA, TRYSEM and SITRA. Its main objective was to organize small economic activities, make members of BPL families, in particular women engaged into such activities and make the rural poor marginalized women empowered as members of Self Help Groups, earn sufficient income to uplift the quality of life of the households above the poverty line. A SHG, it may be mentioned at this stage is formed by 10-15 people each from a different household, preferably BPL, living in the same locality /village of a block. While majority of the SHGs are formed exclusively by women, a few are formed exclusively by men and the rest are

Box 4 : Self Help Groups under SGSY: A guideline

It is the Self Help Promoting Institute (SHPI), usually a NGO, which plays a major role in motivating and forming a Self Help Group. After several rounds of meeting, the list of the people interested in forming the group, along with the recommendation of Gram Panchayat Pradhan is sent to the District Rural Development Cell (DRDC) for its approval. Once the approval is given, the SHG is formed, with the date of their first meeting considered as the date of the group formation. After the group is formed and its name and dates of monthly meetings are fixed, members are motivated enough to save regularly as per their capability and after about one month a savings account is opened with a regularized rural bank or a nationalized bank in the joint names of all the members. The savings account, it may be mentioned at this stage however is operated by two persons, fixed by the members themselves and each member keeps records in her own handbook. After one month or so, members, one by one, can take personal loans as well as loans for carrying out small economic activities and repay such loans with interest inclusive of both bank interests and interests accrued due to inter lending among members. DRDC provides Basic Orientation Training to the members of a group under the guidance of SHPI, where they learn about the functioning of a SHG and SGSY in detail. In the meantime, they take part in some social activities as well like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Pulse Polio Immunization programme, sanitation programme etc. All these continue for at least six months after the group is formed and then the SHG members appear for their first evaluation viz, Grade I evaluation. A SHG passes this test with minimum of 60 % marks depending on its performance for the past six months mainly in the following aspects, among other things :

- (a) Whether meetings are held regularly and the rate of presence of members in the meetings are satisfactory,
- (b) Whether savings are made regularly
- (c) Whether the loans taken from the savings are repaid properly
- (d) Whether the group is involved in social work and the extent of its involvement, and
- (e) Whether the helper is involved in the regular activities of the group.

The bank in question opens another account viz., the 'Cash Credit A/C' in the name of the group which passes Grade I, of the amount up to four times higher than the group corpus. The DRDC gives a revolving fund (RF) to the group of amount Rs 5000. A SHG may then take loans from Cash credit A/C to carry out small economic activities either in individual capacity or as a group depending on the decision of the group in this regard.

The DRDC makes arrangements for skill upgradation training to enhance the skill of the members of a group and enable them to carry out their individual or group economic activities in a much better way. In this way the members of a SHG after passing Grade I, make attempts to improve the standard of living of the respective BPL households, they belong individually to, and gradually prepare themselves for undertaking large economic activity as a group in future. A Grade II test is held after at least six months of passing Grade I test, to examine the group potential for undertaking large economic activity. Performance of a group depends mainly on the following aspects :

- (a) Indicators of Grade I evaluation, mentioned earlier,
- (b) Whether the amount of RF has been used properly
- (c) Whether the repayment of loan taken from Cash Credit A/C has been satisfactory, and
- (d) Whether the group has really been able to form a proper idea about implementation procedure of its undertaking large economic activity.

At the end of Grade II evaluation, two types of results may happen :

Case 1: The SHG gets more than 60 % marks but less than 80 % marks. Case 11: The SHG gets 80 % or more marks.

In Case 1, the relevant group is not considered eligible to get loan from bank for undertaking large economic activity. It is, however, given some more time to increase its potential in this regard. In this case, the DRDC may, give another RF of amount Rs. 5000/-. The Bank too may enhance its upper limit of cash credit a/c after reviewing the amount of group corpus of the SHG at that time.

In Case II, the concerned SHG is considered to have successfully completed the Grade II evaluation. Accordingly, it is asked to submit a project to the bank indicating clearly about its proposed large economic activity and the amount of loan it requires for this purpose. Bank sanctions its loan, depending on the past performance of SHG in regard to loan repayment. After bank's sanction the project is submitted to DRDC which gives it a subsidiary amounting to either 50 % of project cost but not more than the maximum limit of Rs 1.25 lakhs or Rs.10, 000 per BPL member, whichever is smaller. Bank disburses its loan, after duly opening a loan account with the name of SHG. All loans are mid-term ones, with 5 years as the time limit for repayment. The DRDC again arranges for training of the SHG to make it understand about the procedure of loan repayment and running an enterprise. Constant monitoring continues with an aim to help each member to earn at least Rs 2000/- per month, improve the socio-economic condition of the respective BPL families and thereby make them self-reliant.

Source:DRDC,South 24 Parganas

mixed groups of which again more than 80% are women. In view of this poor numerical strength of men SHGs and overwhelming presence of women in mixed SHGs, we make our analysis of gender empowerment without any loss of generality, on the basis of performance of SHGs as a whole. A brief discussion on how a SHG functions in general is given in Box 4 to help our understanding for evaluation of the block-wise performance of the SHGs in the district.

In the light of the basic guideline about the process of gender empowerment through the functioning of SHGs, an evaluation of the blockwise performance of the district on the basis of data up to 2007 provided by the DRDC is attempted below (Table 8.26A). The following indicators have been considered since the stage of inception of a SHG to carrying

out economic activities by such group after completion of Grade-II evaluation :

- (1) Percentages of SHGs formed to total BPL families,³
- (2) Percentages of SHGs passed Grade-I to total SHGs formed,
- (3) Percentages of SHGs passed Grade-II to total SHGs passed Grade-I,
- (4) Percentages of SHGs pursuing economic activities to total no of SHGs passed Grade-I,
- (5) Percentages of SHGs pursuing economic activities to total number of SHGs passed Grade-II,
- (6) Percentages of women SHGs to total SHGs formed, and
- (7) Percentages of women SHGs in total SHGs pursuing economic activities (Grade-II).

³ The absolute number of SHGs formed per block is definitely an important indicator but given the fact that a SHG is formed by taking each member from a different household, preferably BPL ones, percentages of SHGs to BPL households is more relevant .

Table 8.26A : Blockwise Performance of Self Help Groups : South 24 Parganas, 2003-2007

Block	Total No. of SHG Formed	Total No. of BPL Households	No. of SHGs per 100 BPL Household	No. of SHGs Passed Grade-I Total	SHGs Passed Grade-I (%)	No. of Passed Grade-II Total	SHGs Passed Grade-II (%)	SHGs Linked	No. of SHGs for which RF released	SHGs Taken up Economic Activities				No. of Women SHGs Formed Total	Women SHGs Formed (%)	No. of Women SHGs Taken up Economic Activities	
										Grade I		Grade II				Grade I	Grade II
										Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage				
Thakurpukur-Maheshiala	74	22097	0.33	45	60.81	16	35.56	74	45	18	40	7	43.75	51	68.92	2	28.57
Budge Budge-I	135	40535	0.33	108	80.00	29	26.85	135	108	85	78.70	13	44.83	87	64.42	9	69.23
Budge Budge-II	213	11778	1.81	166	77.93	16	9.64	213	166	146	87.95	6	37.50	140	65.54	1	16.67
Bishnupur-I	376	7841	4.80	279	74.20	19	6.81	376	279	185	66.31	1	5.26	224	59.44	0	0.00
Bishnupur-II	218	4149	5.25	203	93.12	54	26.60	218	203	185	91.13	22	40.74	137	63.00	10	45.45
Sonarpur	140	7849	1.78	48	34.29	9	18.75	140	48	20	41.67	0	0.00	88	63.02	0	0.00
Baruipur	423	11342	3.73	295	69.74	29	9.83	423	295	257	87.12	13	44.83	256	60.49	3	23.08
Bhangar-I	541	2898	18.67	431	79.67	74	17.17	541	431	362	83.99	0	0.00	334	61.80	0	0.00
Bhangar-II	233	18221	1.28	90	38.63	3	3.33	233	90	35	38.89	0	0.00	146	62.66	0	0.00
Falta	374	13361	2.80	218	58.29	11	5.05	374	218	124	56.88	3	27.27	232	62.13	0	0.00
Diamond Harbour-I	442	9677	4.57	311	70.36	110	35.37	442	311	176	56.59	48	43.64	264	59.74	26	54.17
Diamond Harbour-II	281	6545	4.29	229	81.49	80	34.93	281	229	129	56.33	49	61.25	181	64.41	8	16.33
Magrahat-I	439	10429	4.21	279	63.55	54	19.35	439	279	210	75.27	30	55.56	296	67.36	28	93.33
Magrahat-II	914	19775	4.62	682	74.62	135	19.79	914	682	462	67.74	42	31.11	569	62.25	20	47.62
Kulpi	449	20281	2.21	437	97.33	100	22.88	449	437	352	80.55	17	17.00	276	61.58	10	58.82
Mandirbazar	121	16756	0.72	36	29.75	14	38.89	121	36	29	80.56	0	0.00	76	63.11	0	0.00
Canning-I	348	16922	2.06	145	41.67	47	32.41	348	145	115	79.31	17	36.17	238	68.28	10	58.82
Canning-II	284	28420	1.00	139	48.94	0	0.00	284	139	110	79.14	0	0.00	157	55.12	0	0.00
Basanti	525	16421	3.20	161	30.67	11	6.83	525	161	125	77.64	5	45.45	366	69.64	0	0.00
Gosaba	701	12434	5.64	374	53.35	113	30.21	701	374	309	82.62	13	11.50	436	62.18	9	69.23
Joyngar-I	430	10859	3.96	328	76.28	23	7.01	430	328	225	68.60	0	0.00	272	63.19	0	0.00
Joyngar-II	646	10471	6.17	439	67.96	57	12.98	646	439	334	76.08	29	50.88	365	56.49	13	44.83
Mathurapur-I	454	12119	3.75	182	40.09	16	8.79	454	182	153	84.07	13	81.25	300	66.03	0	0.00
Mathurapur-II	419	15364	2.73	298	71.12	10	3.36	419	298	245	82.21	6	60.00	266	63.53	2	33.33
Kultali	383	18191	2.11	280	73.11	66	23.57	383	280	248	88.57	0	0.00	216	56.40	0	0.00
Patharpratima	1241	30113	4.12	899	72.44	305	33.93	1241	899	760	84.54	29	9.51	795	64.06	29	100.00
Kakdwip	628	16751	3.75	382	60.83	96	25.13	628	382	296	77.49	7	7.29	350	55.72	3	42.86
Namkhana	592	9683	6.11	382	64.53	187	48.95	592	382	301	78.80	48	25.67	379	64.02	42	87.50
Sagar	455	1444	31.51	250	54.95	80	32.00	455	250	179	71.6	9	11.25	291	63.93	1	11.11
TOTAL	12479	422726	2.95	8116	65.04	1764	21.73	12479	8116	6175	76.08	426	24.15	7787	62.40	226	53.05

Source: District Rural Development Cell, South 24 Parganas

The blocks are ranked according to their performance where, it is needless to say, a higher percentage value yields a better rank for a block. We calculate the *BORDA scores* and finally get the *BORDA rank* for blocks (Table 8.26B)⁴. Let us now, in a brief, analyze the performance of the blocks on the basis of each of these indicators.

In respect of the first indicator, however, the picture is not at all rosy. It is highly disturbing to find that after a period of more than ten years since the SGSY was launched, almost all blocks in this district display meagre percentages of SHGs formed to BPL households.

- Sagar (31.51%) tops the list followed by Bhangar-I, Joynagar-II and Namkhana among other better performing blocks in this regard.
- Thakurpukur-Maheshtala shows the least value (0.33%) jointly with Budge Budge-I.

We however get a promising picture in respect of the second indicator.

- Majority of the blocks (20 blocks out of 29 blocks) display values around 60 % or more. Kulpi (97.33%) tops the list followed by Bishnupur-II (93.12%) Diamond Harbour-II (81.49%), Budge Budge-I (80%) among other better performing blocks.
- While Mandirbazar exhibits the least value (29.75 %) followed by Basanti, Sonarpur, Bhangar-II, among other

poorly performing blocks.

Performance of the blocks is not praiseworthy when we consider them in respect of the third indicator. There does not exist a single block where even 50% of the SHGs who passed Grade-I test have been able to clear the Grade-II test.

- Namkhana (48.95%) is the best performer followed by Mandirbazar (38.89%) and Thakurpukur-Maheshtala (35.56%).
- There is not a single SHG in Canning-II which passes Grade-II evaluation and
- Baruipur (9.83%) is the best among last ten poor performers.

Percentages of SHGs pursuing economic activities after passing Grade-I evaluation is however definitely praiseworthy.

- In majority of the blocks the relevant percentage is more than 70.
- Even in the poorly performing ones Bhangar-II, Thakurpukur-Maheshtala, Sonarpur etc. these percentages vary around 40.
- The best performer is Bishnupur-II (91.13%).

Such an impressive result is attributed, among other things, to a great extent, to the skill upgradation training imparted by DRDC. At this stage, it needs to be mentioned that there is a striking similarity between vocational trades under KSY and economic activities pursued by SHGs (Table 8.26A 1). And herein lies the relevance of integrating the vocational

⁴ The BORDA score of a block is the sum of its ranks, evaluated on the basis of alternative criteria mentioned. Using this combined score, blocks are finally ranked by their overall performance.

Table 8.26A1 : Block-wise Training under KSY and Economic Activities Performed under SGSY : South 24 Parganas

Block	Vocational Trades in KSY	Key activities performed by SHG
Thakurpukur-Maheshhtala	Cutting, Tailoring.	Zori Chikon, Bag making, Jute products, Tailoring
Budge-Budge-I	Cutting, Tailoring, Embroidery, Health attendant, Beautician & Aromatherapy	Jute crafts, Tailoring, Zori chikon
Budge-Budge-II	Cutting ,Tailoring,Jori work, Nursery Kitchen garden, Food processing.	Goatery, Poultry.
Bishnupur-I	Cutting ,Tailoring, Beautician Course	Batik & Bandhni, Jute products, Brush making, Kantha stitch, Coir rope, Goatery, Machine embroidery
Bishnupur-II	Ladies & Kids Garments	Tailoring, Coir rope, Batik & Bandhni, Goatery, Coloured Fish, Brush making
Sonarpur	Tailoring,Jam Jelly, Poultry.	Tailoring
Baruipur	Zori & Beautician Course.	Batik & Bandhni, Food Processing, Honey, Brush making, Agriculture, Teracotta, Goatery, Poultry
Bhangore-I		Poultry, Goatery, Agriculture, Fishery, Batik & Bandhni.
Bhangore-II	Cutting ,Tailoring & Rural Health.	Poultry, Dairy
Falta	Cutting ,Tailoring.	Tailoring, Zori Chikon, Dairy
Diamond-Harbour-I	Cutting ,Tailoring, Zori work,Shola work.	Tailoring, Zori Chikon, Dairy, Poultry, Piggery
Diamond-Harbour-II	Cutting,Tailoring, Zori work.	Imitation ornaments, Zori Chikon, Fishery, Poultry, Palm leaf Articles
Magrahat-I	Cutting,Tailoring.	Zori Chikon, Brush making, Fishery, Poultry, Duckery, Dairy
Magrahat-II	Cutting, Tailoring.	Zori Chikon, Silver Philigree, Feather works, Brush Making, Kantha Stitch
Kulpi	Cutting ,Tailoring, Zori work,Sholawork.	Tailoring, Goatery, Poultry,Agriculture
Mandirbazar	Cutting, Tailoring, Zori &Shola work.	Fishery, Poultry, Dairy, Sola work, Goatery
Canning-I	Cutting,Tailoring, Embroidery, Beautician.	Bori, Papad, Poultry, Dairy, Piggery, Fishery, Duckery
Canning-II	Cutting Tailoring.	Batik & Bandhni, Goatery
Basanti	Cutting Tailoring, Zoriwork, Poultry,Social Forestry.	Poultry, Duckery, Fishery
Gosaba	Tailoring, Poultry, Jam Jelly, Net making.	Bag making, Tailoring, Fishery, Goatery, Poultry
Joynagar-I	Home Nursing, Zori work.	Zori Chikon, Fishery, Goatery, Poultry, Piggery, Dairy
Joynagar-II	Zori work, Jute Rope making.	Zori chikon, Jute rope making, Coirmat making, Agriculture, Fishery
Mathurapur-I	Cutting, Tailoring, Zoriwork,Sholawork.	Kantha stitch, Sola work, Fishery, Piggery, Poultry, Dairy, Goatery,Jute rope making, Agriculture
Mathurapur-II	Cutting, Tailoring, Zoriwork,Sholawork.	Batik, Bandhni, Tailoring, Agriculture, Poultry, Dairy, Goatery
Kultali	Jory work	Jute rope making, Fishery, Goatery
Patharpratima	Poultry & Duckery.	Vegetable cultivation, Poultry, Goatery, Dairy, Fishery
Kakdwip	Cutting, Tailoring,Jori work.	Tailoring, Betel vine, Dairy, Agriculture
Namkhana	Fishing Net making, Food processing.	Betel vine, Goatery, Fishery, Coir mat making, Poultry
Sagar	Cutting Tailoring.	Batik & Bandhni, Goatery, Piggery, Fishery, Imitation ornaments

Sources: (i) Same as in Table 8.25

(ii) Same as in Table 8.26A

training of KSY with the functioning of SHGs under SGSY. If the trained adolescent girls, after attaining adulthood, can become members of SHGs, they can utilize their experience of previous training in a much better way. Although it may be argued that a trained adolescent girl after marriage may live in a block having different market linkage and hence demand for different types of trades which she did not get training for. Even in this case the fact that she got training earlier would definitely motivate her to be a member of a SHG to a much greater extent compared to other girls who did not have the opportunity to get such training.

The picture, however, gets blurred when we consider performance of the blocks in respect of the fifth indicator.

- A number of blocks, performing satisfactorily so far, perform poorly in this regard. In eight blocks viz., Kultali, Joynagar-I, Canning-II, Mandirbazar, Bhangar-I, Bhangar-II and Sonarpur there does not exist a single SHG, which pursues economic activity after passing Grade-II. In the top ten blocks the relevant percentage is higher than 40.
- However, sufficient inter-block variation exists and Mathurapur-I (81.25%) tops the list followed by Diamond Harbour-II (61.25%).

Performance of the blocks viewed in respect of percentages of women SHGs formed is very good.

- The relevant percentages in the majority of blocks are higher than 60. Basanti (69.64%) tops the list. However, we get a somewhat mixed result considering the block performance on the basis of last indicator.
- In eleven out of twenty nine blocks there does not exist a single women SHG, which carries out economic activities after completing Grade-II evaluation⁵. These are Bishnupur-I, Sonarpur, Bhangar-I, Bhangar-II, Falta, Mandirbazar, Canning-II, Basanti, Joynagar-I, Mathurapur-I, and Kultali.
- Of the remaining eighteen blocks, Patharpratima (100%) performs the best followed by Magrahat-I (93.33%) and Namkhana (87.50%). In fact, instead of considering the cumulative figures of such groups up to 2007, if we look at their inter-temporal performance in this regard (Table 26A2), we notice quite interestingly that in majority of these blocks there has been a considerable rise in the number of such groups since 2005.

⁵ This is definitely a depressing result but not an unexpected one, given the amount of hardship the poor and not-so-educated women are subject to since inception of the group till setting up a micro-enterprise. Sometimes, after passing Grade II test, a group may be denied loan if its past records of loan repayment are not good. Economic activities at this stage are to be carried out as a group and not by individual members. For successful result in this regard the group members must act together.

Table 8.26A2 : Block-wise Distribution of Women SHGs Carrying out Economic Activities (Grade II) : South 24 Parganas, 2003-2007

Block	Number of Women SHGs Pursuing Economic Activities in						No. of SHGs Taken up Economic Activities (Grade II)
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003-2007	
Thakurpukur-Maheshtala	-	-	2	0	-	2	7
Budge-Budge-I	-	-	7	2	-	9	13
Budge-Budge-II	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
Bishnupur-I	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bishnupur-II	-	-	4	5	1	10	22
Sonarpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Baruipur	-	-	-	3	-	3	13
Bhangare-I	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Bhangare-II	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Falta	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Diamond Harbour-I	-	-	3	12	11	26	48
Diamond Harbour-II	1	2	4	1	-	8	49
Magrahat-I	-	-	-	5	23	28	30
Magrahat-II	-	-	7	4	9	20	42
Kulpi	-	2	-	7	1	10	17
Mandirbazar	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Canning-I	-	-	4	5	1	10	17
Canning-II	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Basanti	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Gosaba	-	-	3	0	6	9	13
Joynagar-I	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Joynagar-II	-	-	13	0	-	13	29
Mathurapur-I	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Mathurapur-II	-	-	-	-	2	2	6
Kultali	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Patharpratima	-	3	18	8	-	29	29
Kakdwip	1	-	-	1	1	3	7
Namkhana	-	-	6	10	26	42	48
Sagar	-	-	1	0	-	1	9
Total	2	7	72	63	82	226	426

Source: Same as in Table 8.26A

The BORDA Rank, judged on the basis of ranks of all the indicators mentioned so far designate the better and poorly performing blocks. Quite a number of blocks performing consistently better in respect of majority of the indicators; figure in the better performers of BORDA Rank. These are Namkhana, Bishnupur-II and Patharpratima among others.

The functions of SHGs analyzed so far are satisfactory. There is however, room for further improvement in some cases, particularly in respect of pursuing economic activities after passing Grade-II evaluation. It is only then we can say that the basic objective of SGSY viz., empowering the poor people, the women in particular, through formation of SHG, has been fulfilled.

Table 8.26B : Block-wise Performance of Self Help Groups : South 24 Parganas, 2003-07

Block	No. of SHG per 100 BPL Households		SHGs Passed Grade-I		SHGs Passed Grade-II out of SHGs Passed Grade I		SHGs Taken up Economic Activities				Women SHGs Formed		Women SHGs Taken up Economic Activities		Borda	
	Value	Rank	Value (%)	Rank	Value (%)	Rank	Grade I		Grade II		Value (%)	Rank	Grade II		Score	Rank
							Value (%)	Rank	Value (%)	Rank			Value (%)	Rank		
Thakurpukur-Maheshtala	0.33	28	60.81	19	35.56	3	40.00	28	43.75	9	68.92	2	28.57	14	103	19
Budge-Budge-I	0.33	29	80.00	4	26.85	10	78.70	15	44.83	7	64.42	7	69.23	4	76	6
Budge-Budge-II	1.81	23	77.93	6	9.64	21	87.95	3	37.50	12	65.54	6	16.67	16	87	8
Bishnupur-I	4.80	7	74.20	9	6.81	25	66.31	23	5.26	22	59.44	25	0.00	19	130	22
Bishnupur-II	5.25	6	93.12	2	26.60	11	91.13	1	40.74	11	63.00	16	45.45	10	57	1
Sonarpur	1.78	24	34.29	27	18.75	17	41.67	27	0.00	23	63.02	15	0.00	20	153	27
Baruipur	3.73	16	69.74	14	9.83	20	87.12	4	44.83	8	60.49	23	23.08	15	100	17
Bhangar-I	18.67	2	79.67	5	17.17	18	83.99	7	0.00	24	61.80	21	0.00	21	98	15
Bhangar-II	1.28	25	38.63	26	3.33	28	38.89	29	0.00	25	62.66	17	0.00	22	172	28
Falta	2.80	18	58.29	20	5.05	26	56.88	24	27.27	15	62.13	20	0.00	23	146	26
Diamond Harbour-I	4.57	9	70.36	13	35.37	4	56.59	25	43.64	10	59.74	24	54.17	8	93	11
Diamond Harbour-II	4.29	10	81.49	3	34.93	5	56.33	26	61.25	2	64.41	8	16.33	17	71	4
Magrahat-I	4.21	11	63.55	17	19.35	16	75.27	19	55.56	4	67.36	4	93.33	2	73	5
Magrahat-II	4.62	8	74.62	8	19.79	15	67.74	22	31.11	14	62.25	18	47.62	9	94	12
Kulpi	2.21	20	97.33	1	22.88	14	80.55	11	17.00	17	61.58	22	58.82	6	91	10
Mandirbazar	0.72	27	29.75	29	38.89	2	80.56	10	0.00	26	63.11	14	0.00	24	132	24
Canning-I	2.06	22	41.67	24	32.41	7	79.31	12	36.17	13	68.28	3	58.82	7	88	9
Canning-II	1.00	26	48.94	23	0.00	29	79.14	13	0.00	27	55.12	29	0.00	25	172	29
Basanti	3.20	17	30.67	28	6.83	24	77.64	16	45.45	6	69.64	1	0.00	26	118	20
Gosaba	5.64	5	53.35	22	30.21	9	82.62	8	11.50	18	62.18	19	69.23	5	86	7
Joynagar-I	3.96	13	76.28	7	7.01	23	68.60	21	0.00	28	63.19	13	0.00	27	132	25
Joynagar-II	6.17	3	67.96	15	12.98	19	76.08	18	50.88	5	56.49	26	44.83	11	97	14
Mathurapur-I	3.75	15	40.09	25	8.79	22	84.07	6	81.25	1	66.03	5	0.00	28	102	18
Mathurapur-II	2.73	19	71.12	12	3.36	27	82.21	9	60.00	3	63.53	12	33.33	13	95	13
Kultali	2.11	21	73.11	10	23.57	13	88.57	2	0.00	29	56.40	27	0.00	29	131	23
Patharpratima	4.12	12	72.44	11	33.93	6	84.54	5	9.51	20	64.06	9	100.00	1	64	2
Kakdwip	3.75	14	60.83	18	25.13	12	77.49	17	7.29	21	55.72	28	42.86	12	122	21
Namkhana	6.11	4	64.53	16	48.95	1	78.80	14	25.67	16	64.02	10	87.50	3	64	3
Sagar	31.51	1	54.95	21	32.00	8	71.60	20	11.25	19	63.93	11	11.11	18	98	16
TOTAL	2.95		65.04		21.73		76.08		24.15		62.40		53.05			

Source: Same as in Table 8.26A



8.6 Summary and Conclusions

In this chapter, an endeavour was made to assess three distinct facets of gender and development in the district of South 24 Parganas. Before we conclude and speak about policy interventions it seems worthwhile to present section-wise major findings. It is to this that we turn next.

8.6.1 Summing up

8.6.1.1 Gender and Work Participation

- Female work participation rates are quite low in all three regions. Region-III, it may be mentioned, emerges as the best performer in 1991, in respect of overall (i.e. main+marginal) female work participation rates and work participation rates for persons as a whole, mainly due to the performance of blocks like Namkhana followed by Gosaba and Patharpratima.
- While overall work participation rates rise in 1991-2001 mainly due to a rise of such rates in for the marginal category, overall female work participation rates increase owing to a rise in such rates in main category in a number of blocks and in marginal category in all blocks.
- Gender-gap in work participation rates as measured by female to male ratio

of such rates is alarmingly high in all the regions. Here also Region-III, in particular the above-mentioned three blocks, performs the best. During 1991-2001 such ratios rise considerably in all three regions, implying thereby a substantial fall in gender-gap in work participation rates.

- Disaggregating further it is noticed that the relevant ratios rise in main category (where these ratios are as such considerably low) and fall in the marginal category (where these ratios are usually very high).

8.6.1.2 Gender and Health Care

- Region-I emerges as the best performer followed by Region-II evaluated on the basis of safe motherhood criterion in delivery reports. However, in majority of the blocks in Region-III, where percentages of home deliveries are very high, at least 60 % of such deliveries are performed by trained birth attendants.
- IMR is least in Region-I and highest in Region-III. Here also Namkahana in Region-III shows the least value of IMR for both genders.
- Percentages of fully immunized

children in the age group below 1 year vary around 25. Though these percentages for female children are lower than corresponding percentages for male children in majority of the blocks, the gender gap is not significant.

- So far as the percentages of SNP beneficiary mothers and children in age group viz. 0-6 years are concerned, Region-I is the best performer. Among the blocks, Thakurpukur-Mahestala in Region-I, Diamond Harbour-I in Region-II and Namkhana, Gosaba and Kakdwip in Region-III are the better performing ones. In a number of the blocks percentages of female beneficiary children (age 0–6 years) are higher than the corresponding percentages of their male counterparts.
- Region-I, emerges as the best performer when we consider percentages of children in age group viz. 0-6 years by nutritional status. It exhibits highest percentages of normal children to total children weighed and least percentage of malnourished children to total children weighed. However, in case of normal category, percentages of female children are smaller than the same of male children while in case of malnourished category

it is the other way round. In fact, percentage of female children to total children is least in normal category and increases with a rise in grade in malnutrition category — a fact, which clearly indicates gender disparity in respect of nutritional status for children in 0-6 years.

- Gender inequality is not found to exist for health care of children below 1 year.

8.6.1.3 Gender and Educational Attainment

- Region-I is the best performer in terms of literacy rates of persons, males and females and gender gap in such ratios. During 1991-2001 gender gaps in such rates decline in all three regions, the intensity of decline being most pronounced in Region-III.
- Majority of the blocks in the groups of both better performers and poor performers, evaluated on the basis of equally distributed equivalent index on literacy in 1991 and 2001, remains the same. The better performing blocks in both periods are Thakurpukur-Mahestala, Budge Budge-I, Namkhana, Sagar and Bishnupur-I.
- During 2001-2007, we find that gender ratios of enrollment rise and the same of dropout fall in majority of the blocks

in the age group viz., 5-14 years, implying thereby an improvement of the attendance of female children relative to male children in the above age group.

8.6.1.4 Women and Vulnerability

- The total number of IPC CAW cases in the district over the periods 2000 and 2003 show a distinctly rising trend in crimes against women with South 24 Parganas leading among the districts both in terms of absolute numbers and in relative terms.
- The composition of crimes in the districts is biased towards post marital violence accounting for more than half of the total crimes in 2002.
- Within South 24 Parganas there is tremendous interregional variation in overall crime rates as well as in CAW. On an average number of violent crimes decreases as we move away from Kolkata surroundings towards Sunderbans but the incidence of CAW is significant in the Sunderbans during 2005 - 2007.
- There is a strong relationship between the occurrence of STI and the extent of trafficking and migration.

8.6.1.5 Gender and Empowerment

- SC/ST women are better represented compared to general women in both

the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti, particularly in the former.

- The numerical strength of women pattadars is praiseworthy for the district as a whole and for a few blocks.
- Vocational training under KSY seems to have a good potential for income generation, if properly implemented.
- Performance of SHGs is while commendable, leaves room for much more to be achieved.

8.6.2 Concluding remarks

The extent of gender disparity in the process of human development in South 24 Parganas is alarming, but seems to have been declining over time, in respect of work participation and educational attainment. Such a conclusion cannot be drawn in regard to health care provision due to non-availability of data over time. However, one point is very clear. Region-III, the otherwise backward region, which deserves policy interventions most, emerges, despite the inter block variation, as the best performer in terms of work participation and shows considerable improvement in regard to educational attainment over time.

No doubt, the nature of crime and violence against women as revealed in different forms is a matter of great concern and the task of eliminating these types of problems

must be at the forefront of sustainable development strategies. Though several NGOs have already been working to combat this problem, there must be a strong coordination among them, the Civil Society and the Panchayat to get an effective result in this regard.

And the ray of hope is that there are several programmes and schemes of the government launched in recent years, which aim to integrate the marginalized group, especially the poor women and the adolescent girls into the development process, by making them economically independent, helping them to take part in decision making and thereby empowering them gradually. We should not forget that

empowerment is a process and it has already begun in South 24 Parganas as envisaged in the functioning of the NGOs, various non-formal educational institutions, the DRDC and most importantly the District ICDS, which has tremendous potential and if vested with more responsibilities, can change the lives of girl children and adolescent girls for the better. However, to maintain pace and ensure balanced development of the entire population and improvement in quality of life, proper government intervention and effective policy implementation are necessary in crucial areas, notably education, health and empowerment.