

Education Index of Birbhum District at Block Level: A Critical Study

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Abstract

Education is most important measure of Human Development. Birbhum district originates in the chotonagpur plateau region of Jharkhand and slope across the district in a west-east direction. Here the percentage of literate persons is 61.48%, percentage of male population is 51.29% and percentage of female population is 48.71%. The methodology is mainly based on United Nations Development Program-Human Development Report (HDR) framework. 4 blocks are in less developed category, 9 blocks are moderately developed category and 6 blocks are developed category.

Keywords: Education Index, Total Literacy Index, Combined Enrolment Index.

Introduction

Education is the backbone of any nation. The basic two components of Human Resource Development are recognised as Health and Education by United Nations Organisation. Swami Vivekananda said that "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man". After independence The Radha-Krishnan Commission (1948), the mudalier Commission (1952-53), The Kothari Commission helps to develop the educational scenario of India¹. Education is the key factor of socio-economic development of a country or a region. A good educational system can produce skilled and trained person which help economic and social development of a country. Education promotes citizen to participate the developmental affairs of a district. Birbhum District is very important in

educational scenario of West Bengal or India because a central University named Visva-Bharati is situated here. There are 14 general degree college and 39 technical and professional Schools, Colleges and Universities. There are also 5587 special and non-formal educational institutions.

Study area: Our study area Birbhum District is one of the 19th districts of West Bengal, situated at 23°33'N to 24°35'N and 87°10'S to 88°2'S. The area of the district is 4550 sq km. The district divided into three sub division named Suri, Bolpur, and Rampurhat and there are 19 blocks. The Visva-Bharati University is situated in this district at Bolpur subdivision. There are one district library and Government sponsored general library is 127.

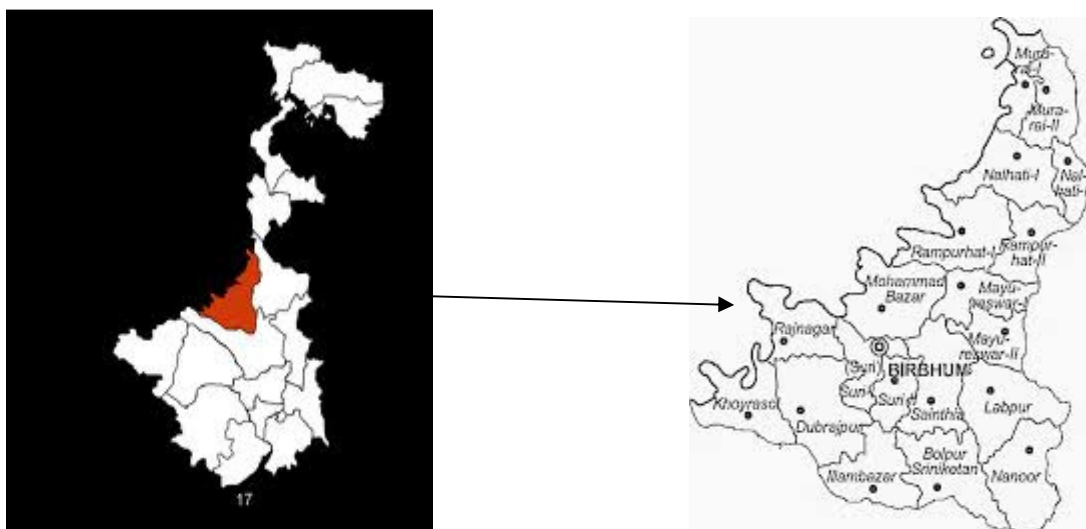


Figure-1
Location Map of Birbhum District

Objectives: The major objectives of the proposed research are.
i. To find out the block level Education Index of the Birbhum district. ii. To determine the major factor responsible for this level of less development. iii. To categorize blocks into three categories, they are less developed, moderately developed and developed.

Methodology

The study is based on data from secondary sources. Census of India (2001, 1991), Birbhum District Human Development Report (2009), and District Statistical Handbook of Birbhum (2010-11) provide most of the data required for the study. The parameters for calculating the Education Index are following

Education Index: i. Indicators: i. Total Literacy Index= Actual percentage/100% ii. Combined Enrolment Index = (Primary Index + Middle Index + High Index) / 3

Dimension Index: Education Index = $\frac{2}{3}$ (Total Literacy Index) + $\frac{1}{3}$ (Combined Enrolment Index). (Actual value – Minimum value) / (Maximum value - Minimum value) formula is used for the calculation (HDR-2000).

Results and Discussion

Education index measures the relative achievement in both adult literacy and combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment of any region (Handbook of Human Development, 2009). Adult Literacy Rate $\frac{2}{3}$ weights and Gross Enrolment ratio has been given $\frac{1}{3}$ weight. Combined enrolment is a average value of the number of students in primary, middle and high schools. Thus the education index (EI) is calculated as².
 $EI = \frac{2}{3}$ (Total Literacy Index) + $\frac{1}{3}$ (Combined Enrolment Index)

Total Literacy Index: Total literacy rate represent of education conditions in each block of district. Develops block are presents higher literacy rate. To prepare the literacy index, actual percentages of different blocks are divided by 100%. Hypothetically zero is taken as the lowest and hundred as the highest possible percentage.

Total Literacy Index= Actual percentage/ 100%

Combined Enrolment Index: Combined enrolment index is the number of students in primary, middle and high schools. Enrolment Index of each standard (primary, middle and high) are calculated by the formula

Dimension Index= (Actual value – Minimum value) / (Maximum value - Minimum value)

Combined Enrolment Index (CEI) is an average of these three parameters.

$CEI = (\text{Primary Index} + \text{Middle Index} + \text{High Index}) / 3$

The block of Birbhum District can be classified into three categories according to the level of Education Index.

Less Developed Blocks:- Blocks with index value below 0.50 considered are 'less developed' blocks. There are four blocks in this category. These are Mohammad bazar, Rajnagar, Suri-I, Suri-II. These blocks are highly backward in educational conditions. Of all the blocks Rajnagar ranks lowest. Combined enrolment index of Rajnagar block is very poor.

Moderately Developed Blocks:- Blocks with index value between 0.50 – 0.60 are considered as 'moderately developed' blocks. There are nine blocks in this category. These are Murarai-I, Murarai-II, Mayureswar -I, Mayureswar-II, Rampurhat-I, Rampurhat-II, Dubrajpur, Khoyrasole and Bolpur-Sriniketan. Combined enrolment index and literacy index of this is moderately. Communication facility of Rampurhat-I block is very good. Of all the blocks literacy index of Murarai-II is lowest.

Developed Blocks: - Blocks with index value above 0.60 are considered 'developed blocks'. There are six blocks in this category. These are Nalhati-I, Nalhati-II, Sainthia, Labhpur, Nanoor and Illambazar. Nalhati-I is the most developed block with the education index of 0.7229. Combined enrolment index and literacy index is very good here in Nalhati-I block. On the other hand Sainthia is very good in literacy index.

Cause of less development of education: Poverty:- Poverty means lack of essential food and income. Food is primary need of a human being then education. So poverty is very important on educational scenario of a district. Here Mohammad bazar, Rajnagar, Suri-I, Suri-II blocks are less developed because level of poverty is high.

Lack of educational facility:- Where educational institution is low in number there literacy rate is low. A god educational institution spread education on its surrounding area. For example Visva-Bharati University spread educational facility on its surroundings.³

Communication problems: Communication is very important of an areas development. The distance between school and students home is higher and transport facility of this block is bad. Their presence of students in his school is low. The less developed blocks are Mohammad bazar, Rajnagar, Suri-I, Suri-II their education index is low because the transport facility of this block is bad.

Caste Composition: Less developed blocks and moderately developed blocks are inhabited by SC. / ST. Population. The main source of income of these castes is agriculture. So they are all time busy to meeting their primary needs⁴.

Table-1
Table for Education Index

Name of C.D Blocks	Primary Students	Primary Index	Middle Student	Middle Index	High student	High Index	Combined Enrolment Index(CEI)	Total Literacy (%)	Literacy Index	Education Index	Remarks
Nalhati -I	14752	0.6676	1272	0.8368	12166	1	0.8348	63.70	0.637	0.7229	Developed block
Nalhati-II	9217	0.2527	1499	0.9912	10117	0.7759	0.6733	61.60	0.616	0.6351	Developed block
Murarai-I	16534	0.8012	708	0.4534	7940	0.5378	0.5975	46.60	0.466	0.5098	Moderately Developed Blocks
Murarai-II	19186	1	80	0.0265	11181	0.8923	0.6396	46.20	0.462	0.5212	Moderately Developed Blocks
Mayureswar-I	13066	0.5412	609	0.3861	7930	0.5367	0.4880	65.40	0.654	0.5987	Moderately Developed Blocks
Mayureswar-II	8057	0.1657	846	0.5474	4650	0.1780	0.2970	62.80	0.628	0.5177	Moderately Developed Blocks
Rampurhat-I	15640	0.7342	1148	0.7525	3754	0.0800	0.5222	61.90	0.619	0.5867	Moderately Developed Blocks
Rampurhat-II	13681	0.5873	213	0.1169	8571	0.6086	0.4370	63.50	0.635	0.5690	Moderately Developed Blocks
Mohammad Bazar	16077	0.7669	117	0.0517	5897	0.3143	0.3776	55.10	0.551	0.4932	Less Developed Blocks
Sainthia	15105	0.6941	1469	0.9708	6308	0.3593	0.6747	64.90	0.649	0.6576	Developed block
Dubrajpur	10112	0.6196	604	0.3827	5765	0.2999	0.4341	56.70	0.567	0.5227	Moderately Developed Blocks
Rajnagar	5846	0	547	0.3440	3023	0	0.1147	58.30	0.583	0.4269	Less Developed Blocks
Suri-I	8305	0.1843	41	0	5973	0.3227	0.1690	62.50	0.625	0.4730	Less Developed Blocks
Suri-II	7966	0.1589	276	0.1598	3499	0.0521	0.1236	63.80	0.638	0.4665	Less Developed Blocks
Khoyrasole	11898	0.4537	684	0.4371	5580	0.2797	0.3902	60.50	0.605	0.5334	Moderately Developed Blocks
Bolpur-Sriniketan	14290	0.6330	758	0.4874	6689	0.4010	0.4499	60.00	0.600	0.5500	Moderately Developed Blocks
Labhpur	15407	0.7167	681	0.4351	9120	0.6668	0.6062	62.10	0.621	0.6161	Developed block
Nanoor	16477	0.7969	1512	1	8652	0.6157	0.8042	61.20	0.612	0.6761	Developed block
Illambazar	12599	0.5062	1278	0.8409	6181	0.3454	0.5642	63.00	0.630	0.6081	Developed block

Source: Computed by the authors.

Table-2
No. of Institutions, Student and Teachers of Birbhum District for the year 2010-11

Name of Educational Institutions	No. of Institutions	Total no of students	Total No. of teachers
Primary Schools	2379	267830	8335
Middle Schools	48	14783	331
High Schools	210	138737	2474
Higher Secondary Schools	166	209392	3570
General degree colleges and Universities	15	36026	1008
Professional and Technical schools, colleges and Universities	39	6530	483
Special and Non-formal education	5587	234362	6686

Source: District statistical hand book

Table-3
Table for caste composition and % of children out of school in Birbhum District

Name of C.D Blocks	Total population	SC. population	ST. Population	Muslim Population	% children out of school
Nalhathi-I	208642	69079	9093	97415	13.27
Nalhathi-II	107658	24231	341	73235	9.27
Murarai-I	154342	38975	7586	86811	30.83
Murarai-II	177748	31766	663	130865	18.9
Mayureswar-I	139733	45553	9065	38846	15.79
Mayureswar-II	113031	34625	7553	26890	12.69
Rampurhat-I	159193	49979	21038	46219	18.05
Rampurhat-II	158742	52405	665	74666	14.47
Mohammad Bazar	139465	37368	26800	40481	25.02
Sainthia	175645	60300	21197	35103	18.89
Dubrajpur	159011	55456	8146	50202	29.06
Rajnagar	69692	23598	10524	9277	27.07
Suri-I	96476	34998	8174	24428	20.8
Suri-II	77001	25417	9753	23267	15.9
Khoyrasole	135101	47416	2222	30176	32.24
Bolpur-Sriniketan	178111	53184	31960	43582	16.46
Labhpur	176865	52118	7316	50722	20.06
Nanoor	193775	61803	3834	64827	19.68
Illambazar	145182	34826	12707	66683	21.2

Source: District Statistical Hand Book and District human development report

Government Policy: Government Policy is very important for an areas development.

improvement of small and cottage industry. vi. Modernization different Government policy and rules.

For example Mid-day meal programme controlled of an areas drop out ratio, Education for All programme increased total enrolment ratio, Operation Black-board programme pulled the children to school⁵. Government formulate various commissions like Kothari Commission, Mudalier commission, Radha Krishnan Commission to develop the educational system.

Suggestive measure for improvement in education index: i. Increasing number of schools, colleges and Universities. ii. Motivate the population to admit their children in the school. iii. Development the communication network. iv. Spread women education by girl's schools and colleges. v. Increase income level of this district by modernization of agriculture and

Conclusion

In respect of education index Birbhum District is sub-divided into 3 categories and Nalhathi I is ranking 1st position where Rajnagar block is ranked last position. In contrast, the state literacy rate was 57.7% in 1991. In 2001 the rate was 68.64%. The district total literacy rate was 48.56% in 1991 and 61.48% in 2001. So, it is clear that district literacy is less than the state average⁶. In contrast, the district literacy rate is 61.48% and Mayureswar -I block literacy rate is 65.4%, Murarai -II block literacy rate is 46.2%. The literacy rate of Murarai-II block is too lower than the district average literacy rate .

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