

Demographic Highlights and Literacy Status of Male – Female Population of Jalpaiguri District based on 2011 Census

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In 2001, the literacy rate of India was 65.38% which drastically increased from 1951(18.33%), where male literacy was 75.85% and female literacy rate was 54.16%. This shows 21.69% difference in literacy rates between the two genders. In 2011, the literacy rate raised to 74.04%, where males were 82.14% literate and female literacy rate was 65.46% and the difference was only 16.68%. There was significant increase in the literacy rates along the decades, but it can be observed that the rate of literate females were always less than that of males, but the difference between the literacy rates of both genders decreased from 2001 to 2011, and hopefully in the coming decades India will achieve equality of education for both the genders.

The above review denotes that Literacy is generally recognized as an important input for social upliftment especially in areas of population control, health, hygiene environmental degradation control, empowerment of women and weaker sections of the society. Another important fact is that female literacy is a determinant of all round development but development can also lead to improvement in female education. This study focuses on the factors responsible for low female literacy in the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal and aims to take a fresh look at the situation of education among females in the district being among a north-eastern state district primarily based on data provided in the Census of India. However, various items included on education are evaluating the educational/ literacy level development among females, measuring inequalities in female education over years. It will focus intensively to find out determinants for its variations in female literacy of the district and the state. And at what level the female literacy rate differs from that of males.

Study Area

The name Jalpaiguri perhaps may have evolved from “JE-LE-PE-GO-RI” probably meaning the place to exchange warm clothes, Blankets etc. with other essential commodities between Bhutan and Jalpaiguri. Again there is another belief that the name of ‘Jalpaiguri’ has been derived from the two Bengali words viz. ‘Jalpai’ which means Olive trees and ‘guri’ which means a place thereby meaning a place where Olive trees are available. Jalpaiguri district lies between latitude 27°00'N to 26°16'N and longitude 89°53'E to 88°25'E. The district is bounded by Darjeeling district and Bhutan in the north, district Koch Bihar and Bangladesh in the south, Assam on the east and on the West by the district of Darjeeling and Bangladesh. The total length of the district is 150 km. While it's maximum breadth from east to west is 72 km.

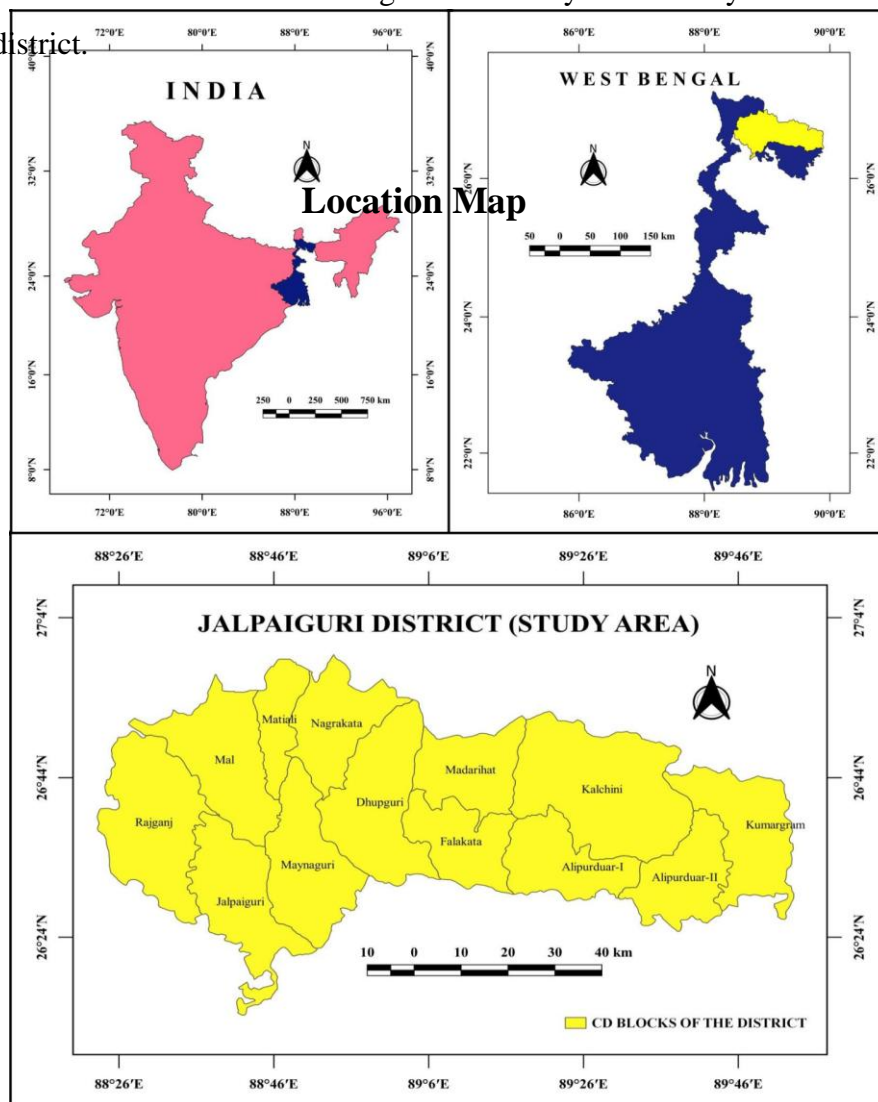
Methodology

This study is entirely based on secondary data. Due to the universal spread of the ongoing pandemic, the collection of first hand primary data could not be made possible prior to the restrictions. The sources of data regarding female literacy of Jalpaiguri District are online (CENSUS OF INDIA, Indian Budget, District Census Handbooks etc.). The other sources of data are various books, literature, journals etc. Tabulation and analysis of the secondary data considering several socio- demographic variables have been done. For detailed study of female literacy of the district, components such as female literacy rate (FLR), gender disparity and sex ratio among the blocks of the district have been considered. With utilization of GIS software like Global Mapper and Q-GIS, various digitalized maps have been prepared for the assessment of the level of literacy in terms of demographic, social, economic and infrastructural parameters. It comprises the preparation of tables, proper analysis, description and representation of data by the cartographic techniques. Thorough interpretation of the findings has been done in order to prepare proper and final report writing.

In the light of significance of basic scale study of literacy analysis, present study focuses on the literacy rate of the Jalpaiguri district, situated in the northernmost top of West Bengal state. Being a district of a north-eastern state, relation between the literacy and other demographic variables has been incorporated. It is necessary to study such variables to know about the level of socio-economic development of a district. This study involves the analysis of the following aspects in the Jalpaiguri district.

1. To study the variable distribution and concentration of population by sex, residence and level of education in different blocks of District Jalpaiguri.
2. Assessing the level of literacy among the females in the CD blocks of the district.

3. To examine rural-urban differential rates of general literacy and literacy of females among the CD blocks of the district.



Demographic Highlights of Jalpaiguri District

Jalpaiguri district occupies 10th position in terms of total population (38, 69, 675 persons) in the state. In terms of population in Scheduled Caste category, Jalpaiguri district occupies 5th position in

the state. In case of population under Scheduled Tribes category, Jalpaiguri district ranks 2nd with population of 7, 31,704 just behind district Paschim Medinipur. The percentage of urban share of population to total population of Jalpaiguri district has expanded from 17.8(2001 Census) to 27.4(2011 Census). The decadal population growth rate of the district is 13.9% and it is almost at par with the state average of 13.8%. In this category it ranks 9th among the district jointly with Paschim Medinipur district.

The density of population (population per square km) of the district is 621 per square km which makes its rank 16th in the State. The Sex Ratio (number of females per 1000 males) of the district is 953 which is marginally higher than the average Sex Ratio of the state (950) and it ranks 8th among the districts. When Rural Sex Ratio is considered, the position of the district is better and Jalpaiguri ranks 5th with 957. In case of Sex Ratio of Scheduled Caste population, the rank of the district is 12th (942) in the state. For Scheduled Tribes population the Sex Ratio is exactly 1000 and it ranks 6th in the State. In case of proportion of child population (0-6 years), Jalpaiguri district ranks 8th among the other districts of the state (11.9%).

Structure of Education in the Study Area

Out of the 718 villages in the district Jalpaiguri, 699 villages which have access to education within the village, 29 villages lie within a range of less than 5 kilometers to the nearest Statutory Town, 322 lie within 5-15 kilometers of nearest Statutory Town, 332 lie within 16-50 kilometers distance and 15 villages lie beyond 51 kilometers from the nearest Statutory Town. Per 10,000 population of district Jalpaiguri there are 5 Primary Schools, 1 Middle level, 1 Secondary level and 1 Senior Secondary School available for education. Among Municipalities, highest concentration of Primary Schools is at Mal Municipality (16 per 10,000 population), followed by Jalpaiguri Municipality (9 per 10,000 population). Among Census Towns, Jagijhora Barabak (CT), Matialihat (CT), Uttar Latabari (CT) and Birpara (CT) have the highest concentration of Primary Schools. In the category of Middle Schools, the highest availability per 10,000 populations is 4 in Mal Municipality and 4 Census Towns - Uttar Latabari (CT), Lataguri (CT), Banarhat Tea Garden (CT) and Samuktola (CT). The highest ratio of the number of Secondary/Matriculation Schools for every 10,000 population has been reported with 4 Schools at Mal Municipality, Lataguri (CT) and Samuktola (CT) followed by Banarhat Tea Garden (CT) and Gairkata (CT) with 3. The highest ratio of the number of Colleges available per 10,000 population in the urban areas of the district has been

reported as 1 from Birpara (CT) but for the remaining urban areas as well as the district as a whole the ratio is recorded as zero (0).

Villages Having School Educational Facilities, C.D Block Level, Jalpaiguri District, 2011

SL. NO	NAME OF THE CD BLOCK	TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED VILLAGES IN THE CD BLOCK	VILLAGES HAVING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS					SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR DISABLED
			PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL	PRIMARY SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL	SECONDARY SCHOOL	SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL(SS)	
1	RAJGANJ	26	26	26	10	12	6	0
2	MAL	100	94	94	33	20	10	1
3	MATIALI	27	27	27	12	6	1	0
4	NAGRAKATA	33	31	31	12	8	3	0
5	MADARIHAT	48	48	48	31	15	11	0
6	KALCHINI	41	40	40	25	13	8	0
7	KUMARGRAM	53	53	53	40	15	7	0
8	ALIPURDUAR-I	47	46	46	20	15	10	1
9	ALIPURDUAR-II	78	77	77	36	20	14	0
10	FALAKATA	60	60	60	32	15	12	1
11	DHUPGURI	98	94	94	36	18	7	0
12	MAYNAGURI	79	77	77	34	22	5	0
13	JALPAIGURI	28	26	26	15	12	7	2
		718	699	699	336	191	101	5

Source: District Census Handbook, Jalpaiguri District, 2011(Village Directory)

The above table shows the educational facilities available at the C.D block level of Jalpaiguri district. Primary and pre-primary school facilities are available to 699 villages out of 718. 336 villages have middle schools, 191 villages have secondary schools, and 101 villages have access to senior secondary schools. There are only 5 villages which have access to special schools. The availability of higher education to the number of villages is quite unsatisfactory. There are only 15 villages which have access to arts, science and commerce college. And only 1 village of whole can access engineering college, medical college, management institutes and polytechnic.

Sex Ratio in Jalpaiguri District

In order to determine the demographic characteristics, the study of sex ratio assumes greater significance because the proportion of males and females in an area is an important indicator of the population analysis. The trend of sex ratio in rural Jalpaiguri district marked substantial improvement in all the successive census years from 1951-2011. Considerably low sex ratio has been observed in Jalpaiguri district during Census 1951 and 1961 indicating deficiency of females due to socio-economic and demographic problems of the study area which reduces the quality of life of the rural people. It is also noticed that the rural sex ratio is higher compared to the total sex ratio and much higher than urban sex ratio. This can be a result of high migration of males from the rural areas. But after 1991, the sex ratio seems to be equaling in rural and urban areas.

Villages Having Higher Educational Facilities, C.D Block Level, Jalpaiguri District, 2011

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE CD BLOCK	TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED VILLAGES IN THE CD BLOCK	VILLAGE HAVING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS					VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL/ITI
			DEGREE COLLEGE OF ARTS SCIENCE & COMMERCE	DEGREE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING	MEDICAL COLLEGE	MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE	POLY-TECHNIC	
1	RAJGANJ	26	2	0	0	0	0	2
2	MAL	100	7	0	0	0	0	4
3	MATIALI	27	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	NAGRAKATA	33	1	0	0	0	0	1
5	MADARIHAT	48	2	0	0	0	0	3
6	KALCHINI	41	1	0	0	0	0	1
7	KUMARGRAM	53	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	ALIPURDUAR-I	47	0	0	0	1	0	0
9	ALIPURDUAR-II	78	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	FALAKATA	60	0	0	0	0	1	1
11	DHUPGURI	98	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	MAYNAGURI	79	1	0	0	0	0	1
13	JALPAIGURI	28	0	1	0	0	0	2
		718	15	1	0	1	1	16

Source: District Census Handbook, Jalpaiguri District, 2011(Village Directory)

Sex Ratio of Jalpaiguri District (1951-2011)

CENSUS YEAR	SEX RATIO		
	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN
1951	825	838	679

1961	854	863	768
1971	887	893	829
1981	910	914	885
1991	927	929	917
2001	942	944	933
2011	953	957	943

Source: District Census Handbook, Jalpaiguri District, 2011

Distribution of Population in the Blocks of Jalpaiguri District by Sex and Residence, 2011

The distribution of population of an area is determined on the basis of the spatial pattern of location of a population. The analysis of population distribution deals with the way in which the population is distributed over an area which either may be sparse, dense or agglomerated.

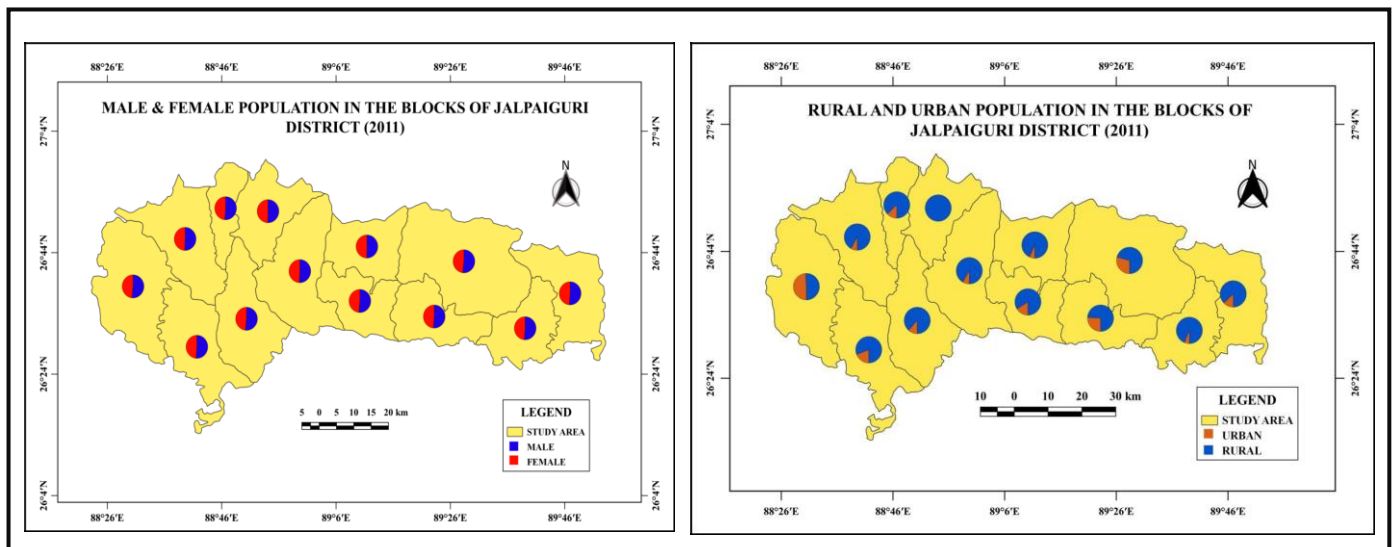
Population in the Blocks of Jalpaiguri District by Sex and Residence, 2011

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE CD BLOCK	POPULATION				
		TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	URBAN	RURAL
1	RAJGANJ	373776	193185	180591	183131	190645
2	MAL	299556	151826	147730	24172	275384
3	MATITALI	117540	60109	57431	15122	102418
4	NAGRAKATA	127397	64133	63264	0	127397
5	MADARIHAT	202026	101536	100490	13761	188265
6	KALCHINI	298458	154829	143629	86650	211808
7	KUMARGRAM	199609	102592	97017	25551	174058
8	ALIPURDUAR-I	216931	111378	105553	56171	160760
9	ALIPURDUAR-II	218272	112434	105838	13620	204652
10	FALAKATA	290722	149626	141096	46561	244161
11	DHUPGURI	414854	210571	204283	34764	380090
12	MAYNAGURI	329032	170030	159002	37959	291073
13	JALPAIGURI	323445	166036	157409	61661	261784

Source: Primary Census Abstract Data, Census of India, 2011

There exists a spatial variation in the distribution of population at the block level in Jalpaiguri district in 2011. The distribution of population is high in the eastern and particularly in the south eastern part of the district consisting of Dhupguri and Maynaguri blocks while the northern part of the district consisting of Matiali and Nagrakata blocks is sparsely inhabited. However, the distribution of rural and urban population varies in terms of regional resources and the social structure of an area. With the increase of socio-cultural provisions along with the infrastructural facilities the size of population of a particular area tends to increase. In 2011, the population distribution reflects varying patterns of unevenness. As can be seen that, rural population exceeds urban population in every block, which means the most of the area of the district comes under rural region. The maximum concentration of population has been observed in Dhupguri, Jalpaiguri and Maynaguri blocks of the district owing to its level surface and fertile soils. Whereas the northern part of the district covering Matiali and Nagrakata blocks have sparse population distribution due to its undulating topography. Nagrakata is the only block with no urban population as the total area of the district comes under village.

As can be seen that, the number of males and females are almost equal where, the number of females in the blocks of the district are comparatively a bit lower than the number of males in respect of total population.



The blocks are majorly under rural areas which results that there is more rural population than urban population. Rajganj has nearly equal numbers of rural and urban population, and Nagrakata as it is a

village blocks and has only rural population in it. This shows that the area is deprived of infrastructural facilities and in education accessibility.

Number of Literates and Illiterates in Total Population of West Bengal and Jalpaiguri, 2011

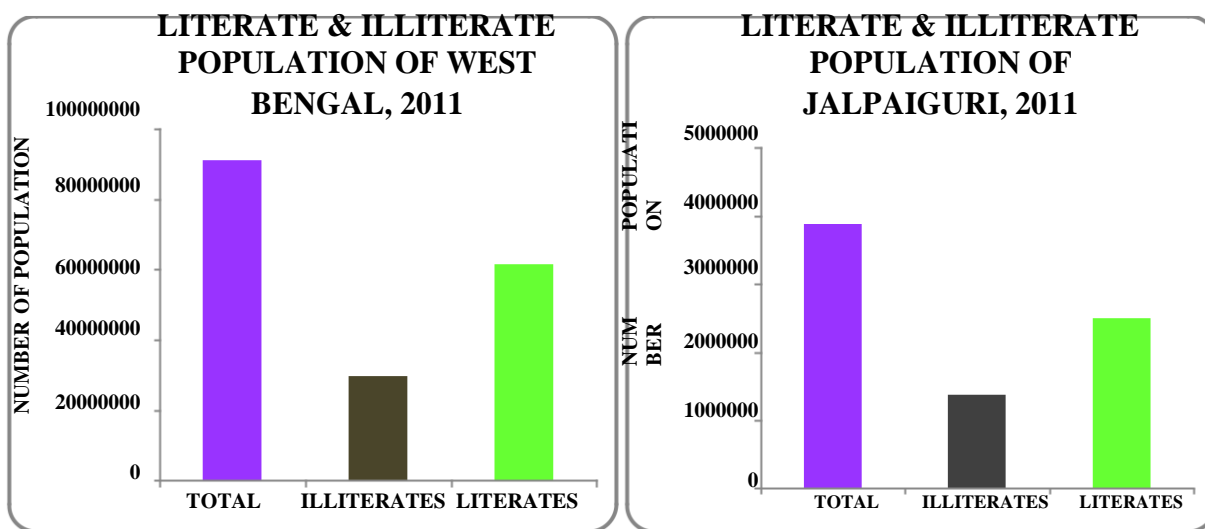
In order to know the rate of development, the study of literate and illiterate people should be done. If the numbers of literates in the district are not equivalent to the average of the state, it denotes high education disparity among the districts of a state and disparity in the developmental structure. The number of total literates and total illiterates among the total population of the district and the state has been observed and we can see that the numbers of literates are more than the number of illiterates, which shows future scope of development.

Numbers of Literates & Illiterates in West Bengal & Jalpaiguri

2011		
	WEST BENGAL	JALPAIGURI
TOTAL	91276115	3872846
ILLITERATES	29737834	1374066
LITERATES	61538281	2498780

Source: Primary Census Abstract Data, Census of India, 2011

Male-Female Literacy in West Bengal and Jalpaiguri, 2011



Male-Female Literacy in West Bengal and Jalpaiguri, 2011

Literacy plays a vital role in transforming students into socially engaged citizens. Being able to read and write means being able to keep up with current events, communicate effectively, and understand the issues that are shaping our world. Male- female literacy is one important aspect as we can measure the development of a country with the disparity among the male and female disparity in education. Table 3.3 shows the number of male and female literates in West Bengal and Jalpaiguri district. The number of female literates are less than males.

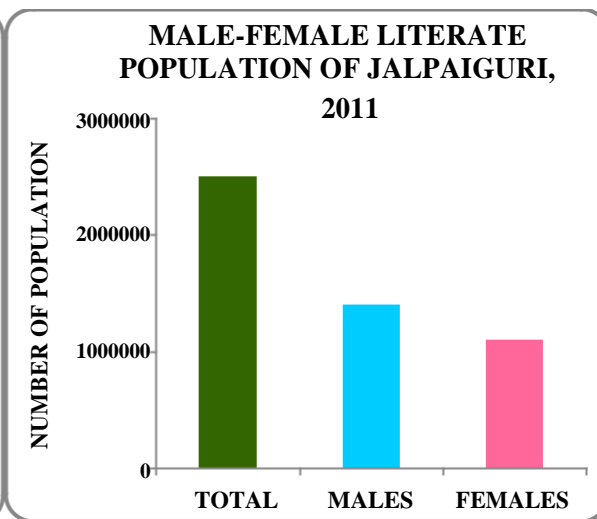
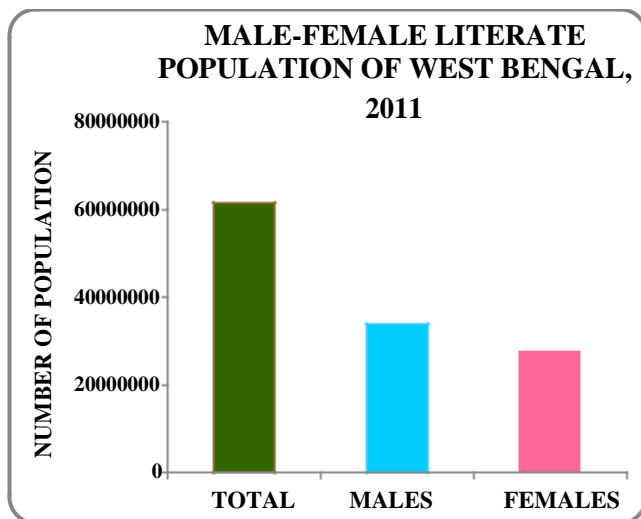
Number of Male & Female Literates of West Bengal & Jalpaiguri, 2011



NUMBER OF LITERATES (2011)

POPULATION		WEST BENGAL	JALPAIGURI
TOTAL		61538281	2498780
MALES		33818810	1396622
FEMALES		27719471	1102158
RURAL	TOTAL	39213779	1716304
	MALES	21848197	972356
	FEMALES	17365582	743948
URBAN	TOTAL	22324502	782476
	MALES	11970613	424266
	FEMALES	10353889	358210

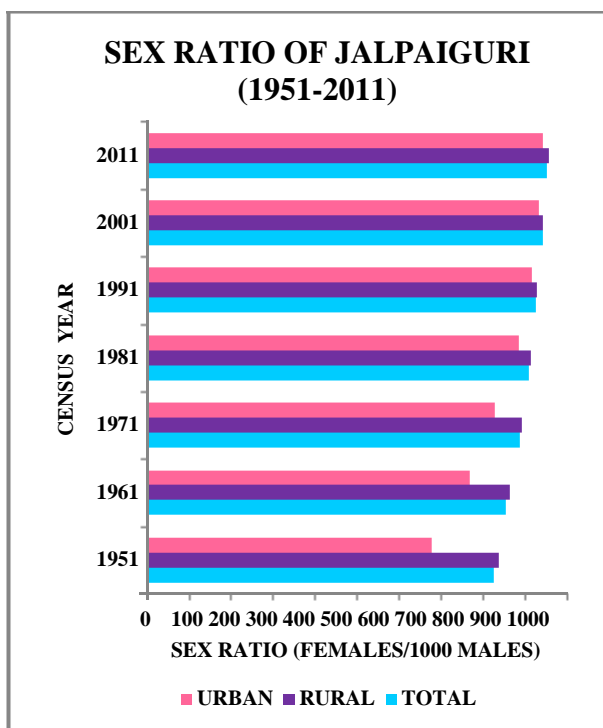
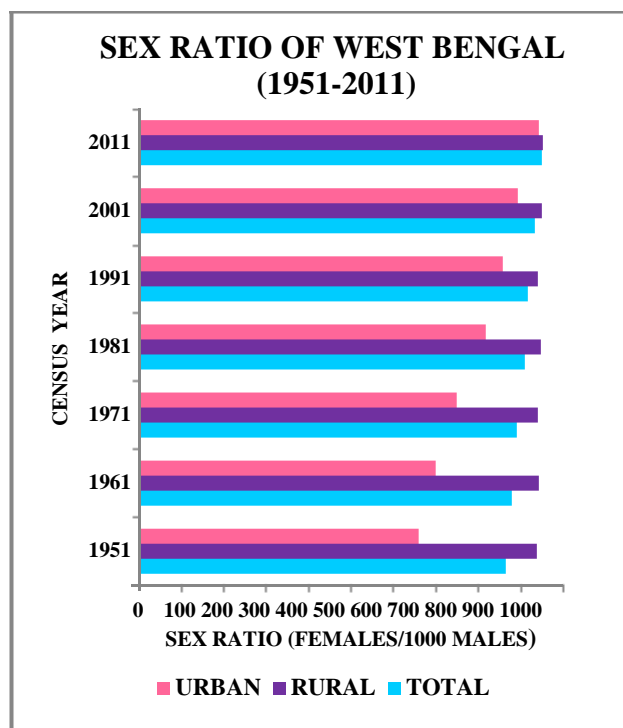
Source: Primary Census Abstract Data, Census of India, 2011



Sex Ratio of West Bengal and Jalpaiguri District (1951-2011)

CENSUS YEAR	WEST BENGAL			JALPAIGURI		
	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN
1951	865	939	660	825	838	679
1961	878	943	701	854	863	768
1971	891	942	751	887	893	829
1981	911	947	819	910	914	885
1991	917	940	858	927	929	917
2001	934	950	893	942	944	933
2011	950	953	944	953	957	943

Source: District Census Handbook, Jalpaiguri District, 2011



If we compare the rural and urban sex ratio of Jalpaiguri district with the state sex ratio from Census 1951 to 2011. It can be seen that the district had a sex ratio lower than that of the State average from 1951 to 1981. During subsequent Census, 1991 to 2011, a substantial increase in the sex ratio of the district has been recorded and district average has exceeded the state average during this period. Comparison of rural and urban sex ratios reveals that the district continued to record a lower rural sex ratio from the state average during all the Censuses up to 2001. In Census 2011, it increased substantially to 957 surpassing the state average of 953 for rural areas. Except Census 2011, the urban sex ratio of the district has always remained greater than state average and is maintaining an increasing trend since 1951 to 2011 Census.

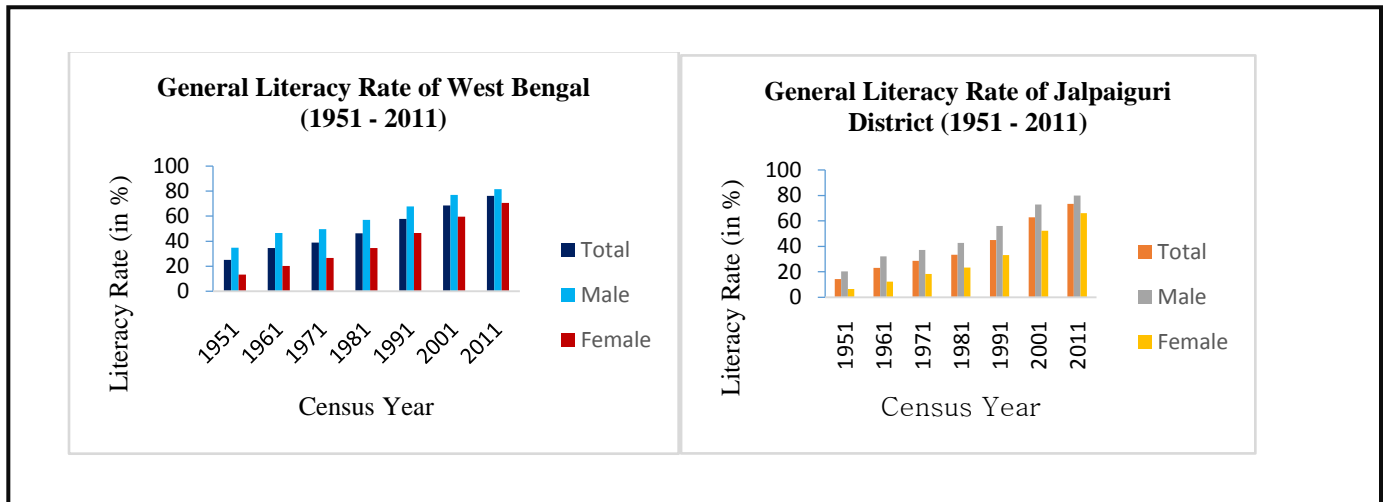
Variation in the Literacy Rates of West Bengal and the District of Jalpaiguri (1951-2011)

Literacy is the key to social and economic development. Regional development is best expressed through the levels of literacy and education, as it directly affects the social, economic and political aspects of a region. In this chapter, the variation between the literacy rates of West Bengal and the Jalpaiguri district has been studied. In present, West Bengal holds the 20th position in the literacy rate rank among other Indian states and union territories. According to 2011 Census, the literacy rate of West Bengal was 77.08% and Jalpaiguri was 73.79%. Therefore, an analysis of the disparity in literacy rates of the district and the state should be drawn in order to interpret the reasons of such difference.

Literacy Rate of West Bengal and Jalpaiguri in Percentage (1951-2011)

CENSUS YEAR	WEST BENGAL			JALPAIGURI		
	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
1951	25	34.7	13.2	14.3	20.4	6.6
1961	34.5	46.6	20.3	23.2	32.2	12.3
1971	38.9	49.6	26.6	28.6	37.2	18.4
1981	46.3	57	34.4	33.4	42.6	23.3
1991	57.7	67.8	46.6	45.1	56	33.2
2001	68.6	77	59.6	62.9	72.8	52.2
2011	76.3	81.7	70.5	73.3	79.9	66.2

Source: District Census Handbook, Jalpaiguri District, 2011



The literacy rate of West Bengal is seemed to be increasing with each passing decade and so does the rates of Jalpaiguri district. Variation in the literacy rates of West Bengal and Jalpaiguri could be seen by comparing both the figures where the district always maintained a low literacy profile from the state. The district having highest literacy rate in West Bengal is Purba Medinipur (87.66%). Among the all districts of the state, Jalpaiguri ranks 13th in literacy. But the high gender disparity in both the figures shows the preference of male education in Indian society. Till 1971 the rates were very low, below the threshold level of economic development of 40% among total Population of West Bengal whereas same is observed among male population up to census year 1951 and female population up to census year 1981. While in Jalpaiguri we observe that the threshold of economic development among total population was achieved on 1991, males in 1981 and females in 2001, varying greatly with the timeline of the state.

Conclusion

The main objective of the present study is to analyse the demographic character of the population and their literacy in the district of Jalpaiguri. There is a wide gap between male female and rural to urban literacy, so there is a need to provide attention for woman empowerment and village empowerment to reduce the male-female and urban-rural differential. The high level of demographic development has been observed in Dhupguri, and Maynaguri

blocks of Jalpaiguri district. These blocks have obtained high values in terms of the rural literacy rate in percentage.

The blocks with moderate level of development has been observed in Jalpaiguri and Mal blocks. Whereas, the low level of demographic development is confined to three blocks of Rajganj, Matiali and Nagrakata blocks of Jalpaiguri district. Education is a pre-requisite for the socio-cultural development of a region and adequate educational institutions are the base of a quality education. It has been observed that there are 699 villages which have access to primary schools followed by 336 villages to middle schools, 191 villages to secondary schools and 101 villages to higher secondary schools.

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