Deprivation in Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal: A Geographical Investigation

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ABSTRACT

There are evidences that Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are backward in India. In the era of inclusive development, it is important to develop all the social groups equally. This study is conducted in order to investigate spatial pattern of socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs and deprivation of SCs and STs in West Bengal. In this regard, three objectives have been set. Firstly, to study regional pattern of socio-economic status among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal. Secondly, to find causative factors for backwardness among SCs and STs. Thirdly, to suggest remedial measures for emancipation of backwardness in the state. Firstly, a simple percentage method is adopted to study regional pattern in socio-economic condition among SCs and STs and their backwardness as well. In addition, a number of figures and tables are used for depiction of the same. Secondly, a Composite Index is constructed to explore socio-economic development pattern of SCs and STs in the districts of W.B. Thirdly, the reasons are revealed from existing literature concerning regional inequality and socio-economic backwardness among SCs and STs in West Bengal. Lastly, a number of suggestions are made for equal regional development and equal socio-economic development of SCs and STs comparing with overall population. The finding shows regional inequality in socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in districts of West Bengal. Here the districts of Kolkata, Haora, Nadia, North Twenty Four Parganas and Darjiling are highly developed. On the other hand, SCs and STs are under developed in the districts of Malda, Puruliya. Moreover, SCs and STs are socio-economically backward than overall population. Poverty, illiteracy and geographical proximity are revealed factors for deprivation of SCs and STs and regional inequality in their development.

KEYWORDS: Deprivation, Socio-economic Status, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Geographical Investigation, West Bengal

I. INTRODUCTION:

Empirical evidences indicate development deficits and backwardness among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India (Thorat, The Hindu, 24th Feb, 2020). In 2013, of the total wealth in the country, the share of SCs was only 5 percent in rural areas against their population share of almost 17 percent. The enrolment rate at higher education in 2015 was 20 percent for SCs compared to 43 percent for higher castes. The SCs suffer from low ownership of capital assets, illiteracy, and lack of access to civil rights. They are overrepresented in wage labour, poverty and malnutrition. During 2014-15, where only 11 percent people from higher castes are engaged in casual wage labour, the SCs contribute more than 50 percent (Thorat, The Hindu, 2020). The state of West Bengal is also indifferent in the socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs. The 12 percent Scheduled Tribe and 15 percent Scheduled Caste households in West Bengal use tape-water for drinking while it is 21 percent for all population (Census of India, 2011). The percentage of households using electricity for lighting among SCs is 41 percent and 32 percent among STs. The situation of lighting from electricity is comparatively high with 54 percent household. Latrine facility within premises among SCs and STs is 48 percent and 24 percent respectively while it is 59

percent for overall population. In West Bengal, the SCs and STs are backward in education. The literacy rate among SCs and STs is 69 percent and 58 percent respectively while the literacy rate in West Bengal for overall people is 76 percent. The percentage of graduates in West Bengal is about 5 percent while Scheduled Caste reports 2 percent and Scheduled Tribes reports 1 percent. The wealth index depicts that about 20 percent households are richest in West Bengal. The richest households among SCs and STs are 10 percent and 4 percent respectively. The main Scheduled Castes in W.B as per Census of India, 2001, are Rajbanshi (18.4 %), Namasudra (17.4 %), Bagdi (14.9 %), Pod (12 %) while main Scheduled Tribes are Santhal (51.8 %), Oraon (14 %), Munda (7.8 %) and Bhumij (7.6 %).The above discussion makes validity about deprivation and backwardness of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal. In this regard, the present study try to reveal spatial pattern of socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs in West Bengal and their deprivation as well.

II. Literature Review

Tirkey (2018) has investigated the socio-economic conditions of tribes in Jalpaiguri District. It is opined that

where the percentage of tribes is higher, the literacy rate and percentage of main workers is lower. **Mosse (2018)** explains that caste identity affects life opportunity. The unequal well-being of people is determined by caste identity. The caste system has been weaken gradually due to economic and political forces. But existing inequality may be removed by proper policy innovation. **Daripa (2018)** conducts a study on the socio-economic status of Scheduled Tribes of Purulia District, West Bengal. The Scheduled Tribes in the district are socio-culturally and economically backward considered as poorest of the poor. Their economic condition may be improved with improving their education. The poverty and the associated problems are caused by capitalist intervention where tribal land and forest has been snatched away. **Butool (2018)** has opined that the socio-economic condition of a community depends upon income level of the community. The type of occupation is related with income. It is found that as Scheduled Castes are historically concerned with low rank jobs have lower socio-economic status. **Maity (2017)** compares Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes health outcomes. The result depicts that that Scheduled Tribes are poorly performing in modern knowledge of vaccines, antenatal and postnatal care and contraceptive than SCs. **De (2017)** argues thattribals are considered socio-economically vulnerable in Purulia district. Their livelihood depends upon only forest produce and manual labour. The income is not enough for livelihood. **Barman et. al. (2017)** examine literacy and gender disparity of Scheduled Castes of Koch Bihar, West Bengal. The literacy pattern is influenced by technological development, urbanization and level of living. **Narayan (2016)** has noticed a new trend where access to healthcare by dalits and adivasis is increasing. The NFHS data depicts that universalization of anganwadi centres, presence of ASHAS, Janani Suraksha Yojona cash incentives are responsible for it.

III. Objectives
1. To study regional pattern of socio-economic status and deprivation among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal.
2. To investigate causative factors for backwardness of SCs and STs.
3. To suggest remedial measures for emancipation of backwardness.

IV. Study Area
West Bengal is selected as study area in this paper. West Bengal is an easternmost state of India. The latitudinal extent of West Bengal is from 21°25'24"North to 27°13'15"North latitude where the longitudinal extent is from 85°48'20"East to 89°53'04"East longitude. The West Bengal area-wise ranks 14th position in India with 88,752 Sq. Km. During Census of India, 2011, there were nineteen districts in West Bengal. Four additional districts are formed after 2011 for better administration. The 20th number district is Alipurduar which is bifurcated from Jalpaiguri district on 25th June, 2014. The district of Kalimpong is splitted from Darjiling on

14th February, 2017. The Jhargram district is craved out from West Midnapore in 4th April, 2017. The splitting of the former Bardhaman district into PurbaBardhaman district and Paschim Bardhaman district in 7thApril, 2017 form 23rd districts. Presently, West Bengal have twenty three districts. The capital of the state is Kolkata, which is also known as 'City of Joy' and 'City of Palaces'. West Bengal has a tropical wet-dry climate in the southern part and a humid subtropical climate in the north. The state has a wide variation of precipitation with an annual of 64 inches (1,625 mm) per year, of which an average of 13 inches (330 mm) falls in August and less than 1 inch (25 mm) in December.

Map No 1: Location Map, West Bengal.
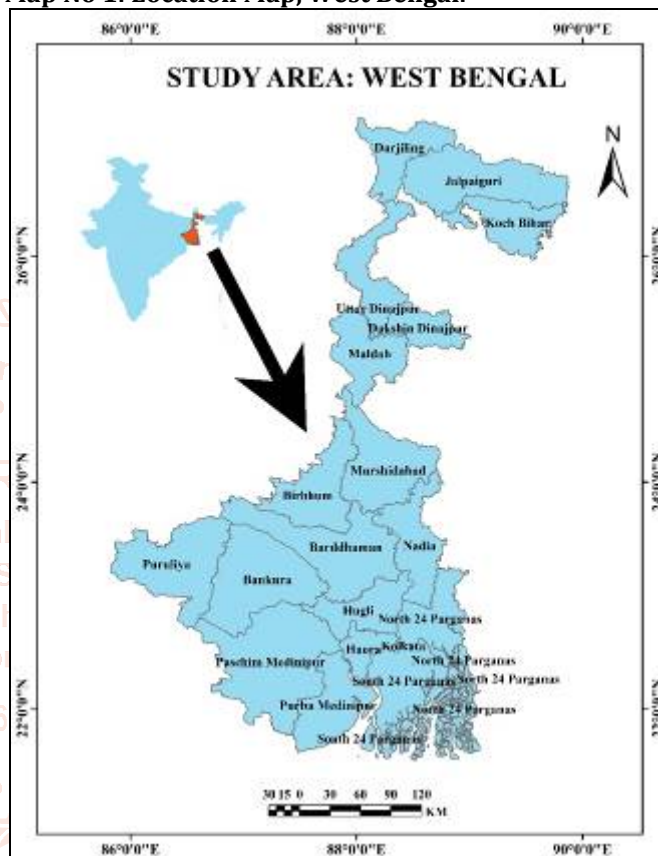
Source: Base-map sourced from Census of India, 2011.

West Bengal is the fourth most populous state (9.3 Crore) in India with 7.8 percent of India's population (Census of India, 2011). The decadal population growth rate is 13.84 percent. There are 950 females in each 1000 males. The child sex ratio is 956 which is comparatively better than sex ratio. The density of West Bengal is 1028/km². The literacy rate is 76.26 percent. The male literacy is higher than female literacy. About 70 percent people are Hindu and 27 percent are Muslim in West Bengal. Though, other religious minorities live in West Bengal. The Scheduled Caste population is 23.51 percent and Scheduled Tribes is 5.80 percent. Together the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe contribute about 29 percent population of West Bengal (Census of India, 2011).

V. Database and Methodology
The study is based on secondary source of data. The data are obtained from Census of India, 2011and from National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16). The data regarding basic amenities are obtained from household series (HH). The data regarding education and workforce are obtained from Primary Census Abstract (PCA). The data regarding health and wealth indicators are obtained from NFHS-4 (2015-16). The simple percentage method is adopted to analyse regional pattern in socio-economic status among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This method also helps to investigate backwardness of SCs and STs. The composite Index is constructed to know socio-economic development pattern of SCs and STs in W.B. The concerned

reasons are revealed from existing literature concerning regional inequality and socio-economic backwardness among SCs and STs in West Bengal. Fourteen indicators are selected for the study which is mentioned below.

Table No.1: List of Indicators in the Study

X_1	Percentage of Households having Good Housing Condition
X_2	Percentage of Households using Electricity for Lighting
X_3	Percentage of Households having Sources of Drinking Water within Premises
X_4	Percentage of Households using Handpump for Drinking Water
X_5	Percentage of Households using Tapewater from Treated Sources for Drinking
X_6	Percentage of Households having Latrine within Premises
X_7	Percentage of Households using LPG/PNG as Fuel for Cooking
X^8	Literacy Rate
X_9	Percentage of Graduates
X_{10}	Workforce Participation Rate
X_{11}	Percentage of Households Richest in Wealth
X_{12}	Percentage of Households going for Institutional Delivery
X_{13}	Percentage of Households taking Antenatal Care
X_{14}	Percentage of Households having Banking Facilities

The standard score is obtained using following formula.

Z Score = $x - \bar{x}/\sigma$

Where,

Z = Standard score of indicator i in district j

x = Actual value of indicator i in district j

$\bar{x}$= Mean of indicator i across districts

σ= standard deviation of indicator i of all districts

The Composite Index (C.I) is calculated using following formula

C.I= Z_{ij}/N

Where,

Z_{ij}= Z scores of all indicators in district j

N= Number of indicators.

Table No.2: Distribution pattern of SCs and STs in West Bengal

Districts	Percentage of Scheduled Caste to State (W.B)	Percentage of Scheduled Tribe to State (W.B)
Darjiling	1.48	7.50
Jalpaiguri	6.79	13.81
Koch Bihar	6.59	0.34
Uttar Dinajpur	3.76	3.07
Dakshin Dinajpur	2.25	5.20
Maldah	3.89	5.93
Murshidabad	4.18	1.72
Birbhum	4.81	4.58
Barddhaman	9.86	9.24
Nadia	7.21	2.66
North Twenty Four Parganas	10.11	5.00
Hugli	6.26	4.33
Bankura	5.47	6.96
Puruliya	2.65	10.21
Haora	3.35	0.28
Kolkata	1.13	0.20
South Twenty Four Parganas	**11.48**	1.83
Paschim Medinipur	5.26	**16.61**
Purba Medinipur	3.47	0.53
WEST BENGAL	100.00	100.00

Source: Census of India, 2011.

VI. Distribution of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in West Bengal

The district of South Twenty Four Parganas have highest number and share of Scheduled Caste people in West Bengal followed by North twenty Four Parganas. These two districts of North and South Twenty Four Parganas have more than 10 percent SC population. The percentage of Scheduled Caste people to State's total Scheduled Caste is from 5 percent to 10 percent in the districts of Barddhaman, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Hugli, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur. The less than 3 percent Scheduled Caste people is found in the districts of Puruliya, Dakshin Dinajpur, Darjiling and Kolkata. The lowest number of Scheduled Caste people is found in the district of Kolkata.

The highest number and share of Scheduled Tribes people is reported in the district of Paschim Medinipur (16.61 percent) followed by Jalpaiguri, Puruliya. These districts of Paschim Medinipur, Jalpaiguri and Puruliya only have more than 10 percent Scheduled Tribe people. The share of Scheduled Tribes lies from 5-10 percent in the distrcts of Barddhaman, Darjiling, Bankura, Maldah, Dakshin Dinajpur and North Twenty Four Parganas. The less than 1 percent Scheduled Tribe people are found in the districts of Purba Medinipur, Koch Bihar, Haora and Kolkata. In the district of Kolkata, the lowest number and share of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe reside (Census of India, 2011).

VII.   Housing Condition

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are deprived in housing in West Bengal (W.B). The percentage of households with good housing condition in W.B is 41 percent for overall population followed by 32 percent for SCs 27 percent for STs (Census of India, 2011). The district-wise housing condition among SCs and STs is not uniform. The district of Kolkata which is 100 percent urbanised district reports best among districts in housing with 55 percent for SCs and 62 percent for STs.

Figure No.1: West Bengal: Housing Condition among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, 2011.
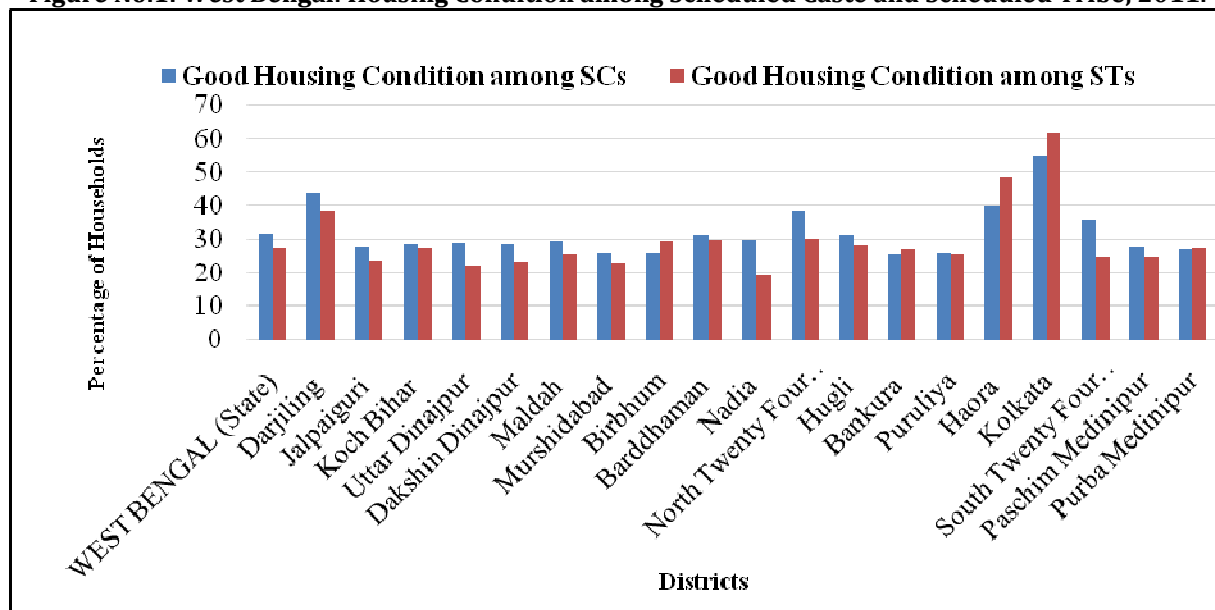
Source: Census of India, 2011.

In addition to it, the households with good housing for both SCs and STs are reported in the districts of Darjiling and Haora. The worst performing districts in housing among SCs is found in Bankura, Puruliya, Birbhum and Murshidabad with less than 26 percent. The Scheduled Tribes have very poor housing condition in the districts of Murshidabad, Uttar Dinajpur and Nadia.It is mentioned that there is intergroup difference in housing in W.B and across districts also. In W.B, the SC and ST housing condition is lower (27 and 32 percent respectively) than overall population (41 percent). The same deprived pattern is found across districts. There is an immediate need to remove inter-group difference in housing and in the same way, the districts which fall below State's performance in housing should seek an immediate intervention (Refer to Figure No. 1).

## VIII.   Electricity Use For Lighting

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal have lower share in 'electricity use for lighting'. It is 54 percent household for overall population followed by SCs with 41 and STs with 32 percent household. Moreover, there is gap across districts also in 'electricity use for lighting'. The district of Kolkata as it is 100 percent urbanised district reports highest 'electricity use for lighting' where both SCs and STs have more than 93 percent achievement in 'electricity use for lighting'. The SCs are with better performance in 'electricity use for lighting' in the districts of Kolkata, Darjiling and Haora with more than 60 percent households. The worst situation is recorded in the districts of Koch Bihar, Bankura and Puruliya with less than 26 percent households. The STs are performing well in the districts of Kolkata, Haora and Darjiling with more than 70 percent achievement in 'electricity use for lighting'.

The worst condition in 'electricity use for lighting among STs is noticed in the Uttar Dinajpur (13 %), Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda and Birbhum with less than 15 percent households achievement. The above discussion based on census data (2011) depicts that SCs and STs are backward in 'electricity use for lighting' in W.B. Therefore, it need to be incorporated. Furthermore, an special attention is needed for the districts having below achievement than State's performance.

IX.   Drinking Water Facility

The source of drinking water within the premises of STs is very low which is 19 percent households in West Bengal. This is 33 percent for SCs and 39 percent for overall population. The inability of any social group to have drinking water source within premises reflects comparatively lower socio-economic condition . Therefore the SCs and STs having lower in

Figure No. 2: Drinking Water Facility across Districts, West Bengal.
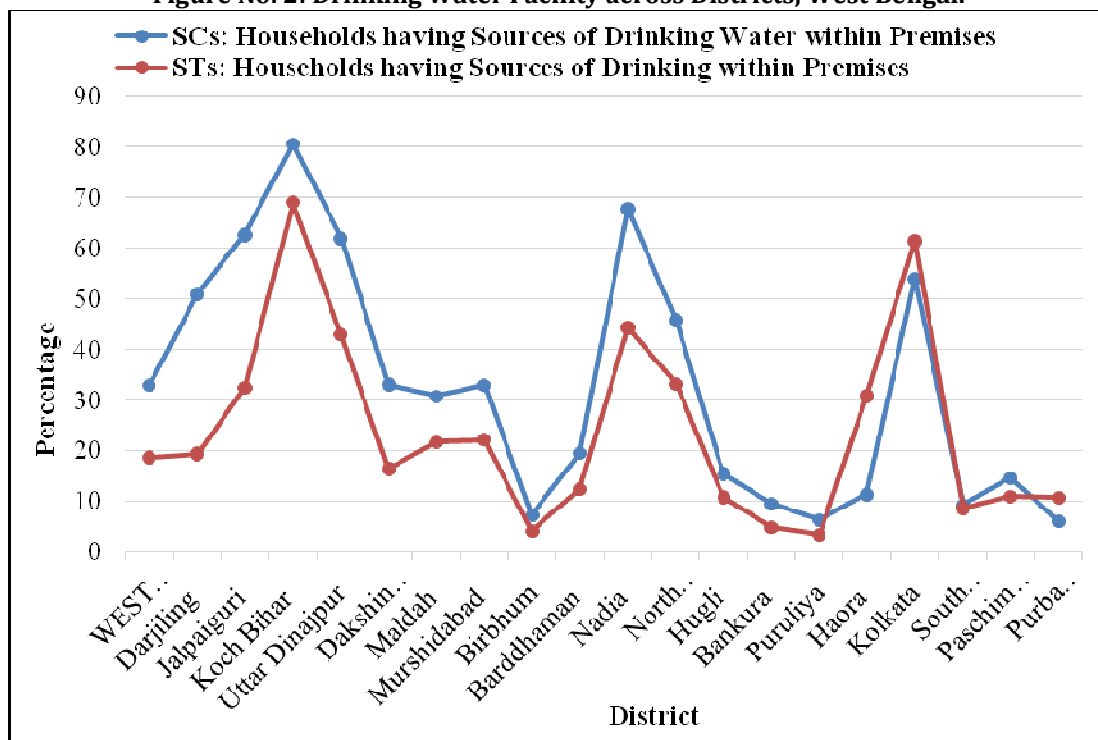
Source: Census of India, 2011.

'drinking water source within premises' depicts their low socio-economic condition. The district of Koch Bihar is best performing district in 'drinking water source within premises' in West Bengal with 69 percent for STs, 81 percent for both SCs and overall population. The lowest performing districts in 'drinking water source within premises' are Puruliya, Birbhum and Purba Medinipur with less than 10 percent household. The rocky topography in parts of Puruliya district may create hindrances to easy installing of tube-well and handpump wherever people need.

X.   Latrine Facility

The latrine facility within premises in West Bengal is 59 percent. It is comparatively lower for SCs with 48 percent and STs with 24 percent. A huge gap in between of SCs and STs is recorded for the same. The 'latrine facility within premises' among SCs is found withgood situation in the districts of Kolkata (89 %) followed by North Twenty Four Parganas and Purba Medinipur (80 %). It is because of urban nature of the districts. The Puruliya district is worst performing in 'latrine facilities within premises' with 7 percent for SCs and 3 percent for STs. Apart from Puruliya, the districts of Birbhum, Bankura also have lower latrine facility within the premises (Refer to Table No. 3).

Table No 3: Distributional Pattern of Latrine Facility

District	Percentage of Households having Latrine within Premises among SCs	Percentage of Households having Latrine within Premises among STs
WEST BENGAL (State)	48	24
Darjiling	60	50
Jalpaiguri	45	25
Koch Bihar	54	55
Uttar Dinajpur	28	10
Dakshin Dinajpur	29	12
Maldah	29	13
Murshidabad	35	22
Birbhum	11	5
Barddhaman	34	20
Nadia	79	47
North Twenty Four Parganas	85	67
Hugli	46	27
Bankura	7	4
Puruliya	7	3
Haora	54	74
Kolkata	89	90
South Twenty Four Parganas	58	50
Paschim Medinipur	28	16
Purba Medinipur	80	64

Source: Census of India, 2011.

XI. LPG Use For Cooking

The use of LPG as fuel in cooking is important to know about socio-economic situation among social groups. The data from Census of India, 2011, reveal that only 8 percent households among SCs in W.B use LPG for cooking. The figure becomes more low only 6 percent for STs. On the other hand, the percentage of households using LPG as fuel for cooking among overall population is 18 percent. When it is investigated district-wise, we find that the districts of Kolkata, Haora, Darjiling and North Twenty Four Parganas are comparatively well performing district. The districts of Puruliya, Birbhum and Bankura are worst performing district in LPG use for cooking.

XII. Literacy And Graduates

The literacy in West Bengal is 76 percent which is higher than national average. It's interesting to know about State's higher literacy rate but there is inter-group difference in literacy rate. The literacy rate among Scheduled Caste people in W.B is 69 percent and STs is 58 percent. It means SCs and STs have lower literacy than overall population. The Scheduled Tribes are worst in literacy if compared with SCs and overall population. The similar pattern is noticed across districts also. The worst performing districts in SC literacy are Bankura (54 %), Puruliya (56 %), Birbhum (59 %). Good performing districts are Purba Medinipur (82 %), North Twenty Four Parganas (80 %) and Kolkata (79 %). Now dealing with ST literacy rate, it is found that the districts of Kolkata, Darjiling and Haora have more than 70 percent literacy rate. The ST literacy is recorded worst in the districts of Birbhum, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur with less than 50 percent. The percentage of Graduates in W.B among SCs and STs is 2 percent and 1 percent respectively while Graduate rate for overall population is 5 percent. The worst performing districts in SC Graduatesare Dakshin Dinajpur, Barddhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Uttar

Table 4: Pattern of Literacy and Level of Graduates

District	Literacy Rate among SCs	Literacy Rate among STs	Percentage of Graduates among SCs	Percentage of Graduates among STs
WEST BENGAL (State)	69	58	2	1
Darjiling	73	74	2	4
Jalpaiguri	73	59	2	1
Koch Bihar	74	67	2	2
Uttar Dinajpur	62	44	1	0.4
Dakshin Dinajpur	66	57	1	1
Maldah	61	47	2	1
Murshidabad	62	51	2	1
Birbhum	59	47	1	0.3
Barddhaman	63	55	1	1
Nadia	73	58	3	1
North Twenty Four Parganas	80	65	4	3
Hugli	68	61	2	1
Bankura	54	59	1	1
Puruliya	56	54	1	1
Haora	71	71	2	7
Kolkata	79	82	7	12
South Twenty Four Parganas	76	60	3	1
Paschim Medinipur	69	60	1	1
Purba Medinipur	82	65	2	2

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Dinajpur, Puruliya, Bankura and Birbhum where less than 1 percent Graduates are reported. The percentage of Graduates among STs is very low in the districts of Uttar Dinajpur and Birbhum with less than 1 percent. The Kolkata district is best performing in Graduate rate than any other districts. Here 12 percent Graduates among STs, 7 percent Graduates among SCs and 18 percent Graduates in overall population are found (Refer to Table No. 4).

XIII. Workforce Participation Rate

Studies reveal that Scheduled Castes from generation are engaged in caste based traditional occupation. Such type of occupation have lower earning (**Butool, 2018**). Therefore, despite higher workforce participation among SCs and STs, their socio-economic status is low than overall population. The lower education among SCs and STs restricts them to get higher and organised sector jobs. It is good to mention that occupational mobilization among SCs and STs are reported in recent times (ibid).

Table 5: Workforce Participation Rate, 2011

| W.B/Districts	Workforce Participation Rate (Overall Population)	Workforce Participation Rate among SCs	Workforce Participation Rate among STs
WEST BENGAL (State)	38	40	47
Darjiling	37	37	40
Jalpaiguri	39	39	42
Koch Bihar	40	42	41
Uttar Dinajpur	36	40	45
Dakshin Dinajpur	42	44	51
Maldah	39	42	46
Murshidabad	36	38	47
Birbhum	38	42	50
Barddhaman	38	42	49
Nadia	36	37	43
North Twenty Four Parganas	36	37	41
Hugli	39	43	55
Bankura	41	46	50
Puruliya	43	41	50
Haora	38	39	44
Kolkata	40	42	43
South Twenty Four Parganas	36	38	43
Paschim Medinipur	42	44	52
Purba Medinipur	37	37	48

Source: Census of India, 2011.

The workforce participation rate in West Bengal is 38 percent. The workforce participation rate of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in W.B is higher than overall population. It is 46 percent for SCs and 50 percent for STs. The similar pattern of higher workforce participation rate among SCs and STs is recorded across all the districts. The Scheduled Caste's workforce participation rate is with good performance in the districts of Bankura, Paschim Medinipur and Dakshin Dinajpur where more than 44 percent SC people work. The lowest workforce of SCs is reported in the districts of Darjiling, North Twenty Four Parganas, Purba Medinipur and Nadia each with 37 percent. The Scheduled Tribe's good performing districts in workforce participation is Hugli (55 %) followed by Paschim Medinipur (52 %) and Dakshin Dinajpur (51 %). The worst performing districts for the same is Darjiling (40 %), Koch Bihar and North Twenty Four Parganas (41 %).

XIV. Wealth Index

The NFHS-4 (2015-16) prepare wealth index based on basic amenities and facilities. This wealth index is grouped into five classifications of poorest, poorer, middle, richer, richest. This wealth index one may use as an alternate way where income data is not available from secondary sources. It is found that the 'percentage of households richest in wealth' in W.B is 20 percent where SCs and STs score 10 percent and 4 percent respectively. The SC households are richest districts of Darjiling (25 %), North Twenty Four Parganas (23 %) and Kolkata (22 %) score highest. The districts of Darjiling (25 %), North Twenty Four Parganas (23 %) and Kolkata (22 %) are richest in wealth when one see Scheduled Caste wealth pattern. On the other hand, very few SC households fall under richest class in the districts of Purba Medinipur (4 %) followed by Koch Bihar (3 %) and Puruliya (1 %). When one see for STs, it is seen that even a single person does not fall under richest class in the districts of Murshidabad, South Twenty Four Parganas, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur, Malda and Purba Medinipur. On the other side, significant share of ST households are richest in the districts of Koch Bihar (18 %), Haora (16 %), North Twenty Four Parganas (15 %) and Nadia (14 %).

Figure No. 3: Distribution of Households Richest in Wealth, 2015-16.
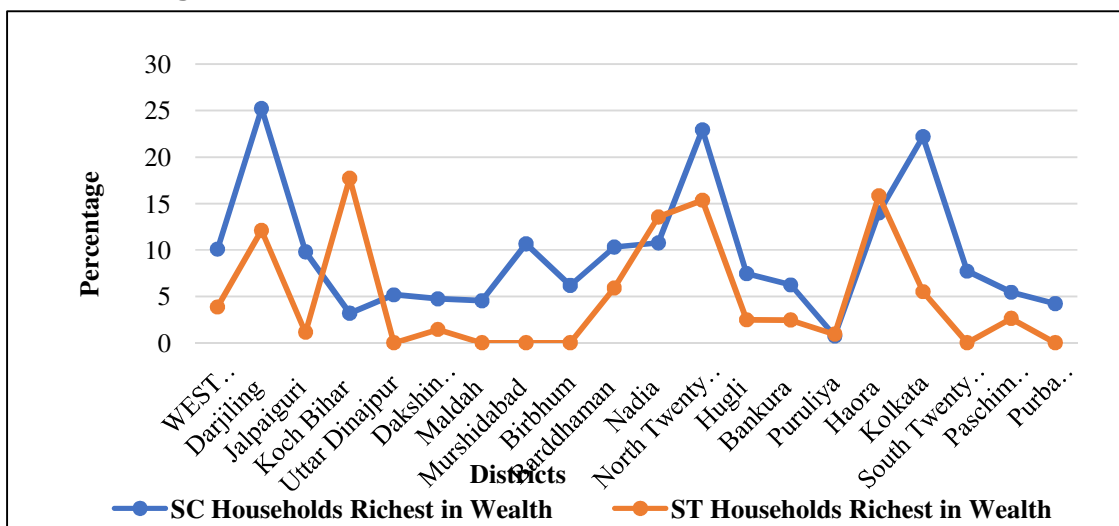
Source: NFHS-4 (2015-16)

XV.   Institutional Delivery

The institutional delivery reflects degree of awareness in a society. In this concern, this is an important indicator to deal with and to know distributional pattern of health awareness in West Bengal. If we see institutional delivery pattern of SCs across 19 districts in W.B, we find that the districts of Darjiling (100 %), Nadia (98 %), Haora (98 %), Kolkata (94 %) and North Twenty Four Parganas(90 %) are well performing districts. Contrary to that, worst performing districts are South Twenty Four Parganas (55 %), Purba Medinipur (58 %), Uttar Dinajpur (61 %) and Malda (62 %). Now dealing with institutional delivery among STs, we find 100 percent institutional delivery in the districts of Nadia, Haora, Paschim Medinipur and Murshidabad. The Scheduled Tribes from Koch Bihar have zero percent institutional delivery it is just because of their 100 percent home delivery. Therefore lowest institutional delivery of STs is found in Koch Bihar and in the districts of Malda (40 %) and Kolkata (60 %).

XVI.   Antenatal Care

The antenatal care or prenatal care is a preventive healthcare. Its goal is to provide regular

Table 6: Distributional Pattern in Antenatal Care

District	Percentage of Households taking Antenatal Care among SCs	Percentage of Households taking Antenatal Care among STs
Darjiling	93	94
Jalpaiguri	96	96
Koch Bihar	92	100
Uttar Dinajpur	87	49
Dakshin Dinajpur	95	100
Maldah	83	93
Murshidabad	98	100
Birbhum	97	80
Barddhaman	94	92
Nadia	93	100
North Twenty Four Parganas	93	100
Hugli	74	87
Bankura	91	94
Puruliya	79	78
Haora	92	100
Kolkata	96	100
South Twenty Four Parganas	96	100
Paschim Medinipur	95	50
Purba Medinipur	93	93

Source: NFHS-4 (2015-16)

check-ups that allow doctors or midwives to treat and prevent potential health problems throughout the course of the pregnancy and to promote healthy lifestyles that benefit both mother and child. The percentage of households take antenatal care in W.B is 91 percent for both overall population and SC population. If we see antenatal care of SCs across the districts, we find good performing districts like that of Murshidabad, Birbhum, South Twenty Four Parganas, Jalpaiguri and Kolkata with more than 95 percent households. The bad performing districts are Puruliya (79 %) and Hugli (74 %). Now dealing with ST antenatal care situation, the worst performing district is Uttar Dinajpur with 49 percent and Paschim Medinipur 50 percent. The Scheduled Tribes report 100 percent antenatal care in the districts of Murshidabad, South Twenty Four Parganas, Kolkata, Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia, North Twenty Four Parganas, Koch Bihar and Haora. It depicts comparatively good performance of STs in antenatal care (Refer to Table No. 6).

XVII.   Banking Facility

Figure No.4: District-wise Banking Facility, West Bengal
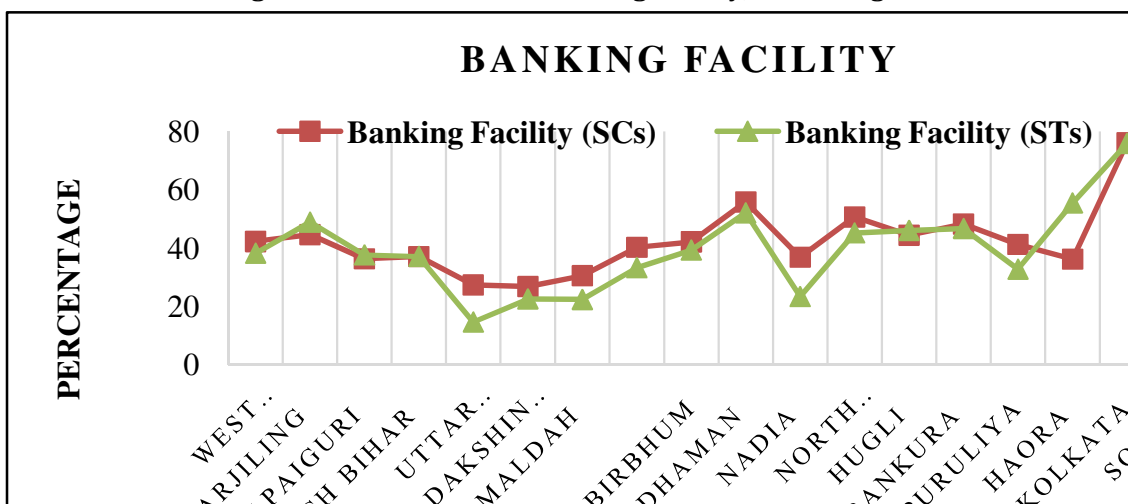
Source: Census of India, 2011.

Banks play an important role in developing a society in an area. The bank branches provide various services to farmers, rural farmers, businessmen and disadvantaged groups which help to help themselves. The area and a society accessing bank facilities reflect developmental aspect of that society and area. In this concern, it's important to analyse pattern of banking facilities among social groups like that of SCs and STs. The 49 percent households have banking facilities in W.B while in W.B Scheduled Caste have 42 percent and ST have 38 percent. The district of Kolkata has highest percentage of households to access bank facility , 84 percent for overall population, 76 percent for SCs and 76 percent for STs. Across the districts also, both Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people have lower banking facilities. When we compare banking accessibility of SCs and STs, STs are worst performing. If we see spatial pattern in accessibility to bank among SCs, we find worst performance in Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur (27 %) and Malda (30 %). Now dealing with bank accessibility among STs, the worst accessibility to bank is found in Uttar Dinajpur (15 %), Malda (22 %), Nadia and Dakshin Dinajpur (23 %).

**Table No.7: District-wise Composite Score among Scheduled Castes**

District	Percentage of Households having Good Housing Condition	Percentage of Households using Electricity for Lighting	Percentage of Households having Sources of Drinking Water within Premises	Percentage of Households using Handpump for Drinking Water	Percentage of Households using Tapewater from Treated Sources for Drinking	Percentage of Households having Latrine within Premises	Percentage of Households using LPG/PNG as Fuel for Cooking	Literacy Rate	Percentage of Graduates	Workforce Participation Rate	Percentage of Households Richest in Wealth	Percentage of Households going for Institutional Delivery	Percentage of Households taking Antenatal Care	Percentage of Households having Banking Facilities	Composite Index
	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12	X13	X14	
Darjiling	1.58	1.55	0.75	-2.03	0.05	0.57	1.41	0.53	0.20	-1.19	2.26	1.36	0.25	0.27	0.54
Jalpaiguri	-0.54	-0.64	1.24	-1.37	-0.41	-0.02	-0.14	0.54	-0.36	-0.39	0.03	0.39	0.68	-0.48	-0.10
Koch Bihar	-0.40	-1.21	1.97	0.33	-0.67	0.35	-0.55	0.61	-0.28	0.40	-0.91	0.08	0.09	-0.40	-0.04
Uttar Dinajpur	-0.35	-0.63	1.21	1.27	-0.78	-0.66	-0.48	-0.76	-0.60	-0.01	-0.63	-1.51	-0.62	-1.28	-0.42
Dakshin Dinajpur	-0.45	-0.48	0.02	0.90	-0.75	-0.62	-0.52	-0.29	-0.54	1.15	-0.69	0.00	0.51	-1.33	-0.22
Maldah	-0.31	-0.68	-0.08	0.19	-0.28	-0.63	-0.44	-0.92	-0.35	0.50	-0.72	-1.43	-1.41	-0.99	-0.57
Murshidabad	-0.80	-0.51	0.01	1.13	-0.65	-0.41	-0.38	-0.78	-0.43	-0.94	0.16	-0.35	1.08	-0.13	0.21
Birbhum	-0.80	-0.73	-1.04	0.46	-0.23	-1.33	-0.62	-1.12	-0.80	0.56	-0.48	0.35	0.94	0.05	0.34
Barddhaman	-0.10	0.06	-0.54	-0.21	0.59	-0.44	-0.41	-0.72	-0.55	0.38	0.11	0.05	0.39	1.27	0.01
Nadia	-0.29	0.28	1.45	0.82	-0.26	1.33	-0.14	0.58	0.47	-1.47	0.17	1.21	0.25	-0.43	0.28
North Twenty Four Parganas	0.84	0.89	0.54	-0.07	0.43	1.56	0.88	1.35	1.68	-1.21	1.93	0.63	0.20	0.81	0.75
Hugli	-0.13	0.69	-0.71	0.02	0.26	0.03	-0.15	-0.03	-0.31	0.81	-0.30	0.30	-2.74	0.25	-0.14
Bankura	-0.86	-0.95	-0.95	0.21	-0.54	-1.47	-0.67	-1.78	-0.79	2.06	-0.48	0.53	-0.64	0.59	-0.37
Puruliya	-0.81	-0.88	-1.08	-0.72	0.03	-1.48	-0.61	-1.53	-0.68	0.32	-1.27	-0.01	-1.89	-0.04	-0.76
Haora	1.06	0.58	-0.88	0.31	-0.04	0.33	0.42	0.33	-0.19	-0.40	0.64	1.18	0.08	-0.48	0.24
Kolkata	3.00	2.77	0.88	-2.26	3.79	1.70	3.45	1.31	3.27	0.53	1.82	0.95	0.67	3.08	1.78
South Twenty Four Parganas	0.53	-0.05	-0.96	0.52	0.15	0.51	-0.01	0.94	0.75	-0.98	-0.26	-1.95	0.81	-0.25	-0.02
Paschim Medinipur	-0.54	-0.08	-0.74	-0.20	-0.18	-0.68	-0.52	0.06	-0.56	1.24	-0.59	-0.02	0.52	0.12	0.15
Purba Medinipur	-0.61	-0.41	-1.09	1.08	-0.52	1.37	-0.53	1.67	0.06	-1.35	-0.77	-1.76	0.26	-0.65	0.23

Source: Computed by author (Census, 2011 & NFHS-4, 2015-2016).

Table No.8: District-wise Composite Score among Scheduled Tribes

District	Percentage of Households having Good Housing Condition	Percentage of Households using Electricity for Lighting	Percentage of Households having Sources of Drinking Water within Premises	Percentage of Households using Handpump for Drinking Water	Percentage of Households using Tapewater from Treated Sources for Drinking	Percentage of Households having Latrine within Premises	Percentage of Households using LPG/PNG as Fuel for Cooking	Literacy Rate	Percentage of Graduates	Workforce Participation Rate	Percentage of Households Richest in Wealth	Percentage of Households going for Institutional Delivery	Percentage of Households taking Antenatal Care	Percentage of Households having Banking Facilities	Composite Index
	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12	X13	X14	
Darjiling	0.89	1.62	-0.25	-2.09	-0.20	0.59	1.00	1.52	0.62	-1.49	1.10	0.56	0.29	0.73	0.35
Jalpaiguri	-0.55	0.40	0.43	-1.15	0.00	-0.35	-0.44	-0.10	-0.47	-1.05	-0.63	0.07	0.41	-0.06	-0.25
Koch Bihar	-0.21	-0.27	2.35	0.12	-0.35	0.76	-0.13	0.75	-0.10	-1.29	1.99	-3.20	0.65	-0.09	0.07
Uttar Dinajpur	-0.71	-0.95	0.98	1.09	-0.64	-0.90	-0.56	-1.67	-0.57	-0.25	-0.81	-0.25	-2.60	-1.67	-0.68
Dakshin Dinajpur	-0.59	-0.85	-0.41	0.97	-0.63	-0.84	-0.62	-0.28	-0.52	1.15	-0.58	0.19	0.65	-1.12	-0.25
Maldah	-0.41	-0.85	-0.13	-0.33	-0.51	-0.81	-0.57	-1.34	-0.47	-0.02	-0.81	-1.54	0.19	-1.13	-0.62
Murshidabad	-0.63	-0.58	-0.11	1.18	-0.61	-0.48	-0.42	-0.87	-0.46	0.17	-0.81	0.97	0.65	-0.37	-0.17
Birbhum	-0.02	-0.83	-1.05	0.55	-0.34	-1.08	-0.61	-1.28	-0.61	0.91	-0.81	-0.14	-0.61	0.06	0.42
Barddhaman	0.02	0.02	-0.62	-0.12	0.45	-0.53	-0.44	-0.52	-0.46	0.71	0.13	-0.12	0.11	0.95	-0.03
Nadia	-0.99	-0.52	1.05	0.98	-0.27	0.48	-0.38	-0.20	-0.44	-0.71	1.33	0.97	0.65	-1.06	0.06
North Twenty Four Parganas	0.09	0.27	0.47	0.19	0.38	1.20	0.52	0.53	0.22	-1.17	1.62	0.58	0.65	0.47	0.43
Hugli	-0.13	0.15	-0.70	0.24	0.06	-0.28	-0.28	0.10	-0.38	1.00	-0.42	-0.11	-0.19	0.53	0.03
Bankura	-0.22	-0.69	-1.02	0.13	-0.68	-1.15	-0.63	-0.04	-0.39	0.93	-0.42	0.45	0.28	0.58	0.21
Puruliya	-0.42	-0.73	-1.09	-0.46	-0.68	-1.18	-0.65	-0.61	-0.44	0.82	-0.66	-0.05	-0.73	-0.40	-0.52
Haora	1.88	1.79	0.35	-1.02	1.48	1.48	2.03	1.17	1.78	-0.60	1.69	0.97	0.65	1.19	1.06
Kolkata	3.19	2.62	1.95	-2.03	3.51	2.09	3.03	2.34	3.40	-0.81	0.06	-0.71	0.65	2.62	1.57
South Twenty Four Parganas	-0.49	-0.47	-0.81	0.84	-0.14	0.60	-0.11	0.00	-0.25	-0.80	-0.81	0.34	0.65	-0.72	0.15
Paschim Medinipur	-0.50	-0.26	-0.70	-0.18	-0.52	-0.69	-0.60	-0.02	0.49	1.18	-0.39	0.97	-2.54	-0.12	-0.35
Purba Medinipur	-0.19	0.14	-0.71	1.09	-0.33	1.10	-0.16	0.52	0.03	0.41	-0.81	0.06	0.18	-0.39	0.07

Map No.2: Regional Pattern of Socio-economic Development among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal
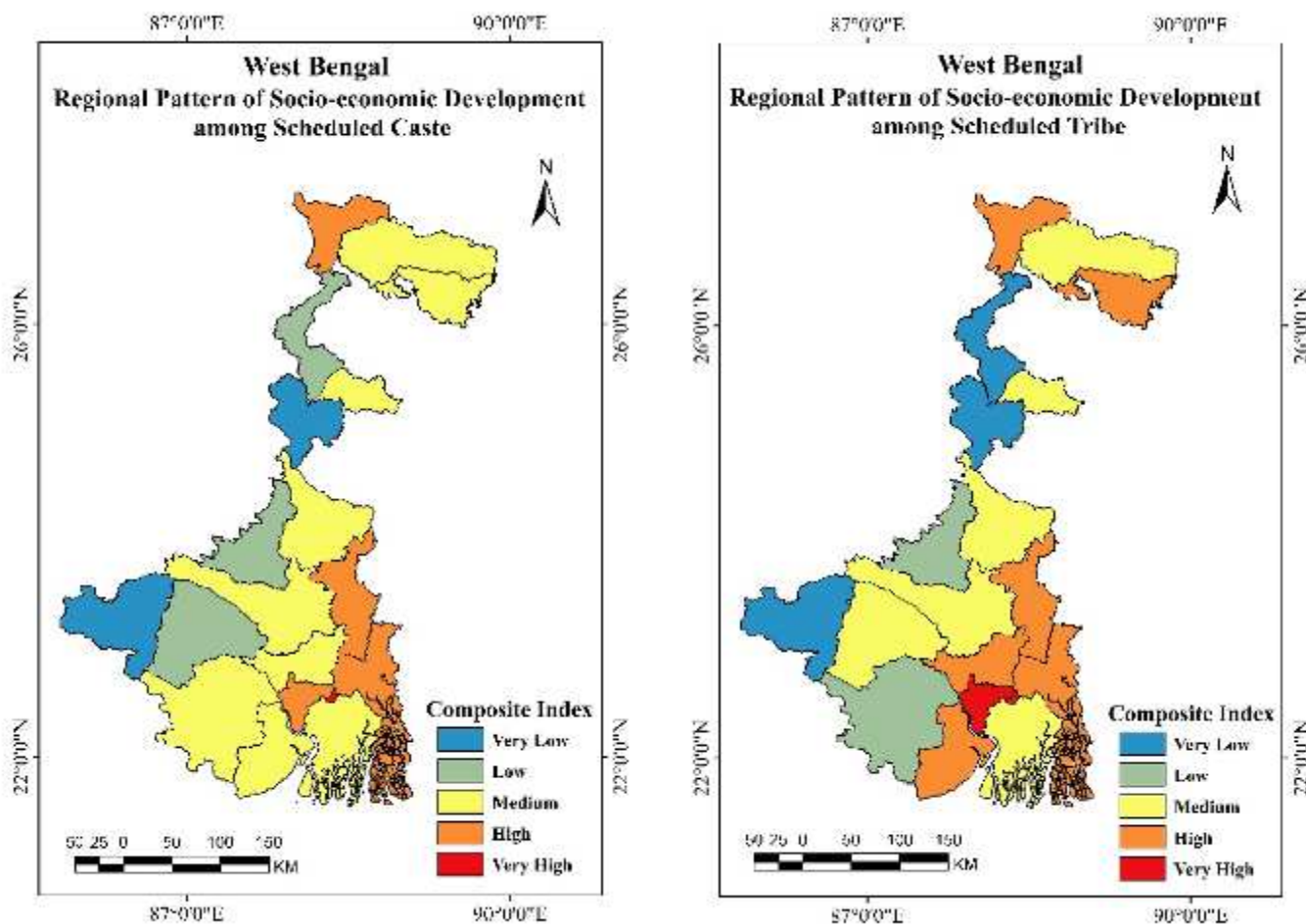
Source: Computed by author (Census, 2011 & NFHS-4, 2015-2016).

Neither Scheduled Caste nor Scheduled Tribe in West Bengal across the districts have equal development level. The socio-economic development level varies from district to district. The above left side map depicts such socio-economic variation across the districts among Scheduled Castes. It reveals that Scheduled Caste have very low socio-economic development in the districts of Malda and Puruliya. On the other hand, low socio-economic development level is found in the districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Birbhum and Bankura. Mediumly developed districts are Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Barddhaman, Hugli, South Twenty Four Parganas and Paschim and Purba Medinipur. The Kolkata district is the only district which fall under very high development level. The highly developed districts are Darjiling, Nadia, Haora and North Twenty Four Parganas.

The Scheduled Tribe in West Bengal have variation in their development across the districts as well. The very high socio-economic development among Scheduled Tribe in West Bengal is found in the districts of Haora and Kolkata. Contrary to that very low developed districts are Uttar Dinajpur, Malda and Puruliya. The low development level is found in the districts of Birbhum and Paschim Medinipur. The development level is high in the districts of Darjiling, Koch Bihar, Nadia, Hugli, Purba Medinipur and North Twenty Four Parganas. Mediumly developed districts are Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Barddhaman, Bankura and South Twenty Four Parganas. The above discussion based on above mentioned Maps reveal that the socio-economic development level of both SCs and STs varies across the districts.

XVIII. Factors Associated With Backwardness Among Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes In West Bengal

The present study with data facts reveals the socio-economic backwardness among SCs and STs in West Bengal. The existing studies and literatures may help to find out probable factors regarding backwardness among SCs and STs. Empirical studies find that all sections of society doesn't get equal growth benefitsin India (Marjit et. al., p: 7, 2010). As per a report entitling "Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition" mentions that the *adivasis and dalits* are at the bottom of most development indicators" (ibid).Several factors from a large number of studies and literatures might be adduced for socio-economic

backwardness among SCs and STs in West Bengal. The backwardness "can be attributed to historical reasons and to caste discrimination, tribal isolation, low levels of technology in farming or animal husbandry and the lack of adequate levels of literacy" (Marjit et. al., p: 3, 2010). Furthermore SCs and STs are socio-economically backward due to illiteracy. They are educationally backward due to poverty (Aikara, 1996), social and physical segregation (Nambissan, 2002) and lack of easy access to school as per Sixth All India Educational Survey (NCERT, 1998).The factor of geographic proximity could be a significant another factor where public services and facilities reaches less to geographic distant districts. Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta conducts a study in 2010 under collaboration of UNICEF

India. It is mentioned in the study that the factors of "access to basic amenities such as housing, drinking water, sanitation, health, infrastructure, education on the one hand, and public distribution of food grains, development schemes, credit facilities etc. on the other hand" are responsible for socially excluded communities, as the study were dealing with social exclusion (Marjit et. al., p: 4, 2010).

XIX. Conclusion

It is concluded in one hand that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal have development deficits when compared with overall people. The share of households having good housing condition is 41 percent in West Bengal while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe report 32 percent and 27 percent respectively. The percentage of households using electricity for lighting is 54 percent in West Bengal while SCs and STs record 41 percent and 32 percent. Only 19 percent households among STs have 'sources of drinking water within premises' while SCs and overall people have 33 percent and 39 percent respectively. The 59 percent households have latrine facility in West Bengal while SCs and STs contribute 48 percent and 24 percent respectively. Among overall population, 18 percent households have LPG use for cooking while 8 percent and 6 percent are recorded among SCs and STs respectively.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are backward at education in West Bengal also. The literacy rate in West Bengal is 76 percent while SCs and STs contribute 69 percent and 58 percent respectively. The 5 percent are graduates in West Bengal while 2 percent among SCs and 1 percent among STs are recorded. It is interesting to note that the workforce participation rate among SCs (40 %) and STs (47 %) is higher than overall population. Despite higher work participation rate among SCs and STs, their socio-economic condition is low just because of their engagement in lower type of occupation. The wealth index reveal that 20 percent people are richest in West Bengal while only 10 percent among SCs and 4 percent among STs are reported. The Scheduled Castes have higher institutional delivery than overall population in West Bengal. The banking facility among overall population is 49 percent while SCs and STs contribute 42 percent and 38 percent respectively.

The composite index based on fourteen indicators reveal that the socio-economic development level of SCs is very low in Malda and Puruliya district. The district of Kolkata have very high development while the districts of Darjiling, Nadia, Haora and North Twenty Four Parganas are highly developed. The very low development among STs is found in Malda, Puruliya and Uttar Dinajpur districts while very high developed districts are Kolkata and Haora. The highly developed districts are Darjiling, Koch Bihar, Nadia, Hugli, North Twenty Four Parganas and Purba Medinipur.

The socio-economic backwardness among SCs and STs are concerned from historical reason to caste discrimination, tribal isolation, low literacy, low levels of technology in farming or animal husbandry. The lower achievement in basic amenities and facilities may be correlated with lower socio-economic conditions among SCs and STs of West Bengal. Some studies associate "geographical proximity" as an important factor where "communities that are either distant geographically or according to social classifications may be excluded from the process of development even at a time when the effects of growth are touching the livelihoods of a large number of people in the country" (Marjit et. al., p: 4, 2010).

XX. Suggestion

Jogdambhas delivered the key-note address in an UGC National seminar on 'Scheduled Caste in India dimension of their socio-economic mobility, inequality and discrimination' that "Successive governments have taken several populist measures to uplift the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the country but illiteracy remains the main cause for their backwardness". Here it is noteworthy to mention that pre-matric, post-matric, national overseas scholarships are some out of many educational measures. Yet they are educationally backward due to poverty, social segregation, problem in easy accessing to school. The policy makers need to focus on these issues immediately. He said emancipation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should not be just a political slogan but should be earnestly implemented by the authorities by primarily focussing on eradication of illiteracy. The establishment of industries and factories should be promoted equally in all the districts specially in the districts of high concentration of SCs and STs. So that more and more people are benefited. West Bengal is a state where development is mainly concentrated in Kolkata and Darjeeling leaving behind other districts. The planners should pay attention for balanced development of all districts. The STs and SCs for their earning produce some products. Due to lack of market and proper price of product, the household and cottage industries are gradually being diminished. The Govt. should make an attention on it. In my opinion, the reservation should be extended only to those who have never earlier taken any benefit of it. Following the step, more needy can get benefit instead of repeated benefit to a single family. In nutshell, if a person has taken benefit of it, the reservation will not be extended to his son and daughter rather to other families who have never come under the benefit of it.

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