

Research Article

Education and Employment: An Analysis of the Deprivation among Muslims of Malda District (West Bengal)

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ABSTRACT

Poor representation of Muslims in employment is evident in many government reports and researches from time to time. There are many explanations, but the most suitable explanation of their poor employment level is their general educational backwardness. Empirical research on the determinants of education and economic growth has typically neglected the influence of religion. To fill this gap, in this paper, we explore the determinants of one aspect of religious behaviour education and employment at the micro regional level using primary survey data on education and employment. To be specific, we focus on the relationship between education and employment and vice-versa. The findings from our cross-section data analysis, which treats education as an endogenous variable, support a positive association between education and employment. In addition, our findings suggest that the current participation in economic activities is positively associated with the past as well as future educational activities. Furthermore, our findings suggest that levels of religious activity tend to vary less over time suggesting that factors such as habit formation may be important. This paper argues that education and employment is inter-linked. It examines whether, and to what extent, work participation is influenced by education. The econometric estimates are based on unit record data from a survey of 2590 (1300 Muslim and 1290 Hindus) households, in 80 villages, from 15 development blocks of Malda. The economic, educational status and religious affiliation of 2590 households, from 80 villages of 15 development blocks of Malda are analyzed and it shows the interrelationship among these variables. Data indicates the increasing portion of Hindus with increasing income and education.

KEYWORDS: Deprivation, Education, Employment, Muslims, Occupation and Structure

INTRODUCTION

Muslims constitute the largest minority community in India with 14% population at the end of the 2001 census. They are not only the largest minority community, but their presence is visible in all the states and union territories. This largest minority community has been relegated to the lowest socio-economic stratum in post-independent India. Muslims have negligible influence on the process of economic development (Beg, 1989). There is a widely held belief that Muslims have remained largely unaffected by the process of economic development and social change that have been taking place in the country and their general economic condition has been deteriorating progressively (Ahmad, 1975). The socio-

economic condition of Muslims has not improved much before and after independence. In pre-Independent India, Hunter wrote, '...earlier it was impossible for a well born Musalman to become poor; at present it is almost impossible for him to continue rich' (Hunter, 1969). This socio-economic backwardness of Muslims is not merely confirmed by the individual researches and surveys, and voluntary organizations but also by various Committees appointed by the Government of India from time to time. The High Power Panel under the chairmanship of Dr. Gopal Singh, set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the early 1980s to enquire into social and economic conditions of the Indian minorities, found that Muslims are backward. After 25 years, again this is evident

from the findings of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Rajinder Sachar, constituted to enquire into socio-economic and educational status of Muslims (GOI, 2006).

In West Bengal, Muslims are not the exceptions. There is a marked scarcity of inquiry on the Muslim community in the state (Moinuddin, 2000). They are educationally most backward, economically poor and politically a powerless community of the country in general and of West Bengal in particular (Mainuddin, 2008; Siddiqui and Hussain 2009). Acknowledging the importance of education for economic growth and poverty reduction, a number of studies in recent years have sought to document the constraints facing households in India with respect to investment in children's education (Dreze and Kingdon, 2001). Although they constitute 25% of the total population of the state, yet no political party and religious leaders are known to have taken active interest in the social, economic and educational progress of the community and ensuring their safety and security. However, of late, some exclusionary state policies are drawing lines between the majority and the minority communities. This is one of the factors that led to the marginalization of Muslims in West Bengal (Dasgupta, 2009). Poor representation of Muslims in Government employment has attracted many explanations. There are many who explain it in terms of insidious discrimination being practiced against them which is forcing Muslims to opt low paid jobs in the informal sector or to self employment in the cottage and artisan-based sectors. There are others, who explain the phenomenon by referring to general educational backwardness prevailing among the Muslim community, which itself is due to their religious orthodoxy and cultural ethos. According to them the influence of modern education is seen by the Muslims as a threat to Islamic values and, therefore, they prefer to send their children to Madrasas and Maktabas, which reduces the chances of their children for upward social mobility (Saxena, 1984). Three sets of factors i.e., parental literacy, economic status and caste discrimination influence the school attendance and enrolment in rural India, that resulted into the regional, caste, community and gender disparities in educational attainments (Ramachandran, Swaminathan and Rawal, 2003). Another group of scholars like Broach and Iyar (2005); Srinivasan and Kumar (1999) attempted to focus on the impact of religion and caste on the education.

Different eminent scholars of the population study have expressed different views on the causes and consequences of the occupational structure. Dube and Mishra (1981) examined a causal relationship between education and regional development. Dhanpal and Ahmad (1982) examined the spatial inequalities in the distribution of educational services in different parts of the world, with an objective to find out where such type of disparities exists in India. Basu (1991) quantitatively assessed the causes and consequences of occupational structure in urban centers. Shafiqullah and Siddiqui (2001) with standard statistical techniques, attempted to correlate the workforce with regional variations in socio-economic development. Siddiqui and Naseer (2004) assessed the regional patterns of the association between educational development and employment using multiple regression models. Singh and Shukla (2006) attempted to focus on the mobility of occupation of tribes consequent upon the decentralization of the Indian planning policy and tried to prove the hypothesis; that is, urbanization and industrialization has adverse environmental and ecological impact, which adversely affected their occupation. The inter-state disparities in educational development have been analyzed by Tilak (1979), Reddy (1985), Zaidi (1986), Mehta (1990) and Malhotra (1999). The study of inter-district inequalities in terms of educational development has been attempted by Saradamoni (1981) and Dash (1993). Some of the studies (Bahadur and Ahmad 1981, Saldanha, 1999; Chaubey and Chaubey 1998;) have highlighted the educational level and its relation to socio-economic spectrum.

The relationship between education and economic development has been examined by Dube and Misra (1981), Chaudhary and Nair (1981) and Singh (1986). The socio-cultural factors affecting the education and work participation of women, occupational structure of the population and its distribution by major categories and residence are highly relevant to productivity and economic growth (Malathy, 1994; Saha and Mathur, 2001; Kothari 2003). This has also been analyzed with reference to its implications in terms of a series of independent variables (Rafiullah and Siddiqui, 1981). However, there are few particular studies on educational development and the structure of employment. Therefore, an attempt has been made to study the educational development and the structure of employment in West Bengal. This district has been taken as the unit of study.

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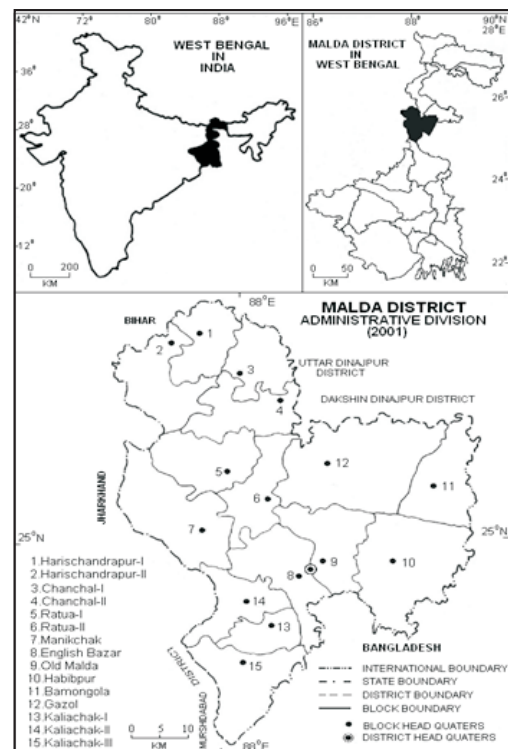
The present paper is an attempt to analyze the spatial distribution of broad literacy level and occupational groups of workers in Malda district. Here, an assessment has been made to study the role of different occupational categories on the level of literacy. Following hypotheses have been formulated to infer the facts that both literacy and employment are cause and consequence to one another.

METHODOLOGY

This paper is primarily based on the primary sources. The working out of above objectives and hypotheses is based on the primary data collected through a field survey during January–March 2010. It is accompanied with secondary data whenever required, which has been obtained from the Census of India 2001. There are, according to 2001 census, 1646 villages in the district of Malda. However, to collect necessary information from such a vast number of villages is an impossible task for a researcher. Therefore, a sample has been selected, which represents the entire set of relevant units of analysis of the whole population (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1996). A statistical sample is a miniature picture or cross-section of the entire group or aggregate from which the sample is taken (Young, 2003). Primary data have been collected based on multi-stage stratified random sampling. In the first stage of sampling, the rural settlements (Villages) with more than 30 households have been considered. In this way, out of 1646, 1602 rural settlements have been selected for second stage of sampling. For the purpose, the entire study universe has been classified into different strata; that is, all the villages of the district have been categorized into five categories according to the population size; i.e., below 500, 501–1000, 1001–1500, 1501–2000 and more than 2000. This way the sample assured that every kind of settlement is a part of the sample or representation of the whole area. Therefore, out of the total 1602 (excluded the villages which have less than 30 households) inhabited mauzas in 15 development blocks of the study area, 5 percent of villages of each block are selected as PSUs—mauzas/villages considered as the representation of the whole block. Therefore, in this way a total of 80 inhabited sampled villages of 15 blocks for rural areas and two urban municipalities for urban areas are the whole representation of the district. The second stage of the sampling involved a selection

of households for interview. It was predetermined to conduct an empirical and a holistic study. As a whole, about 10% households from each sampled villages have been taken. Both simple and standard statistical techniques have been used to compute and analyze data in a spatial perspective at the district level. The relationships between occupational structure and literacy rate have been examined and tested with a Student's test by SPSS-16.0.

Malda district of West Bengal (India) has been taken as the universe of present empirical research, where the general hypotheses have been tested to draw the inferences. The study area lies between 24° 40' 20" to 25° 32' 08" north latitudes and 87° 45' 50" to 88° 28' 10" east longitudes (Figure 1). It spreads over 3733.0 sq. km and provides accommodation to 3,290,468 people. In the district, the Muslim population accounts for 16,367,171 people (49.72%), which is marginally higher than the Hindu population of 1,621,468 people (49.28%) followed by the Christians of 8,388 people (0.25 per cent) and other religious groups of (including Sikh, Buddhist, Jains etc.) 24,441 people (0.75 per cent). The district recorded a literacy rate of 50.28%, which is much lower than the state average of 68.64% and the rate of urbanization of



7.32% also lower than the state average of 27.97%. The district is inflicted with dire socio-economic and cultural disparities across the region and human groups as well. Malda district stood at bottom position scoring the lowest index of human development in the state of west Bengal (GWB, 2004).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The work-force of a place is usually indicated by the workforce participation rate (WPR), which is the ratio of total worker (main and marginal) to the total population of the places generally expressed in percentage. Bougue (1969) defined it as that percentage of total population, which is economically active. The population of working age is crucial for the determination of the size of the labour-force (Agrawal, 1965). The socio-economic condition of workers is largely determined by the status of the socio-economic activity in which he is usually engaged, i.e., the agricultural or the non-agricultural sector.

Aspect of Spatial Distribution Block Level

For the purpose of analysis, the block has been basically considered as the smallest unit of study. Furthermore, the study was divided into three parts, the first one deal with the literacy and educational aspect, the second part deals with the employment status and occupational structure to summarize the status and conditions of employment of Muslim workers, and the third part analyzes the work participation and unemployment rates. Finally, the interrelationship between them depicts the cause and effect analysis, which is examined.

Literacy Rate

Literacy and education are like oxygen for human beings in the contemporary technology-driven world and knowledge economy. An illiterate person remains isolated from sophisticated social processes such as a democratic government and commercial marketing. In reality, he is not a free citizen (Rao, 1966) as was also argued by Sen by calling this state of illiteracy as a condition of unfreedom, which needs to be removed on high priority (Sen, 2007). Low level of literacy and education impedes national growth and violates human rights. Although India has registered phenomenal growth in the sphere of education since independence, the benefits of educational

development are not equally extended. Persisting and increasing inter-group and inter-regional educational disparities are serious and challenging problems for the policy makers.

This part investigates the state of education of the Muslim population. First, we may take a look at the blockwise male and female literacy rates based on the data collected through the extensive field survey in which the population belonging to the age group of 6 years and above are considered for calculating the literacy rate. Data pertaining to the literacy and educational level for both male and female categories across rural and urban areas of the Muslim population is presented in the Table 1.

Spatial Patterns of Distribution of Literacy Rate

The overall Muslim literacy level of Malda is 61.63% comprising 66.02% of male and 56.91% of female population. As it is obvious that the urban areas are clearly better placed in terms of literacy vis-à-vis the rural areas, the literacy rate is 60.13% for rural and 84.97% for urban areas, which shows the gap of 24.84% points between rural and urban areas. Among the two urban municipality areas of the district, English Bazar shows a higher literacy rate of 2.65% points. Here, it may be noted that presently it is the main urban centre of the district and English Bazar municipality is comparatively newly developed. The Muslim literacy rate in the rural areas of the block varies considerably with maximum of 67.36% in Kaliachak-I and minimum of 51.88% in Harischandrapur-II. The method of classifying the educational levels into three categories of high, medium and low invariably has been that of standard deviation and mean. In this method, levels of education by blocks have been conveniently arranged in ascending order and their mean and standard deviations have been worked out. The medium category includes all those blocks whose values vary between mean and ± 0.5 standard deviation. The high category incorporates those blocks whose values fall above mean and $+0.5$ standard deviation. Similarly, low category includes all those blocks whose value shows below mean and -0.5 standard deviation. Therefore, the high group consists of the value of 62.66% and above, medium 58.52–62.66% and low below 58.66% in literacy rate. In the spatial pattern of distribution, the literacy rate among Muslims by blocks shows that it is relatively high

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(above 62.66 per cent) in Kaliachak-I (67.36) followed by, Chanchal-I (66.85), Gazol (63.26), and Old Malda (63.30). Blocks with medium literacy (58.52–62.66%) are Ratua-II (59.24), Manikchak (61.22), English Bazar (61.60) and Kaliachak II (61.37), Habibpur (62.26), and Bamongola (62.5). These blocks also have a moderate or low share Muslim population; whereas a low level of literacy rate (below 58.52%) prevails in the following blocks of Harischandrapur-II (51.88), Harischandrapur-I (55.68), Ratua-I (57.14), Chanchal-II (57.63) and Kaliachak-III (57.55). These five blocks with low literacy are concentrated by Muslim population. In other words, Muslims are deprived of modern education in these blocks. Besides, Muslims of these blocks are in double disadvantage as Harischandrapur-I, Harischandrapur-II and Kaliachak-III cover the scarcity zone consisting of the less developed and remote parts of the district.

Educational Attainments

Literacy rate, though important, is not a decisive indicator of knowing the educational condition of a population. Observed by the Prime Minister’s High Level Committee ‘External evaluations indicate that many so-called literates did not have the ability to apply their reading and writing skills to real-life situations, and often a substantial proportion reverted to illiteracy within 4–5 years after leaving school’. This aspect is not taken into account by the Census definition. In contrast, the definition of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) focuses on acquiring the skills of reading, writing and arithmetic and the ability to apply them to one’s day-to-day life (GOI 2006). Educational attainment refers to acquire education in a systematic way through formal and informal education. There are various levels of education namely, below primary, primary education, middle education, high school, intermediate (senior secondary), graduation, post graduation, technical etc.

Table 1: Literacy and level of education of muslim population by sex and residence in malda district, 2010

Unit of area	Literacy rate			Below primary			Primary(IV)			Middle(8 th)			High school (10 th)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1 Harischa ndrapur-I	59.89	51.60	55.80	22.00	25.70	23.90	44.47	42.00	43.70	11.20	16.40	13.90	16.50	11.30	14.00
2 Harischa ndrapur-II	56.44	46.89	51.84	19.10	17.10	18.90	43.87	55.40	48.70	12.60	16.90	14.80	16.50	7.81	12.40
3 Chanchal -I	70.67	62.00	66.50	16.40	22.40	19.20	39.82	36.30	38.60	13.00	17.20	15.20	21.30	15.20	18.60
4 Chanchal -II	62.82	52.10	57.60	19.80	21.40	20.30	36.47	42.70	39.10	12.20	18.00	17.40	18.20	12.90	14.90
5 Ratua-I	61.94	52.10	57.60	19.60	21.10	20.90	37.84	39.40	38.70	12.60	14.60	13.10	18.90	16.60	17.70
6 Ratua-II	64.71	52.80	59.40	18.80	21.50	19.30	31.32	31.50	31.70	14.50	17.10	15.60	23.30	22.70	23.10
7 Manikch ak	65.70	56.20	61.20	14.20	17.80	15.80	30.34	39.50	34.90	15.40	18.70	16.60	24.60	14.00	20.00
8 English Bazar	65.36	57.60	61.50	14.50	21.30	17.40	29.71	38.80	33.80	14.50	17.30	15.80	24.70	17.30	21.40
9 Old Malda	66.70	59.50	63.00	16.70	22.60	19.30	30.30	33.60	31.90	15.30	11.50	13.20	24.50	20.40	22.60
10 Habibpur	67.86	56.00	62.60	21.40	21.40	21.30	35.81	35.70	33.90	15.90	14.20	15.10	21.00	21.40	21.10
11 Bamong ola	67.06	57.30	62.00	17.40	20.30	19.40	36.30	39.50	38.00	15.70	13.90	15.00	17.40	18.60	18.00
12 Gazol	67.50	58.10	63.60	15.80	21.80	18.00	32.40	34.90	33.40	12.60	14.30	13.30	21.20	20.20	20.80
13 Kaliacha k-I	70.79	63.40	67.60	14.90	18.60	16.60	28.31	33.90	31.10	16.80	14.70	15.00	23.80	22.60	22.70
14 Kaliacha k-II	65.74	56.40	61.30	18.30	19.20	18.70	30.38	34.70	32.80	11.70	11.10	11.60	21.30	22.40	22.30
15 Kaliacha k-III	61.60	53.30	57.50	18.10	18.70	18.30	36.30	39.00	37.50	14.20	15.60	14.80	19.40	18.70	19.10
RURAL	64.60	55.20	60.10	17.40	20.60	18.90	34.70	39.30	36.90	14.10	16.50	15.20	20.60	16.40	18.60
1 English Bazar(M)	89.00	82.10	86.09	9.90	9.21	9.15	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.00	11.80	12.30	30.80	28.50	29.80
2 Old Malda(M)	86.40	81.50	83.70	16.90	14.90	15.40	21.80	24.40	23.80	16.90	14.20	15.20	27.40	31.50	29.70
URBAN	87.90	81.40	84.70	12.60	11.70	12.60	23.30	24.40	24.90	14.20	13.00	13.70	29.10	30.70	29.50
MALDA	66.20	56.10	61.30	17.80	19.60	18.20	34.70	38.00	35.40	15.10	14.70	15.90	21.90	17.30	19.60

	Unit of area	Intermediate			Graduation			Post Graduation			Technical			Only religious			
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
1	Harischan drapur-I	3.6	2.0	2.9	1.	2.	1.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	2.	3.	2.
		7	6	1	83	06	94	92	00	49	92	00	49	75	09	91	
2	Harischan drapur-II	5.5	2.3	4.1	1.	0.	1.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	3.	3.	3.
		6	4	4	85	78	38	62	00	34	62	78	69	09	13	10	
3	Chanchal-I	7.0	4.4	5.8	1.	2.	1.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	2.	3.	2.	
		0	0	5	50	52	95	00	63	84	00	63	84	00	14	51	
4	Chanchal-II	6.9	2.7	5.1	1.	0.	1.	0.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	5.	2.	4.	
		9	9	3	84	93	44	74	00	41	10	47	82	88	79	52	
5	Ratua-I	7.1	4.8	6.1	2.	2.	2.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	1.	4.	4.	4.	
		9	8	6	61	44	54	31	81	09	96	81	45	58	88	71	
6	Ratua-II	7.2	5.2	6.4	3.	2.	3.	0.	0.	0.	0.	1.	1.	3.	3.	3.	
		7	6	5	64	63	23	91	00	54	91	32	08	64	95	76	
7	Manikchak	10.	5.7	8.3	3.	3.	3.	1.	0.	1.	3.	1.	2.	2.	0.	1.	
		34	3	3	45	82	61	48	64	11	94	27	78	96	00	67	
8	English Bazar	10.	2.0	6.5	4.	2.	3.	1.	1.	1.	4.	1.	2.	2.	0.	1.	
		26	4	1	27	04	26	71	02	40	27	02	79	56	00	40	
9	Old Malda	7.5	5.6	6.7	4.	3.	4.	1.	1.	1.	4.	1.	3.	1.	1.	1.	
		8	6	2	55	77	20	52	89	68	55	89	36	52	89	68	
10	Habibpur	5.2	7.1	6.0	5.	0.	3.	0.	0.	0.	5.	0.	3.	0.	0.	0.	
		6	4	6	26	00	03	00	00	00	26	00	03	00	00	00	
11	Bamongol a	5.2	4.6	5.0	5.	2.	4.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	1.	3.	6.	5.	
		6	5	0	26	33	00	75	00	00	75	00	00	51	98	00	
12	Gazol	9.5	4.2	7.1	6.	2.	4.	3.	1.	2.	2.	1.	2.	3.	4.	4.	
		0	0	4	15	80	66	35	40	48	79	40	17	35	90	04	
13	Kaliachak-I	7.6	6.9	7.3	6.	2.	5.	2.	0.	1.	2.	0.	1.	2.	7.	5.	
		9	6	6	99	61	04	80	87	94	10	87	55	80	83	04	
14	Kaliachak-II	9.1	9.1	9.1	7.	1.	4.	2.	0.	1.	2.	0.	1.	2.	3.	2.	
		5	7	6	04	83	78	11	92	59	11	92	59	11	67	79	
15	Kaliachak-III	6.4	6.2	6.3	3.	1.	2.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	2.	4.	3.	
		9	5	8	90	56	84	30	00	71	30	00	71	60	69	55	
	RURAL	7.6	4.5	6.2	3.	2.	3.	1.	0.	1.	2.	0.	1.	3.	3.	3.	
		2	8	7	68	20	03	49	56	08	04	82	50	29	39	33	
1	English Bazar(M)	10.	15.	12.	9.	6.	7.	3.	2.	3.	2.	2.	2.	1.	1.	1.	
		23	79	80	09	58	93	41	63	05	27	63	44	14	32	22	
2	Old Malda(M)	5.7	7.7	6.7	9.	5.	7.	3.	2.	3.	3.	0.	1.	2.	1.	1.	
		5	9	1	20	19	32	45	60	05	45	00	83	30	30	83	
	URBAN	8.0	11.	9.7	9.	5.	7.	3.	2.	3.	2.	1.	2.	1.	1.	1.	
		0	76	6	14	88	62	43	61	05	86	31	13	71	31	52	
	MALDA	7.6	5.2	6.5	4.	2.	3.	1.	0.	1.	2.	0.	1.	3.	3.	3.	
		5	1	6	12	52	41	65	74	25	11	86	55	16	21	18	

Below primary/pre-primary

It is evident from the above table that the average percentage of people who have attained below primary level of education among Muslims is 18.32%. The block wise distribution of the below primary educated has been arranged into three groups, which shows that there are four blocks bearing the high level (above 20.04%) of below primary level education in the district. The seven blocks lie under medium levels (18.09–20.04%) of below primary education. Low level (below 18.09%) of below primary education is found in four blocks.

Primary (4th)

The education upto class IV is considered as primary level in West Bengal. Malda is marked with notable regional variation, which runs from 31.01% in Kaliachak-I to 49.31% in Harischandrapur-II giving an average of 36.91% to the rural areas and 24.09% to the urban areas with an average of 35.84% to the total Muslims literates. The survey data show that high percentage of (above 38.85 per cent) primary education level has been observed in only three blocks of the district. These blocks are in the scarcity zone of the district and dominated by

the Muslim ‘badiya’ community, whose living standard is comparatively lower than the others. There are six blocks that come under the medium level (34.47–39.64%) and the low (below 34.47%) level category.

Middle (8th)

The average population with middle school education is 14.96% consisting of 14.15% of males and 15.97% of females and 15.07% in the rural areas and 13.72% in the urban areas. The block wise distribution of literates with Middle education level shows that the high level (above 15.64%) is found in three blocks only. Medium level of educated people with middle education (13.89–15.57%) is found in seven blocks and five blocks in low level (below 13.89%).

High School/Secondary Education (10th)

There are 19.66% of literates who have completed the secondary level of education among Muslims in the district of Malda; of which 21.29% of them are male and 17.63% of them are female. The rural areas have 10.81 percentage points lower than that of the urban (29.57) areas of the district. The block wise distribution of high school educated shows six blocks with a high (above 20.97%) share of literates. The medium grade (17.63–20.93%) of high school literates is found in six blocks of the district and remaining three blocks are associated with low (below 17.63%) levels of high school educated people.

Intermediate (12th)

The survey data show that among Muslims there are 6.56% of literates in the district having the higher secondary level of education, comprising 7.65% of male and 5.21% of female population. The rural–urban distribution shows that the urban areas have 3.49 percentage points higher than the rural areas (6.27). Data reveal the abrupt fall in education in the intermediate level and that the bulk of the literates are only up to high school level. It suggests that the socio-economic conditions of the people are not permitting them to continue their education beyond high school level.

There are four blocks of comparatively high (above 7.00%) level of people with higher secondary level of education. The seven blocks are associated with medium (5.44–7.00 per cent) grade. The low (below 5.44%) grades of education are spread over four blocks.

Graduation

The percentage of distribution of graduate degrees is 3.03% in rural areas and 7.65% in the urban areas, which leads to an average of 3.41% total Muslim graduates in the district. The block wise distribution of the graduates show that the blocks of Harischandrapur-I (1.94), Harischandrapur-II (1.38), Chanchal-I (1.95), Chanchal-II (1.44), Ratua-I (2.54) are conspicuous for an exceptionally low (below 2.59%) share. The medium (2.59–3.79%) grades of the graduates are found in six blocks in the district. Remaining five blocks show a high (above 3.79 per cent) level of graduate's.

Post Graduation (PG)

The total share of Muslim postgraduates in the district is only 1.25% consisting of 1.65% of male and 0.74% of female and 1.08% in the rural areas as well as 3.05% in urban areas. The distribution of the postgraduate in the rural areas of the district show high level (above 1.38 per cent) of postgraduates in the blocks of Gazol (2.48), Kaliachak-I (1.94), Old Malda (1.68), Kaliachak-III (1.59) and English Bazar (1.40). Here, it may be mentioned that the Kaliachak-III shows one of the lowest literate blocks but the share of postgraduates (PG) is high, which suggest that there is a huge difference in the economic condition of the population. There are four blocks each in the medium level (0.70–1.38%) and (below 0.70%) low level of postgraduate-educated population.

Technical and Professional Education

The proportion of the technically and professionally educated population is very meager. On an average only 1.55 per cent of the total literates have a technical and professional degree, comprising of 2.11% male and 0.86% female and 1.5% in the rural areas and 2.14% in the urban areas. Furthermore, the distribution of technical and professional education among the rural blocks is comparatively high (above 2.10%) in five blocks. There are three blocks in the medium level (1.14–2.10%) and seven blocks in the low (below 1.14%) level in this category.

The above findings led us to conclude that as the educational level increases, the share of the literate decreases. This fact is more prominent in Muslim-dominated blocks.

It is because of multiple socio-economic and cultural factors. One of the important factors of this trend could be non-availability of educational infrastructure or access to education in the Muslim-concentrated blocks. The female Muslim literacy rate is woefully low, owing mainly to widespread poverty, the practice of female seclusion towards women's education. As far as higher education is concerned few Muslim boys go for higher education because of poverty and the perception of discrimination in government employment, forcing many Muslim boys to discontinue their education and take to some sort of private employment or self-employment in order to augment the family's meager earnings. A close look at the data clearly tells us that as far as the general educational level of the population is concerned, the bulk of the literates are educated below the high school level. As observed during the course of the field visit, one of the reasons for Muslims deprivation in higher education is the distant location of schools and colleges from the Muslim-concentrated blocks. Only few Muslim families can afford to send their children for higher education. For example, in the block Chanchal-I college education is low in spite of the highest literacy rate in the district. This led to conclude that there is a remarkable difference in the level of literacy and attainment of education within the community.

ECONOMIC STATUS: WORK-FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Data on employment is one of the most important indicators of the well being and level of living of households as well as the level of development of an economy. The major issues related to employment are the work participation rate and the diversification in terms of the structure of employment or quality of employment in terms of real wages. Thus to know the pattern of the economic aspect of the population, work participation rate and the nature of their occupation are the two most important indicators of analyzing the economic condition of a population. The analysis of relative differentials between the sex and residence with regard to economic attributes of the population in the district has been discussed in the succeeding part of this section (see Table 2 and Table 3).

A person who is engaged in any economically productive activity is called as a worker (Census of India, 2001). Work

Participation Rates [WPR] is defined as the percentage of total workers (main and marginal) to the total population (Premi, Ramanamma and Bambawala, 1983). In this study, WPR is considered as the employment rate. As per the information collected under the survey, the total work force for Muslims is 35.56%, out of which 25.41% are main workers and 10.14% are marginal workers. The WPR in the rural areas is 35.45% and 37.25% in urban areas, which leads to a gap of 1.8 percentage points. This implies that the rural people are more unemployed than the urban people. However, the urban areas (28.98%) show 3.79% higher share than that of the rural areas (25.19%) in the main workers category, whereas in the case of marginal workers the share of rural workers are more by 1.89%, further their share is 10.26% and 8.28% in rural and urban areas, respectively. Therefore, due to the higher share of main workers, the urban areas show higher WPR than the rural areas. This indicates that Muslims in rural areas of West Bengal are primarily engaged in menial jobs. They are largely engaged in small industries like bidi making, footwear industries, and textile industries. A large section of the community is engaged in selling of fruits and vegetables in dingy and narrow lanes of the villages. The table also reveals that 71.48% of the workers are main workers and the rest of 28.52% are marginal to the total workers. The corresponding percentage is 71.06 and 28.94 for rural areas and 77.78% and 22.22% for the urban areas to their respective class. Therefore, it may be said that the share of marginal workers is higher than that of the main workers in rural areas because the nature of work in the rural areas is highly based on agricultural and allied activities, which up to some extent is seasonal also. The WPR has marked a notable variation in its distribution among the blocks of the study area. The entire block wise range of distribution of WPR is arranged into three grades, with the help of mean and standard deviation. The distribution depicts that an interrupted region of comparatively high grade of WPR (above 36.57%) is observed in six blocks. Three blocks show moderate (34.16–36.57%) work participation rate, whereas rest of the six block shows low range of (below 34.14%) work participation rate.

Data show that the share of main workers is 25.19% in rural areas and 28.98% in the urban areas giving an average of 25.41% total for Muslims in the district. The

distributional pattern of main workers in the rural areas shows that there are seven blocks of comparatively high (above 26.24%) level of main workers. The low (below 23.88%) level of main workers is found in seven blocks, whereas Old Malda (25.17) is the only block of medium slab of main workers in the district.

Table 2: Employment status of muslims in malda district, 2009

Unit of area	Work Participation Rate			Per cent to Population						Per cent to Workers					
	M	F	T	Main Worker			Marginal Workers			Main Worker			Marginal Workers		
MALDA	44	26	35	36	13	25	7	12	10	82	52	71	17	47	28
	.2	.4	.5	.2	.9	.4	.94	.4	.1	.0	.8	.4	.9	.1	.5
	0	4	6	6	7	1		7	4	4	5	8	6	5	2
1 Harishchandrapur-I	45	18	31	37	8	22	8	9	9	82	45	71	17	55	28
	.9	.0	.9	.7	11	.8	18	91	05	.8	0	.6	8	0	.3
	1	2	0	3	5	6		5		1	0	3	2	0	7
2 Harishchandrapur-II	42	25	33	33	10	22	9	14	11	78	42	65	21	57	34
	.1	.1	.8	.0	.6	.0	12	.5	.7	.3	.3	.2	.6	.6	.7
	7	5	2	5	5	6		0	6	8	5	4	2	5	6
3 Chanchal-I	47	27	37	41	14	28	5	13	9	.87	50	74	12	49	25
	.1	.8	.8	.4	.0	.2	67	.7	57	.9	.5	.6	0	.4	.3
	6	0	1	9	6	4		4		7	7	7	7	3	1
4 Chanchal-II	45	22	33	39	10	25	5	11	8	.87	49	75	12	50	24
	.3	.0	.8	.6	.9	.4	71	.1	39	.3	.5	.2	.6	.4	.7
	3	7	5	2	4	6		3		5	6	1	1	4	9
5 Ratua-I	43	18	30	35	8	21	8	10	9	.81	44	70	18	55	29
	.7	.0	.9	.4	03	.8	28	.0	15	.0	.4	.4	.9	.5	.5
	1	6	5	3	0	0		3		6	4	3	4	6	7
6 Ratua-II	48	26	37	37	14	26	10	12	11	.78	54	70	21	45	29
	.0	.6	.9	.6	.4	.7	.4	.2	.2	.3	.1	.3	.6	.8	.6
	2	7	6	2	4	0	0	2	6	5	7	4	5	3	6
7 Manikchak	47	30	39	39	13	26	8	16	12	.82	45	68	17	54	31
	.2	.2	.0	.1	.8	.8	15	.4	.1	.7	.7	.8	.2	.2	.1
	8	6	2	3	3	5		3	7	6	1	2	4	9	8
8 English Bazar	45	29	37	37	15	26	7	13	10	.82	52	71	17	47	28
	.1	.0	.2	.3	.2	.4	83	.8	.7	.6	.4	.0	.3	.5	.9
	6	5	4	3	4	6		1	7	5	6	7	5	4	3
9 Old Malda	37	29	33	29	19	24	8	10	9	.78	64	72	21	35	27
	.9	.5	.8	.8	.1	.6	06	.4	21	.7	.7	.8	.2	.2	.1
	0	7	9	4	3	9		3		2	1	4	8	9	6
10 Habibpur	38	28	33	29	15	22	8	12	10	.76	55	68	23	44	31
	.2	.1	.3	.4	.6	.7	82	.5	.6	.9	.5	.1	.0	.4	.8
	4	3	3	1	3	3		0	1	2	6	8	8	4	2
11 Bamongola	40	26	34	33	12	23	7	13	10	.80	48	68	19	52	31
	.7	.8	.1	.0	.9	.4	77	.9	.7	.9	.0	.6	.0	.0	.3
	8	8	8	1	0	7		8	1	5	0	6	5	0	4
12 Gazol	41	29	35	32	12	22	9	17	13	.77	40	62	22	59	37
	.5	.6	.8	.1	.0	.4	38	.6	.3	.4	.4	.6	.5	.5	.3
	6	7	1	9	0	2		7	9	4	5	1	6	5	9
13 Kaliachak-I	42	29	36	35	17	26	7	12	9	.82	59	73	17	40	26
	.4	.6	.4	.1	.5	.9	35	.0	54	.6	.3	.8	.3	.6	.1
	5	3	4	0	9	0		4		9	8	1	1	3	9
14 Kaliachak-II	42	30	37	33	23	28	9	7	8	.78	77	77	21	22	22
	.7	.9	.1	.5	.8	.9	16	11	18	.5	.0	.9	.4	.9	.0
	5	6	3	9	5	4		7	3	6	3	6	3	7	4
15 Kaliachak-III	41	32	37	32	19	26	8	13	10	.79	59	70	20	40	29
	.1	.8	.1	.6	.5	.3	50	.2	.8	.3	.5	.9	.6	.4	.0
	8	7	6	8	8	5		9	1	7	7	1	3	3	9
RURAL	44	26	35	36	13	25	7	12	10	82	51	71	17	48	28
	.1	.2	.4	.2	.5	.1	.92	.7	.2	.0	.5	.0	.9	.4	.9
	4	7	5	1	4	9		3	6	5	5	6	5	5	4
1 English Bazar(M)	45	28	36	36	20	28	8	7	8	.80	71	77	19	28	22
	.2	.3	.8	.5	.3	.5	70	96	33	.7	.8	.3	.2	.1	.6
2 Old Malda (M)	45	29	37	37	21	29	7	8	8	.83	70	78	16	29	21
	30	82	66	61	05	44	69	77	23	02	59	16	98	41	84
URBAN	45	29	37	37	20	28	8	8	8	81	71	77	18	28	22
	.26	.07	.25	.07	.70	.98	.19	.37	.28	.90	.21	.78	.10	.79	.22

Data Source: Based on primary field survey by the researcher, 2010.

Education and Employment: An Analysis of the Deprivation among Muslims of Malda District (West Bengal)

**Table 3: Workers by nature of work of muslim population across male-female and rural-urban areas (per cent)
Employment/occupational characteristics of muslims in malda by nature of work**

Unit of area	Farmer or Cultivation			Labours						Business			Home-based workers			Regular Salaried Job					
				Agri. Labours			Non-Agri Labours									Govt.			Pvt.		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
HCP-I	33.73	5.56	28.71	21.69	38.89	24.75	13.25	16.67	13.86	8.43	0.00	6.93	16.87	33.33	19.80	4.82	5.56	4.95	1.20	0.00	0.99
HCP-II	25.86	2.78	20.39	28.45	41.67	31.58	18.97	27.78	21.05	7.76	0.00	5.92	15.52	25.00	17.76	2.59	2.78	2.63	0.86	0.00	0.66
CHN-I	30.22	2.27	23.50	15.11	40.91	21.31	20.86	20.45	20.77	10.79	4.55	9.29	11.51	25.00	14.75	6.47	2.27	5.46	5.04	4.55	4.92
CHN-II	26.44	3.57	21.59	16.83	44.64	22.73	17.31	14.29	16.67	11.54	3.57	9.85	17.79	25.00	19.32	7.69	7.14	7.58	2.40	1.79	2.27
RTA-I	32.71	4.17	27.48	14.02	45.83	19.85	22.43	12.50	20.61	10.28	4.17	9.16	15.89	25.00	17.56	3.74	4.17	3.82	0.93	4.17	1.53
RTA-II	21.05	3.85	16.67	19.74	23.08	20.59	14.47	30.77	18.63	15.79	3.85	12.75	17.11	30.77	20.59	9.21	3.85	7.84	2.63	3.85	2.94
MNK	12.50	2.08	9.90	15.28	20.83	16.67	20.14	20.83	20.31	19.44	2.08	15.10	16.67	35.42	21.35	11.81	10.42	11.46	4.17	8.33	5.21
ENB	14.81	3.13	11.50	14.81	15.63	15.04	20.99	18.75	20.35	18.52	0.00	13.27	9.88	50.00	21.24	13.58	9.38	12.39	7.41	3.13	6.19
OMD	13.51	4.55	10.17	13.51	27.27	18.64	24.32	36.36	28.81	16.22	0.00	10.17	18.92	22.73	20.34	10.81	4.55	8.47	2.70	4.55	3.39
HBP	30.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	40.00	26.67	10.00	0.00	6.67	10.00	40.00	20.00	10.00	0.00	6.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
BMN	23.53	8.33	19.57	14.71	25.00	17.39	26.47	33.33	28.26	11.76	0.00	8.70	8.82	25.00	13.04	11.76	8.33	10.87	2.94	0.00	2.17
GZL	21.36	2.78	16.55	16.50	16.67	16.55	17.48	25.00	19.42	10.68	5.56	9.35	17.48	36.11	22.30	11.65	8.33	10.79	4.85	5.56	5.04
K-I	16.28	5.26	12.90	10.47	7.89	9.68	17.44	5.26	13.71	19.77	0.00	13.71	19.77	71.05	35.48	10.47	7.89	9.68	5.81	2.63	4.84
K-II	17.05	5.26	12.41	10.23	14.04	11.72	19.32	5.26	13.79	23.86	0.00	14.48	14.77	70.18	36.55	10.23	3.51	7.59	4.55	1.75	3.45
K-III	24.00	3.57	16.67	14.00	10.71	12.82	20.00	10.71	16.67	14.00	3.57	10.26	16.00	67.86	34.62	6.00	0.00	3.85	6.00	3.57	5.13
RURAL	23.13	3.73	18.06	16.52	26.35	19.09	19.02	18.26	18.82	13.80	2.07	10.74	15.71	40.66	22.23	8.30	5.60	7.59	3.52	3.32	3.47
ENB(M)	2.38	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.19	34.78	29.23	21.43	8.70	16.92	23.81	39.13	29.23	14.29	8.70	12.31	11.90	8.70	10.77
OMD(M)	4.55	4.17	4.41	2.27	0.00	1.47	34.09	37.50	35.29	22.73	8.33	17.65	20.45	37.50	26.47	9.09	8.33	8.82	6.82	4.17	5.88
URBAN	3.49	2.13	3.01	1.16	0.00	0.75	30.23	36.17	32.33	22.09	8.51	17.29	22.09	38.30	27.82	11.63	8.51	10.53	9.30	6.38	8.27
MALDA	21.96	3.59	17.05	15.61	24.01	17.86	19.68	19.85	19.73	14.30	2.65	11.18	16.09	40.45	22.61	8.49	5.86	7.79	3.87	3.59	3.79

Data Source: Based on Primary Field Survey, 2010

The marginal worker in the district among Muslims is 10.14% of total workers comprising of 7.94% of male, 12.47% of female workers. The share of marginal workers in rural areas is 10.26% and in urban areas is 8.28%. The distribution of the marginal worker in the rural areas of the district show that there are four blocks, which have a comparatively high (above 11.04%) level of marginal workers. The highest and lowest share of marginal workers is found in two blocks in each level.

Employment Rate

The WPR is around 35% in the total population among Muslims employed in the district. Furthermore, the employed people were divided into five different categories and analyzed on the basis of economic activities pursued and the nature of work. These categories are farmer, labourers which were further divided into subcategories of agricultural labourers, non-agricultural labourers, business, home-based workers, regular salaried job, which has been further divided into two sub categories, that is, government job and private job and other workers. All these categories of workers have been studied in the following sections one by one. The district of Malda is primarily rural in character, so agriculture is the main source of the earning of the people in the district. The survey reveals that 17.05% workers were engaged in farming, 17.86% are agricultural

labourers, 19.73% are non-agricultural labourers, 11.18 are in business, 22.61% are in the household working categories, 11.58% in the regular salaried jobs within that 7.79% in government job and 3.79% are in private services. Detailed notes, on the distribution of workers in the district, are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

Farmer/Cultivation

Cultivator is a person who (he or she) is engaged in cultivation of land owned. The survey data has revealed that 17.05% of the main workers are engaged in farming, consisting of 21.96% male, and 3.59% female workers. In rural areas, this percentage is 18.06 and in urban areas it is only 3.01. The distributional pattern of a farmer in the rural areas shows that there is a comparatively high share (above 20.83%) in the four blocks. The medium category of the farmers was found in the six blocks. A comparatively low (below 14.90%) level of farmers is found in the five blocks.

Labours

The second important group of workers, wage-paid employment, is those labourers whose usual occupation is labour; for the convenience of the study they are further bifurcated into agricultural labourers and non-agricultural labourers, depending on whether they are employed in the agricultural sector or the non-agricultural sector of work.

Agricultural Labours

Table 2 shows that there are 17.86% of the total workers as agricultural labours in the district consisting of 16.52% male and 26.35% female labourers. In rural areas this percentage is 19.09 and in urban areas 0.75, respectively. The distribution of agricultural labours in the blocks shows that there are three blocks where the agricultural labours are high (above 21.27%). There are eight blocks that show a medium (16.35–22.35%) level of the agricultural workers. The comparatively low agricultural labours are found in the rest of the blocks. Consequently, only 22.58% of the working population in Kaliachak-I is absorbed by agricultural activities directly, compared to 53.46% in Harischandrapur-I, 51.97% in Harischandrapur-II and 45% in the Bamongola block.

Non-Agricultural Labours

Among the Muslims this category accounts for 19.78% of the total workers, comprising 19.02% male and 18.26% female workers. In rural areas non-agricultural labour is 18.82 and 32.33% in urban areas. The rural non-agricultural labours distributional pattern shows that only three blocks show a high (above 22.41%) level of non-agricultural labour. The low category (below 17.53%) lies in the five blocks out of which two blocks are Harischandrapur-I (13.71) and Chanchal-II (16.67) and three blocks are of Kaliachak region. Maximum number of blocks falls in the medium category (17.53–22.41%).

Business

In this category, all types of shopkeepers who have their own or rented shops are included. The total percentage of Muslims engaged in this category of work is 11.18% in Malda district, comprising 14.30% male, and 2.65% female. The rural area shows 6.54 percentage points lower than that of the urban area (17.29) in this category of workers. The block wise distribution of rural workers who engaged themselves in business ranges from 5.92 to 15.10%. The comparatively high (above 11.82 per cent) level of business people is found in four blocks. Half of the blocks are lying under the medium slab of workers doing business. Rest of the four blocks constitute a low (below 8.93%) category.

Household-Based Worker

People who operated non-farm enterprises or were engaged independently in a profession or trade on own-account or with one or a few partners were deemed to be self-employed in household enterprises. The percentage of distribution of household-based workers by 22.23% in rural areas and 27.82% in the urban areas giving an average of 22.61% total for Muslims workers of the Malda district. The block wise distribution of the home-based workers show that the comparatively low (below 18.67%) level found in the four blocks. While comparatively high level (above 25.96%) of home-based worker have been noticed in three blocks namely Kaliachak-II (36.55), followed by Kaliachak-I (35.48) and Kaliachak-III (34.62). There are eight blocks in the medium category ranging between 18.67 and 25.96%.

Regular Salaried Workers

People working in other enterprises and getting salary or wages in return on a regular basis (and not on the basis of daily or periodic renewal of work contract) are the 'regular salaries/wage employees'. Data show that there are 11.58% of people engaged in a regular salaried service, within that 7.79% are in government sector (public) and 3.79% are in non-governmental (private) regular salaried job. In rural areas 11.06% of total workers and 11.82% of male and 8.92% of female workers are engaged in a regular job while in the case of the urban areas the share is 18.80% of total workers 20.93 and 14.89% of male and female workers, respectively. Thus, obviously rural areas have 7.74% lower share in regular salaried jobs.

Government Regular-salaried Workers

The block wise distribution of rural governmental regular salaried workers shows that there are five blocks where the average is high (above 9.12%). Here, it may be noted that except Kaliachak-I, rest of the blocks of high governmental job category shared moderate or low proportion of Muslim population. The medium grade of the governmental workers is in found in five blocks of the district. The low (below 6.08%) level of the governmental workers is in the blocks of the Chanchal-I (5.46), Harischandrapur-I (4.95), Kaliachak-III (3.85), Ratua-I (3.82) and Harischandrapur-II (2.63). Though, block Chanchal-I have the highest literacy rate in the

district, Muslims are thinly concentrated in government jobs. This leads to conclude that the state has failed to generate employment for communities living in this area in general and for Muslims in particular. Based on this information, it would be proper to conceive to some extent that instead of a secular image of the previous ruling Left party, they were not able to provide adequate attention to ameliorate the most backward community in the last 34 years. Among the blocks with very high (more than 70 per cent) concentration of Muslim population, literacy and educational level of Muslims is highest in Kaliachak-I and Chanchal-I, but the former have a high level and latter have a low level of governmental regular salaried workers within the community. It may be due to the educational level because government service largely depends upon the educational level.

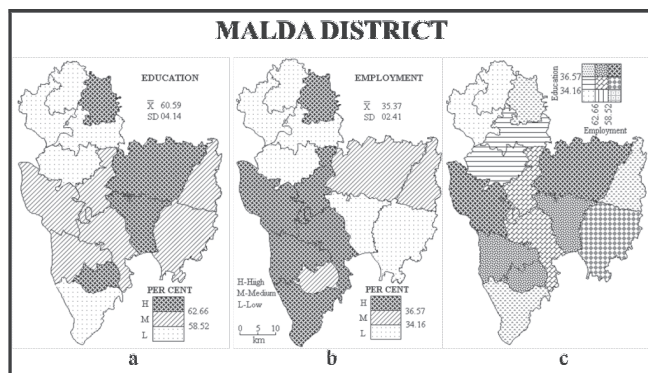


Figure :2

Private Regular Salaried Workers

The regular salaried workers in the private sector is also important nowadays in urban as well as in rural areas, because poverty pushes rural Muslims to move towards the cities for their livelihood. On an average, 3.79% of the total workers are engaged in the private sector regular salaried jobs comprising of 3.87% of male, 3.59 % of female and 3.47% of rural workers, out of which 8.27% are urban workers. The block wise distribution of private workers in rural areas of the district shows that out of 15 blocks there are five blocks, which shows a low (below 2.28%) level of regular salaried workers in the private sector. A high level (above 4.21%) of this type of workers is found in three identified regions. Medium level (2.28–4.21%) of workers in private sector jobs is found in three blocks.

Correlation between Education and Employment

This part of the paper deals with the causal relationship between educational level and employment status among Muslims in Malda district. For this purpose 10 different variable of each, that is, education and employment have been examined for the population of each of the 80 Muslim sample villages of the district. To examine the level of significance of their correlation, t-test techniques have been applied to find out the determinants, which are significant at 1 and 5% level (Table 4). A better understanding of the nature of the relationship between Muslims education and employment is provided by the data given in Table 3. Data clearly show the close association between nature of the job and level of education of the sampled population. It is evident from the table that the variable literacy rate is positively correlated with government service ($r=0.318$) while it is negatively correlated with agricultural labourer ($r=-.319$) which is significant at the 5% level. It may be argued from the analysis that as the literacy rate increases, the share in government services increases and the share of the agricultural labourer will decrease among the Muslims.

The variable below the primary educational level is positively correlated with the farmer ($r=0.272$) at 5% level significance, while it is negatively correlated with the work participation rate ($r=-0.281$) and household based workers ($r=-0.293$) at 5% level of significance. It may be ascertained from their relationship that an increase of below primary educational level will provide Muslims only with increased farmers. This analysis clearly proves the inverse association between below primary educational level with low work participation rate and household-based workers.

Table 4: Coefficient of correlation (r) between the variables of education and employment, Malda District (2010)

Variables	WPR	Main	Marginal	Farmer	Agri. Lab	NAL	Business	HHBW	Govt.	Pvt.
Literacy rate	0.206	0.270	-0.044	-0.120	-0.319*	-0.077	0.243	0.036	0.318*	0.104
BP	-0.281*	-0.202	-0.196	0.272*	-0.057	0.198	0.156	-0.293*	-0.175	0.011
Primary	-0.050	-0.035	-0.035	0.326*	0.543**	0.049	-0.527**	-0.036	-0.300*	-0.444**
Middle	0.008	0.103	-0.144	0.014	0.075	-0.274*	-0.054	0.083	0.036	0.146
High school	0.374**	0.201	0.365**	-0.308*	-0.270	-0.011	0.038	0.244	0.209	0.138
Intermediate	0.076	0.091	-0.001	-0.282*	-0.540**	0.103	0.581**	-0.079	0.183	0.448**
Graduation	-0.236	-0.215	-0.093	-0.380**	-0.302*	-0.110	0.343*	0.161	0.341*	0.090
PG	0.003	0.001	0.002	-0.087	0.005	-0.189	0.181	-0.061	0.179	0.137
Professional	0.080	-0.036	0.199	-0.117	-0.099	-0.063	0.230	-0.215	0.375**	0.233
Religious	0.039	-0.071	0.178	0.232	0.199	-0.046	-0.160	-0.156	-0.068	0.014

Note: *Significant at 5 per cent level **Correlation is significant at 1 per cent level.

WPR: Work participation rate, Agri. Lab: Agricultural labours N.A.L: Non-agricultural labours, HHBW- Household-based workers
Data Source: Computed by researcher based on primary survey, 2010.

The primary education level positively correlates with the farmer ($r=0.326$) at 5% level of significance and agricultural labour ($r=0.543$) at 1% level of significance. It is negatively correlated with government service ($r=-0.300$) at 5% level of significance, business ($r=-0.543$) and private service ($r=-0.444$) at 1% level of significance. However, its negative correlation is observed with work participation rate, main-marginal workers and all non-agricultural occupational groups and positive correlation with agriculture and labour class without any significant level. It reveals the fact that by decreasing the share in primary educational level of Muslims, they can achieve a higher work participation rate as well as non-agricultural occupations. It is obvious that the attainment of primary education is not an indicator of government and private sector services. Thus, in the primary educational level there are more chances of labour class. The middle school level negatively correlates with non-agricultural labour (-0.274) at 5% level of significance.

The educational level up to high school is positively correlated with WPR ($r=0.374$) and marginal workers ($r=0.365$) with 1% level of significance but negatively correlated with the farmer ($r=-0.308$) at 5% level of significance. It is again negatively associated with both labour classes without any level of significance. However, the relationship between high school educational level with all other variables of employment is not significant but the direction shows that the educational level of high school is helpful for higher rate of work participation

or at least one can get marginal work, so there are few chances of unemployment and negative relation with the farmer with agricultural occupation. The intermediate level of education is negatively correlated with the farmer ($r=-0.282$) at 5% level of significance and agricultural labour ($r=-0.540$) at 1 level of significance. It is positively correlated with business ($r=0.581$) and private sector service ($r=0.448$) and both are significant at 1% level.

The variable of higher education, that is, graduation is positively related with business ($r=0.343$) and private sector ($r=0.341$) with a significance level of 1%. It negatively correlates with farmer ($r=-0.380$) at a significance level of 5% and negative correlation with agricultural labourers ($r=-0.320$) significant at a level of 1%. It may suggest that by achieving higher education Muslims can get occupation like government services and business. While the lower share of graduate people among Muslims, bound them to work in agricultural sector like agricultural labourer and farmer. The post graduate level of education is not correlated significantly with any of the employment variables but the direction of relationships shows that by increasing education up to this level it leads to higher workers with higher share of business and regular salaried jobs and lower proportion of farmer, non-agricultural labourer and household-based work.

The professional level of education is not significantly correlated with other employment variables except government services, where it positively correlates

($r=0.375$) at 1% level of significance. It is evident from the analysis that the professional educational degree is associated with a higher level of government services to a greater extent among Muslims. Similarly, employment variables do not significantly correlate with the variable religious education level. Here, the present analysis of the correlation table shows that low high school educational level positively correlates with WPR. Higher educational level, that is, graduation and professional degree is also positively correlated with governmental services, whereas agricultural labourers are negatively correlated with the literacy rate. The table depicted the facts that higher educational level would lead to good employment status. However, among Muslims the educational level is low thus very few have better employment status. Most of the Muslims are employed in the agricultural sector and are adding to the labour class. The table clearly proves the fact that low level of literacy with lower level of education of Muslims being the reason why they are deprived from the job market and bound to live in misery.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion we can conclude that Muslims in India as well as in its various states are socio-economically backward and at the same time deprived from the opportunities of better life chances. This general trend persists in the research area in Malda district of West Bengal. After analyzing our data, which is collected from the 15 blocks of the district, we found Muslims are backward in the district in various socio-economic indicators. More specifically, we analyze their condition in educational attainment and employment level by using mean, standard deviation and we found that Muslims are backward not only in those blocks where their presence is low but also in those areas with high population concentration. As we move from the lower concentration area of Muslim population towards the higher concentration area, the literacy and educational attainment decreases sharply. Here, there is room for more empirical research, which requires in depth qualitative research or participatory research. To make the result more sensible, we analyze the correlation between educational attainment and employment and the result suggests that there is a significant correlation between the education and the employment level. Analyzed data

prove that a low level of literacy positively correlates with the employment level. It is seen that the presence of Muslims in primary education is larger and hence they are largely engaged in agricultural activities or work as labourer. This study finally proves that the effect of the backwardness of the Muslim community in the field of modern education was felt most evidently in the sphere of employment. There are positive capabilities prevailing in the communities to participate in government jobs if they are provided with adequate facilities and are able to exploit the available resources in the areas.

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