

Access to Higher Education: a study from Purba Medinipur District in West Bengal.

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ABSTRACT

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Women education plays a dominant role as an effective instrument for large scale achievement and revolution in all spheres. Purposeful education enables the individual to understand and study the real life situation and to develop and opportunity for creating confidence in the minds of their generation and provide a strong there for rational and value and nation building progress. During the period 2006-2015 women education has been increased in a college named Y.S. Palpara Mahavidyalaya in purba medinipur district under Vidyasagar University

Key words: *Higher education, Gender gap & Moving Average.*

Introduction - In the development of any country elementary education helps to create the foundation while higher education helps to make human intelligence, which create, skilled human. Now in 21st century higher education is recognized as a powerful instrument of social and economic development of society. Society development depends on women's higher education also. Because women are the backbone of society, they are the mother of the race, and guardian of future generation and half of the human population. So their education is very much necessary.

The present paper attempts to analyze participation of women in higher education in Purba Medinipur as well as in West Bengal. The basis of finding to recommend some suitable suggestions to reduce the gender gap of higher education. Specifically, the objectives of the present paper are as follows:

- i) To highlight year wise women enrolment in respect of total enrolment in higher education in college.
- ii) To review year wise, gender comparison of various faculties in higher education.
- iii) To identify the social status of women enrolment in higher education.
- iv) Women's access to higher education as compared to men.
- v) To provide some suitable suggestions on the basis of the findings.

Methodology: - In this study quantitative methods are followed and secondary data has been collected. The study is related to one co-education degree college of West Bengal. The college named V. S. Palpara Mahavidyalaya is located in rural area of district of Purba Medinipur in West Bengal. The secondary data is analyzed in terms of percentage, average and statistical moving average.

Analysis and Findings: - The period covered for the study is 2006 - 07 to 2015 - 16. In this study the enrolment statistics is used to indicate trends and shifts. Table no - 1 show that 2006 - 07 of when the percentage of women was 27.92 percent, it raised to 49.07 percent in 2015 - 16 in respect of total enrolment.

Table no. 1: Year wise student enrolment in higher education.

2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
72.08	27.92	71.18	28.82	65.80	34.20	61	39	58.10	41.90	59.44	40.56	56.80	43.20	57.70	42.30	50.93	49.07	50.93	49.07

Table No - 2 shows that, in case of the faculty of arts 2006 – 07, male students enrolment is higher than female students enrolment. In the session 2015-16 female students enrolment is higher than male student enrolment. In case of the faculty of science the session 2006 - 07 male student enrolment is higher than female student enrolment. The session 2015 - 16 women enrolment has been increasing. And it is very surprising that in care of science faculty women enrolment to become male-female difference less position.

Table No 2: Percentage of male and female students in different faculties of a college during period 2006 to 2015.

Year	Arts		Science	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2006-07	65.68	34.32	90.68	9.32
2007-08	67.30	32.70	82.37	17.63
2008-09	62.24	37.76	79.80	20.20
2009-10	56.43	43.57	81.75	18.25
2010-11	54.78	45.22	78.14	21.86
2011-12	55.70	44.30	80.62	19.38
2012-13	52.75	47.25	78.78	21.22
2013-14	52.85	47.15	80.46	19.54
2014-15	44.21	55.79	75.69	24.31
2015-16	44.21	55.79	75.69	24.31

Table No - 3 shows that, there are two simultaneous trends of clustering in the participation of men and women in higher education. We can observe that during the 3 - years moving average while women trends highly increase during the session 2006 - 08 were 30.31 percent to 46.81 percent in 2013 - 15. The same period of male has decreased gradually from 69.69 percent to 53.93 percent.

Table No. 3: Moving Average

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>3 Year moving Average</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>3 Year moving Average</i>
2006-07	72.08		27.92	
2007-08	71.18	69.69	28.82	30.31
2008-09	65.80	65.99	34.20	34
2009-10	61	61.63	39	38.37
2010-11	58.10	59.51	41.90	40.49
2011-12	59.44	58.11	40.56	41.89
2012-13	56.80	57.98	43.20	42.02
2013-14	57.70	55.14	42.30	44.86
2014-15	50.93	53.19	49.07	46.81
2015-16	50.93		49.07	

From Table no - 4 it is seen that in 2011 - 12 the proportions of SC / ST / OBC / PH / Minorities were as follows female 5.37, 0.04, 1.56, 0.17 and 0.30 percent.

The representation of SC/ST/OBC/PH/Minorities students is not adequate and the proportion of female is negligible, In 2015 - 16 - were as follows - female 4.05, 0.18, 2.28, 0.09 and 1.00 percent.

Table No. 4: Social Groups

	Gen		SC		ST		OBC		PH		Minorities	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2010- 11	80.22		14.33		0.41		0.37		3.89		0.78	
2011-12	44.70	33.12	10.18	5.37	0.42	0.04	3.30	1.56	0.30	0.17	0.55	0.30
2012 -13	43.36	34.80	9.14	6.54	0.33	0.12	2.61	0.95	0.29	0.17	1.08	0.62
2013 -14	44.47	35.58	8.13	4.38	0.32	0.05	3.30	1.40	0.36	0.23	1.13	0.68

2014 -15	86.06		11.34		0.50		NA		NA		2.10	
2015 -16	40.27	41.37	6.56	4.05	0.36	0.18	2.69	2.28	0.09	0.09	0.87	1.00

(In the session of 2014-15, the data of OBC & PH category is not available)

From Table no - 5 It is evident that, the analysis of faculty into two periods, namely, 2006 - 11 and 2011 - 16. The female enrolment in both arts and science lower than male student enrolment during period of 2011 - 16 the female enrolment in arts higher than male student enrolment. But same periods of female enrolment are science in decreasing trend then the previous session.

Table No 5: Faculty in Two Periods

Year	Arts		Science	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2006-11	61.28	38.72	82.54	17.46
2011-16	49.94	50.06	78.25	21.75

The Situation of social groups is analyzed with the help of table no. 6. In case of SC / ST / OBC / PH / Minorities enrolment has been decreasing trend in the session 2010 - 11 in comprise to the session 2015 - 16. This trend is not continuing in different social group e.g. general cast. It is in increasing trend in the same period.

Table No 6: Social Groups

Year	Gen	SC	ST	OBC	PH	Minorities
2010-11	80.22	14.33	0.41	0.37	3.89	0.78
2011-12	77.82	15.55	0.46	4.85	0.47	0.85
2012 -13	78.16	15.68	0.45	3.56	0.46	.70
2013 -14	80.05	12.51	0.37	4.70	0.59	1.81
2014 -15	86.06	11.34	0.50	N.A.	N.A.	2.10

2015 -16	8164	10.61	0.54	4.97	0.18	1.87
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Conclusion: In recent years, gender issues are getting more attention. Gender gap in enrolment is reduced in the specified college of Purba Medinipur district in West Bengal.

There has been expansion and the number of students has increased. It is very noticeable that general, women seen to have been the beneficiaries on this expansion, but for the whole West Bengal, it is difficult to come to this conclusion without separate gender based enrolment data for each and very discipline and academic programmed separately.

Our government takes various plans and policies e.g. “Kannyashree” (2014) to reduce to gender gap at the level of higher education also Such as plan. Plan or policy implementation is very much necessary for understanding of the any system.

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