



Intra-District Disparity in the Development of Educational Institutions in Nadia, West Bengal

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Abstract

Development of a region has a multifaceted approach. It includes economic growth, infrastructure and social development. Education is considered as an indicator of social development. Naturally availability of existing educational institutions on block level plays an important role in delineating the balanced or imbalanced scenario of the district. The relevant data in respect of distribution of educational institutions of the Nadia district have been analyzed and mapped. This has brought out the diversity as surplus- deficit which is not fruitful towards planning for development.

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Introduction

Development of a region, country or a district has various facets. Broadly speaking development constitutes the elements like economic growth, infrastructure and social development. The status of education is an integral part of social development. Education is an important avenue which provides a wide range of opportunities for all round development. Recognizing the value of education, our central government has always tried to reconstruct the educational system for betterment of the masses. Deep attention was paid to education as a factor vital to national progress and security. For the harmonious development of the society, education is imparted in different levels through various institutions. In West Bengal the general educational structure is divided into five stages, viz. primary school (class I - IV), middle school (class V - VIII), high school (class IX - X), higher secondary school (XI - XII), college (3 years in B.A/ B.Sc. / B.Com.) and university (2 years in M.A/ M.Sc. / M. Com.). The qualitative outcome of each and every stage based on availability of spatial distribution of

educational institution. These reasons induced the author to conduct the present study on a district level. The study is designed to recognize the variation in the distribution of educational institution in 17 blocks of the Nadia district.

Objectives

The major objectives are as follows:

1. To analyze the block-wise disparity in the distribution of educational institutions.
2. To locate the gap where there is surplus or deficit of educational institutions.

Study Area

The Nadia District is situated in the heart of the Bengal delta held within the arms of the river Ganga, namely the Bhagirathi river on the West and river Mathabhanga on the north. Geographically, the study area lies between 22°53' to 24°11' N latitude and 88°09' to 88°48' E longitude. It covers an area of 3927 sq. km and contains 5,168,488 populations with an average density of

1316/sq.km. The district comprises 17 development blocks viz., Kaliganj, Nakashipara, Chapra, Krishnanagar-I, Krishnanagar-II, Nabadwip, Krishnaganj, Chakdaha, Haringhata, Hanskhali, Shantipur, Ranaghat-I, Ranaghat-II, Karimpur-I, Karimpur-II, Tehatta-I and Tehatta-II (Fig. 1). There are 19 Police Stations, 8 Municipalities, 187 Gram Panchayats and 2639 villages in this district. Krishnanagar is the district headquarters. The entire area lies on the alluvial plains of the river Ganga and its tributaries.

Methodology

The present study was conducted based on secondary data collected from the district statistical handbook of Nadia district 2012 and Census of India 2011. As it concerns rural areas, figures for municipality (M) have not been taken into consideration.

Firstly, the block-wise data of total no. of educational institutions i.e., primary school, middle school, high school, higher secondary school and college or university in the 17 blocks of the district Nadia have been collected, tabulated and manipulated to get individual scores (Table -1). Based on the scores of educational institutions with respect to the populations the residual values (Y_c) have been calculated and tabulated (Table - 2). Finally, isopleth maps of residuals have been prepared to show the spatial pattern of intra-district diversity.

Results and Discussion

The district of Nadia shows significant diversity in educational institutions among its 17 blocks. Only 6 of these have surplus educational institutions in respect to total populations while the remaining 11 are quite deficient (Table - 3). The isopleth map (Fig. 2) reveals a lot of information. It is true that higher the residual, the lesser is the relationship between the two variables and vice versa (Ghosh, 2010).

Altogether, there are five zones identified as spatial variance based on four isopleths viz. -12, -6, +6 and +12. The region between - 6 to + 6 exhibits maximum correspondence between the variables. It

also determines the number of educational institutions situated in this region with respect to population. This relationship is found in the northern, north-western, few portions of central and southern most portions of the district including the blocks of Karimpur-I, Karimpur-II, maximum portion of Krishnanagar-II, Ranaghat-II, Haringhata, Tehatta-I, Chapra and Kaliganj blocks.

The surplus regions ($> +6$) lie in some portions of the central and southern parts of the district comprising the blocks of Krishnanagar-I, Nabadwip, Krishnaganj, Hanskhali and Chakdaha. These blocks have adequate number of educational institutions. On the contrary, the deficient regions cover mainly the mid western pocket of the district comprising the major portions of the blocks of Nakashipara and Santipur. These two blocks suffer from lack of educational institutions and need immediate attention in the form of setting up adequate education centers.

Conclusion

The study delineates the disparity in the distribution of the educational institutions in the district of Nadia. This so called disparity or surplus-deficiency causes serious development gap. To alleviate such situation, few new and high-quality schools and colleges need to be established, especially in the blocks of Nakashipara, Santipur, Tehatta-II and Ranaghat-I. Besides that, population all over the district is increasing day by day. Hence parallel proper policy and planning is required to mitigate such intra-district disparity.

References

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Table – 1: Score of Total Educational Institutions of Nadia District

CD Block	Primary School Score	Middle School Score	High School Score	H. S. School Score	College Score	Total Score
Karimpur-I	96	7	5	9	1	118
Karimpur-II	112	9	5	13	-	139
Tehatta-I	132	8	3	17	1	161
Tehatta-II	83	3	2	8	-	96
Kaliganj	175	13	8	17	1	214
Nakashipara	184	12	12	22	1	231
Chapra	155	19	6	18	1	199
Krishnaganj	95	7	5	10	1	118
Krishnanagar-I	177	14	5	15	1	212
Krishnanagar-II	76	10	2	8	-	96
Nabadwip	89	6	2	4	-	101
Santipur	117	9	6	8	-	140
Hanskhali	166	14	8	23	1	212
Ranaghat-I	122	6	8	10	-	146
Ranaghat-II	187	16	12	19	1	235
Chakdaha	223	12	11	29	-	275
Haringhata	120	11	8	10	1	150

Source: Computed by the author

Table – 2: Residuals of the Total Institutions, Nadia

CD Block	Total Population (X)	Total Score (Y)	$Y_c = a + bx$	Residuals (Y - Y_c)
Karimpur-I	183556	118	123.3492	-5.34925
Karimpur-II	217136	139	143.9503	-4.95031
Tehatta-I	244322	161	160.6287	0.371297
Tehatta-II	151231	96	103.5181	-7.51812
Kaliganj	334881	214	216.1859	-2.18593
Nakashipara	386569	231	247.8961	-16.8961
Chapra	310652	199	201.3216	-2.32263
Krishnaganj	146705	118	100.7415	17.25855
Krishnanagar-I	314833	212	203.8866	8.113362
Krishnanagar-II	139472	96	96.30407	-0.30407
Nabadwip	135314	101	93.75317	7.246833
Santipur	241080	140	158.6398	-18.6398
Hanskhali	293040	212	190.5168	21.48319
Ranaghat-I	232282	146	153.2423	-7.24226
Ranaghat-II	368681	235	236.922	-1.92195
Chakdaha	405719	275	259.6445	15.35553
Haringhata	231068	150	152.4975	-2.49748

Source: Computed by the author

Table – 3: Surplus and Deficient Blocks of Nadia

Score	Surplus Blocks	Deficient Blocks
High (> 12)	Krishnaganj, Hanskhali, Chakdaha	Nakashipara, Santipur
Moderate (6 – 12)	Krishnagar - I, Nabadwip	Tehatta - II, Ranaghat - I
Low (< 6)	Tehatta - I,	Karimpur - I, Karimpur - II, Kaliganj, Chapra, Krishnagar - II, Ranaghat - II, Haringhata
Total No. of Blocks	6	11

Source: Computed by the author



Fig. 1: Nadia District, West Bengal



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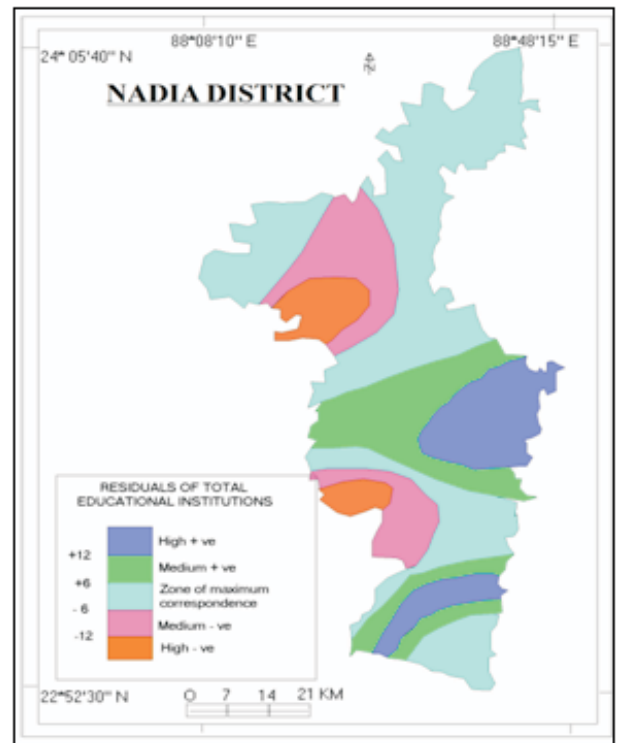


Fig. 2: Residual Map of Nadia District, West Bengal