

Social and Economic Condition of Vulnerable People of Malda District in the Perspective of Global Scenario

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ABSTRACT

Purpose – Purpose of our paper is to highlight economic bondage and educational weakness (weak consciousness) of rural poor, vulnerable and urban slum people of Malda District. Our field study investigates the class of people on these aforementioned contexts. Malda District's educational rank is in nineteenth position among the districts of West Bengal having population of 39,88,845. Population of rural and urban area of the district is 34,47,185 and 5,41,660 respectively. Unless we consider marginal people's rights, desires, socio economic and educational conditions, inclusive growth of India could never be materialized. Never would it be possible to make India as a successful democratic country.

Design/methodology/approach –It is a micro study based on stratified sampling method applied upon above mentioned people randomly. Descriptive statistical tools have been used for the purpose of data analysis.

Findings – To search the economic and educational status of oppressed and poor people and its effect on growth process of Malda District.

Research limitations/implications –Research is based on limited geographic & cultural location. Our study may not be generalized. Lack of understanding of respondent hampered data analysis. The output of our field study in future will help every section of our country as the study is based on in-depth analysis.

Practical implications –The research findings will help to complete inclusive growth process in India.

Originality/value– Original field work, based on primary data.

Keywords: -Rural people, urban slum people, weak education, daily income and democratic people.

Paper type: - Field study-based article

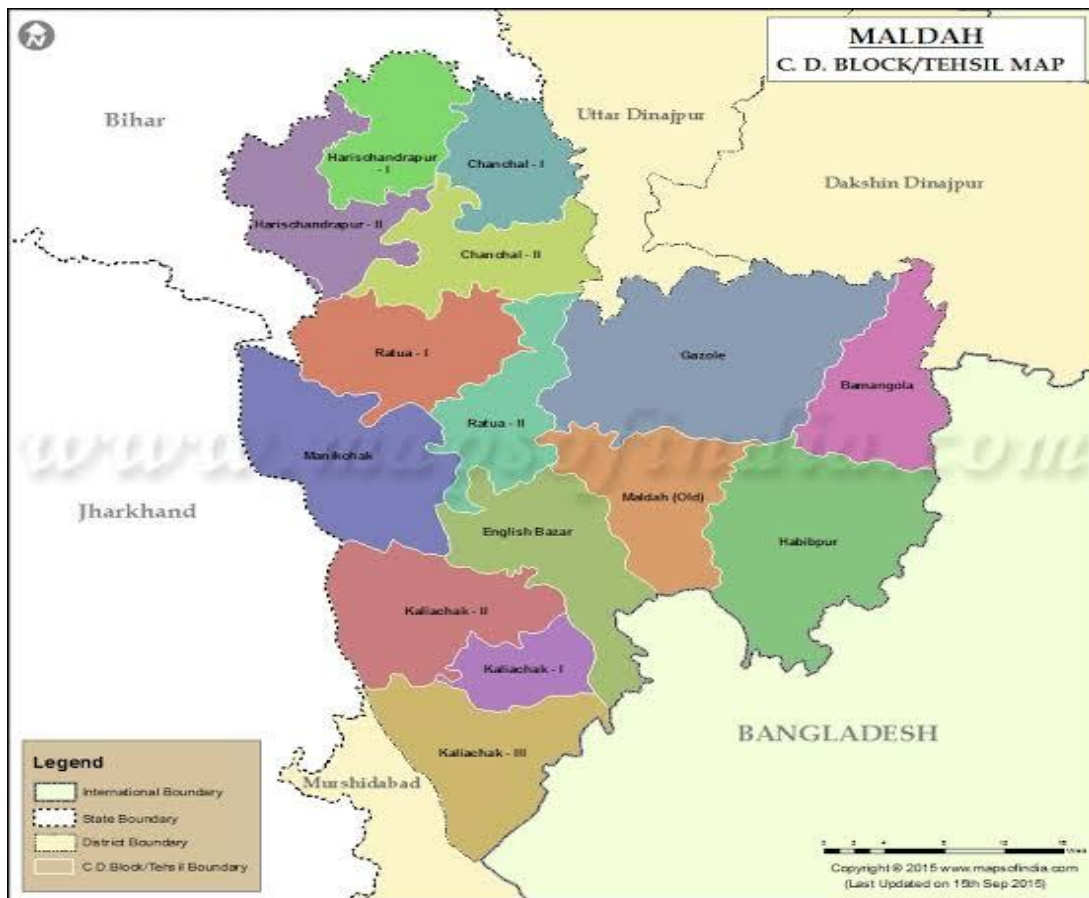
INTRODUCTION

According to the latest Economic Survey (2015), Real Gross National Income grew at the average annual rates of 7.8 per cent, 7.6 per cent, and 5.6 % during the Eleventh (2007-12), Tenth (2002-07) and Ninth (1997-2002) Five Year Plans, respectively. These growth rates are quite remarkable both by international standards and compared to India's own past. President Pranab Mukherjee, while addressing both houses of Recent report by the World Bank has projected India as the world's fastest growing economy. Parliament at the start of the budget session (2015) described "Inclusive growth covering the poorest of poor" as the government's top priority. But in this present situation almost everyone's realization is that there is big gap between the pace and pattern of growth in India. The country's progress on various fronts has not been translated into overall improvement in life of poor and marginalized sections of society. India's success as a largest democratic state can never go ahead unless actual equality within all section of people achieved properly. The 11th Five Year Plan focuses on the idea of- "equality of life and equality of opportunity to all". "12th Five Year Plan document highlighted this agenda more emphatically with specific focus on reducing poverty, improving health and education facilities and livelihood opportunities". India's 135th rank on UNDP's Human development Index substantiates this fact that India is still far away from overall growth (inclusive growth). According to Suryanarayana and Das "inclusiveness of the poorest in the Indian mainstream growth process is still a forlorn hope".

Inclusive Growth is a key development project to combat with rising inequalities in different respect of social, economic, education and other aspects of life where all sections of people can walk with growth process. The term Inclusive Growth demands an environment where all sections of society can breathe fully, i.e., all have equal share in growth process. One can explain Inclusive growth as "the process and the outcome where all groups of people have participated in the organization of growth and have been benefited equitably from it" which can be achieved by "focusing on expanding the regional scope of economic growth, expanding access to assets and thriving markets and expanding equity in the opportunities for the next generation of Indian citizens no matter whom they are or where they live". Thus "Inclusive growth should result in lower incidence of poverty, broad based and significant improvement in

health outcomes, universal access for children to school, increased access to higher education and improved standards of education, including skill development”.

The aim and objective of our paper is to investigate the impact of this growth on the lives of the poor and other disadvantaged sections of the society in Malda District. Each and every state of India and each and all districts of a state are the basic units of a Nation like India. Unless we observe or locate all the dark (weak) portions of highest ranked (in GDP) India, real success (inclusive growth) of largest democracy could never be achieved. – Purpose of our paper is to highlight economic bondage and educational weakness (weak consciousness) of rural poor, vulnerable and urban slum people of Malda District. Our field study investigates the class of people on these aforementioned contexts (updated inclusive growth) One of the objectives of the article is to co relate between social exclusion and inclusive growth, as our survey’ typically measured over individuals of Malda District. To reach to the goal we firstly made a field study on the 220 respondents of rural vulnerable and urban slum people. Out of 220 total respondent 74 are urban resident of different word of municipal (m) area. Average family members are 4.82159. Whereas in m areas the number is 4.3 and in rural areas the number is 4.9. We studied their economic and educational conditions, their health facilities and their values and out looks towards them and their society. It is a micro study based on stratified sampling method applied upon above mentioned people randomly. Descriptive statistical tools have been used for the purpose of data analysis. Malda is a district covering area of 3733 sq. km. with Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur at North, Murshidabad at South, Bangladesh at east, and Jharkhand and Bihar at West. It shares 165.5 km international border with Bangladesh. An official Census 2011 detail of Malda (Malda district), a district of West Bengal has been released by Directorate of Census Operations in West Bengal. In 2011, Maldah had population of 3,988,845 of which male and female were 2,051,541 and 1,937,304 respectively. In 2001 census, Maldah had a population of 3,290,468 of which males were 1,689,406 and remaining 1,601,062 were females. Between introductory and concluding parts, we divided our analysis into three parts. First part is economic analysis; second part is educational analysis and third part provides respondent’s value related some description and analysis.



<https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/westbengal/tehsil/dakshin-dinajpur.html>

Section 1

Section- 1 covers a wide range of economic criteria of respondents. Such as their daily expense (table 1), daily savings (table-2), own house (3), buy cloths (4)

Table 1: Daily Expense of respondent

Total	No. of people	Rural (R)	Municipality (M)	Average
100	48	28	20	187.42
150	34	25	09	
200	45	18	27	
250	23	19	04	
300	28	22	06	
350	04	3	1	

Table no 1. Shows the fact that 48 (forty-eight) persons have expenditure of rupees 100(hundred); 38 (thirty-eight) persons have expenditure of Rs. 34 (Thirty-four); 45 persons have Rs. 200; Rs.250 of 23 persons; Rs.300 of 28 persons; Rs.350 of 04 persons. While lowest expenditure is Rs. 100, highest expenditure is Rs. 200, out of which rural residents are 18 and municipality residents are 27 which proves the fact that expenditure of municipality are higher than rural people. When Rs. 300 is real expense, out of 28, 22 are in rural and only 6 are in municipality area. Average expenditure is Rs. 187.42.

Table 2: Daily Savings

No. of n savings	Average of daily savings
119/220	65.57

Table No 2 shows that out of 220 number of people in total 119 have no daily savings. Average daily saving of respondents is 65.57 only.

Table 3: Have own house position

Total	R	M	Govt. Fallow Land (Khas)	No House	R	M
195/220	132	63	27	25/220	14	08

Result of table no 3 shows that most of respondents have their own house. The number of R is132 while in M it is only 63 (out of 74). All the houses in khas land (27) are situated only in municipal area. The tendency of urban migration may be the cause of it, or it may be the cause of corruption in urban area due to reluctance on the part of urban govt. [In 2050 more than two-thirds of the world’s population — or 6.2 billion people —a re expected to live in urban areas, stressing the coping capacities of cities [UNDP.]

Table 4: Buy Cloths

Buy Cloths (times/year)	Total	R	M
1	91	57	34
2	68	45	23
3	11	08	03
More than 3	28	24	04
Dependent on others	22	12	10

From the table no. 4 it is seen that 91respondent out of 220 by cloth only one time in a year again out of 91 respondent 57 are of rural area 34 of municipal area. Buy cloths 2times in a year 68 person; out of which 45 are in p area; 23in m area. Only 11 persons buy cloths 3times in a year, out of which 8 are in R and 3 are in M area. 28 persons buy cloths

only more than 3 times out of which m residents are only 3 while r residents are 24. Most painful is that 22 /220 have no financial capability to buy cloths (indispensable requisite) such people are there in Malda District (12 in r, 10 in m area).

Table 5: Gets enough Food:

Gets enough Food	R	M	Doesn't get enough Food	R	M
177/220	118	59	40	28	12

In Table no. 5 we want to see how many respondents can't get enough food. Only 177/220 are getting sufficient food out of which 118 is in R, 59 in M area. Persons not getting enough food are 40 out of 220; in which 28 are in rural and 12 are in municipal area. That means 40 persons out of 177 are really poorest within the district.

Table 6: Regular Work (out of 220):

No Regular Job	R	M	Regular Job	R	M	NA	R	M
68	40	28	138	98	40	14	08	06

Our field study proves the fact that many persons (68/220) have no regular job. Out of 68/220,40 in p;40/28 in m area. In case of regular job138 /220 get job regularly. These are p/98 and m/40 area. The number of people who didn't answer the question (NA) are 14. Joblessness is pathetic to anyone. We interpret this NA as joblessness. That means according to us the number of actual numbers of jobless respondent are 68+14 (=82). [About 830 million people in the world are working poor — living on less than \$2 a day — and more than 1.5 billion are in vulnerable employment, usually lacking decent working conditions and adequate voice and social security.] (UNDP2015).

Table 7: Job (out of 220)

Job	Male	Female
Labour (tailer, helper, servant etc.)	147	17
Business	17	01
Service (pvt.)	10	01
Farmer	16	02
No Work	36	00
House Work	04	199

Table No 7 is displaying categories of job reflection of male & female (father + mother), where we find several types of work such as Labor, Business, Service, Farmer, No Work and house work. Most of the works are vulnerable in character. According to UNDP report – “In present world more than 1.5 billion are in vulnerable employment, usually lacking decent working conditions and adequate voice and social security”.

Table 7 shows that fathers are in total 147 who are engaged in above types of work respectively as 17,10,16,36,04. In the same way mothers are also engaged in work as above mentioned way – 17,01,01,02,00,199. More astonishing fact is that while women in 199 cases are housewives in comparison to male (only 04). Most of them are engaged in no pay job. Thus, they are deprived than male and by male also.

The analysis of above eight (8) tables has made it clear that economic condition of most of the people is very low. They may be called poorest of the poor (who has no govt. service). They are completely beyond growth process of India. Again, the process of women empowerment has no fruitful impact on district's RURAL and Urban poor people. Acc.to Human Development Report (UNDP)” women are disadvantaged in the world of work — in both paid and unpaid work. Their work tends to be more vulnerable and they are underrepresented in senior management and decision-making positions. In terms of unpaid work, they bear a disproportionate share of the housework and care work.” Thus, it proves the fact that the work which does not provide a sense of dignity and pride may never be linked with human development. In other words, low pride and de dignified work damage growth from the point of view of inclusiveness or HDI index.

Section 2

In section 2, we want to analyze educational side of Malda District’s vulnerable people. In this chapter we include four (4) tables in which we want to highlight ignorance of this districts poor people, their educational status and views about education and educational institution.

Table 8: Literacy Grade

Total	Male	R	M	Female	R	M
Illiterate	65	42	23	76	46	30
Primary	73	53	20	78	58	20
High School	62	37	25	49	31	18
Madrasah	00	00	00	01	01	00
Graduate	9	9	0	01	01	00
Not Answered	11			15		

In Table No. 8 we displayed the overall educational qualification of father and mother. The data shown the fact total illiterate number of respondents are 141. In comparison to male illiterate (65) female literacy rate is higher (76). Again, it is seen that number of illiterates is higher in rural (M/42 & F/46) than municipality (M/23 & F/30). Almost same is in the case primary education (M/53 & F/58). Our survey study finds the fact that most of the high school qualified respondent left their education within eighth class. Number of graduate males are only nine whereas in case of female, the number is only one (1). A significant number of male and female are found in category NA (26) which proves their poor literal status. Thus, if we include them within category one (1) then real picture will be very pathetic, that means 141+26= 167.

When respondent is asked about Boys’ and girls’ school e.g., number of schools, distance of school 64 respondent have no idea about school (boys)79 individuals have no idea about girls’ school. (As shown in Table No-9) Not only that they also have no idea about mid-day meal. They are so engaged in their life struggle (every day) that they had no time for anything of this dry (?) society.

Table 9: No idea about

No. of Boys school	No. of Girls School	About the Mid-day Meal
64	79	53

Table 10: Old age Education (out of 220):

No old age education		Old age education	
M	R	M	R
49	132	22	14

In Table No – 10 respondents talked about Old Age Education. In R area number of this type of education centers are 14 and in M area are 22. In p area there are no such education center said 132 respondent and 49 respondents felt not existence of such center.

Table 11: Avail Education if possible

Will not avail		Wants to avail	
M	R	M	R
35	56	39	90

When they are asked for their wish of reading 90 member of p area expressed their positive wish. Out of 74 of m area are also eager to read.

Section 3

In section 3 is related to respondent’s health queries. It is realized that respondents have little information about health facilities.

Table 12: Health Insurance (HI) out of 220.

HI Holder	Non-HI Holder	NA
48	152	20

Table No -12 shows the fact that HI holder are only 48/220 while non-H I holders are 152/220. Twenty respondent not even heard about Health Insurance.

Table 13: BPL facilities Taken (out of 220):

BPL Facilities not taken	133
BPL facilities taken	56
N A	31

If we add NA with 133 then the number of ignorant will be 164. This means poor peoples have no news about governmental facilities health facilities. Who don’t have any facilities or not assured about BPL facilities as we find should categories in the same block? If Ignorance about the BPL scheme or don’t have BPL facility are the two parts of a same coin, then the number ‘BPL Facilities not taken’ would rise from 133 to 164.

Table 14 (out of 220)

Safe drinking water	Total	R area	%	M area	%
No	106	59	48.1	47	Approx. 23%

Above table shows the fact that 106 number respondents have not safe drinking water facility, and out of them 59 (48.1%) are of p area resident and 47 (23% aprx) are m area resident.

Section 4

In section 4 we want to focus on the influence, after effect of illiteracy or low literacy, deprivation (of many essential things) and poverty. How the meaning of positive, happy, dreamful life transformed into a meaningless, hopeless, struggle some life. Findings prove the fact that majority of the respondent have not expressed their clear aim, but setting of aim is of vital importance in every one’s life as said by J.R Lowell, “Not failure but low aim is crime”. At the same time- “high aim and great objectives brings out great mind” by Tyron Edwards.

In our questionnaire some value-based questions were set to realize respondent’s psychological and intellectual depths. At least 91/220 are confused (as shown in table no 13) about their aim in life. They don’t even heard of the word ‘aim’.

Table 15: Aim in Life (out of 220):

Confused	91
Be a Good Man	8
Business	42
Service/Govt Service	43
Pvt. Job	6
To establish child education	15
Teacher/Doctor/Nurse/PM	5
To do something	4

Persons who have delusion of aim want to be a govt. serviceman (43/220). One of the high hopes of them (42/220) is to be a business man having a capital money of daily average income of 65.57 rupee. Who believe in establishment of child education, their number are 15/220. But if we think analytically, we accept this feeling as a view for better society not as an aim in life? Who jumped over, boundary of college their number are only 9 (table 8)? who want to be a doctor /teacher/nurse or prime minister are only 5. Only 08/220 want to be a good man. The positive men who want to do something are only 4/220. Thus, we may generalize the aim of poor people as day dream or hallucination of deprived section of Malda district.

Table 15: Aim achieved (out of 220):

Not achieved	71
Partially achieved	49
100% achieved	16
Confused	14
NA	70

Table 15 shows the picture of whether aim achieved by poor people of Malda District. Aim not achieved by 71, partially achieved by 49, 100% achieve by only 16, confused by 14 and last but not the least is almost same as not achieved i.e., 70. If we plus all the hopeless respondents then the sum will be 155/220 (70.45%).

Thus, in Malda District, poor peoples are not to be included in growth process not the growth be called as inclusive.

Table 16: Present aim (out of 220):

Confused	93
Education all	18
To establish son/daughter	46
Business	27
Death	1
Mix aim	34

In answering about present aim as shown in Table No 16 number of confused men are 93. Education for all is 18, establishment of son daughter are 46, business -27. Mix aim-34. Most depressed one's present aim is Death which is not only painful but also remarkable from the point of inclusive growth.

Table 17: View for good society (out of 220):

Confused	107
Education	33
Grant aid	21
Mixed	59

A question was set in the questionnaire to understand respondent's views for good society which are reflected in last Table (17). We got some hazy and illegible views from them. Out of 220 respondents a remarkable number have no views about future society. This proves their low imagination capability, hopelessness, deprivation, pain, dreamlessness to the future life. Hope is the boat which takes us to the river of life; it has a great support to the life of everyone. If we mark this type of confusion as a result of low literacy then also remains confusion to success of our democracy (largest). Others who believe in good society can come through education are 33, Grant in Aid of govt. are 21, and mixed views expressed by 59 respondents.

CONCLUSION

The history of Life of all above mentioned Malda District's people is not a history of happy blissful life. Poverty and deprivation are their symbol of life. Poverty "is a complicated perception which includes lacking of well-being factors in relation to physical, psychological, social and spiritual elements to participate fully towards social contribution. "Absolute poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of human needs, including food, safe drinking

water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter education and information, it depends not only on income but also on access to social services” (Copenhagen Summit, 1995).

If we turn on our eyes towards the life style of these deprived, dishearten people then we feel that almost all characteristics of poverty are with them, whose average daily expenditure are Rs.187.42; daily average savings are Rs. 65.57 and average family members are Rs. 4.82. In rural area it is Rs. 4.9 and in urban area it is Rs. 4.3. That means every day, each family member’s expense is not more than 36 rupees. But whose expenditure are only Rs. - 100(48/220), Rs- 150(34/220), Rs. -200(45/220), what is the level of their daily life, where 164 of 220 respondents have no BPL facilities? Even they don’t have any idea or way to get that benefit. Even today 136/220 respondent don’t take safe drinking water, which proves poor health condition of Malda District’s people.

During our survey we find not answered (NA) and no answer as the same (shows in all the table). Thus 68+15 =83 of 220 has no regular job (table 6). Ninety-one of two hundred respondents buy cloths only one time and 22/220 as we feel has no money to buy cloths that means have no power to prevent their own prestige.

When we analyze the work culture, we find most of them as involved in low price low pride work (table 7). Only few persons have job of minimum salary.As Work has a societal value that goes beyond the gains of individual workers (UNDP 2015) thus a ‘huge amounts of human potential remain untapped’ in the Malda District.

So, as we found out of 220/167 respondent that we observe that the light of wisdom, and fragrance of literature have not touched poor illiterate people’s life, to make it successful (13, 14, 15, 16). They are mostly aimless, have no concept (91/220) of that ‘life is but a dream’. Out of 220, almost 155 respondents have lost or have not ever any dream.

At present 93/220 life are to live only to pass the day and night. Only 46/220 people live for their son and daughter. 34/220 has a mixture of vague aim. Before them the life is completely dark and deep dark. They (107/220) don’t know and when and how the sun of orange, will light their life within a new dream of World. One (1/220) has already lost hope for the best and prays for death. Thus, at the end of our study we find that “inclusiveness of the poorest in the Indian mainstream growth process is still a forlorn hope”- Suryanarayana and Das (2014).

Can one believe in that principle that these type of poorer and poorest (practically & theoretically) of people are to be included in the category of inclusion? We find these types of people as socially excluded. As the concept of social exclusion provides to our understanding of poverty and inequality, especially as we are moving towards multi-dimensional measures of poverty (i.e., not based on a single attribute, such as income or consumption, but encompassing a wider range of disabilities (Ashwini Deshpande-2012). As we feel these deprived poor (poor in culture also) people as one type of group, who have various similarities between them. We find them depressed but they (129/220) still want to read in old age education center. In Malda District there are some old age education centers, 36/220 according to the respondents.

The Government of India, recently launched various ‘schemes covering risk of life, accidental disability and income in old age is a model to serve millions of poor and is a major step forward towards creation of sound and sustainable social security net in the country A Step towards Social Protection in India’ (Yojana, 2015.vol, 29). Three schemes ensuring better old-age security are PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), for the people in certain age group. These schemes will respectively cover the risk of life, accidental disability and income in old age. Present days Governmental schemes and various administrative steps might be very helpful towards fulfilment of promises of Five Years Plans of India. Our field study observation smells an opposite experience. Unless lay people of our country would be stable (at least economically, educationally, culturally) inclusiveness could not be achieved. The luck less, land less (agriculture), so called illiterate people of India have the right of adult suffrage to elect the right(?) govt. Is there any right of any negative politics (India) to sell their vote in exchange of only money? It is possible and is also a happened fact in many areas (in R + M area) in Malda District. When corruption is deep rooted even in education system, the one and only tool to educate weak (in all respect) people then what is the real way to go forward toward inclusive growth? UNO, World Bank, IMF may create pressure on the central and state govt. for faster inclusive growth. Then local corrupt politics may step forward quickly to release BPL card to the elite class, rejecting, registering and replacing poor people’s BPL benefit into APL card! This open secret happening is a truth of present-day illiterate education. Success of democracy stands upon democratic (Conscious) people. Consciousness comes from education (proper). Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man’.

Thus, inclusion, at least at local level can possible through education. So, bell will be hanged as soon as possible to the neck of STRONG CAT (corruption) by the educated elite only.

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