



Implementation of Development Programs for SCs & STs: A Study of Canning (II) Block of West Bengal

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Abstract

Socio-cultural characteristics are the most important part from region to regions, state to state and country to country. In this study socio-cultural attributes as caste, education, language, region, sanitation health have been taken into necessary steps to develop. The Constitution has imposed responsibilities on the Governments for the all-round development of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The policies, programs and schemes of the Development have been implemented in Canning II block with the overall goal and objectives enshrined in Article 46 (Part IV), 16, 17, 19, 164, 244, 330, 332, 335, 338, 339, 341, 342 and 366 of the Constitution of India. It aims at improving the quality of the life of ST and SC communities. In terms of social vulnerability, the political participation of SCs and STs is more apparent. Over the years the political participation of backward and disadvantaged class in terms of SC and ST household in Canning II have more remained constant at 40% - 50%. The participation of ST has been falling slightly over the years that had been partially made up by the SC participation. There exists huge skill developments in Canning II.

Keywords: Community, Nation, Policy, Development, Scheme.

The issue of implementation of development programs for SC/ST has come into prominence in the almost parts in India in recent years. Reservations are protection against caste discrimination. Reservations are not for uplifting backward people or punishment for general category. Reservation facilities are like bullet-proof vests. The vest does not stop the war (of caste discrimination). When the war stops, the vests can be removed. The Canning Subdivision is located in South 24 Parganas district of WB. There are four Community Development Blocks (CD) namely Basanti, Canning I, Canning II and Gosaba under this subdivision. The relation among socio-cultural characteristics with population change in the study area is the main object of my study. Among this four CD blocks, Scheduled Caste population is more in Gosaba. Percentage of Scheduled Caste has decreased in each and every block under the study area over time. The SC and ST population were near about half of the total population. From 1991 to 2011, percentage of SC population decreased in the study. In 2011, SC and ST population are near about one-fourth of the total population in Canning subdivision. In the context of development activities it means adopting a set of new ideas, methods and practices. This is very crucial in the ecological context of the block of

Canning II. These are a number of factors, which stand in the way of adopting a new set of ideas, methods and practices in lieu of traditional ones. The block of Canning II is predominantly agriculture-based block characterized by poverty, illiteracy and under-nutrition. Common people in this block generally follow traditional mode of living along with age-old methods of production. Bringing out quick social and economic changes in such an ecological environment requires the individuals who have relevant knowledge and training and possess qualities like patience, perseverance, willingness, together with a sense of commitment to the organization goal. For a reliable index of the commitment of the administrators and local elected representatives to the organizational goals and purposes it was decided to indicate their attitude towards adoption and implementation of programs meant for alleviation of rural poverty. It was also decided to indicate their attitude towards the present system of administrative set up under Panchayet Raj.

1. Special Development Programs & Schemes

Purpose of jobs, reservation to SCs in Direct Recruitment is available since 1947. Whereas, reservation for STs in direct recruitment was introduced from 1950. The provision of reservation in promotion for SCs/STs is available since 1955. The provisions made in the Articles 16, 335, 338, 340, 341 & 342 of the Constitution relate to reservation, protection and safeguards, in public employment in respect of the persons belong to the SCs/STs and other backward classes. The special development programs for SCs & STs are Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Dalit Varg Vayavsaik Prashikshan Yojana, Laghu Vikray Kendra Yojana, Rastriya Samavikash Yojana (RSY) respectively. The special development programs for the SCs & STs in WB have also been adopted in different times. The West Bengal Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development and Finance Corporation (WBSCSTDFC) is an undertaking of Government of WB, which is set up in 1980 under WBSCSTDFC Act 1976. The Development Schemes of the WBSCSTDFC so far launched. Also there were some Special Development Schemes in Canning-II Block.

For SC Beneficiaries:

Medium Term Loan under SCP [Target Group - Scheduled Caste, Age Limit- 18-50 years, Income Limit (Urban) - Rs. 60000/- per annum, Income Limit (Rural) - Rs. 49000/- per annum, Maximum Project Cost - Rs. 35000/-, Subsidy - 50% - Max 10000/-, Margin Money - 5% - Max 1000/-, Bank Loan – Remainder, Rate of Interest - Bank Loan/ MM – 9/4%, Repayment Term - 5 years]; Medium Term Loan from NSFDC, Laghu Vyavasay Yojana [Target Group- Scheduled Castes, Age Limit- 18-50 years, Income Limit (Urban) - Rs. 120000/- per annum, Income Limit (Rural) - Rs. 98000/- per annum, Maximum Project Cost - Rs. 300000/-, Subsidy for BPL - Max 10000/-, Margin Money- 5% - Max 10000/-, NSFDC Loan - Remainder Max 90%, Rate of Interest - 6% pa, Repayment Period- 50 EMI]; Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) - Female [Target Group - SC Women, Age Limit -18-50 years, Income Limit (Urban) - Rs. 60000/- per annum, Income Limit (Rural) - Rs. 49000/- per annum, Maximum Project Cost - Rs. 30000/-, Subsidy for BPL - 50% Max Rs. 10000/-, Margin Money-NA, NSFDC Loan– Remainder, Rate of Interest - 3% pa, Repayment Period - 3 years (12 quarterly EMI)]; Micro Credit Finance (MCF) [Target Group- SC, Age Limit-18-50 years, Income Limit (Urban)- Rs. 120000/- per annum, Income Limit (Rural)- Rs. 98000/- per annum, Maximum Project Cost- Rs. 30000/-, Margin Money- NA(10%), NSFDC Loan-Remainder, Rate of Interest- 4% pa, Repayment Period- 3 years (12 quarterly

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installment)]; Education Loan for SC.

For ST Beneficiaries:

Assistance to SHGs under TSP; Medium Term Loan from NSTFDC [Hospital on Wheels, Uttar Banga Sech Samabay Prakalpa (UBSSP), Krishi Shramik Kalyan Kendra (KSKK), E-Library, Career Aptitude Test, Housing for Economically Weaker, Personal Development Program].

2. Database & Methodology

I may have emphasized on the problems to reveal the problems of development of SCs and STs; what are the special development programs for SCs/STs adopted by Govt. of W.B? What are the agencies (GPs, NGOs) to implement such programs? What about the allocation of monetary or financial grants for implementing the programs and the result of implementations of the programs? As far as the stated problems and questions are concerned the study requires a combination of analytical and empirical methods of investigation. Necessary data have been collected from all relevant and available sources. The study requires exploration of both primary and secondary sources of data. To capture the crucial factors responsible for the lack of desired development an intensive enquiry has been attempted by adopting what is known as the “Case Study Method”. Hence the development block of South 24 Parganas namely, Canning Block – II has been selected for the purpose of collection of empirical data. I have been collected Primary data from different categories of populations, like the beneficiary groups, the local decision – makers and the administrators. Sample survey methods have been administered for conducting interviews and collecting data from various categories of respondents. Sample respondents have been selected from different categories on the basis of different variables from the certain block II. According to M Ramchander and FD Vakil “*Survey in Research Methods in Social Sciences*”, in sample survey method along with administration of questionnaires in the field has been adopted and implemented as far as practicable. It is scientific technique widely used in social science research.

The sample survey method is a combination of the sampling method and the survey method. Through sampling the respondents are selected from a large body of universe and survey is made to reach them for collecting data. This technique is very popular in all branches of quantitative research in social sciences.

TABLE – 2.1
Canning-II Development Block (certain descriptive statistics)

Urban	11182
Rural	241333
Literacy (%)	66.51
Gender Ratio	965:1000
SC Population	52859
ST Population	14910

Source: 2011 Census of India, Govt. Of WB

TABLE – 2.2

Distribution of SC/ST Population

SC Total	52859 (20.93%)
ST Total	14910 (5.90%)
Total Population	252523 (100%)

Source: 2011 Census of India, Govt. Of WB

Diagram – 2.1

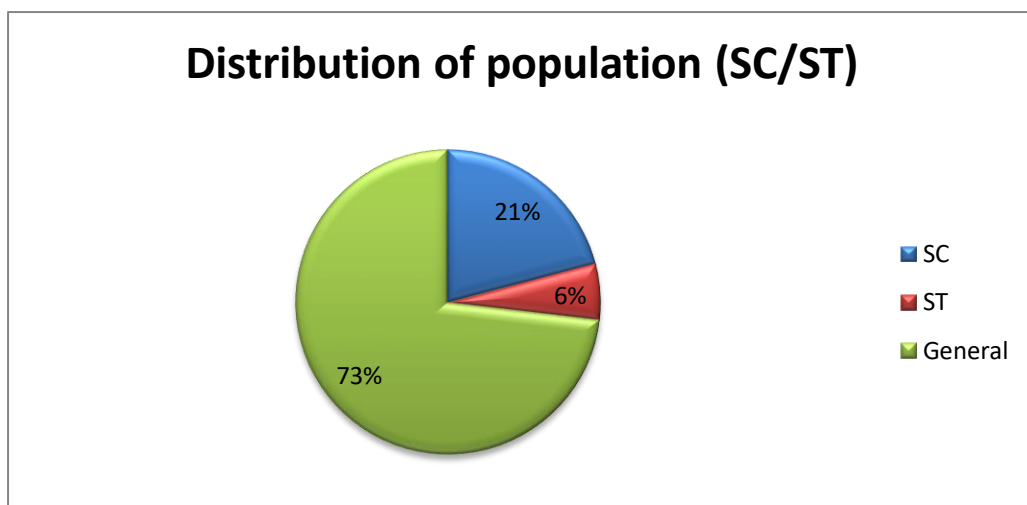


Diagram – 2.2

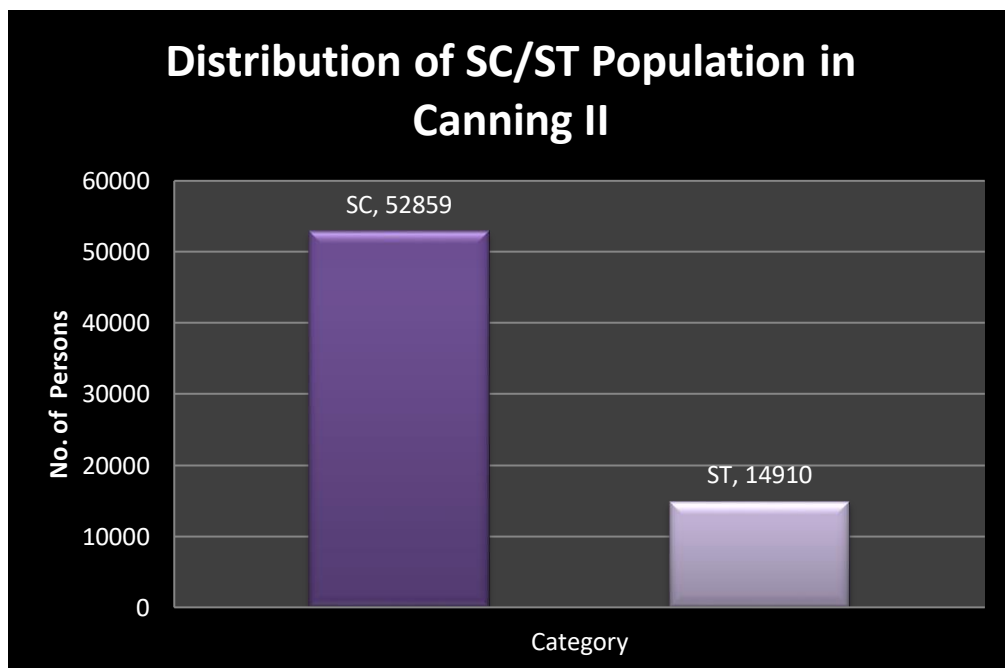


TABLE – 2.4
Distribution of population: Workers and Non-workers

1.Total Non-workers	161084 (63.78%)
2.Total workers	80247 (31.77%)
2.a.Main Worker	41755
2.b.Marginal Worker	38492
Total Population	252523 (100%)

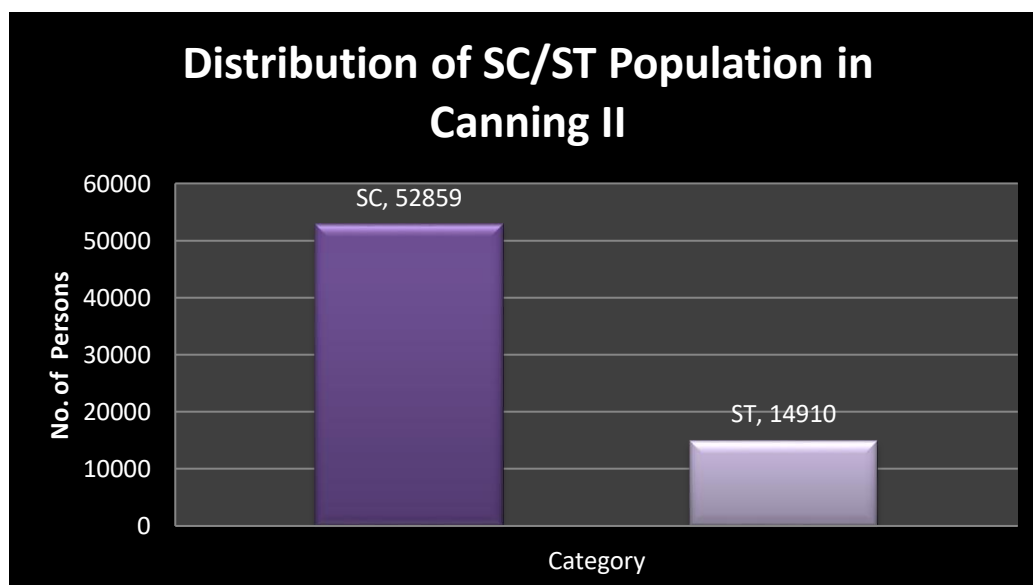
Source: 2011 Census of India, Govt. of WB

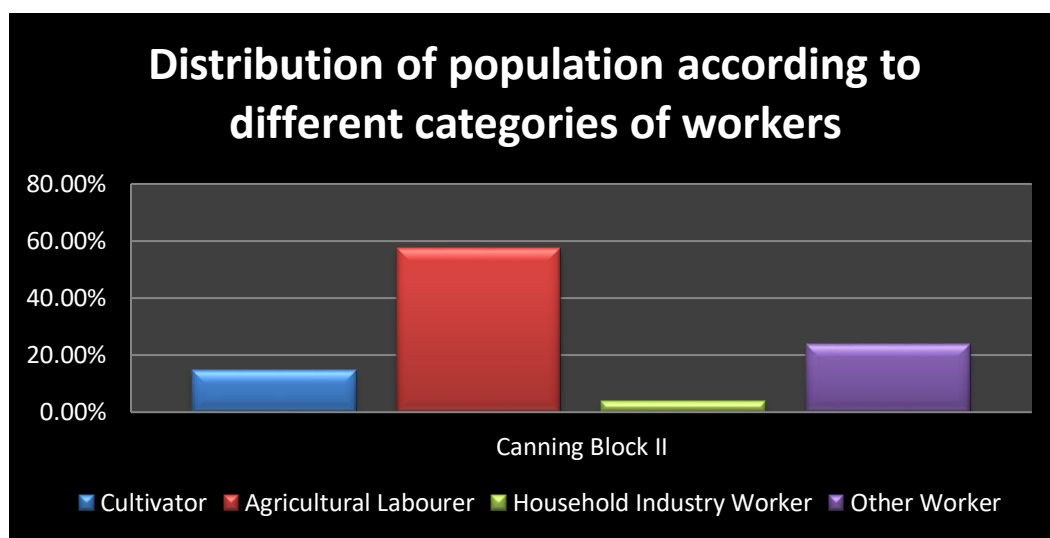
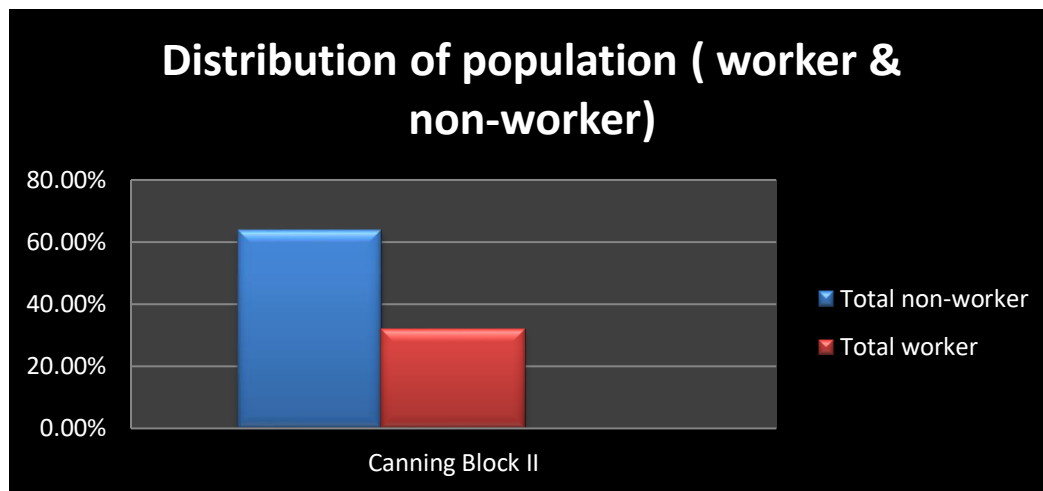
TABLE – 2.5

Distribution of Population, according to different Categories of Workers

Cultivator	11875(14.79%)
Agricultural Labor	46152 (57.51%)
Household Industry Worker	3114 (3.88%)
Other Worker	19106 (23.80%)
Total Worker	80247 (100%)

Source: 2011 Census of India, Govt. of WB





I have been collected the secondary data from different publications, information booklets published by different agencies and offices. They include office of Ministry of Information, Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India, the Planning Commission and the block level government offices. They also include reports of various committees and commissions, research studies and other research – based works and important books by eminent scholars.

The study has a vast coverage. It includes the Gram Panchayets of Canning Block II entirely. Since these all are entirely agriculture based villages and therefore truly representative of the economic conditions of agro-ecological sub-region as well as the district of West Bengal. There are two dimensions of coverage of the study, namely the spatial dimension and temporal dimension. Canning II CD Block has an area of 214.93 km². Canning Police Station serves this CD Block. Canning II Panchayet Samity has 9 gram panchayet. This block has 62 inhabited villages. The survey has been conducted covering all the Gram Panchayets and the certain Block of Canning Sub-Division. Headquarter of this block is at Canning. As for temporal dimension, the study has covered all the policies and programs, which have so far been adopted by the government and being implemented by the local government institutions in Block. In standard of living in the Canning-II block had a rank of 28 amongst all the 29 blocks. In infrastructure development it was 26th amongst all CD blocks.

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The samples of administrators and local political executives were selected from both horizontal and vertical levels. The heads of different departments or the sections at district level as well as s-tock level have been selected. In the same way the political executives from different levels of our existing three-tier panchayet institutions have also been selected for the purpose. All of these categories of respondents have responsibility with execution and implementation of certain poverty alleviation programs. The heads or coordinators of different poverty alleviation programs at the block level are generally determined on the basis of the Government Order issued from time to time in this regard³. In the same way the responsibilities of implementing different anti-poverty programs lie upon different tiers of panchayets. This specifically mentioned for different programs by the Government orders issued in this regard from time to time.

The role of an executive officer in the co-ordination and implementation of a particular program has been regarded as the measuring stick for selecting the respondents. These officials are responsible for taking critical decisions like fixing of targets and allocation of resources, the supply and distributions of imputes of development programs. In addition to these types of officials some block level officials including the Block Development Officers belonging to the West Bengal Civil Services (executive) and other level technical officials have been selected as respondents. The knowledge and experience of this category of officials regarding realities of the implementation of programs for alleviating rural poverty have been thought to be important. The second set of respondents, comprise the local political executives or the members of local government institutions. These include the Sabhadhipati and Sahakari-Sabhadhipati and other members including the Karmadhakshas (holder of port-folio) of Zilla Parishad of both the districts. These also include the Sabhapati and Saha-Sabhapati and other members of the block in Canning II and also Pradhans and Upa-Pradhans and other members of different Gram Panchayets in the block. The third group of respondents comprises the targeted beneficiaries. This category is the largest one and covers a large section of population.

3. Different Development Programs in Canning-II Block

A number of developmental activities were undertaken in rural areas under the CDP. The priority however varied from area to area depending on the circumstances peculiar to each area. The total amount of activities under different categories may be enumerated as follows.

Firstly, Agricultural and Related Matters(development of rural electrification; provision of commercial facilities, quality seeds, Provision of veterinary aid, technical information, materials and bulletins of agriculture, improved soil surveys, information and breeding centers for animal husbandry; development of inland fisheries; promotion of marketing, credit facilities, home economics, improved agricultural techniques and land utilization; development of fruit and vegetable cultivation, environment of the use of natural and compost manners).

Secondly, Communications (provision of roads; development of animal transport facilities).

Thirdly, Education(provision of compulsory and free education, preferably basic education, at the elementary stage; provision of high and middle schools; Kanyasree Prakalpa; cycle distribution among girl students; Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal

Program).

Fourthly, Training (Training of agriculturists, supervisors, managerial, personnel, health workers, and executive officers for projects).

Fifthly, Social Welfare[Organization of sports activities (village clubs); organization of Melas (village fairs); organization of the cooperative and self-help movement].

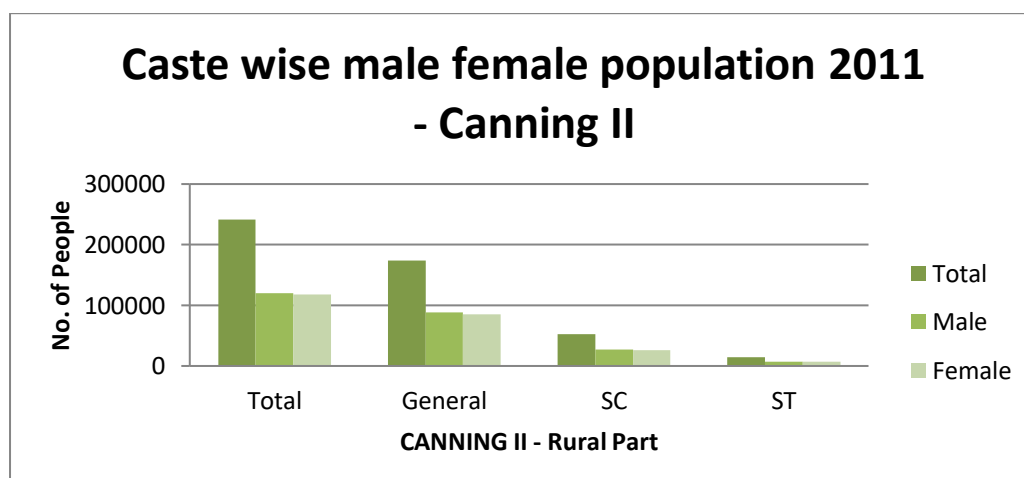
Sixthly, (Supplementary Employment Construction of brick kilns and sawmills to provide building materials for local needs).

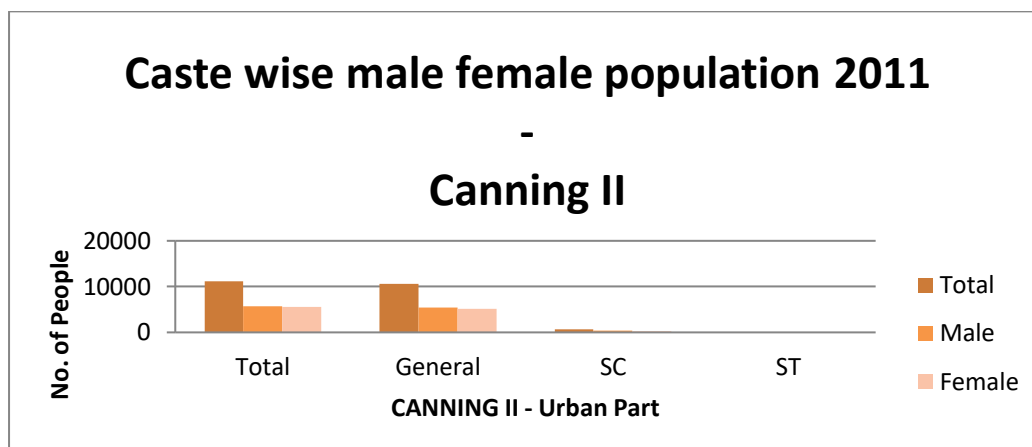
Seventhly, Health(provision of sanitation including drainage and disposal of wastes and public health measures; provision for the control of malaria and other diseases; provision of improved drinking water supplies; provision of medical aid for the ailing; provision of generalized public health service and education).

Finally, Housing (Encouragement of improved rural housing on a self-help basis).

4. Women empowerment and Educational Development Programs in Canning-II Block

The Canning-II Block have rural part and urban part, with population of about 11 thousand. In rural part 60% of female population are literate here. In workers profile, 4% of total female population are main workers and 11% are marginal workers. In urban part 55% of female population are literate here. In workers profile, 5% of total female population are main workers and 8% are marginal workers. The role of female participation in changing economy of Sunderban blocks of South 24 Parganas as a part of adaptation to maintain the livelihood. The change of climate as well as environment creates a severe threat the livelihood of Sunderban inhabitants. They have to allow themselves with some limited options of alternative economy other than the traditional agriculture. Not only that the challenging situation have forced them to make an improvement in their dependency ratio and allow the female members of family to play an active role in economic practices. Thus the share of non-worker has been reduced as the female non workers have engaged themselves to maintain their livelihood.





Active participation of female members has been seen in recent time for the Sunderban blocks of South 24 Parganas. Sagar, Patharpratima and Joynagar have been set a remarkable example in case of female participation in main stream economy. Most of the other blocks (mainly Canning I and II), except Namkhana have been shown the positive growth of female worker in recent decades. Female members of family have really realized the economic crisis and come forward to make a successful alternative economy with the change of environment of Sunderban. The deviation of work participation between the male and female inhabitants has been reduced for most of the Sunderban blocks of South 24 Parganas in case of main work force. It reveals that a significant number of male workers have bound to leave the agricultural field and join with some possible alternatives. At the same time it also to be said that the female members of family, who generally like to stay at home, come out and have been started to work as rented daily labor in agricultural practices.

In 2011, total literacy rate is 70.98 percent. From the year 2001 to 2011, Male literacy rate have increased by about seven percent. Female literacy rate during this period has increased by about 16 percent. So, Female literacy rate have rapidly increased in the study area in comparison to male literacy rate. From the year 2001 to 2011, total literacy rate of Canning II block have increased more than other C.D. (Community Development) blocks under the study area. The percentage of literate people is high in Gosaba block in Canning subdivision while literacy rate is low in Canning-II block. The main objectives of present study are to find out the spatial variation in proportion of male-female literacy status, examine the concentration of female literacy, work out the spatial literacy gap between male and female and observe the status of school level education.

TABLE - 4.1

Respondents by category

Category	Male	Female
SC	511	36
ST	4	6
OBC	0	0
General	0	0
Total= 557	515	42

TABLE - 4.2**Respondents by level of education**

Education	Male	Female
Illiterate	92	59
Primary	172	26
Secondary	142	63
HS and Above	3	0
Total= 557	409	148

Highest female literacy was found in Sagar, Namkhana and Patharpratima block, whereas the lowest was observed in Kultali, Basanti and Canning-II block. Child education is in very poor condition in Canning-II and Joynagar-II block as their primary schools are very few. In the male-female literacy comparison, males have acquired the better position in attending school from the below primary level to even some technical, non-technical and computer education. Educational institutions for higher studies reflect its poor condition, which need to be improved immediately. The mid-day meal policy introduced by the government also helps to attract the students to school and act as a successful policy particularly at primary school sectors of the block. The average level of achievement in life expectancy, educational attainments and income level between men and women of each GP display that more attention is needed for the human development of such rural area.

5. Concluding Observations and Suggestions

After a thorough and detailed study and analysis of both theoretical and practical data the following findings and observations may be made. The information regarding development planning is scarce due also to bureaucratic inaction and apathy. Thanks to the Right to Information Act 2005 which intends to enable the common people to have access to the information about the government policies for themselves but positive results of which are not yet visible. Most of all villages of the block look alike with not only poverty and unemployment but also lack of road connectivity, sanitation, dismal hygiene and a state of helplessness during the time of natural calamities. The villagers are to combat adversaries amidst ubiquitous apathetic posture of the bureaucracy. Sanitation in rural India is poor and lags far behind the same in other countries. The crisis of water is also responsible for poor sanitation condition in different parts of the country. The implementation of some has resulted in success and some in failure. Some programs are still continued while some are discontinued and some have been merged with other programs.

Provision of special extension facilities should be framed for participation of poor people in the development programs. A complete package of infrastructure facilities should be provided so that the poor people are enabled to run the schemes of development. The programs can also be made successful through repeated monitoring and evaluation by the panchayet. The suggestions offered by different investigators to overcome the shortcomings identified in different studies made at different times- Selection of correct beneficiaries, from among the families of the poorest of the poor; adoption of long-term strategy to ensure certain degree of development; prevention of corruption and misappropriation at local levels

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by the local leadership and administrators; collection of local revenues to increase resources of the local governments; reforming administration to equip it to meet the challenges of the task of development; increase and strengthen infrastructure at local level. Bureaucratic failure in implementing the development plans need to be remedied. However the panchayet could not satisfy all the ambitions of rural development. Like bureaucracy it also lacks required motivation, training, leadership and resource capacity. The panchayet also suffers from internal poverty like lack of guidance and technical knowledge. Therefore a series of motivations are required to modernize and strengthen the panchayet system.

Finally it is suggested that there should be better relationship between the administrators and the local leadership for better results and greater interest of nation building. The administrators should not disobey the choices and priorities of the local leaderships. In the same way the local leadership should not disobey the suggestions with regard to maintaining the administrative administrators should be connected and based on their performance made in the poverty alleviation and rural development.

Notes:

1. Report of the "Study Team on Panchayet Raj in West Bengal", The Publication Manager, New Delhi, 1967.
2. Report of the "Study Team on Selection and Recruitment of Civil Services", Government of India, New Delhi, 1966.

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Bio-note

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