

Gender Gap of C.D. Block Kaliachak –II in Malda District, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT: Gender Gap is a disproportionate difference or disparity between the sexes. On the others words, gender gap is the differences between women and men, especially as reflected in demographic feature, social, political, intellectual, cultural, economic attainment and attitudes. The paper beautifully presents the gender gap of demographic feature in the community development block of Kaliachak-II. The Gender gap in the distribution of male and female population is 5.62% and in the distribution of child population (0-6 years), it is very high, amounting 7.18%. The Gender gap in the literacy rate and worker rate is 3.65% and 25.77% respectively. The gender gap in the worker rate is very high in the study area.

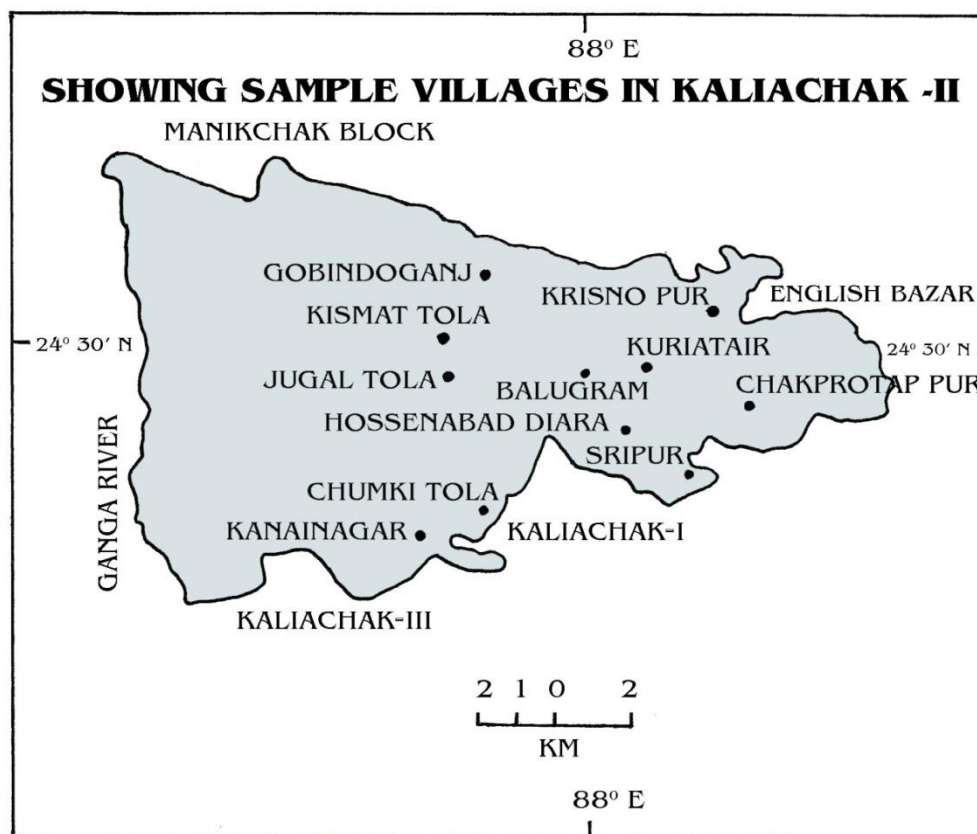
Keywords: Gender gap, Children population, Literacy rate, Worker rate

I. Introduction

Despite of rapid economic growth during the last two decades, gender disparities remain deep and persistent in India (e.g. Duflo 2012, World Bank 2012). In the Gender Inequality Index of the UN India is below several Sub-Sahara African Countries and in the World Economic Forum India ranks 113 out of 135 countries in its Global Gender Gap Report (Housman, Tyson and Zahidi 2011). The separate data for male and female are important for various types of planning and for the analysis of other demographic characteristics such as reproductive potential, marital status, work force, migration pattern, growth of population, and the socio-economic relationship. In fact, it is an important demographic indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between male and female in a society at a given point of time. Sex ratio in India is defined as number of female per 1000 males in the population. The ratio in the country had always remained unfavourable to females. According to the census of India, a person of seven years old or above who can read, write in any language is treated as Literate. UNESCO defines Literacy as ‘the ability to identify, understands, interpret, create, communicate and compute using printed and written material’. The unemployed people are those who are taking to work or are willing to work but they cannot find it at the going wage. On the other words, an unemployed person is one who is an active member of the labour force and is able to work and seeks work, but is unable to find work during a specified reference period (a week or a month or a year). It may be said, an unemployed person is one who having potentialities and Willingness to earn, is unable to find a remunerative work. According to the Census of India, a person who has participated in any economically productive activity with or without compensation or profit is called Worker. In this paper, the definitions of children, literacy and worker have been taken according to the census of India (2011).

1.1. Study Area:

Kaliachak is located in the southern part of Malda district in West Bengal. Kaliachak consists of three blocks. These are known as Kaliachak-I, Kaliachak-II, Kaliachak-III. Kaliachak Block-II extends between latitudes 24°57'49" N to 24.963° N and longitudes 88°05'22" E to 88.0895° E. It is spreading over an area of 209.17 Km² with 210105 populations (Census 2011). According to the said census the literacy rate of Kaliachak – II is 66.71% and the worker population is 42.63%



1.2. Data Collection and Methodology: This paper follows the descriptive research method. Descriptive research study includes surveys and fact-findings enquiries of different kinds, which will help the researchers to describe the present situation. The present study covers both primary as well as secondary data.

Primary Data Collection: Primary data have been collected by survey of 11 villages across the C.D. Block Kaliachak-II. These villages have been selected on the following criterion- Minimum 20 % household per village has been surveyed for the research. Keeping these considerations in mind, it has been planned to select the villages some of which are nearer to the road while others are far from the road; similarly, some villages are inhabited by single community while the others by multiple communities. Some of the villages are connected by good roads while the others are connected by Katcha road. Similarly, some are developed, semi-developed and others are undeveloped.

Secondary Data: Secondary data have been collected from the community Block Development Office, innumerable newspapers, article in journals and Census of India.

Statistical Tools Used For Analysis: All the data have been converted into relative numbers such as percentage, ratio, Standard Deviation and Z-Score test used for observation the overall Gender Gap of the study area.

1.3. Objectives:

The objectives of this paper are -

1. To find out the distribution of population with Gender Gap
2. To find out the Literacy rate with Gender Gap
3. To find out the worker rate with Gender Gap

1.4. Need for the study:

Planning is very important for the development of a region. Demographic characteristic is the essential element to determine the trend and nature of policy. Sex ratio, literacy rate & worker rate cause the success or failure of development in any region. Every aspect of development role of male and female should be equal. However, the present scenario is different. Gender difference is still in the every aspect of socio-economic and demographic characteristics. Indian census has the tradition of bringing out disaggregated information by sex on various aspects of population. Therefore, this paper tries to find out the gender difference of socio-economically

backward community development Block Kaliachak-II. This paper will help the demographic experts, planners and researchers for the development of socio-economic and cultural phenomenon in the study area.

II. Gender Gap Of Kaliachak-II:

The present paper is divided into five different sections. The first section deals with the gender gap between the distribution of male and female population. The Second section discusses the distribution between male child and female child. The third section expresses the relationship between male and female literacy rate. The fourth section explains the relationship between male and female worker rate. Lastly, the final section tries to find out the overall gender gap by Z-Score analysis.

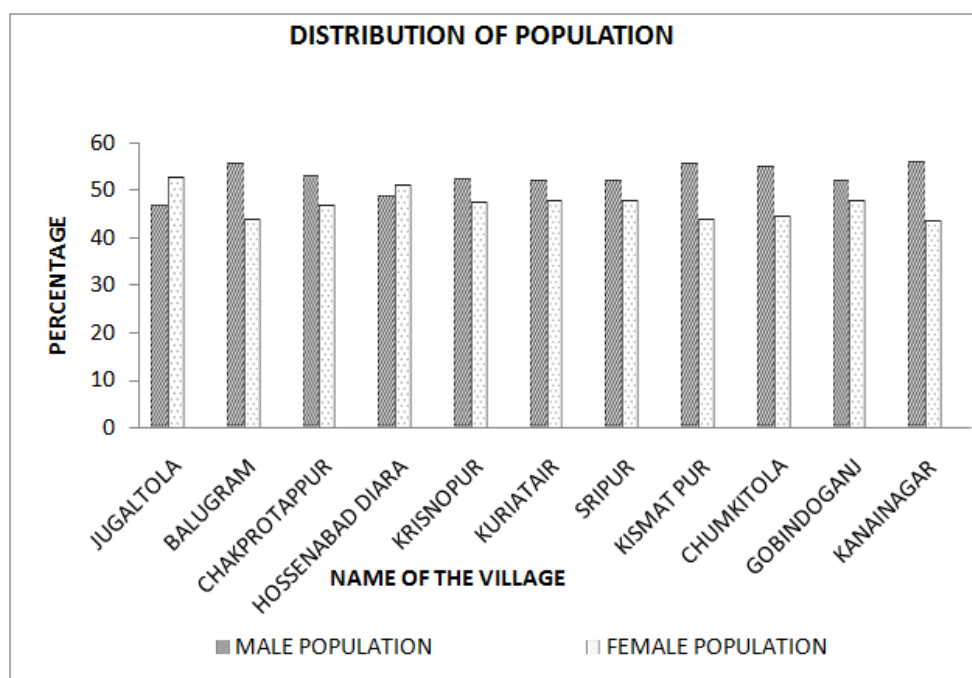
2.1. Distribution of Population and Gender Gap:

Geographers, demographers, sociologists, statisticians have all made their contributed in developing the means to describe population distribution and concentration. One of the most simple ways of measuring population distribution has been Percentage Distribution, whereby the percentage of people living in the geographic areas of a given class has been computed (Chandna, pp-40). According to the Census 2011, the male population is 51.53%, female population is 48.47% and the Gender Gap is 3.06% in India where as in Malda district the male population is 51.43%, female population is 48.57% and the Gender Gap is 2.86%.

Gender Gap in the distribution of population:

Name of the Village	Male population (%)	Female Population (%)	Gender Gap (%)
1.Jugal Tola	47.08	52.92	-5.84
2.Balugram	55.95	44.05	11.9
3.Chakprotap pur	53.16	46.84	6.32
4.Hossenabad Diara	48.84	51.16	-2.32
5.Krisnopur	52.42	47.58	4.84
6.Kuriatair	52.14	47.86	4.28
7.Sripur	52.12	47.88	4.24
8.Kismat pur	55.91	44.09	11.82
9.Chumkitola	55.30	44.70	10.60
10.Gobindoganj	52.06	47.94	4.12
11.Kanainagar	56.27	43.73	12.54
Average	52.81	47.19	Mean=5.68 SD=5.67

Source: Field Survey 2015



The survey shows the unequal distribution of male & female population. Average Male population is 52.81% and female population is 47.19% in the entire Block. The Gender Gap in the distribution of population is 5.62% that means there is 5.62 % more male population than the female population. The data also show more male population than female population in Balugram, Chakprotap pur, Krisnopur, Kuriatair, Sripur, Kismat pur, Chumkitola, Gobindoganj, Kanainagar with 55.95%, 53.16%, 52.42%, 52.14%, 52.12%, 55.91%, 55.30%, 52.06%, 56.27%, respectively. The male population are less than the female in Jugal Tola, Hossenabad Diara with 47.08 % and 48.84% respectively.

As mentioned above, the Gender Gap is nearly 5.70% in the entire block. The maximum percentage of Gender Gap has been recorded in Kanainagar(12.54%), followed by Kismat pur (11.82%), Balugram(11.9%),Chumkitola(10.60%),Chakprotap pur (6.32%), Krisnopur(4.84%),Kuriatair(4.28%), Sripur(4.24%),Gobindoganj(4.2%),but Jugal Tola and Hossenabad Diara show the different picture. They have contributed more female population than male population.

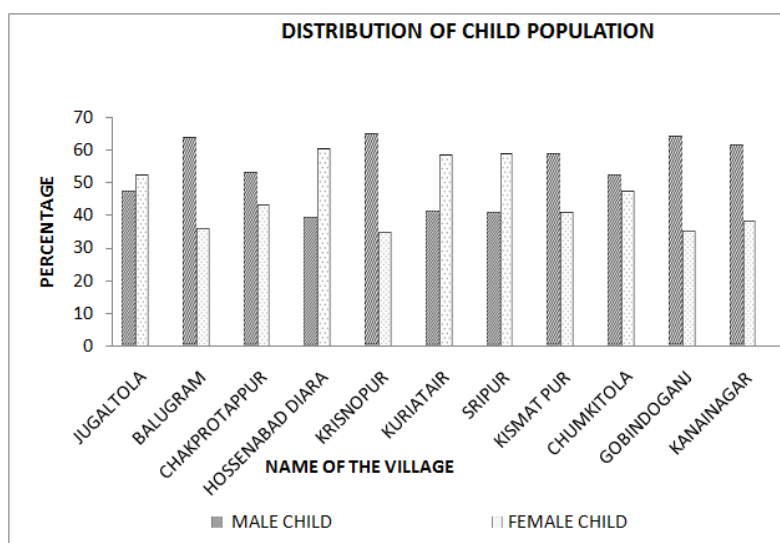
2.2. Distribution of Children and Gender Gap:

Age and sex composition of a population affects not only the other demographic attributes but also the social, economic and political structures(Hasan,p-109).Child population encompasses that proportion of the total population of the country, which lies in the age group of 0-6 years, which is an important indicator since it overlooks a delicate segment of the population. India is the second most populous country in the world where 13.12 percent of her population lies in the tender age bracket of 0-6 years as per the provisional Census 2011 figures. The male child is 52.24%, female child is 47.76% and the Gender Gap is 4.48%. In the same Census, the child population is 15.27%, male child is 15.22%, female child is 15.32% and the Gender Gap is -0.1% in the Malda District. In the Malda district, there is more percentage of female children than the male.

Gender gap in the distribution of child population:

Name of the Village	Male Children (%)	Female Children (%)	Gender Gap (%)
1.Jugal Tola	47.37	52.63	-5.26
2.Balugram	64.00	36.00	28
3.Chakprotap pur	53.13	43.87	6.26
4.Hossenabad Diara	39.54	60.46	20.92
5.Krisnopur	65.00	35.00	35
6.Kuriatair	41.38	58.62	-17.24
7.Sripur	41.18	58.82	-17.64
8.Kismat pur	59.09	40.91	18.18
9.Chumkitola	52.63	47.37	5.26
10.Gobindoganj	64.51	35.49	29.02
11.Kanainagar	61.70	38.30	23.4
Average	53.59	46.41	Mean=11.64 SD=17.74

Source: Field Survey 2015



Based on the survey of 11 villages, there are 53.59% of male children and 46.41% of female children distribution in the different parts of the Kaliachak –II block. Average Gender Gap in the distribution of child population (0-6 years) is very high, amounting 7.18%. The survey shows the maximum Gender difference in the village of Kismat pur amounting 35%. According to the table mentioned above, Gender Gap in Balugram is 28%, in Hossenabad Diara is 20.92%, in Kanainagar is 23.40%, in Kismat pur is 18.18%, in Chakprotap pur is 6.26%, and in Chumkitola is 5.26%. In the remaining three villages - Jugal Tola, Kuriatair, and Sripur - there is negative picture that means the distribution of female children is higher than the male.

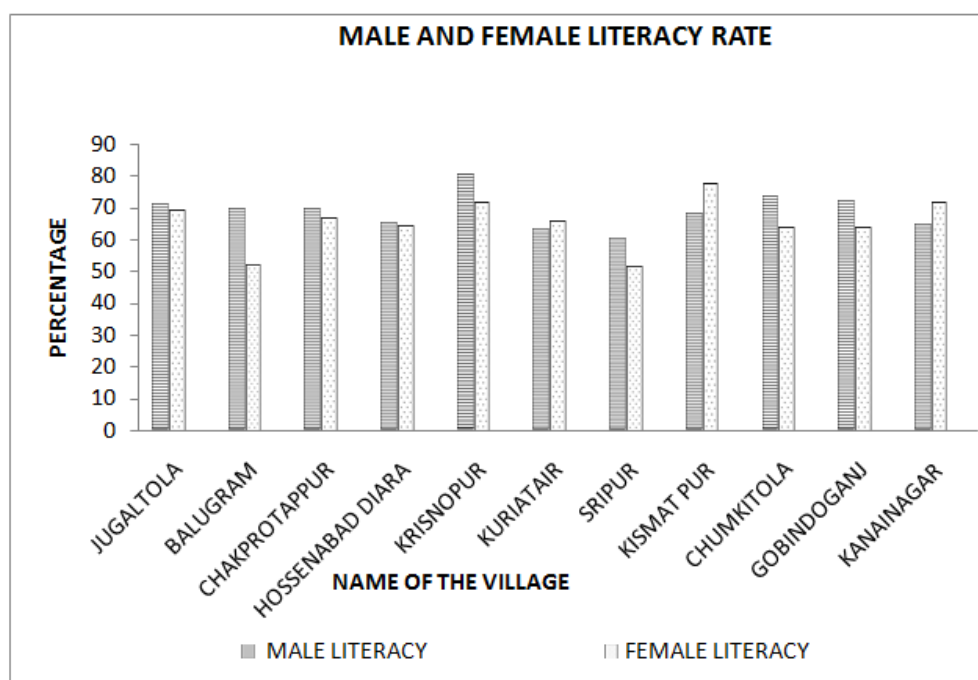
2.3. Literacy rate and Gender Gap:

No wonder that education in general and literacy in particular have been accorded a high priority in the country's development process. (Ahuja, -288). Education is conceived as a powerful agency, which is instrumental in bringing about the desired changes in the social and cultural life of a nation. 'Educating one man, you educate one person, but educating a woman and you educate a whole civilisation' - Mahatma Gandhi
According to the Census of India 2011, female literacy rate is 65.46% where as male literacy rate is 82.14% and the Gender Gap is 16.68 %. The literacy rate of Malda district is 62.71%. Male literacy rate is 66.24%, female literacy is 56.96% and the Gender difference is 9.28% (Census, 2011).

Gender Gap in the distribution of Literacy rate

Name of the Village	Total Literacy (%)	Male Literacy (%)	Female Literacy (%)	Gender Gap
1.Jugal Tola	70.60	71.43	69.63	1.8
2.Balugram	62.30	70.20	52.25	17.95
3.Chakprotap pur	71.30	69.84	66.94	2.9
4.Hossenabad Diara	65.11	65.48	64.77	0.71
5.Krisnopur	76.61	80.77	72.03	8.74
6.Kuriatair	64.59	63.43	65.85	-2.42
7.Sripur	56.70	60.46	51.90	8.56
8.Kismat pur	70.24	68.60	78.05	-9.45
9.Chumkitola	69.42	73.91	63.85	10.06
10.Gobindoganj	68.57	72.56	64.24	8.32
11.Kanainagar	68.14	65.06	72.09	-7.03
Average	68.14	69.49	66.81	Mean=3.65 SD=7.70

Source: Field Survey 201



In pursuance of survey recorded, the average literacy of C.D. Block Kaliachak-II is 68.14%. The distribution of Literacy rate is not equal in the study area. The highest literacy rate recorded in the village of Krisnopur amounting 76.61%, which is higher in comparison with the district, state and country. The lowest literacy rate is in the village of Sripur amounting 56.70%, which is lower than Malda district, West Bengal, even lower than Bihar, the country's lowest state. The literacy rate of the other villages is as follows- Chakprotap pur (71.30%), Jugal Tola (70.60%), Chumkitola (69.42%), Kismatpur (70.24%), Gobindoganj(68.57%), Kanainagar(68.14), Hossenabad Diara(65.11%), Kuriatair(64.59%) and Balugram(62.30%).

Survey shows the Gender Gap in the male & female literacy rate of C. D. Block Kaliachak-II. Average 69.49% male and 66.81% female are literate and the Gender Gap is 3.65% in the study area. The highest Gender Gap has been recorded in the village of Balugram amounting 17.95%, followed by Chumkitola (10.06), Krisnopur(8.74%), Sripur(8.56%), Gobindoganj(8.32%), Chakprotap pur(2.9%), Jugal Tola (1.8%), Hossenabad Diara (0.71%), and the remaining three villages - Kuriatair, Kismat pur, Kanainagar - have been recorded the more female literacy rate than male.

2.4. Worker rate and Gender Gap:

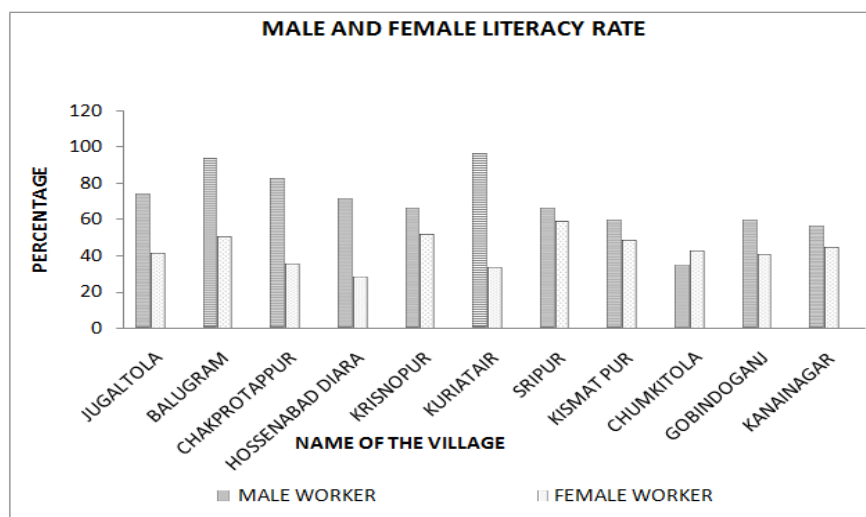
The study of nature and character of worker rate is one of the most outstanding aspects of population geography. It is obviously one of the major issues in determining the living condition of the people, as there are not enough jobs for all the people. 'If a person, with a capacity and potential to work, refuses to work or fails to obtain work, he not only does not gain any status in society and suffers from several emotional and social problems'(Ahuja,p-71).

According to the Census of India 2011, the total worker rate is 39.8%, male worker is 53.3%, female worker is 25.5% and the gender Gap is 27.8%. In the same census, the worker rate of Malda district is 38.55%, male worker rate is 52.96%, female worker rate is 23.30% and the Gender difference is 29.66%

Gender gap in the distribution of Worker:

Name of the Village	Total worker (%)	Male worker (%)	Female worker (%)	Gender Gap (%)
1.Jugal Tola	59.05	74.12	41.38	32.74
2.Balugram	75.45	94.27	50.83	43.44
3.Chakprotap pur	60.59	82.52	35.71	46.81
4.Hossenabad Diara	47.80	71.78	28.22	40.96
5.Krisnopur	59.70	66.43	52.00	14.43
6.Kuriatair	65.73	96.57	33.57	63.00
7.Sripur	63.19	66.50	59.55	6.95
8.Kismat pur	54.81	59.76	48.56	11.20
9.Chumkitola	38.60	35.27	42.57	-7.3
10.Gobindoganj	50.58	59.78	40.58	19.20
11.Kanainagar	42.93	56.84	44.74	12.10
Average	56.22	69.20	43.43	Mean=25.77 SD=20.08

Source: Field Survey 2015



As recorded in the survey, nearly 56.22% of people engaged in the economic activities. The survey shows the very much inequality in the distribution of worker. The maximum percentage of worker rate is in the village of Balugram (75.45%), followed by Kuriatair(59.05), Sripur(63.19%), Chakprotap pur(60.59%), Krisnopur(59.70%), Jugal Tola (59.05%), Kismat pur (54.81%), Gobindoganj(50.58%), Hossenabad Diara(47.80%), Kanainagar(42.93%) and Chumkitola (38.60%).

The compiled data of survey show the remarkable Gender Gap in the distribution of male and female work participation in the villages wise and block level. The average male worker rate is 69.20% and female is 43.43% in the entire block. The Gender difference is very high amounting 25.77%.

The maximum percentage of worker rate is in the village of Kuriatair with 63%, followed by, Chakprotap pur (46.81%), Balugram(43.44%), Hossenabad Diara (40.96%), Jugal Tola(32.74%), Gobindoganj (19.20), Krisnopur (14.43%), Kanainagar (12.10%), Kismatpur (11.20%), Sripur (6.95%). Chumkitola village has been recorded the maximum female worker than the male worker due to seasonal work of male worker and availability of Bidi making throughout the year for the female worker.

2.5. Overall Gender GAP: Overall Gender gap has been determined from the Male & Female population, Children, Literacy rate and Worker rate. The spatial distribution of overall conditions of sample village in Kaliachak-II is divided into three types; low (below -0.500 Z-Score), medium (0.500 to 2.000 Z-score) and high (above 2.000 Z-Score).

Name of the village	G.D.M.F.P.	G.D.C.P.	G.D.L.R.	G.D.W.R.	Composite Z-Score
	Z-score	Z-score	Z-score	Z-score	
1. Jugal Tola	-2.038	-0.958	-0.240	0.346	-2.890
2. Balugram	1.100	0.937	1.857	0.879	4.773
3. Chakprotappur	0.113	-0.296	-0.097	1.047	0.767
4. Hossenabad Diara	-1.415	0.532	-0.381	0.755	-0.509
5. Krisnopur	-0.148	1.325	0.661	-0.565	1.273
6. Kuriatair	-0.247	0.326	0.788	1.853	2.72
7. Sripur	-0.248	-1.660	0.637	-0.937	-2.208
8. Kismatpur	1.087	0.370	-1.701	-0.726	-0.970
9. Chumkitola	0.870	-0.352	0.832	-1.647	-0.297
10. Gobindoganj	-0.276	0.985	0.606	-0.327	0.988
11. Kanainagar	1.214	0.668	-1.387	-0.681	-0.186

Source: Calculated from primary data-2015

G.D.M.F.P. - Gender difference in Male & Female Population, G.D.C. - Gender Difference in Children, G.D.L.R. - Gender Difference in Literacy Rate, G.D.W.R.- Gender Difference in Worker Rate.

Most of the villages having low Gender Gap are Jugal Tola (-2.890), Kismat Pur (-0.970), Hossenabad Diara (-0.509), Sripur (-2.208), Chumkitola (-0.297) Kanainagar (-0.186). The medium category village are the Chakprotap pur (0.767), Krisnopur (1.273), Gobindoganj (0.988). Balugram & Kuriatair have comparatively higher Gender Gap, amounting 4.773 and 2.72 respectively.

III. Conclusion And Suggestion:

The overall analysis of the present study expresses that the level of gender gap is generally high in the study area. The distribution of male & female population is unequal. The data show 5.62% more male population than the female. The gender gap in the distribution of children is 7.18% in the entire block. The literacy rate is not equal and there is very much inequality in the distribution of worker rate in the study area. The following steps may be taken to overcome the problems-

- ✓ Deferent types of work opportunities and security for female should be provided.
- ✓ The literary rate has to be increased by any cost to overcome the problems.
- ✓ Encourage and rebuild (where necessary) self-employment groups.
- ✓ Drastic reorganization of vocational courses should be done.
- ✓ Society should change their eyes to equalize the number of the society. Females of the society should be given proper dignity and prestige to assist them in order to compete with the male of the concerned society.
- ✓ Grampanchayet and District Education Department should interfere effectively where the gender gap in literacy is very prominent and where literacy rate is very low and thereby to suggest necessary recommendation.
- ✓ The commercial cultivation, horticulture farm and sericulture sector must be improved.
- ✓ Workshops, discussion, seminar to improve more information among the people have to be organized.

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