

**Spatio-temporal Analysis of Gender Disparity in the  
Literacy Rates of West Bengal, 1961-2011**

A Dissertation Submitted

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By

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation titled “**Spatio-temporal Analysis of Gender Disparity in the Literacy Rates of West Bengal, 1961-2011**” submitted to Sikkim University for the partial fulfilment of the degree of **Master of Philosophy** in the Department of Geography, embodies the result of bonafide research work carried out by **Rana Roy** under my guidance and supervision. No part of the dissertation has been submitted for any other degree, diploma, associateship and fellowship.

All the assistance and the help received during the course of investigation have been duly acknowledge by him.

We recommended this dissertation to be placed before the examiners for evaluation.

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# CHAPTER-1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction:

Gender refers to the socially constructed role, activities, behaviour and attitudes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women (Oakley, 2015). Gender disparity is a social phenomenon, where men and women are not considered equal; it has been inelastic in our society. Society treats daughters indifferently while, if a son is born into a family, there is a celebration, conversely, if a daughter is born, there is a shadow of mourning in the family (Khan, 2004). Gender disparity is not a new phenomenon, though it varies from country to country and from time to time. Various research has proved that gender disparity exists in every field including health, education, job opportunities, wages etc. (Klasen & Lamanna, 2009). A person, who is aged seven and above, who can both read and write with well understanding of any language can be called a literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate (Census of India, 2011). UNESCO has defined literacy as the “Ability to identify, understand, interpret, create and communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with the varying context. Literacy involves a process of learning to enable an individual to achieve his or her goals to develop his or her knowledge and potential and to participate fully in the wider society” (Census of India, 2011). Thus, the concept of literacy is dynamic and broader and is more than simply the ability to read and write. The rate of gender disparity is higher in underdeveloped and developing countries than in developed countries. India is a developing country in terms of education, the gender disparity can be observed in this country.

India ranks 112th position out of 153 countries in the world in terms of gender inequality. Separately Economic participation and opportunities rank-149, Education attainment rank-112, Health and service rank-150 and Political empowerment rank-18 (World Economic Forum, 2020). The contextual literature shows that the gender disparity in the literacy rate in India is not equal. Since the state of West Bengal also has a similar characteristic of gender disparity and has heterogeneity in terms of literacy.

Therefore, this study focuses on the situation of literacy rate in West Bengal and aims to analyze the Spatio-temporal pattern of gender disparity in the literacy rate of SCs and STs Population with respect to the total population in different districts of West Bengal, using the secondary sources of census data from 1961 to 2011.

## **1.2 Review of Literature:**

### **1.2.1 Understanding Gender Disparity:**

Gender disparity can be defined as a difference in women's and men's access to resources, status and well-being, which usually favour men and are often institutionalized through the law, justice, and social norms (Khan, 2018). Major preference towards a particular gender (Male) has been documented over centuries, which have created discrimination against female. Females are discriminated against from birth and the discrimination continues in their everyday experiences. Girls receive relatively less nutrition and health care facilities, leading to the excessive mortality rate of females. Similarly, female has continued to face a disadvantage in terms of education (Bose, 2012). There is a strong relationship between female education and national development. While the education of both males and females is critical to development, failing to maintain gender equality in education can limit

the potential benefits of educating men on social welfare. Furthermore, a country with a significant gender disparity in enrolment would have poorer economic output than another country with comparable capital and labour resources but a smaller gender gap in schooling (Hartnett & Heneveld, 1993). It is important to understand the causes leading to gender disparity. Much of the prior research on education only investigates parental and family characteristics as predictors of gender differential (Bose, 2012). However, multiple factors lead to gender disparity. Raju, (1991) tried to find out the gender disparity in various fields such as labour participation rate, healthy and literacy etc. Data from 1964 to 1975 was used to show the gender disparity in the labour force participation rate. Besides, she showed gender disparity in education and literacy with the help of literacy data of India from 1901 to 1991 and found a wide disparity between the literacy rate of males and females in India. The gender disparity in literacy rate was decreased and the rate of literacy was increased in India, over the decades 1901 to 1991. Further, she stated that comparatively the Scheduled Caste females are a more deprived group than none. Scheduled Caste females, because the Scheduled Caste people are socially and economically marginalized groups in India. But in case of urban context, another picture is observed.

### **1.2.2 Gender Disparity in Literacy:**

Sopher, (1980) shows the literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy in India, in his entitled work “An Exploration in India”. He argued that last few decades have seen dramatic changes in the literacy of males and females in India. Although there is huge gap between male and female literacy rates in every districts of India. However, in urban areas, the differences between male and female literacy rate are relatively low because literacy has a positive relationship with urbanization. High literacy rates are observed in Western Coast, South Peninsula, East Coast Delta, and Punjab. On the

other hand, North-Western hilly districts have low literacy rates and high gender gap in literacy. Further, Sopher argued that India's coastal districts have a higher literacy rate due to good communication with foreign countries. Besides, the early introduction of Western education took place in the districts of the western coast of India. In Hyderabad, the female literacy rate was much lower than the male literacy rate, and literacy rates of females in the predominantly Muslim-dominated areas were much lower, because they were prejudiced and strongly opposed to female education. He stated that; there are no districts in India, where is no gender disparity in literacy rate. India has been divided into north and southern parts based on gender disparity in literacy. The districts of Gujrat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in India have the lowest gender disparity in literacy and Bihar in the north-central part and most of the in the eastern part of India, the highest gender disparity has been observed in the literacy rate and in Assam and Bengal has lower gender disparity. Author argued that the rural population where Brahmins and Rajputs are predominantly involved in animals' husbandry, agriculture, and trade. There has been progress in overall education and reduced the gender disparity in literacy. In the hilly districts of Garo and Jayanti in India, the matriarchal society of the ethnic groups has formed. And women have the greatest progress in literacy. On the other hand, presence of a strong Christian community in Kerala has helped to increase the overall literacy rate. Kapur and Murti, (2009) analyzed the temporal trend of literacy rate in India, over the decadal period of 1901 to 2001 and reflected gender disparity in terms of literacy over this period. As per the findings, in 2001, the female literacy rate was only 54.2 % compared to the male literacy rate of 75.9%. They argued that Gender disparity in literacy was higher in North India compared to South. Som and Mishra, (2014) highlight the context of literacy rate and gender disparity in the state of West Bengal,

there is an increase in the literacy rate in this state since independence. However, the disparity is seen in rural and urban literacy rates and male and female literacy rates. The literacy rate in urban areas is higher than the rural areas and the male literacy rate is higher than the female. Alam and Raju, (2007) tried to find out the Inter, Intra-religious and Gendered Literacy and educational Disparities in Rural Bihar with the help of 300 household surveys in two blocks of Purnia and Patna district in rural Bihar. They argued that in the field of education, the rate of gender disparity is higher in Muslim community than Hindu community. Demographic Characteristics (Occupation, Sex, age, standard of living) and socio-economic conditions determine the educational development of any society. Pal and Mondal, (2021) worked on the gender gap in rural literacy in Bankura district of West Bengal from 1961 to 2011. This study found that the literacy rate especially among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women has increased to a large extent over the study period. They further stated that there is a need of spatial attention for programme of female education among of SCs and STs in education in the district of Bankura. Raghavendra, (2020) worked on Literacy and Health status of Scheduled Caste people in India, based on the Census report, 2011. He has given the Scheduled Caste literacy status, sex ratio, child sex ratio and health related matters. Further, he stated that the status of literacy rate of Scheduled Caste people in India is comparatively lower than other caste. But there is a wide gap of Scheduled Caste literacy in rural and urban India. Besides Scheduled Caste people are bottom of the various social indicators, like- education, health as well as they are absorbed psychologically, socially and economically in every field in the society. Premi, (1974) provides different reasons as to why the Scheduled Caste people in India are unable to take advantage of various education opportunities, that have been provide to them by the Government. Further

she gives argued that poverty, first-generation learners, socially backwardness, lack of awareness, protein-hunger children, discrimination by other caste etc. are the causes of backwardness of Scheduled Caste population in education sector. Brahmanandam and Babu, (2016) worked on the educational status of Scheduled Tribe population in India. They provide different issues and challenges of Scheduled Tribe community, which they have face in education. Further they argue that STs are geographically, socially isolated and economically marginalized. Even though the Government has chalked out different plans and policies for their upliftment but has failed to provide a positive result. There have been major school dropouts, which has seriously affected the education of Scheduled Tribe in India. Barman and Chauhan, (2017) worked on the Spatio-temporal variation in the literacy rate among Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district in West Bengal on the basis of Census data of 2001 and 2011. They argued that there are differences between urban and rural areas in increasing literacy rate and rural areas lag behind urban area as well as in rural area the gender disparity in literacy is comparatively higher than urban area. Azim (2005), worked on the analysis of literacy rates in Karnataka based on the 2001 census and found that female and male literacy rates were 57.45% and 76.29% respectively. As per the analysis of 1971 to 2001 census data, in Karnataka, the gender gap in literacy was found to increase over this period. The gap was high from (1971 to 1991); however, it was low from (1991 to 2001). De, (2015) worked on analyzing the Spatio-temporal pattern of gender disparity in literacy in India. As per the analysis, over the period from 1961 to 2011, Bihar, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh hold top position in the context of gender disparity in literacy, and these states are followed by the states like West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam Whereas the performance of the states like



Punjab, Kerala, Nagaland, Goa, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim was good in maintaining gender equality in literacy. Sarkar et. al., (2006) provides the situation of the Scheduled Tribe population in India to respect to Human Development Index (HDI), Human Poverty Index (HPI) and Gender Development Index (GDI). The Human Development Index and Human Poverty Index of Scheduled Tribe population are found to be 30% lower than all Indian indices. Further, they argued that the condition of Scheduled Tribes in India is similar of the poorest countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Katiyar, (2016) analyzed the pattern and trend of gender disparity over space and time respectively in India. The analysis was done for the decadal period of 1901 to 2011 from where it was reflected that there was a continuous increase in gender disparity from 1901 to 1961. However, in 1971 there was a fall in trend by 1.08 % and it again increased in next decadal period i.e., 1981 by 2.67 % and since then till 2011 there has been a continuous and gradual decrease in disparity. As per this study, the highest gender disparity was in the state of Rajasthan both in the rural and urban areas and the lowest was recorded in the state of Mizoram in rural areas and urban areas. De, (2015) argued that the gender disparity was comparatively higher in rural areas than the urban. Though, since 1971, the rate of gender disparity in literacy in India has declined, to date (2011) women and girls of all Indian states have become the victim of disparity in getting literate and educated. Gender and family background are the main determinants that determine the participation of children and gender (Afzal et al., 2013) found that low income, less educated family heads, less awareness about female education mainly in rural areas were some of the causes leading to gender disparity in middle and secondary levels education. Das & Pathak, (2012), argued that 60 million female children lack access to elementary education due to early marriage, social biases, and a lack of educational infrastructure, and with that, the gender gap

continues to be a concern in India. It was discovered that females from lower socio-economic backgrounds stayed out of school to assist their parents with household chores. The author further argues that exclusive state policy of controlling curricular choices, misuse of funding, and non-implementation of education stimulus are factors that contribute to the gender disparity in education. These realities cannot be ignored while planning and implementing educational policies. Stromquist, (1992) states that some of the factors like sexual division of labour allotting mostly time-consuming household works, raising children, mainly among the women from rural areas and poor economic background, control of men on women creating both physical and psychological constraints in their lives foster disparity in literacy between male and female. Poor economic conditions and lack of education one over a generation are some of the important factors leading to disparity in literacy in the context of gender (De, 2015). Hussain and Chatterjee, (2009) worked on the Primary Completion Rate (PRC) of Socio-Religious Communities in West Bengal and as per findings, religion seems to be one of the causes where comparatively Muslim parents are more interested in educating boys rather than girls. They show that; the Primary Completion Rate (PRC) of West Bengal among the children aged between 12 to 15 years is 70 Per cent. In case of Muslim children, the PRC rate is comparatively lower than H-UC and H-BC. The PRC rate of Muslims is 37 per cent and the PRC rate of H-UC and H-BC is 51, and 45 per cent respectively. They further argued that Muslims have comparatively lower PRC rates than H-UC and H-BC in both rural and urban areas. Som and Mishra, (2014) made a correlation study to find the role of some important variables controlling gender disparity in literacy in West Bengal. The considered variables were the location of primary school at a nearby distance, income index, urbanization, population growth, and proportion of children. As per the

findings, the gender disparity in literacy depends upon the availability of primary schools at a nearby distance and the female literacy rate; the same was in the case of income. Basak and Mukherjee, (2012) worked on District level variation in literacy rate in 17 districts and 341 C.D blocks of West Bengal, based on the secondary data 1951 to 2011. They argued that from the year 1951 to 2011, all the districts of West Bengal have increased the literacy rate. But there was a wide variation in increasing rate of literacy among the districts. Basically, the increasing rate of literacy is higher in urban areas than rural areas. Kolkata, Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, 24(N) Pargana, Paschim Medinipur and Dakshin Dinajpur districts has comparatively increase rate of literacy is better than the districts such as Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur, Coochbihar, Jalpaiguri district. Further, they argued that there are a large number of factors that play a big role in literacy rate, which include socio-economic factors, level of urbanization, the standard of living style of females in the society, educational opportunity and technological development.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem:**

Gender disparity has become a matter of concern in India, which gets reflected in different sectors of society related to empowerment including in the context of literacy rate. The idea of empowerment of women and gender disparity is directly or indirectly contributing to the quality of life.

As per the literatures, it is evident that the districts of West Bengal have recorded a significant increase in literacy rate. According to Basak and Mukherjee, (2012) the positive impact in education is noticeable only at the upper primary level and it has enhanced the female literacy rate compared to male literacy rate. However, village-level variation is not sufficient to address the issue of literacy and gender disparity in

context of West Bengal as the socio-economic conditions happen to be the underlying factor and vary across the state post-globalization.

However, most of the studies related to gender disparity in literacy in West Bengal have been focused on disparities at rural, urban and district levels, whereas the major population in West Bengal is composed of both Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, which has been rarely explored in terms of West Bengal as a whole or in terms of social categories. In case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people, the literacy rate is comparatively lower than other Caste in West Bengal and the perception against SCs and STs is more noticeable in various fields including education in society. Hence, to reduce gender disparity in literacy rates in the state, extensive study is required across regions and social groups.

Therefore, using the census data from 1961 to 2011, this study tries to examine Spatio-temporal analysis of gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe to total population in West Bengal, 1961 to 2011.

#### **1.4. Objectives:**

- 1.** To examine the Spatio-temporal patterns of literacy rates in West Bengal and to provide a comparison of such patterns by social categories like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
- 2.** To find out the Spatio-temporal patterns of gender disparity in literacy rates in West Bengal by social categories like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the pre-liberalisation phase, 1961-91;
- 3.** To find out the Spatio-temporal patterns of gender disparity in literacy rates in West Bengal by social categories like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the post-liberalisation phase, 2001-11.

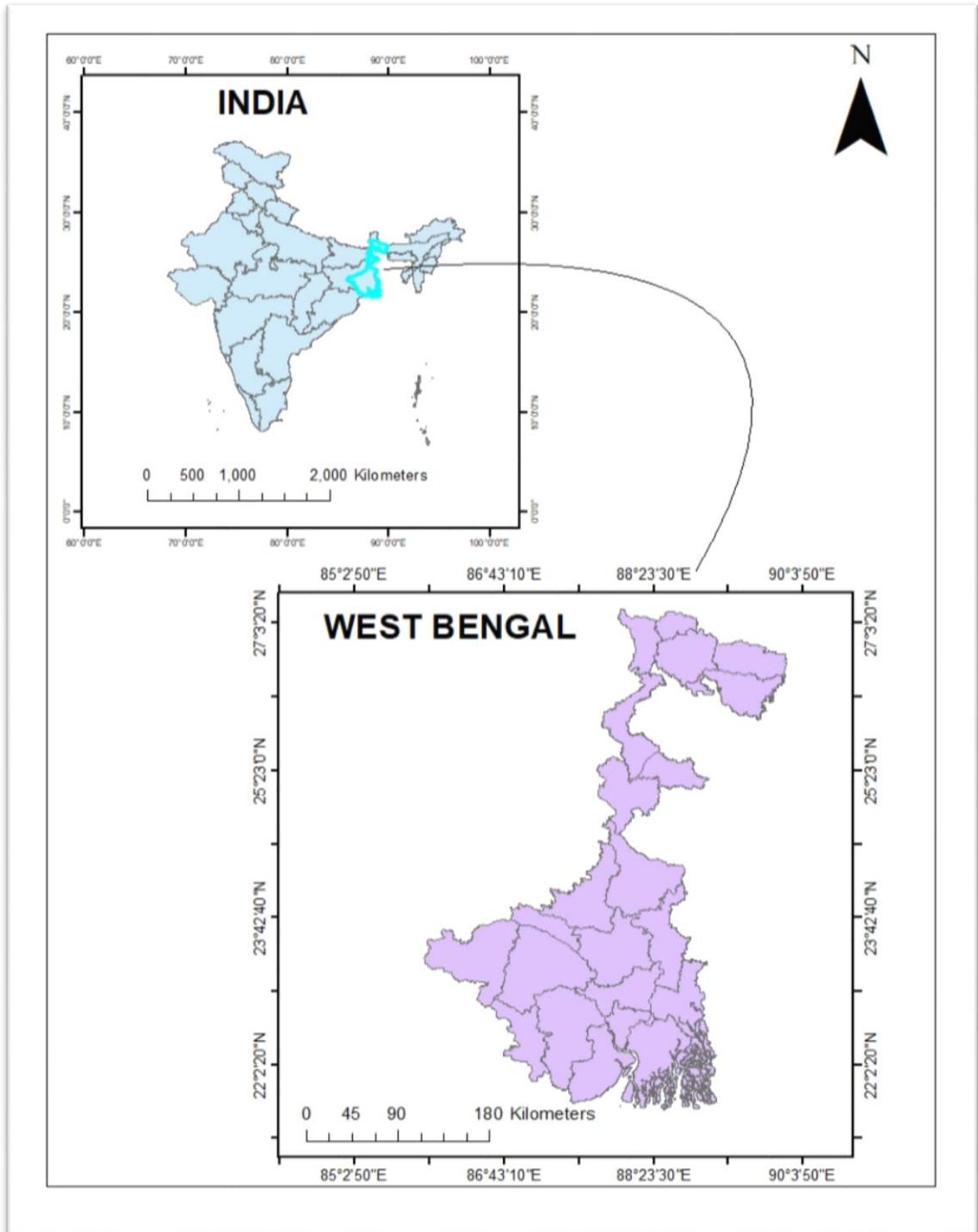
### **1.5 Research Questions:**

1. What is the extent of spatial and temporal differences in the literacy rates of total population, SC population, and ST population in West Bengal?
2. What is the extent of spatial and temporal differences in the gender disparity of literacy rates of total population, SC population, and ST population in West Bengal?

### **1.6 Study Area:**

West Bengal is a state in Eastern India, located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal. It is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest state by area and the fourth most populous state in India. The total area of this state is 88,752 Sq. Km. Different states and countries are located on all sides of this state such as Bhutan and Sikkim in the North, Bangladesh, and Assam in the East, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Orissa in the west, and Nepal in the North-West. It has three international boundaries i.e., Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal; it is the third-largest metropolis and seventh-largest city in terms of population in India. West Bengal includes the Ganga delta, Darjeeling Himalayan hill region, Sundarbans coast, and Ruhr region (Census of India 2011). The latitudinal and longitudinal extension of this state is 21° 25' N to 26 ° 50' N and 86 ° 30' E to 89 ° 58' E (Som and Misra, 2014). West Bengal is linguistically diverse. The main language here is Bengali, However, besides this, the use of Hindi, Nepali and local languages can be noticed. As per the census report, (2011) the official language of the state is Bengali and English, Nepali has got an additional official status for the hilly region of Darjeeling district. The total population of this state is 91,347,736 and the population density is 1029 persons per sq. km. The total literacy rate of West Bengal is 77.08 percent, of which 82.67 percent is male literacy and 71.16 percent is female literacy. West Bengal has language diversity as well as ethnic diversity. However, this state is predominantly Hindi. In West Bengal, 70.54 percent

of people belongs to the Hindu religion and 27.01 per cent of people belong to the Muslim religion. Muslims are the second-largest community in West Bengal. West Bengal has 31.89 percent urbanization. Kolkata is a 100 percent urbanized area.



**Map-1.1:** Location of the Study Area

## 1.7 Database and Methods:

The present study is mainly based on secondary data. It has been collected from the Census of India, 1961 to 2011. Collected census data (1961 to 2011) has been tabulated and analyzed by suitable diagrams and maps using different types of software such as MS-Excel-2016 and Arc-GIS software-10.2 (Classes were framed at Equal Interval). The following methods are used to complete the study, such as-

**I. Effective Literacy rate:** Census of India, 2011 defined the Effective Literacy Rate is the percentage of the total number of literates among the age of population seven years and above.

$$\text{Effective Literacy rate} = \frac{(\text{Total number of literates aged seven and above} \times 100)}{(\text{Population aged seven and above})}$$

**II. Sopher's Disparity Index (1974):** In 1974, David E. Sopher gave the Disparity Index. It is a well-accepted technique to measure disparity.

$$\text{DI} = \text{Log}(X2/X1) + \text{Log}(100-X1) / (100-X2)$$

Where,

DI= Disparity Index.

X2= Percentage of Male Literacy.

X1= Percentage of Female Literacy.

In Sopher's method, X2 is taken for the attributes having higher values, and X1 is taken for the attributes having lower values. If the DI value is 0, there is no disparity / perfect equality. A higher DI value reveals higher disparity; lower DI value reveals lower disparity (Katiyar, 2016).

The disparity Index measure between two groups in their belonging/possession of a particular property is the logarithm of the odds ratio. The log is used to reduce the leveling of effect as in other regions with a high level of variation being studied like literacy, which may be showing an inequality than low levels (Sopher, 1980).



## CHAPTER-2

### Literacy in West Bengal: Temporal and Social Dynamics, 1961-2011

#### 2.1 Introduction:

India ranks very low in literacy rate in the World (Raju, 1991). Although several studies indicate that the literacy rates of both males and females have increased in India in the post-independent period while the disparity in literacy between the two sexes has declined.

Literacy and education are important elements of human development. It brings about a complete change in human consciousness, skill, quality of life, and social system. As per the Census report, in 2011 West Bengal hold 20th position in India in terms of literacy rate. The literacy rate was 77.08%, of which the male literacy rate was 81.70% and the female literacy rate was 70.50% (Som and Mishra, 2014).

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has taken some initiative schemes for EAF (Education for all) and level of educational development for all gender in the country, i.e. District Primary Education program (1994), Operation Blackboard (1987), National Literacy Mission (1988), National Program of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (1995), The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act (2009), but one-third of people in the rural area are still illiterate (Pal and Mondol, 2021). Historically, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are a disadvantaged and deprived section in India and are deprived of basic rights facing various problems in terms of religion, politics, economics, and education from colonial India to the present (Kumar, 2021).

This chapter tries to analyze the overview of the literacy rate in West Bengal of Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population with respect to total population over the decadal period from 1961 to 2011.

## **2.2 Literacy Rates in West Bengal, 1961-2011 of the Total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe Population**

It is noteworthy that from 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate has increased among the total population, SCs, and STs Population, but in every decade the literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is comparatively lower than the literacy rate of the total population in West Bengal. In the year 1961, the total literacy rate in West Bengal was 34.46 per cent and the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population, and Scheduled Tribe population was 10.65 and 7.00 per cent respectively. Therefore, it is stated that STs People are lagging far behind the literacy rate of the total population and Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal in 1961.

In the subsequent year, such as 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011, the same pattern is observed in the literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal.

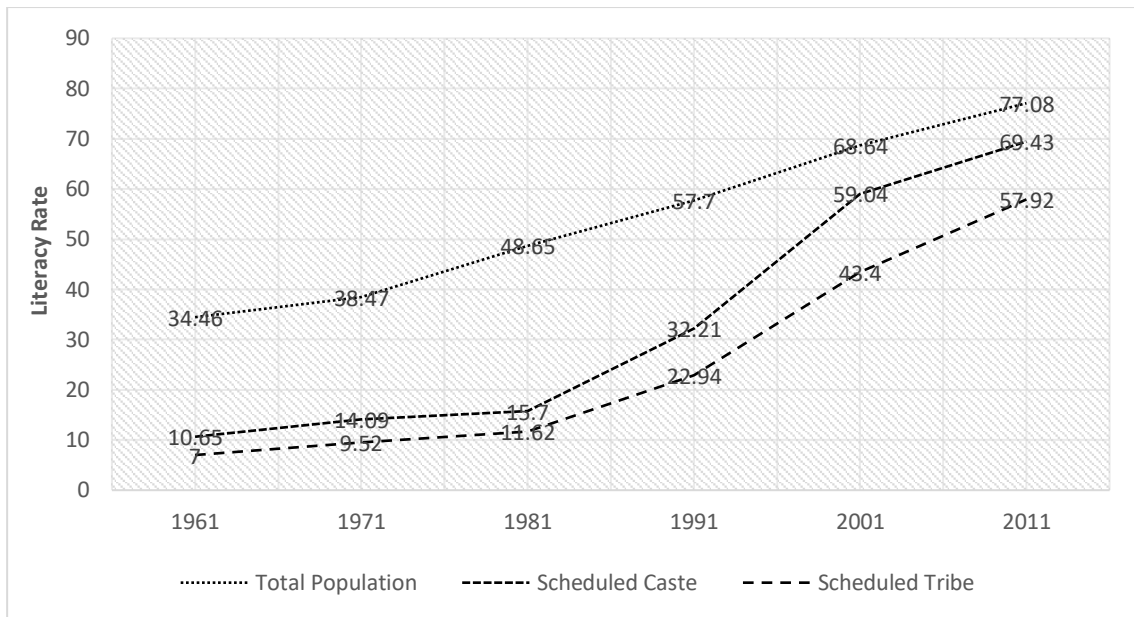


Figure- 2.1 Literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-2.1 shows the temporal trend of literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, from 1961 to 2011. It is visible that, from the year 1961 to 1981, there was a wide gap between the trend lines of literacy rate of total population and SCs, STs Population in West Bengal. But later, from 1991 to 2011, the literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population increased rapidly and the gap between the trend lines of literacy rates has narrowed a lot. In case of the trend line of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population literacy rate, there is a slight gap from 1961 to 1981. But later, from 1991 to 2011, the gap between them was increased. However, one thing is clear, from 1991 to 2011, the literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population increased at a very rapid rate.

In 1997, the Govt. of West Bengal set up an alternative school program, whose aim was to provide primary education to children between the ages of 5-9. The

Government had set up more than 11,000 Sishu Siksha Kendra (SSK) in the marginal area of different districts of West Bengal and provided education to 7.5 lakhs children (WBHDR, 2004).

Rana et. al. (2003) argued that Govt. of West Bengal introduced mid-day-meal program in primary education to increase enrollment, and attendance, and reducing dropout rates, etc. The program was initially launched at 1100 schools in six districts of the state, later it was rolled across the state. The students were served protein-rich meals through the mid-day meal scheme. Besides free textbook and uniforms distribution programme was launched to bring marginalized children under primary education.

The trend line of literacy rate of total population of West Bengal shows it was upward from 1961 to 2011. Besides, it lies at the top of the graph. Thus, the literacy rate of the total population of West Bengal is much higher than the literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population from 1961 to 2011. Looking at the trend line of the Scheduled Caste population of West Bengal, it is clear that although it increased from 1961 to 2011, the rate is comparatively lower than the increasing rate of the total population. In West Bengal, the trend line of literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population is at the down of the graph than the trend line of total population and Scheduled Caste population.

Therefore, the above figure highlights that from 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe population is much lower than the literacy rate of the total population and Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal.

### 2.3 Male Literacy Rates in West Bengal, 1961-2011

The male literacy rate of the total population, SCs population and STs Population was increased, but comparatively Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe male population are lagging than total male population in terms of the increased rate of literacy from 1961 to 2011. In the year 1961, the male literacy rate of the total population was 36.57 percent, and the male literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population was 15.66 and 10.38 per cent respectively.

Therefore, it stated that Scheduled Caste male and Scheduled Tribe male populations are comparatively behind the total male population in terms of literacy rate in 1961. Subsequently, in the years 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 the same pattern is observed in the male literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal.

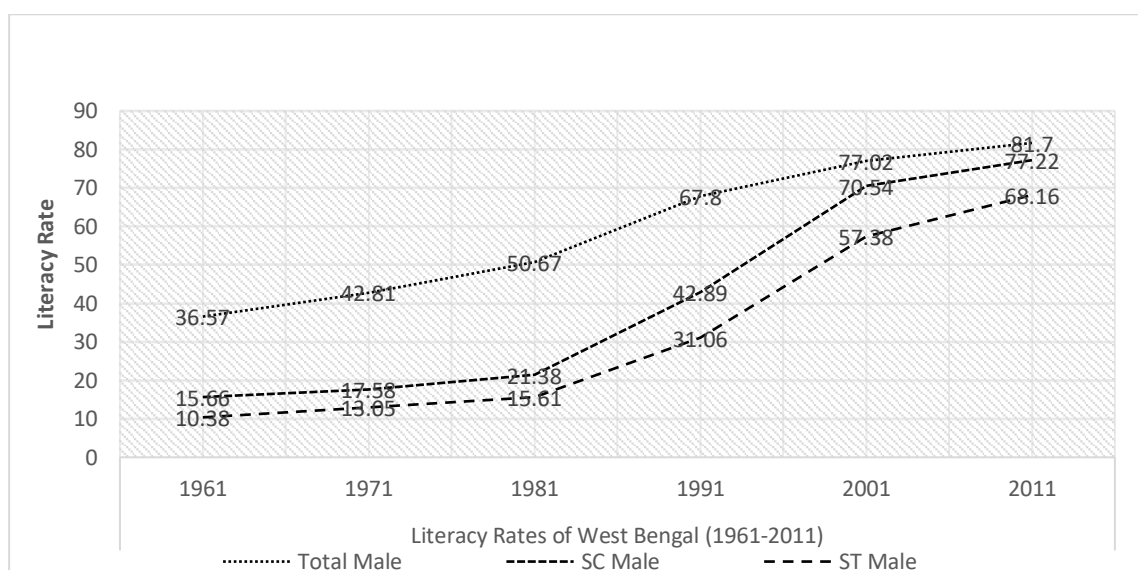


Figure-2.2 Male literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-2.2 shows the temporal trend of literacy rate among the male population of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, from 1961 to 2011. It is visible that, from 1961 to 1981, there was a wide gap

between the trend lines of literacy rate of total male population and SCs, STs male Population but later, from 1991 to 2011, the literacy rate of the total male population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe male population increased rapidly and the gap between the trend lines of literacy rates has narrowed a lot. In case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe male literacy rate, there is a slight gap from 1961 to 1981. But later, from 1991 to 2011, the gap between them increased. However, one thing is clear, from 1991 to 2011, the literacy rate of the total male population, Scheduled Caste male population, and Scheduled Tribe male population increased at a very rapid rate.

The trend line of total male population is at the top of the graph and the trend line of the Scheduled Tribe male population is at the bottom of the graph. Therefore, it can be stated that ST males are lagging far behind total males and SCs males in terms of literacy from 1961 to 2011. But the decades from 1961 to 2011 total male, Scheduled Caste male and Scheduled Tribe male literacy have increased. Looking at the trend line of Scheduled Caste male population of West Bengal, it is clear that although it increased from 1961 to 2011, the increasing rate is comparatively lower than the increasing rate of total male population in West Bengal. The trend line of Scheduled Tribe male population is at the down of the graph than the trend line of total male and Scheduled Caste male population.

Therefore, the above figure highlights a clear picture that from 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe male population is much lower than the literacy rate of total male and Scheduled Caste male Population in West Bengal, 1961 to 2011.

## 2.4 Female Literacy Rate in West Bengal, 1961-2011

The female literacy rates of the total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population have increased, but the SCs and STs female Population are lag far behind than total female population in terms of the growth rate of literacy from 1961 to 2011. In the year 1961, the female literacy rate of the total population was 20.27 percent and the female literacy rate of SCs and STs was 5.08 and 2.32 percent respectively.

Thus, it is stated that comparatively Scheduled Tribe females population are lag behind the total female population and Scheduled Caste female population in literacy rate in 1961. In the subsequent year, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011, the same picture can be observed over the spectrum.

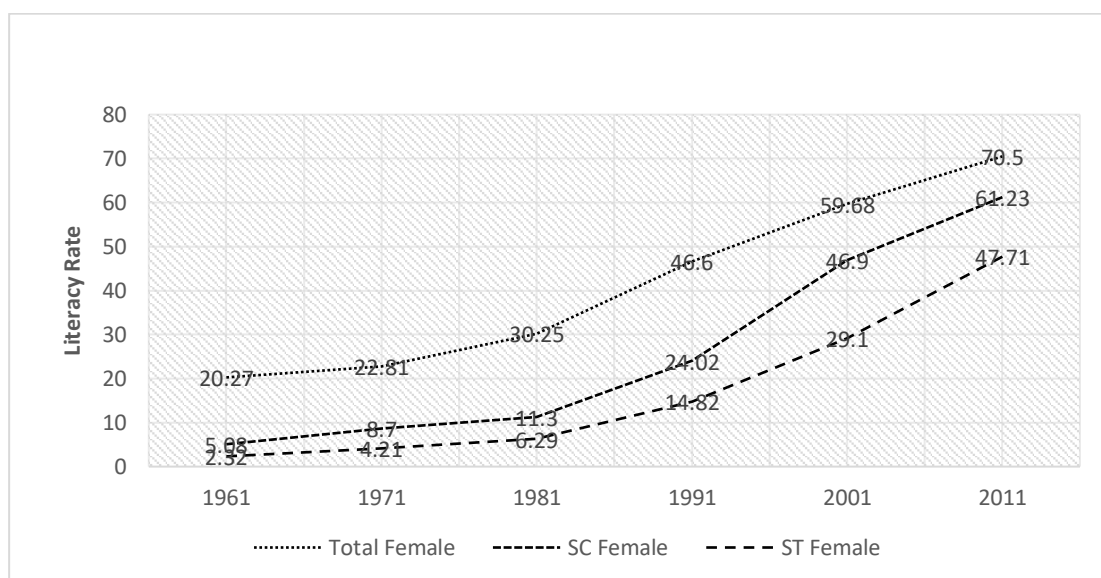


Fig-2.3 Female literacy rate of total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-2.3 shows the temporal trend of literacy rate among the female population of the total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in West Bengal from 1961 to 2011. It is visible that, the literacy rate of total female population, Scheduled Caste female

population and Scheduled Tribe female population are increased from 1961 to 2011. But the increasing rate of literacy has been dissimilar for different social categories. In case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe female literacy rate, there is a slight gap from 1961 to 1981. But later, from 1991 to 2011, the gap between them increased. However, one thing is clear, from 1991 to 2011, the literacy rate of the total female, Scheduled Caste female, and Scheduled Tribe female population increased at a very rapid rate.

The trend line of the total female population is at the top of the graph and the trend line of the Scheduled Tribe female population is at the bottom of the graph. Therefore, it is stated that STs females population are lagging far behind total female and SCs females in terms of literacy from 1961 to 2011. But the decades from 1961 to 2011 total female, Scheduled Caste female, and Scheduled Tribe female literacy have increased. Looking at the trend line of Scheduled Caste female population of West Bengal, it is clear that although it increased from 1961 to 2011, the increasing rate is comparatively lower than the increasing rate of total female population. In West Bengal, the trend line of Scheduled Tribe female population is at the down of the graph than the trend line of total female and Scheduled Caste female population. Therefore, the above figure highlights a clear picture, from 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe female population is much lower than the literacy rate of Total female population and Scheduled Caste female Population in West Bengal, 1961 to 2011.

## **2.5 Overview of the District-Wise Literacy Rate in West Bengal, 1961-2011**

From 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population increased in all the districts of West Bengal, but in case



of an increase rate in literacy, differences can be observed among the districts. Besides STs People lag far behind total population and SCs population in literacy rate in West Bengal.

In terms of total literacy rate in 1961, the highest literacy rate among the districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (51.85%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Malda district (13.79%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Howrah (36.91%), Hooghly (34.91%), 24 Parganas (29.68%), Burdwan (28.76%), Darjeeling (28.70%), Medinipur (27.28%), Nadia (27.25%), Bankura (23.08%), Birbhum (22.09%), Coochbihar (21.00%), Jalpaiguri (19.22%), Purulia (17.30%), West Dinajpur (17.06%) and Murshidabad (16.03%) district (Table-3.5).

In terms of Scheduled Caste literacy rate in 1961, the highest literacy rate among the districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (51.85%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Malda district (13.79%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Howrah (36.91%), Hooghly (34.91%), 24 Parganas (29.68%), Burdwan (28.76%), Darjeeling (28.70%), Medinipur (27.28%), Nadia (27.25%), Bankura (23.08%), Birbhum (22.09%), Coochbihar (21.00%), Jalpaiguri (19.22%), Purulia (17.30%), West Dinajpur (17.06%) and Murshidabad (16.03%) district (Table-3.5).

In terms of district-wise Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in West Bengal in 1961, the highest literacy rate was observed in Kolkata district (22.76%) and lower literacy rate was observed in Murshidabad district (2.51%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Coochbihar (10.72%), Darjeeling (9.33%), Purulia (8.04), Bankura (7.47%), Jalpaiguri (7.46%), 24 Parganas (7.17%), Medinipur

(6.03%), West Dinajpur (5.26%), Howrah (5.17%), Nadia (5.17%), Malda (4.17%), Hooghly (4.13%), Birbhum (3.39%), Burdwan (3.385) district (Table-3.7).

In terms of total literacy rate in 1971, the highest literacy rate among the various districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (60.32%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Malda district (17.61%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Howrah (40.59%), Hooghly (38.82%), 24 Parganas (38.44%), Burdwan (34.36%), Darjeeling (33.07%), Medinipur (32.87%), Nadia (31.31%), Birbhum (26.57%), Bankura (26.30%), Jalpaiguri (24.01%), West Dinajpur (22.12%), Coochbihar (21.92%), Purulia (21.50%) and Murshidabad (19.65%) district (Table-3.8).

In case of Scheduled Caste literacy rate in 1971, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in 24 Pargana district (25.65%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Bankura district (9.98%). In order of the literacy rate 24 Parganas district is followed, respectively by districts of Kolkata (25.16%), Darjeeling (21.80%), Nadia (20.96%), Medinipur (19.35%), Coochbihar (18.20%), Jalpaiguri (16.69%), West Dinajpur (15.82%), Bardwan (14.04%), Malda (13.41%), Hooghly (12.82%), Murshidabad (11.51%), Purulia (10.20%) and Birbhum (9.99%) district (Table-3.9).

In terms of district-wise Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in West Bengal in 1971, the highest literacy rate was observed in Kolkata district (31.99%) and a lower literacy rate was observed in Birbhum district (4.45%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Darjeeling (14.62%), Howrah (12.45%), West Dinajpur (11.18%), Jalpaiguri (10.26%), Bankura (10.24%), Purulia (9.40%), Coochbihar (9.12%), Medinipur (9.00%), Nadia (7.86%), Malda (7.73%), 24

Parganas (7.44%), Hooghly (6.14%), Murshidabad (5.17%) and Burdwan (4.45%) district (Table-3.10).

In terms of total literacy rate in 1981, the highest literacy rate among the various districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (69.12%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Malda district (23.06%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Howrah (51.36%), Hooghly (48.79%), 24 Parganas (46.14%), Medinipur (42.73%), Darjeeling (42.47%), Burdwan (42.43%), Bankura (38.33%), Birbhum (33.69%), Coochbihar (30.10%), Jalpaiguri (29.19%), West Dinajpur (27.00%), Purulia (26.69%) and Murshidabad (24.89%) district (Table-3.11).

In case of Scheduled Caste literacy rate in 1981, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (36.26%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Birbhum district (12.19%). In order of the literacy rate Kolkata district is followed, respectively by districts of Darjeeling (26.65%), Bardwan (26.23%), 24 Parganas (26.23%), Hooghly (25.87%), Howrah (25.26%), Medinipur (22.69%), Coochbihar (20.55%), Jalpaiguri (19.22%), Nadia (19.05%), Purulia (15.14%), West Dinajpur (16.57%), Malda (16.09%), Murshidabad (12.99%) and Bankura (12.46%) district (Table-3.12).

In case of Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in 1981, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (36.76%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Burdwan district (6.16%). In order of the literacy rate Kolkata district is followed, respectively by districts of Darjeeling (19.70%), Howrah (15.56%), Coochbihar (13.07%), Medinipur (12.66%), Purulia (12.65%), 24 Parganas (11.33%), Jalpaiguri (10.15%), Hooghly (9.62%), Nadia (9.30%), West

Dinajpur (9.09%), Birbhum (6.48%), Murshidabad (6.30%) and Malda (6.28%) districts (Table-3.13).

In terms of total literacy rate in 1991, the highest literacy rate among the various districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (77.60%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Malda district (35.60%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by Medinipur (69.30%), Howrah (67.60%), Hooghly (66.80%), 24(N) Pargana (66.82%), Burdwan (61.90%), Dajeeling (57.90%), 24(S) Parganas (55.10%), Nadia (52.50), Bankura (52.00%), Birbhum (48.60), Coochbihar (45.80), Jalpaiguri (45.10), Purulia (43.30%), West Dinajpur (39.30%) and Murshidabad (38.30%) district (Table-3.14).

In case of Scheduled Caste literacy rate in 1991, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (56.53%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Jalpaiguri district (11.34%). In order of the literacy rate Kolkata district is followed subsequently by districts of 24(N) Parganas (55.51%), Medinipur (54.56%), 24 (S) Parganas (49.79%), Darjeeling (46.30%), Nadia (45.32%), Howrah (44.87%), Coochbihar (41.07%), Hooghly (40.66%), Burdwan (36.57%), Malda (33.89%), West Dinajpur (33.05%), Murshidabad (32.79%), Purulia (31.81%), Bankura (29.66%) and Birbhum (27.66%) district (Table-3.15).

In case of Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in 1991, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (55.41%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Birbhum district (14.67%). In order of the literacy rate Kolkata district is followed, subsequently by districts of Howrah (42.35%), Medinipur (40.31%), Darjeeling (39.38%), Coochbihar (32.93%), Bankura

(32.43%), Hooghly (28.14%), Purulia (27.61%), 24(N) Parganas (25.32%), Burdwan (25.98%), 24(S) Parganas (24.50%), Nadia (23.40%), Jalpaiguri (22.38%), West Dinajpur (18.88%), Murshidabad (18.39%) and Malda (15.78%) district (Table-3.16).

In terms of total literacy rate in 2001, the highest literacy rate among the various districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (83.31%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Uttar Dinajpur district (48.63%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is respectively followed by 24(N) Parganas (78.49%), Howrah (77.64%), Hooghly (75.59%), Medinipur (75.17%), Darjeeling (72.87%), Burdwan (71.00%), 24(S) Parganas (70.16%), Coochbihar (67.21%), Nadia (66.55%), Dakshin Dinajpur (64.64%), Bankura (63.84%), Jalpaiguri (63.62%), Birbhum (62.16%), Purulia (56.14%), Murshidabad (55.05%) and Malda (50.71%) district (Table-4.1).

In case of the Scheduled Caste literacy rate in 2001, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in 24(N) Parganas district (70.74%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Bankura district (42.92%). In order of the literacy rate 24(N) Parganas district is followed, subsequently by districts of Kolkata (70.54%), 24(S) Parganas (67.36%), Coochbihar (64.35%), Nadia (63.09%), Darjeeling (62.43%), Jalpaiguri (61.78%), Howrah (61.13%), Hooghly (56.01%), Medinipur (54.32%), Burdwan (51.99%), Dakshin Dinajpur (51.99%), Malda (51.17%), Uttar Dinajpur (50.06%), Murshidabad (48.91%), Birbhum (45.74%) and Purulia (45.15%) district (Table-4.2).

In terms of district-wise Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in West Bengal in 2001, the highest literacy rate was observed in Kolkata district (76.39%) and lower literacy rate was observed in Uttar Dinajpur district (28.68%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is subsequently followed by Darjeeling (55.48%), Coochbihar (55.31%),

Howrah (52.06%), Bankura (49.60%), Medinipur (47.07%), 24(N) Parganas (46.09%), Hooghly (45.45%), 24(S) Parganas (43.29%), Dakshin Dinajpur (42.82%), Purulia (42.64%), Jalpaiguri (42.59%), Burdwan (41.83%), Nadia (40.63%), Murshidabad (35.79%), Malda (32.16%) and Birbhum (31.68%) district (Table-4.3).

In terms of total literacy rate in 2011, the highest literacy rate among the various districts of West Bengal was observed in Kolkata district (87.14%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Uttar Dinajpur district (60.12%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is subsequently followed by 24(N) Parganas (84.95%), Howrah (83.85%), Hooghly (82.55%), Kalimpong (79.33%), 24(S) Parganas (78.57%), Darjeeling (76.43%), Purba Burdwan (76.21%), Paschim Medinipur (75.96%), Nadia (75.78%), Coochbihar (75.49%), Dakshin Dinajpur (73.86%), Alipurduar (72.12%), Paschim Burdwan (71.47%), Purba Medinipur (71.47%), Bankura (70.95%), Birbhum (70.90%), Jhargram (69.37%), Murshidabad (67.53%), Purulia (65.38%) and Malda (62.71%) district (Table-4.4).

In case of Scheduled Caste literacy rate in 2011, the highest literacy rate among the different districts of West Bengal was observed in 24(N) Pargana district (79.70%) and the lowest literacy rate was observed in Paschim Burdwan district (53.21%). In order of the literacy rate 24(N) Parganas district is followed, respectively by districts Kolkata (79.30%), 24(S) Parganas (76.31%), Coochbihar (73.57%), Nadia (73.34%), Purba Medinipur (71.83%), Howrah (71.33%), Kolkata (70.05%), Hooghly (68.39%), Jalpaiguri (66.58%), Dakshin Dinajpur (66.26%), Darjeeling (63.96%), Uttar Dinajpur (62.41%), Murshidabad (62.23%), Paschim Medinipur (61.06%), Malda (61.04%), Birbhum (59.42%), Alipurduar (58.60%), Jhargram (56.31%), Purulia (56.07%), Purba Burdwan (55.56%) and Bankura (54.03%) district (Table-4.5).

In terms of district-wise Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in West Bengal in 2001, the highest literacy rate was observed in Kolkata district (82.06%) and lower literacy rate was observed in Uttar Dinajpur district (43.76%). In order of literacy rate, Kolkata district is subsequently followed by Howrah (70.86%), Kalimpong (70.79%), Coochbihar (66.89%), Darjeeling (65.73%), 24(N) Parganas (64.78%), Hooghly (60.67%), 24(S) Parganas (59.72%), Bankura (59.37%), Nadia (57.75%), Dakshin Dinajpur (57.02%), Purba Medinipur (55.88%), Purulia (53.80%), Alipurduar (52.67%), Jhargram (51.74%), Paschim Medinipur (51.45%), Murshidabad (51.34%), Paschim Burdwan (49.44%), Jalpaiguri (49.33%), Birbhum (47.48%), Purba Burdwan (46.96%) and Malda (46.86%) district (Table-4.6).

## **2.6 Summary:**

Over the period, 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population has increased in all the districts of West Bengal. But the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe peoples are still lagging far behind in literacy rate in all the districts. Kolkata and its adjoining districts, such as Howrah, Hooghly, 24(N) Parganas and Medinipur, the literacy rate has increased significantly. Although Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Malda, Dinajpur, Nadia, Coochbihar, Jalpaiguri and Murshidabad districts have observed an increase in literacy rate, but the increase rate in literacy is relatively low. However, from 1991 to 2011, the districts of West Bengal witnessed a huge increase in literacy rate. In case of the Scheduled Tribe Population, Darjeeling district has the highest rate of Scheduled Tribe literacy in different decades.

## CHAPTER-3

### **Gender Disparity in the Literacy Rates: The Pre-liberalisation phase, 1961-1991**

#### **3.1 Introduction:**

In India, females are lagged far behind males in literacy rate in both rural and urban areas. This picture is observed in every district in India. However, in terms of female literacy rate, the difference between rural and urban area is noticeable. The north-central part of India has large gender disparity in literacy; on the other hand Bengal and Assam have low gender disparity in the literacy rate. In case of north India, there has strong patriarchal system in family, where the educations of boys are given preference thereby neglecting the girls. Overall, the northern states of India have higher gender disparity in literacy and the southern states of India have comparatively low gender disparity in literacy. It is noticeable that in India, different forms of gender disparity in literacy rate can be observed across different races, caste, groups, urban and rural area (Sopher, 1980). Girls in India have historically lagged far behind boys in education, and they are deprived group in society. The discrimination is more noticeable in rural areas than urban areas. Besides, the probability of completing school education of girls is less than boys in India (Hussain, 2010). Gender disparities have various dimensions because the educational opportunity for girls is different in various society, but overall, the chances of girls getting educational opportunities are much less than boys. The education system in India is deeply stratified across caste, gender and religion; as a result, various problems can be noticed in the improvement of female education in India. Although the social status of women has been enhanced and various laws have been enacted in the last six decades, but gender disparity has remained (Alam, 2007). Gender disparity in literacy has become a burning issue in Indian society. Although, the total literacy rate is gradually increasing, but the females



are still far lagging behind male in the country. The gender disparity in literacy rate interrupt the development of any society and it pull down the society backward in many ways (Hoque, et. al, 2019).

In 1991, Indian Government has taken LPG (Liberalisation, Privatization and Globalization) Model for reformation of Indian economy. The purpose of this model was to turn the Indian economy the fastest growing economy in the World. It had a direct and indirect effect on the education system. The positive impacts of LPG model were Independent educational Institute, more choices of schools, reduced Government expenditure, less brain drain, better educational opportunities etc. On the other hand, the negative impacts of LPG model were education becoming a business, FDI in education, unfair competition, focus on certain education field etc. After the adaptation of Indian's LPG model, radical changes have taken place in the education system (Chuaungo, 2019).

Therefore, this chapter tries to analyze the gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes population with respect to total population in all the districts of West Bengal, in the Pre-liberalisation phase, 1961-1991.

### **3.2 Gender Disparity in the Literacy Rates of Total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe Population of West Bengal, 1961-2011**

Literacy rates in West Bengal have increased over the decades and gender disparity in literacy has also decreased. In the year 1961, gender disparity in literacy is highest in the literacy rate of STs Population as compared to the total population and Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal.

In the Subsequent decades, such as 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011, visible a similar picture, where the gender disparity of Scheduled Tribes in literacy is much higher than the total population and Scheduled Caste population. In the year 2001, the gender

disparity in literacy of Scheduled Tribe population was slightly increased as compared to the previous decades (1991).

Therefore, from 1961 to 2011, the Scheduled Tribes population lags far behind the total population and Scheduled Caste population in terms of literacy rate and gender disparity is highest among them.

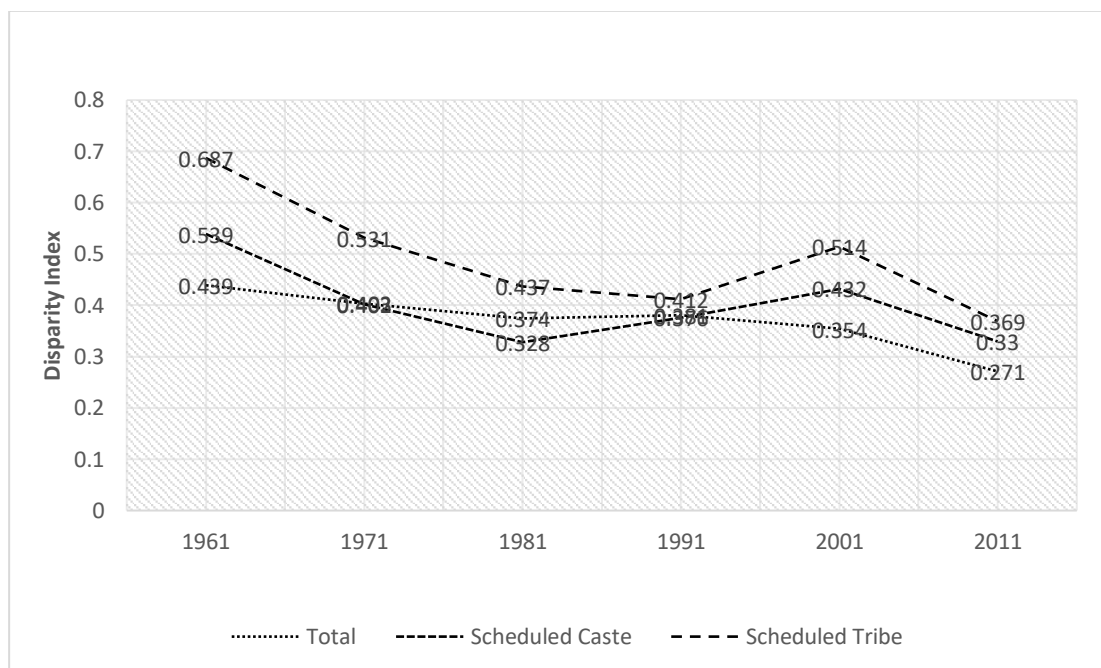


Figure-3.1 Gender disparity in literacy rate of total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe Population of West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-3.1 shows the temporal trend of gender disparity in literacy of total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, from 1961 to 2011. The trend line of total population of West Bengal is smoothly downward from 1961 to 1981. And again, in the year 1991, it increased. Later from 1991 to 2011, it decreased continuously. Therefore, it stated that gender disparity has decreased in the literacy of total population in West Bengal, from 1961 to 2011. Looking at the trend line of Scheduled Caste population of West Bengal, it is clear that although it was declining from 1961 to 1981, later it has been gradually rising in

1991 and 2001. And finally, in 2011, the trend line of SCs population went down again. In West Bengal, the trend line of Scheduled Tribe population is at the top of the graph than the trend line of total population and Scheduled Caste population.

Therefore, the above figure highlights a clear picture, from 1961 to 2011, the highest gender disparity is observed in the literacy rate of STs Population of West Bengal.

### **3.3 District-Wise Gender Disparity in Literacy in West Bengal, 1961-2011**

There are differences in gender disparity in literacy rate among the districts of West Bengal from 1961 to 2011. However, in the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population, the higher gender disparity can be observed compared to total population and Scheduled Caste population. With the increase in literacy rate, the gender disparity of literacy in all the districts of West Bengal as a whole has come down a lot. However, in some districts a different picture is noticeable.

In terms of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in 1961, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.890) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.301) district. In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Darjeeling (0.734), Bankura (0.720), Medinipur (0.711), West Dinajpur (0.651), Coochbihar (0.649), Malda (0.636), Birbhum (0.568), Murshidabad (0.526), Jalpaiguri (0.523), Howrah (0.504), Hooghly (0.468), Burdwan (0.409), Nadia (0.396) and 24 Parganas (0.391) districts (Table-3.5).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in 1961, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (1.112) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.198) district. In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by districts of West Dinajpur (1.058), Bankura (0.950), Malda (0.902), Birbhum (0.836), Hooghly (0.830), Medinipur

(0.814), Murshidabad (0.762), Coochbihar (0.713), Burdwan (0.663), Howrah (0.642), Nadia (0.631), Darjeeling (0.486), 24 Parganas (0.486) and Jalpaiguri (0.463) districts (Table-3.6)

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in 1961, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (1.218) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Darjeeling (0.423) district. The highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of STs can be found in Purulia district, which is followed, in order of sequence, by Bankura (1.166), Birbhum (1.134), Murshidabad (1.297), Nadia (1.120), Howrah (1.120), Malda (1.054), West Dinajpur (1.032), Hooghly (0.969), 24 Parganas (0.987), Burdwan (0.946), Medinipur (0.849), Jalpaiguri (0.534) and Coochbihar (0.498) districts (Table-3.7).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in 1971, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.762) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.175) district. In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.552), West Dinajpur (0.540), Medinipur (0.540), Coochbihar (0.521), Malda (0.520), Jalpaiguri (0.423), Murshidabad (0.416), Birbhum (0.416), Howrah (0.403), Hooghly (0.375), Darjeeling (0.373), 24 Parganas (0.359), Burdwan (0.357), and Nadia (0.307) districts (Table-3.8).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in 1971, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (1.108) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.130) district. In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by districts of Hooghly (0.712), Malda (0.679), Medinipur (0.614), Birhum (0.579), 24 Pargonas (0.566), Jalpaiguri (0.540), Coochbihar (0.527), Darjeeling (0.518), Murshidabad (0.503), West Dinajpur (0.498),

Burdwan (0.479), Bankura (0.416), Nadia (0.449) and Howrah (0.248) districts (Table-3.9).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in 1971, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (1.014) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.290) district. The highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of STs can be found in Purulia district, which is followed, in order of sequence, by Bankura (0.981), Birbhum (0.970), Burdwan (0.940), Medinipur (0.924), Murshidabad (0.806), Hooghly (0.742), West Dinajpur (0.654), 24 Parganas (0.569), Howrah (0.584), Jalpaiguri (0.537), Nadia (0.526), Kolkata (0.467) and Coochbihar (0.428) districts (Table-3.10).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in 1981, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.758) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.210) district. Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.527), Medinipur (0.480), Coochbihar (0.442), Malda (0.441), West Dinajpur (0.437), Jalpaiguri (0.368), 24 Parganas (0.368), Darjeeling (0.362), Birbhum (0.359), Howrah (0.353), Hooghly (0.340), Murshidabad (0.333) and Nadia (0.273) districts (Table-3.11).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in 1981, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.776) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.304) district. Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.631), West Dinajpur (0.581), Malda (0.544), Medinipur (0.544), Coochbihar (0.496), Jalpaiguri (0.476), Birbhum (0.473), Nadia (0.459), Darjeeling (0.425), Howrah (0.409), Burdwan (0.390), 24 Parganas (0.390), Murshidabad (0.324), and Kolkata (0.245) districts (Table-3.12).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in 1981, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.942) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.260) district. In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.776), Malda (0.775), Burdwan (0.752), Hooghly (0.748), Medinipur (0.718), 24 paganas (0.679), Nadia (0.679), West Dinajpur (0.653), Jalpaiguri (0.549), Murshidabad (0.584), Coochbihar (0.439), Howrah (0.296) and Darjeeling (0.295) districts (Table-3.13).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in 1991, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.735) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.242) district. In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.541), Medinipur (0.522), 24(S) Paragans (0.502), Coochbihar (0.457), Jalpaiguri (0.408), West Dinajpur (0.408), Malda (0.402), Birbhum (0.390), Hooghly (0.374), Howrah (0.365), Burdwan (0.364), Darjeeling (0.347), 24(N) Parganas (0.318), Murshidabad (0.313) and Nadia (0.273) districts (Table-3.14).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in 1991, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.789) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.288) district. In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by districts of Bankura (0.650), 24 (S) Parganas (0.567), West Dinajpur (0.552), Malda (0.537), Jalpaiguri (0.524), Medinipur (0.520), Birbhum (0.551), Coochbihar (0.509), Hooghly (0.462), Darjeeling (0.444), Burdwan (0.440), 24(N) Parganas (0.417), Howrah (0.414), Murshidabad (0.324) and Nadia (0.360) districts (Table-3.15).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in 1991, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.821) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.308) district. The highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of STs can be observed in Purulia district which is followed, in order of sequence, by Bankura (0.799), Birbhum (0.713), Malda (0.687), Hooghly (0.649), 24(S) Parganas (0.617), West Dinajpur (0.597), 24(N) Parganas (0.585), Medinipur (0.583), Nadia (0.542), Coochbihar (0.531), Bardwan (0.521), Jalpaiguri (0.510), Murshidabad (0.469), Kolkata (0.394) and Howrah (0.345) districts (Table-3.16).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in 2001, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.990) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.173) district. Purulia district is respectively followed by Burdwan (0.586), 24(S) Parganas (0.520), Medinipur (0.499), Bankura (0.462), Coochbihar (0.396), Jalpaiguri (0.394), Uttar Dinajpur (0.390), Darjeeling (0.389), Birbhum (0.363), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.348), 24(N) Parganas (0.320), Malda (0.307), Nadia (0.246), Murshidabad (0.230), Howrah (0.211), and Hooghly (0.208) districts (Table-4.1).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in 2001, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.677) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in 24 (N) Parganas (0.188) district. After Purulia district the higher gender disparity of scheduled Caste literacy is followed by Bankura (0.572), Uttar Dinajpur (0.479), Darjeeling (0.448), Coochbihar (0.456), Jalpaiguri (0.445), Birbhum (0.439), Bardwan (0.427), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.427), Malda (0.4220, 24(S) Parganas (0.412), Hooghly (0.404), Medinipur (0.368), Howrah (0.353), Nadia (0.335), Murshidabad (0.319) and Kolkata (0.312) districts (Table-4.2).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in 2001, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.713) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.333) district. Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.668), Birbhum (0.551), Malda (0.519), Burdwan (0.499), Hooghly (0.490), Medinipur (0.499), 24(N) Parganas (0.480), Uttar Dinajpur (0.479), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.452), 24(S) Parganas (0.449), Jalpaiguri (0.427), Nadia (0.414), Coochbihar (0.411), Murshidabad (0.409), Kolkata (0.399), and Darjeeling (0.381) districts (Table-4.3).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in 2011, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.548) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kolkata (0.142) district. Purulia district is respectively followed by Darjeeling (0.501), Bankura (0.445), Jhargram (0.368), Hooghly (0.337), 24(S) Parganas (0.331), Paschim Medinipur (0.318), Purba Bardwan (0.310), Coochbihar (0.294), Kalimpong (0.294), Purba Medinipur (0.286), Paschim Burdwan (0.286), Birbhum (0.283), 24(N) Parganas (0.260), Jalpaiguri (0.259), Howrah (0.257), Uttar Dinajpur (0.245), Alipurduar (0.233), Nadia (0.194), Malda (0.174), and Dakshin Dinajpur (0.143) districts (Table-4.4).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in 2011, the highest gender disparity was observed in Purulia (0.510) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Alipurduar (0.190) district. Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.420), 24(N) Parganas (0.409), Paschim Burdwan (0.346), Coochbihar (0.332), Purba Burdwan (0.328), Uttar Dinajpur (0.327), Hooghly (0.326), Kolkata (0.325), 24 (S) Parganas (0.317), Birbhum (0.315), Jhargram (0.311), Paschim Medinipur (0.308), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.304), Malda (0.287), Darjeeling



(0.272), Purba Medinipur (0.268), Jalpaiguri (0.265), Nadia (0.261), Howrah (0.260), Murshidabad (0.236), and Alipurduar district (0.190) districts (Table-4.5).

In case of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in 2011, the highest gender disparity was observed in Jhargram (0.551) district and lowest gender disparity was observed in Kalimpong (0.218) district. Jhargram district is respectively followed by Purulia (0.503), Bankura (0.499), Hooghly (0.391), Paschim Bardwan (0.356), Birbhum (0.351), 24(S) Parganas (0.344), Coochbihar (0.325), 24(N) Parganas (0.317), Malda (0.316), Purba Medinipur (0.316), Purba Burdwan (0.307), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.304), Kolkata(0.303), Jalpaiguri (0.302), Uttar Dinajpur (0.293), Murshidabad (0.277), Nadia (0.275), Paschim Medinipur (0.266) and Alipurduar (0.252) districts (Table-4.6).

From the above description, it can be stated that Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, West Dinajpur, Burdwan, Jhargram and Coochbihar, Jalpaiguri districts has higher gender disparity in literacy rate and Kolkata, Howrah, 24(N) Parganas, Hooghly, Darjeeling district has lower gender disparity in literacy rate across the spectrum total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population from 1961 to 2011.

### **3.4 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in Some Districts of West Bengal, 1961-2011**

In the year 1961, Purulia district has highest gender disparity. The value of the Disparity Index is 0.891. In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by other districts, namely Bankura (0.720), Coochbihar (0.649), Birbhum (0.568), Howrah (0.504) and Kolkata (0.301).

In the following decades, such as 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011, Purulia district also had the highest gender disparity in literacy rate of total population. But over the decades, gender disparity in Purulia district has declined in terms of literacy. It is

noteworthy highlight here, that the lowest gender disparity in literacy can be observed in Kolkata from 1961 to 2011. But in some decades, the gender disparity in literacy in the Kolkata district has increased and decreased.

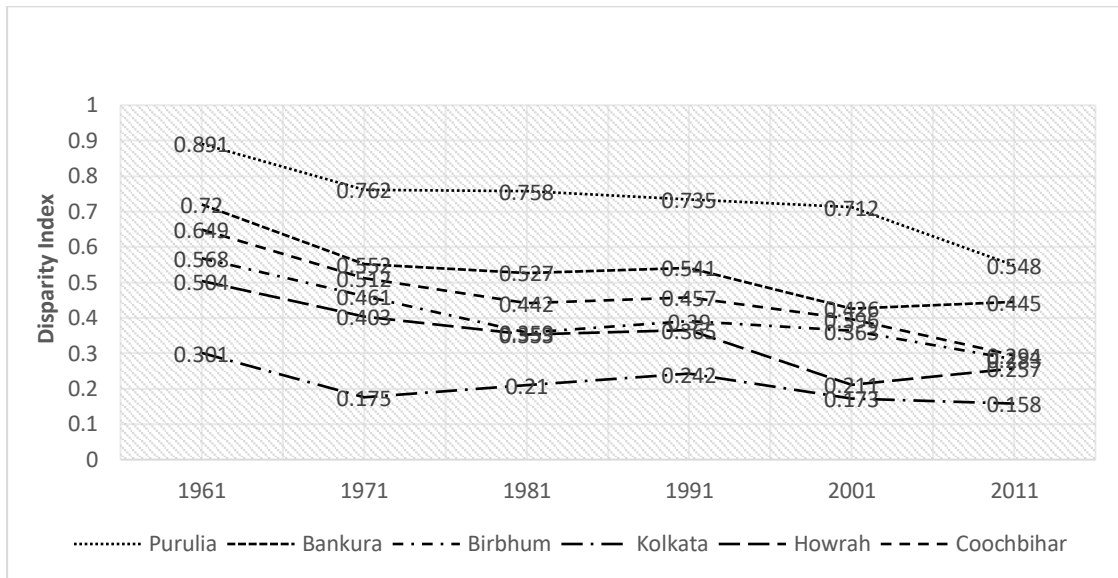


Figure-3.2 Gender disparity in literacy rate of total population among some districts of West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-3.2 shows the temporal trend of gender disparity in the literacy rate of total population among some districts of West Bengal, from 1961 to 2011. From the above trend lines, it stated that Purulia district has highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of total population, from 1961 to 2011. However, as gender disparity in literacy gradually decreased from 1961 to 2011. In case of Kolkata district, the trend line is at the bottom of the graph. Therefore, it is stated that from 1961 to 2011, Kolkata district has the lowest gender disparity in the literacy rate of total population among the districts of West Bengal. From 1961 to 1971, the trend line of Kolkata district gradually went down and again from 1971 to 1991, it went up. But later in 2001, it went down again.

In the other districts such as Bankura, Birbhum, Howrah and Coochbihar, although overall the gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 2011, but it has increased and decreased in different decades.

### 3.5 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in Some Districts of West Bengal, 1961-2011

It stated that Purulia district has highest gender disparity in the literacy from 1961 to 2011. But from 1961 to 2011 the gender disparity in literacy of Purulia district gradually decreased. And lowest gender disparity in literacy is observed in Kolkata district. However, in some decades gender disparity in literacy has decreased and increased.

In other districts of West Bengal such as Bankura, Birbhum, Howrah and Coochbihar, overall gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 2011. But it has increased and decreased in some decades.

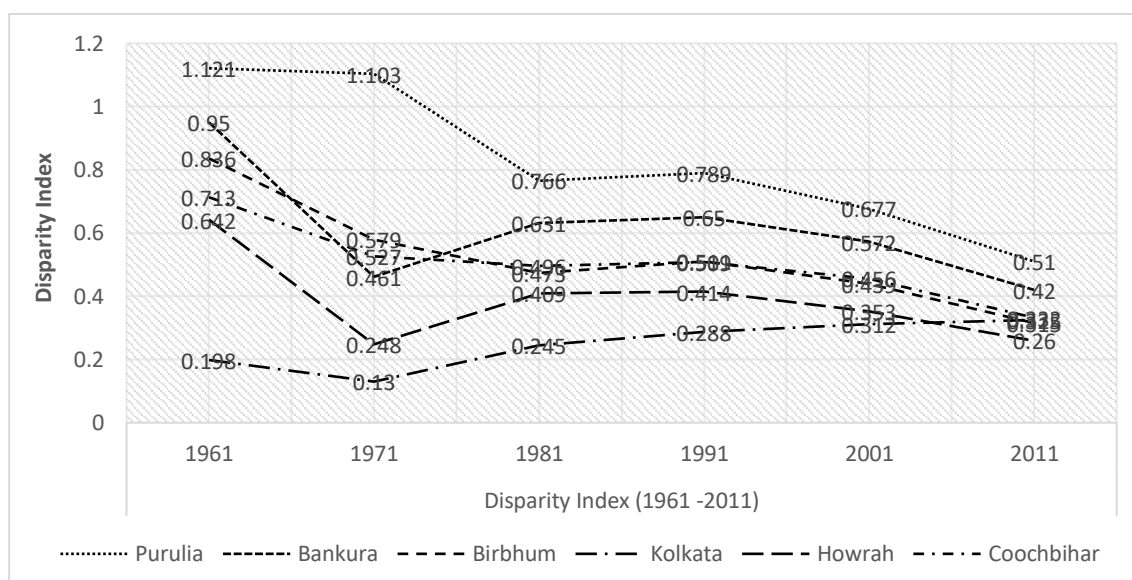


Figure-3.3 Gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population among some districts of West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-3.3 shows the temporal trend of gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population among some districts of West Bengal from 1961 to 2011. From the above graph, it is visible that over the period 1961 to 2011, the gender disparity in literacy has increased and decreased in different districts of West Bengal. Looking at the trend line of Purulia district, it is understood that in all the decades from 1961 to 2011, there is the highest gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Caste population. But over the decades gender disparity in literacy has decreased. In the case of Bankura district, gender disparity in literacy decreased considerably from 1961 to 1971, but increased in subsequent manner in the decades of 1981, 1991 and in the year 2011 again it decreased. The trend line of Birbhum district shows that gender disparity in literacy has been gradually reduced from 1961 to 2011. The same nature of trend line can be observed in Coochbihar district as in Birbhum district. In the case of Howrah district, gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 1971 but it increased again in 1981. Then gradually the trend line went down in 1991, 2001 and 2011. Looking at the trend line of Kolkata district, it is clear that although the gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population has decreased from 1961 to 1971, it has increased in the 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 decades. But compared to other districts, Kolkata district has much less gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal.

### **3.6 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in Some Districts of West Bengal, 1961-2011**

From 1961 to 2011, the highest gender disparity in literacy rate prevailed among Scheduled Tribes people in comparison to the total population and Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal (Figure-3.1).

In case of Scheduled Tribe population, the highest gender disparity in literacy is observed in Purulia district, from 1961 to 2011. But from 1961 to 2011, gender disparity in literacy gradually decreased in Purulia district. In other districts of West Bengal such as Bankura, Birbhum, Howrah and Coochbihar, overall gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 2011. But it has increased and decreased in some decades.

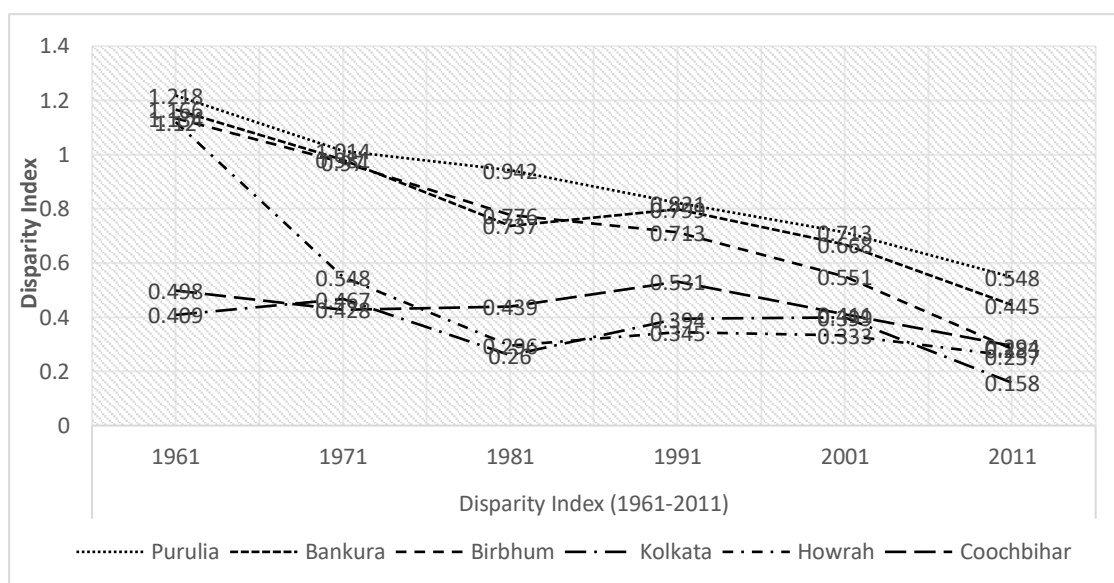


Figure-3.4 Gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population among some districts of West Bengal, 1961-2011

Figure-3.4 shows the temporal trend of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population among some districts of West Bengal from 1961 to 2011. From the trend lines, it is clear that there is a difference in gender disparity in literacy among the districts. However, from 1961 to 2011, gender disparity in literacy decreased in all districts. Purulia district has the highest gender disparity from 1961 to 2011. But gender disparity in literacy has declined significantly over the decades from 1961 to 2011. In the case of Birbhum district, the level of gender disparity in literacy gradually decreased from 1961 to 2011.

The trend line of Bankura district shows that although gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 1981, but it increased slightly in 1991. Later in 2011 the trend line Bankura district has went down. The same pattern of trend line can be observed in Birbhum like Bankura district. From the trend line of Howrah district shows that overall gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 2011. However, after 1981, gender disparity in literacy increased slightly in 1991 and 2001. In Coochbihar district the gender disparity in literacy decreased from 1961 to 1971 but it increased slightly in 1981 and 1991. And overall disparity decreased to 0.294 in 2011. In case of Kolkata district relatively low gender disparity was observed in literacy from 1961 to 2011. But in different decades, gender disparity has slightly increased and decreased.

### **3.7 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1961**

The total literacy rate of West Bengal in the year 1961 was 34.46 per cent, of which male literacy rate was 36.57 per cent and female literacy rate was 20.27 per cent (Census of India, 1961). The same pattern is observed in different districts of West Bengal in 1961, where, as a whole female is comparatively behind the males in terms of literacy rate.

Table-3.1 provides an overview of the total literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy in different districts of West Bengal in 1961. From the Disparity Index, it is stated that the gender disparity in literacy rate is observed in all the districts of West Bengal. Looking at the value of the Disparity Index, it is clear that the Purulia district has the highest gender disparity (0.890) in literacy rate in 1961 with regard to the total population, whereas the lowest gender disparity is observed in the Kolkata district (0.301). Therefore, females are lagging behind males in Purulia district in 1961. And

in case of Kolkata district, females are marginally behind the males in literacy rate as compared to the other districts of West Bengal (Table-3.1).

Kolkata is a hundred per cent urbanized area and Urbanization is an indicator of development. Where students have an interest in education and have good employment opportunities. Above all, there is a positive relationship between urbanization and literacy (Som and Misra, 2012).

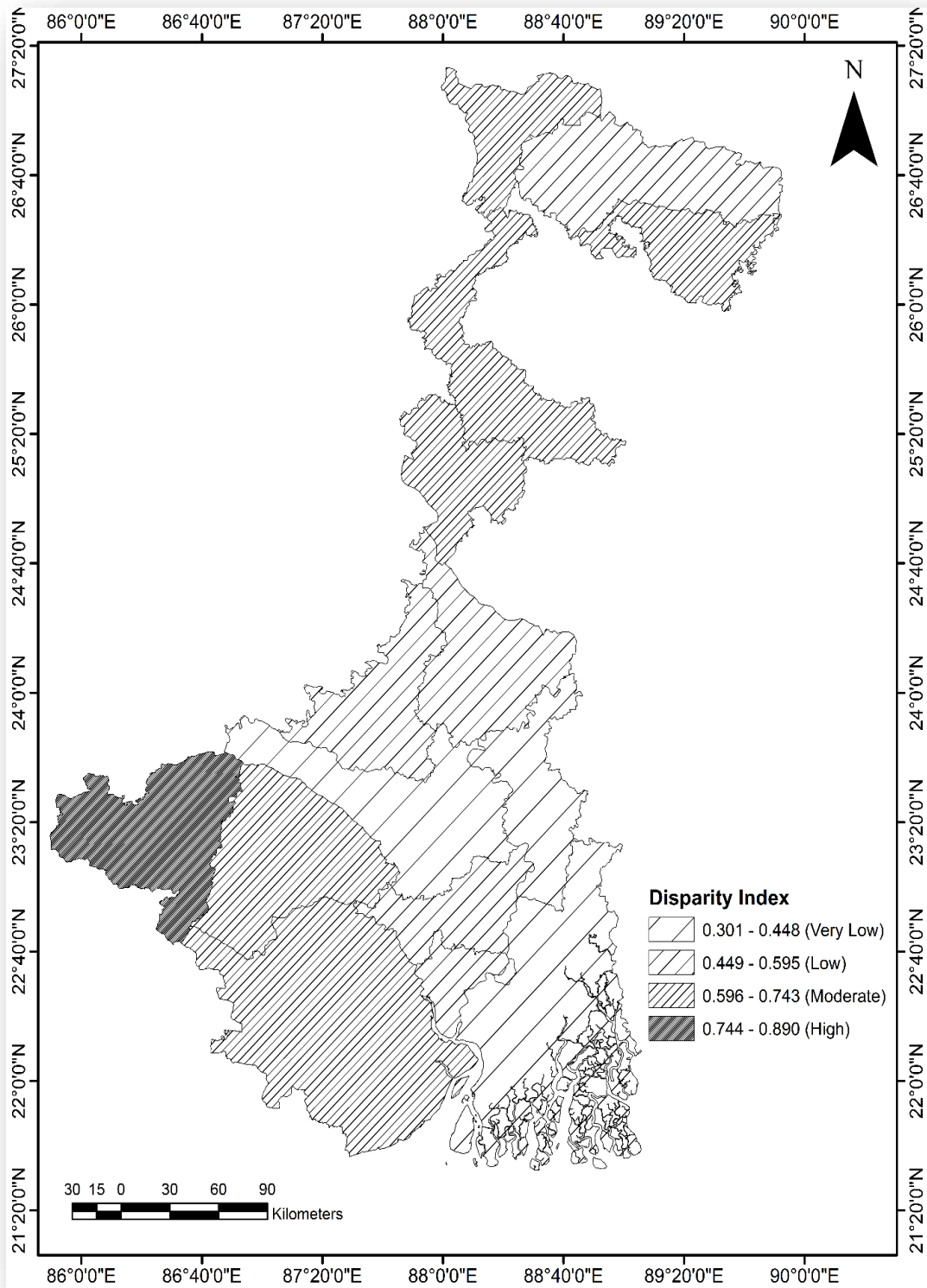
In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Darjeeling (0.734), Bankura (0.720), Medinipur (0.711), West Dinajpur (0.651), Coochbihar (0.649), Malda (0.636), Birbhum (0.568), Murshidabad (0.526), Jalpaiguri (0.523), Howrah (0.504), Hooghly (0.468), Burdwan (0.409), Nadia (0.396) and 24 Parganas (0.391).

**Table-3.1.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1961**

Sl. No	Districts	Total Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	21.00	31.4	9.30	0.649
2	Jalpaiguri	19.22	27.07	10.01	0.523
3	Darjeeling	28.70	49.86	15.46	0.734
4	West Dinajpur	17.06	25.96	7.24	0.651
5	Malda	13.79	21.47	5.94	0.636
6	Murshidabad	16.03	23.49	8.36	0.526
7	Nadia	27.25	35.78	18.24	0.396
8	Burdwan	28.76	36.39	18.21	0.409
9	Birbhum	22.09	32.43	11.47	0.568
10	Bankura	23.08	36.17	9.73	0.720
11	Purulia	17.30	29.02	4.98	0.890
12	Howrah	36.91	48.41	22.67	0.504
13	Hooghly	34.65	46.11	21.81	0.468
14	Kolkata	51.85	59.02	41.80	0.301
15	24 Parganas	29.68	40.12	21.37	0.391
16	Medinipur	27.28	41.66	12.17	0.711

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1961





Map-3.1 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in West Bengal, 1961

Gender disparity in the literacy rate of the total population is not uniform throughout the state in 1961. The pattern of disparities varies from one district to another district. The district-level analysis reveals that the range of the disparity index is 0.301 to 0.890. Based on the district-level variation, the state has been divided into four disparity classes; these are 1. Very low (0.301-0.448), 2. Low (0.449-0.595), 3. Moderate (0.596-0.743), 4. High (0.744-0.890) disparity zone (Map-3.1).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.301-0.448):**

The very low gender disparity in literacy rate is observed in four districts of West Bengal such as Kolkata (0.301), 24 Parganas (0.391), Nadia (0.396) and Burdwan (0.409).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.449-0.595):**

Five districts of West Bengal are belonging to an area of low disparity zone. Namely Hooghly (0.468), Howrah (0.504), Jalpaiguri (0.523), Murshidabad (0.526) and Birbhum (0.568) respectively.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.596-0.743):**

Malda (0.636), Coochbihar (0.649), West Dinajpur (0.651), Medinipur (0.711), Bankura (0.720) and Darjeeling (0.734) district located in moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.744-0.890):**

Purulia (0.890) district is located in an area of high disparity zone.

### **3.8 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1961**

The term Scheduled was originally recognized by the British in 1935. It refers to the constitutional “Scheduled” of Caste. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) people are historically deprived, underprivileged, and opposed to the caste system. However, there is some difference in the case of the urban area, where the disparity between Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Caste populations is much low as compared to rural areas. This does not mean that there is no disparity at all (Raju, 1988).

Table-3.2 provides the district-wise gender disparity in literacy rates of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal in 1961. From the Disparity Index, it is clear that gender disparity exists in the literacy rates of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal. Among all the districts of West Bengal, the highest gender disparity in literacy rate can be observed in Purulia district (1.121), whereas the lowest gender disparity is observed in the Kolkata district (0.198).

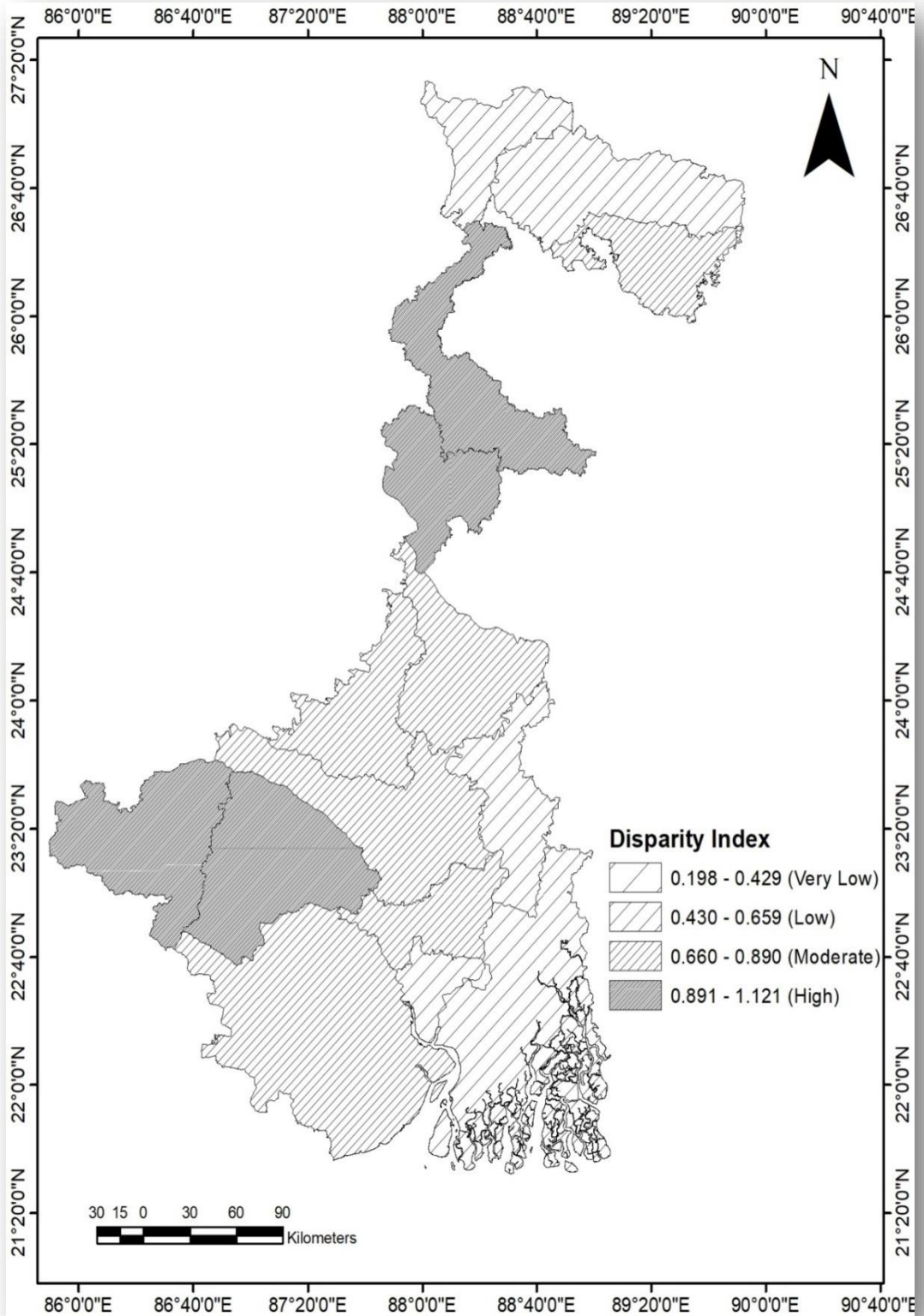
Therefore, it can be stated that there is a slight gap between Scheduled Caste male and female literacy. Besides, the female literacy rate in Kolkata district is much higher than the other districts of West Bengal (Table-3.2).

In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by districts of West Dinajpur (1.058), Bankura (0.950), Malda (0.902), Birbhum (0.836), Hooghly (0.830), Medinipur (0.814), Murshidabad (0.762), Coochbihar (0.713), Burdwan (0.663), Howrah (0.642), Nadia (0.631), Darjeeling (0.486), 24 Parganas (0.486) and Jalpaiguri (0.463).

**Table-3.2.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1961**

Sl. No	Districts	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	16.61	21.34	4.99	0.713
2	Jalpaiguri	9.77	9.21	3.37	0.463
3	Darjeeling	16.64	24.06	9.34	0.486
4	West Dinajpur	10.81	18.64	1.96	1.058
5	Malda	10.49	18.12	2.69	0.902
6	Murshidabad	8.73	14.39	2.82	0.762
7	Nadia	16.68	25.39	7.36	0.631
8	Burdwan	9.72	15.28	3.72	0.668
9	Birbhum	7.63	12.63	2.06	0.836
10	Bankura	7.19	12.62	1.59	0.950
11	Purulia	7.02	12.33	1.05	1.121
12	Howrah	16.10	24.31	6.81	0.642
13	Hooghly	11.69	19.30	3.41	0.830
14	Kolkata	20.32	23.30	16.11	0.198
15	24 Parganas	16.64	24.06	9.34	0.486
16	Medinipur	14.87	24.66	4.73	0.814

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1961



Map-3.2 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal, 1961

The gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste people in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of the Disparities Index in literacy rate has been divided into four classes for showing the gender disparity of Scheduled Caste in 1961. The classes are divided into four categorized, these are- 1. Very low (0.198-0.429) 2. Low (0.430-0.659) 3. Moderate (0.66-0.890) 4. High (0.891-1.121) disparity zone (Map-3.2).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.198-0.429):**

Only one district out of sixteen districts of West Bengal is located in a very low disparity zone. The value of the Disparity Index in a very low disparity zone varies from 0.198 to 0.492. Kolkata district (0.198) belongs to this very low disparity zone.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.430-0.659):**

Five districts of West Bengal are belong to the low disparity zone. The district in this category is Jalpaiguri (0.463), Darjeeling (0.486), 24 Parganas (0.486), 24 Parganas (0.486), Nadia (0.631) and Howrah (0.642).

**1. Moderate disparity zone (0.660-0.890):**

Six districts out of sixteen districts of West Bengal are belong to the moderate disparity zone. Namely, Burdwan (0.668), Coochbihar (0.713), Murshidabad (0.762), Medinipur (0.814), Hooghly (0.830) and Birbhum (0.836).

**4. High disparity zone (0.891-1.112):**

The districts of Purulia (1.121), West Dinajpur (1.058), Bankura (0.950) and Malda (0.920) located in the high disparity zone.

### **3.9 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1961**

Table-3.3 provides an overview of district-wise gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal in 1961. All district of West Bengal is being noticed with gender disparity in the literacy of Scheduled Tribe population. Gender disparity in literacy rate is much higher among the Scheduled Tribes as compared to that of the total population and Scheduled Caste population (Table-3.1, 3.2&3.3). As per the value of Disparity Index, the highest gender disparity in literacy rates is found in the Purulia district (1.218). It can be inferred (Table-3.1, 3.2&3.3) that in Purulia district has the highest gender disparity in literacy rate in 1961 in case of the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population.

The condition of literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population is not well in the Purulia district. This is mainly due to poverty, lack of focus on education, lack of motivation, low income, lack of school infrastructure, etc. (Khan et, al. 2021).

Lowest gender disparity in literacy of STs Population is found in the Darjeeling district (0.432). Therefore, female literacy rate of Darjeeling district is much higher than in other districts of West Bengal in 1961. If we look at the spatial variation in literacy rates among SCs and STs Population of West Bengal in 1961, it is crystal clear that the district Purulia has the highest gender disparity across the spectrum.

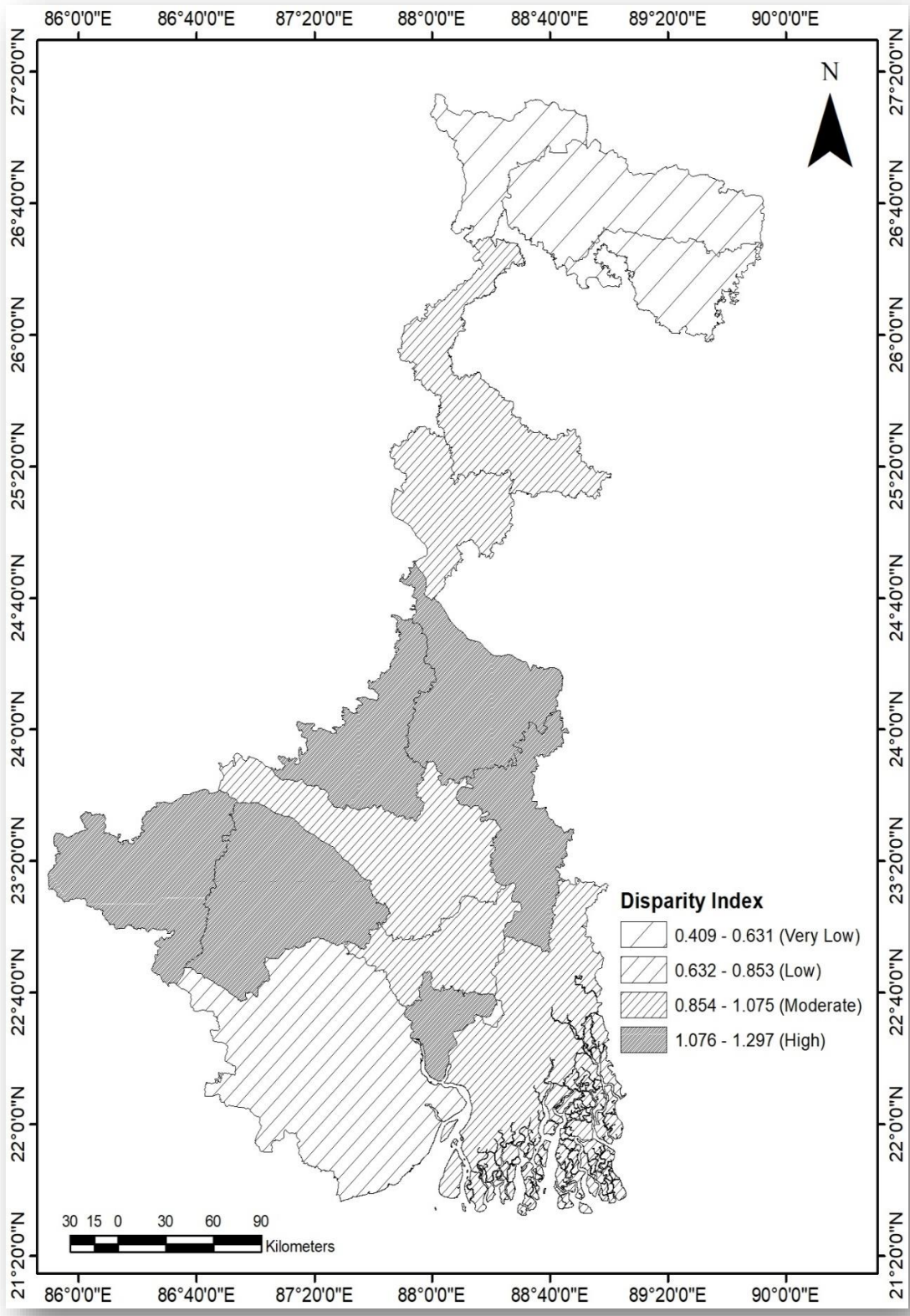
The highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of STs population can be found in Purulia district, which is followed, in order of sequence, by Bankura (1.166), Birbhum (1.134), Murshidabad (1.297), Nadia (1.120), Howrah (1.120), Malda (1.054), West Dinajpur (1.032), Hooghly (0.969), 24 Parganas (0.987), Burdwan (0.946), Medinipur (0.849), Jalpaiguri (0.534) and Coochbihar (0.498).

**Table-3.3.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1961**

Sl. No.	Districts	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	10.72	14.81	5.22	0.498
2	Jalpaiguri	7.46	11.08	3.51	0.534
3	Darjeeling	9.33	10.63	4.21	0.432
4	West Dinajpur	5.26	9.65	0.98	1.032
5	Malda	4.17	7.52	0.71	1.054
6	Murshidabad	2.51	4.74	0.25	1.297
7	Nadia	5.17	9.42	0.78	1.120
8	Burdwan	3.38	5.80	0.69	0.946
9	Birbhum	3.39	6.29	0.49	1.134
10	Bankura	7.47	13.93	1.09	1.166
11	Purulia	8.04	14.96	1.05	1.218
12	Howrah	5.17	9.42	0.78	1.120
13	Hooghly	4.13	7.32	0.84	0.969
14	Kolkata	22.76	28.60	13.50	0.409
15	24 Parganas	7.17	12.45	1.44	0.987
16	Medinipur	6.03	10.62	1.65	0.849

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1961





Map-3.3 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 1961

Map-3.3 shows that the gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of Disparities Index in literacy rate has been divided into four classes for showing gender disparity of Scheduled Tribe in 1961. The classes are categorized in to 1. Very low (0.409-0.631), 2. Low (0.632-0.853), 3. Moderate (0.854-1.075), and 4. High (1.076-1.297) disparity zone.

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.409-0.631):**

Four districts out of sixteen districts of West Bengal are located in a very low disparity zone. Namely Kolkata (0.409), Darjeeling (0.432). Coochbihar (0.498) and Jalpaiguri (0.534) respectively.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.632-0.853):**

The value of Disparity Index in very low disparity zone varies between 0.632-0.853. Only one district of West Bengal is located in low disparity zone. Medinipur district (0.849) is situated to the very low disparity zone.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.854-1.075):**

The districts West Dinajpur, Malda, Burdwan, Hooghly and 24 Parganas are located in the Moderate disparity zone. The Disparity Index value is 0.946, 0.969, 0.987, 1.032, and 1.054 respectively.

**4. High disparity zone (1.076-1.297):**

Six districts of West Bengal are located in the high disparity zone. Namely Murshidabad (1.297), Purulia (1.218), Bankura (1.166), Birbhum (1.134), Nadia (1.120), and Howrah (1.120).

### **3.10 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1971**

The total literacy rate of West Bengal in the year 1971 was 38.47 %, of which the male literacy rate was 42.81 % and female literacy rate was 22.81% (Census of India, 1971). Thus, in the year 1971, there has a gender disparity in the literacy is observed. The same picture is observed in different districts of West Bengal in 1971, where, as a whole female is lagging behind the males in terms of literacy rate.

Table-3.4 provides an overview of the total literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy in all the districts of West Bengal in 1971. From the Disparity Index (D.I), it can be stated that the gender disparity in literacy rate is observed in all the districts of West Bengal. Looking at the Disparity Index, the Purulia district has the highest gender disparity (0.762) in literacy rate in 1971 with regard to the total population, whereas the lowest gender disparity is observed in the Kolkata district (0.175).

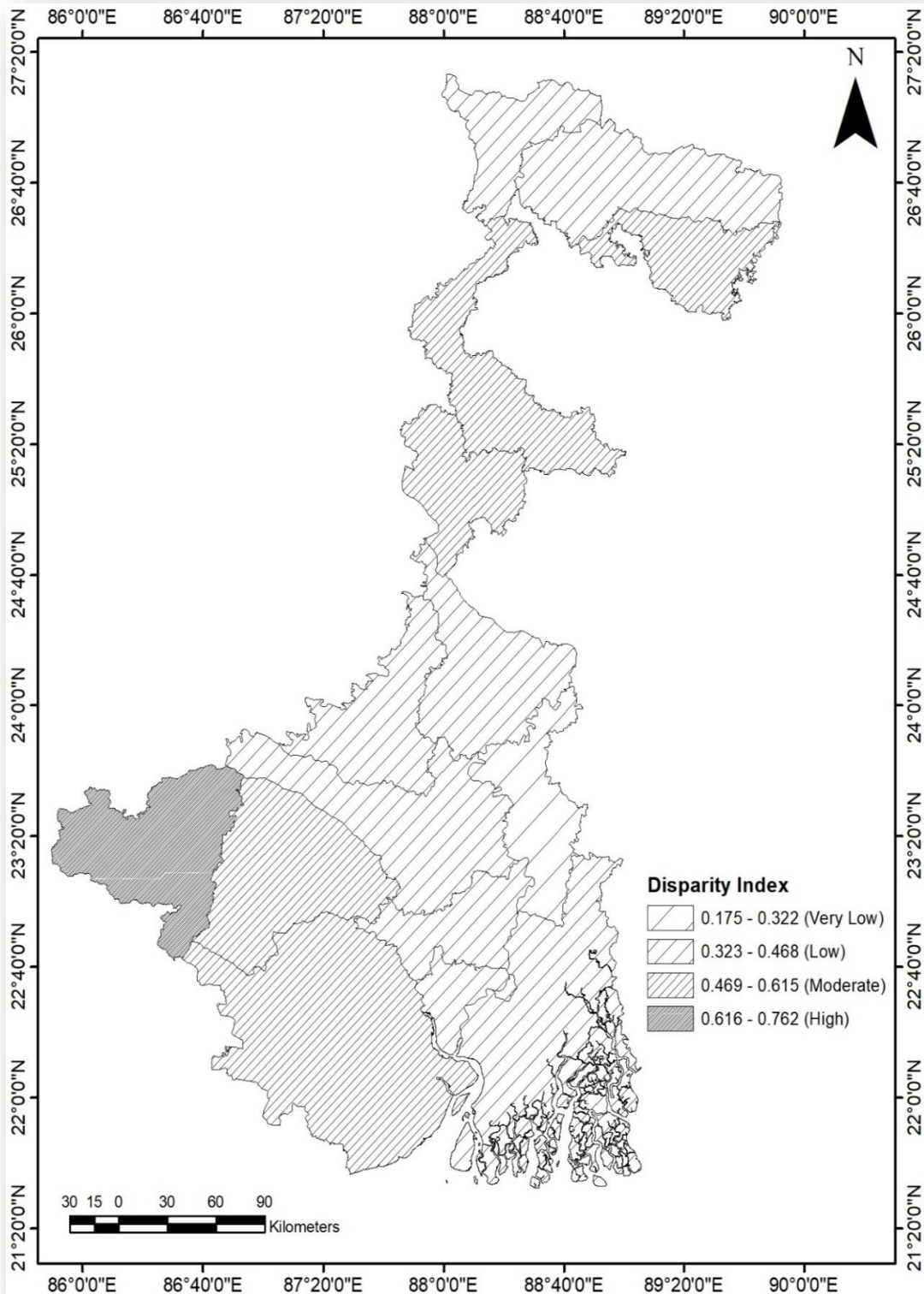
Therefore, females are lagging behind male in Purulia district in 1971. And in case of Kolkata district, females are marginally behind the males in literacy rate as compared to the other districts of West Bengal (Table-3.4).

In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.552), West Dinajpur (0.540), Medinipur (0.540), Coochbihar (0.521), Malda (0.520), Jalpaiguri (0.423), Murshidabad (0.416), Birbhum (0.416), Howrah (0.403), Hooghly (0.375), Darjeeling (0.373), 24 Parganas (0.359), Burdwan (0.357), and Nadia (0.307).

**Table-3.4.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1971**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	21.92	31.08	11.93	0.521
2	Jalpaiguri	24.01	31.96	15.04	0.423
3	Darjeeling	33.07	41.75	23.23	0.373
4	West Dinajpur	22.12	31.09	12.37	0.504
5	Malda	17.61	25.45	9.33	0.520
6	Murshidabad	19.65	26.73	12.26	0.416
7	Nadia	31.31	38.61	23.61	0.307
8	Burdwan	34.36	42.87	24.75	0.357
9	Birbhum	26.57	35.45	17.40	0.416
10	Bankura	26.30	37.63	14.47	0.552
11	Purulia	21.50	34.27	8.25	0.762
12	Howrah	40.59	50.51	28.68	0.403
13	Hooghly	38.82	48.33	28.21	0.403
14	Kolkata	60.32	64.08	54.40	0.175
15	24 Parganas	38.44	48.43	29.11	0.359
16	Medinipur	32.87	45.59	19.42	0.540

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1971



Map-3.4 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in West Bengal, 1971

Map-3.4 shows that the gender disparity in the literacy rate of total population in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of Disparities Index in literacy rate has been divided into four classes for showing gender disparity of total population in 1971. The classes are categorized in to 1. Very low (0.175-0.322), 2. Low (0.323-0.468), 3. Moderate (0.469-0.615), and 4. High (0.616-0.762) disparity zone.

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.175-0.322):**

Two districts out of sixteen districts of West Bengal are located in a very low disparity zone. The value of Disparity Index for the very low disparity zone varies from 0.175 to 0.322. Kolkata (0.175) and Nadia (0.307) districts belong to very low disparity zone.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.322-0.468):**

Most of the districts of West Bengal belong to an area of low disparity zone. The districts in this category are, Burdwan (0.357), 24 Parganas (0.359), Darjeeling (0.373), Howrah (0.403), Hooghly (0.403), Birbhum (0.416), Murshidabad (0.416) and Jalpaiguri (0.423).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.469-0.615):**

The districts, West Dinajpur (0.504), Malda (0.520), Coochbihar (0.521), Medinipur (0.540) and Bankura (0.552) are located in moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.616-0.762):**

Only one district out of sixteen districts of West Bengal is located in high disparity zone. The value of Disparity Index of the very low disparity zone varies between 0.616-0.762. Purulia district (0.762) belongs to this very low disparity zone.

### **3.11 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1971**

In India, the Scheduled Caste peoples are lagging far behind than the other castes in terms of educational opportunities, employment, social aspects, and participation in politics (Ghosh, 2009).

Table-3.5 provides the district-wise gender disparity in literacy rates of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal in 1971. From the Disparity Index, it is clear that gender disparity exists in the literacy rates of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal. In 1971, the range of Disparity Index in the total literacy is 0.175 to 0.762 and the range of the Disparity Index in Scheduled Caste literacy is 0.130 to 1.108. Thus, it is stated that gender disparity in literacy rate is more noticeable in Scheduled Caste than the literacy rate of total population in West Bengal in 1971 (Table-3.4&3.5).

Among all the districts of West Bengal, the highest gender disparity in literacy can be observed in the Purulia district (1.108), whereas the lowest gender disparity is observed in the Kolkata district (0.130), therefore, it can be stated that there is a slight gap between Scheduled Caste male and female literacy. Besides, female literacy rate in Kolkata district is much higher than the other districts of West Bengal. The Highest gender disparity in literacy rate of total population, as well as SCs population can be found in Purulia District and contrarily Kolkata district had registered the lowest gender disparity in both the cases.

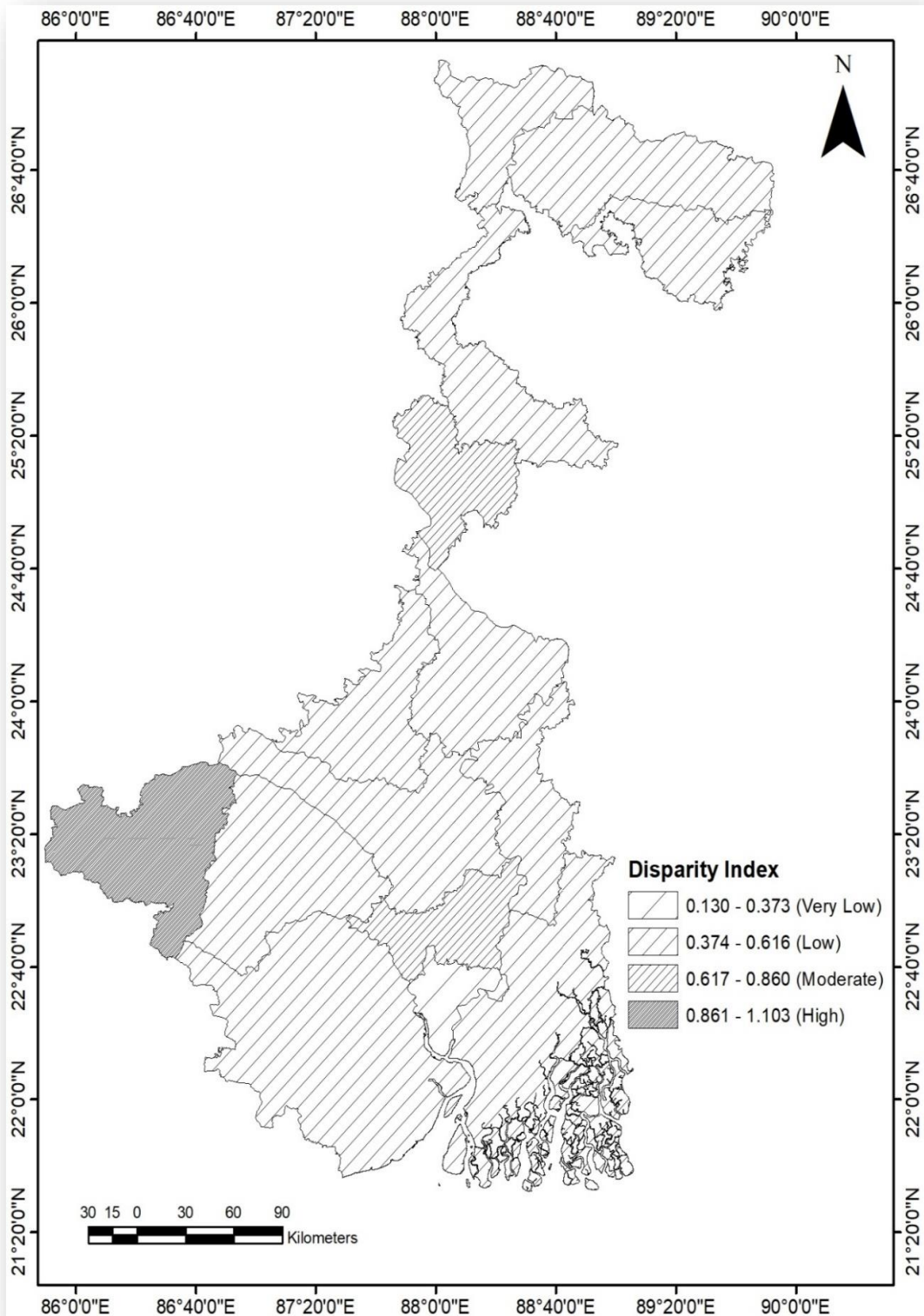
In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by districts of Hooghly (0.712), Malda (0.679), Medinipur (0.614), Birbhum (0.579), 24 Pargonas (0.566), Jalpaiguri (0.540), Coochbihar (0.527), Darjeeling (0.518), Murshidabad (0.503), West Dinajpur (0.498), Burdwan (0.479), Bankura (0.416), Nadia (0.449) and Howrah (0.248).

**Table-3.5.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1971**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	18.20	26.19	9.53	0.527
2	Jalpaiguri	16.69	12.68	4.04	0.540
3	Darjeeling	21.80	30.67	11.82	0.518
4	West Dinajpur	15.82	22.55	8.45	0.498
5	Malda	13.41	21.34	5.16	0.697
6	Murshidabad	11.51	16.82	5.96	0.503
7	Nadia	20.96	28.85	12.57	0.449
8	Bardwan	14.04	20.00	7.65	0.479
9	Birbhum	9.99	15.26	4.52	0.579
10	Bankura	9.98	14.32	5.45	0.461
11	Purulia	10.20	18.35	1.74	1.103
12	Howrah	25.12	30.20	19.59	0.248
13	Hooghly	12.82	20.41	4.74	0.712
14	Kolkata	25.16	26.96	21.44	0.130
15	24 Parganas	25.65	36.75	13.61	0.566
16	Medinipur	19.35	29.13	9.07	0.614

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1971





Map-3.5 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1971

Map-3.5 shows that the gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of Disparities Index in literacy rate has been divided into four classes for showing gender disparity of Scheduled Caste in 1971. The classes are categorized into 1. Very low (0.130-0.373), 2. Low (0.374-0.616), 3. Moderate (0.617-0.860), and 4. High (0.861-1.103) disparity zone.

### **1. Very low disparity zone (0.130-0.373):**

Two districts out of sixteen districts of West Bengal are located in a very low disparity zone. The value of Disparity Index for the very low disparity zone varies from 0.130 to 0.373. Kolkata (0.130) and Howrah (0.248) districts belong to this very low disparity zone.

### **2. Low disparity zone (0.374-0.616):**

Most of the districts of West Bengal are belong to an area of low disparity zone. The districts in this category are Coochbihar (0.527), Jalpaiguri (0.540), Darjeeling (0.518), West Dinajpur (0.498), Medinipur (0.614), Bankura (0.461), Bardhaman (0.479), Birbhum (0.579), Murshidabad (0.503), Nadia (0.449) and 24 Parganas (0.566).

### **3. Moderate disparity zone (0.617-0.860):**

Only two districts of West Bengal, namely, Malda (0.697), and Hooghly (0.712) are located in an area of moderate disparity zone.

### **4. High disparity zone (0.861-1.103):**

The district of Purulia is situated in the high disparity zone, as the Disparity Index value is 1.103.

### **3.12 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1971**

Table-3.6 shows the district-wise gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal in 1971. All district of West Bengal is being noticed with gender disparity in the literacy of Scheduled Tribe. Gender disparity in literacy rate is much higher among the Scheduled Tribes as compared to that of the total population as well as Scheduled Caste population (Table-3.4, 3.5&3.6).

Tribal communities face a lot of barriers to get education. These barriers can be divided into external, internal, socio-economic, and psychological issue. External problems include policy, planning implementation, and administration, whereas the internal problems signify the school system, contents, curriculum, medium of the institution, monitoring, and teaching-related problems. As majority of the people in tribal societies are first-generation learners, thereby psychologically, they feel little apprehensive about their existence in the society (Sujata, 2002).

As per the value of Disparity Index of Scheduled Tribe population, the highest gender disparity in literacy rate is found in the Purulia district (1.014). It can be inferred (Table- Table-3.8, 3.9&3.10) that in Purulia district has the highest gender disparity in literacy rate in 1971 in case of total population, along with the SCs and STs population.

In general, the tribal society lives in isolated from the mainstream. Their interaction with outsiders is very limited. There was not much result as the literacy rate did not cross 11.39% in 1971. The reasons include dropout, and absence in school due to seasonal migration (Brahmanandam & Basu, 2016).

Lowest gender disparity in literacy of STs Population is found in the Darjeeling district (0.290). Therefore, it can be said that there has a slight gap (8.09%) between

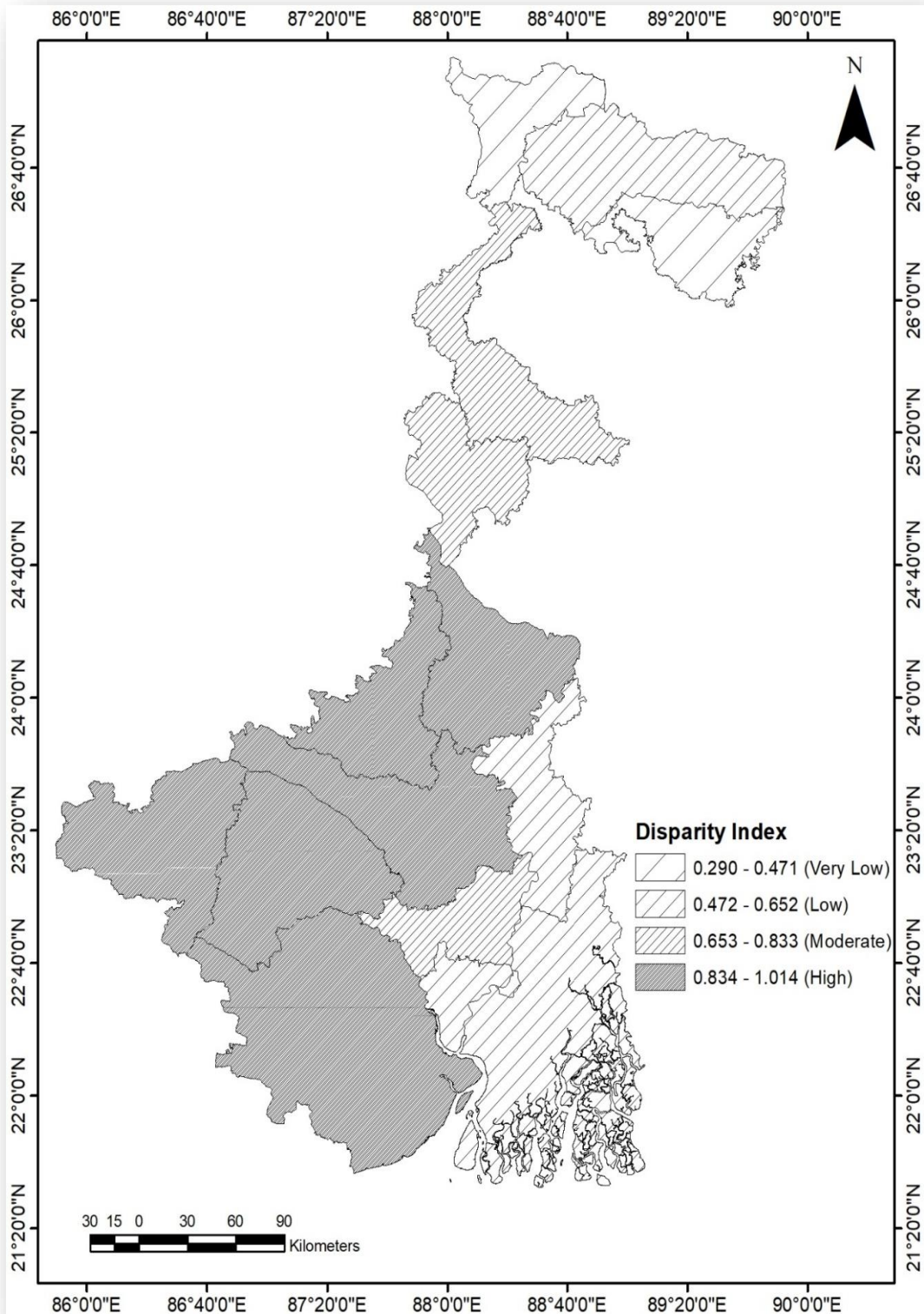
male and female literacy rates, besides female literacy rate of Darjeeling district is much higher than in other districts of West Bengal in 1971. If we look at the spatial variation in literacy rates among the total population, SCs and STs of West Bengal in 1971, it is crystal clear that the district Purulia has the highest gender disparity across the spectrum.

The highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of STs population can be found in Purulia district, which is followed, in order of sequence, by Bankura (0.981), Birbhum (0.970), Burdwan (0.940), Medinipur (0.924), Murshidabad (0.806), Hooghly (0.742), West Dinajpur (0.654), 24 Parganas (0.569), Howrah (0.584), Jalpaiguri (0.537), Nadia (0.526), Kolkata (0.467) and Coochbihar (0.428).

**Table-3.6.: District-Wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1971**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	9.12	12.85	5.21	0.428
2	Jalpaiguri	10.26	15.16	4.92	0.537
3	Darjeeling	14.62	18.53	10.44	0.290
4	West Dinajpur	11.18	17.56	4.50	0.654
5	Malda	7.73	13.06	2.29	0.806
6	Murshidabad	5.17	8.98	1.25	0.891
7	Nadia	7.86	11.73	3.80	0.526
8	Burdwan	4.46	3.96	0.47	0.940
9	Birbhum	4.45	7.91	0.91	0.970
10	Bankura	10.24	18.10	2.25	0.981
11	Purulia	9.40	16.77	1.91	1.014
12	Howrah	12.45	17.26	5.56	0.548
13	Hooghly	6.14	10.10	1.99	0.742
14	Kolkata	31.99	36.95	16.63	0.467
15	24 Parganas	7.44	11.31	3.32	0.569
16	Medinipur	9.00	15.75	2.17	0.924

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1971



Map-3.6 Spatial Pattern of gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Tribe population, 1971

Gender disparity in literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe in West Bengal varies from one district to another district. The range of the Disparity Index is 0.290-1.014. The lowest and highest disparity is recorded in Darjeeling and Purulia districts respectively. The spatial pattern of disparity index has been categorized into four classes for mentioning the gender disparity of Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in 1971. The classes are 1. Very low (0.290 -0.471), 2. Low (0.472- 0.652), 3. Moderate (0.653-0.833) and 4. High (0.834-1.014) disparity zone (Map-3.6).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.290 -0.471):**

In an area of a very low disparity zone, the Disparity Index value is between 0.290-0.471. Three districts are belonging to this zone such as Darjeeling (0.290), Coochbihar (0.428), and Kolkata (0.467) respectively.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.472-0.652):**

In the low gender disparity zone lies four districts of West Bengal, such as Nadia (0.526), Jalpaiguri (0.537), Howrah (0.548), 24 Parganas (0.569) are respectively.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.653-0.833):**

Only three districts of West Bengal belong to the area of moderate disparity zone namely West Dinajpur (0.654), Hooghly (0.742), and Malda (0.806).

**4. High disparity zone (0.834-1.014):**

Six districts out of sixteen districts of West Bengal are belonging to the area of high disparity zone. The disparity index value varied between 0.833-1.104. The districts of this disparity zone are Murshidabad (0.891), Birbhum (0.981), Medinipur (0.924), Bankura (0.981), Burdwan (0.940), and Purulia (1.014).

### **3.13 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1981**

In the year 1981, the total literacy rate of West Bengal was 48.65 %, of which the male literacy rate was 50.67 % and female literacy rate was 30.25% (Census of India, 1981). Thus, it can be said that there has been a slight decrease in the already existing gender gap in total literacy rate from 1971 to 1981. But in 1981, there was gender disparity in total literacy in different districts of West Bengal.

Table-3.7 provides an overview of literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy rate in different districts of West Bengal in 1981. According to the calculated Disparity Index (D.I), the highest gender disparity is observed in Purulia district (0.758). Here the females are lagging far behind male in literacy rate. However, it is noteworthy that the total literacy rate in Purulia district has increased from 1971 to 1981 and gender disparity in literacy has decreased (Table-3.4 &3.7).

Lowest gender disparity is observed in Kolkata district. The Disparity Index value is 0.210. Here, male and female literacy is 73.47 % and 63.01 % respectively. Kolkata district tops the chart in both the case of male and female literacy rates as compared to the other districts of West Bengal in 1981.

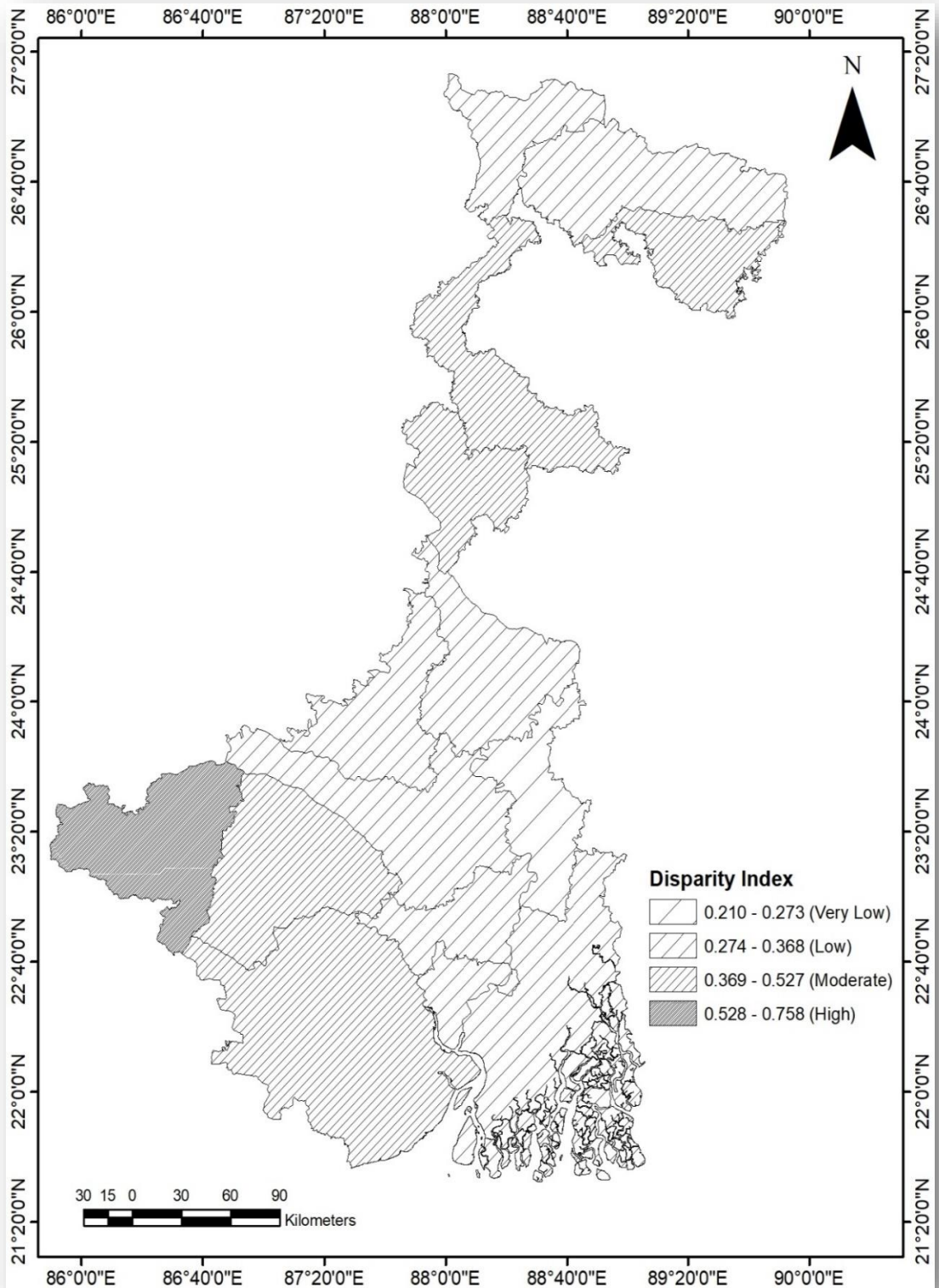
Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.527), Medinipur (0.480), Coochbihar (0.442), Malda (0.441), West Dinajpur (0.437), Jalpaiguri (0.368), 24 Parganas (0.368), Darjeeling (0.362), Birbhum (0.359), Howrah (0.353), Hooghly (0.340), Murshidabad (0.333) and Nadia (0.273).



**Table-3.7.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1981**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	30.10	40.09	19.43	0.442
2	Jalpaiguri	29.19	37.30	20.27	0.368
3	Darjeeling	42.47	51.89	31.85	0.362
4	West Dinajpur	27.00	36.22	17.17	0.437
5	Malda	23.06	31.44	14.22	0.441
6	Murshidabad	24.89	31.75	17.75	0.333
7	Nadia	36.71	43.75	29.28	0.273
8	Bardwan	42.43	51.29	32.56	0.338
9	Birbhum	33.69	42.57	24.46	0.359
10	Bankura	38.33	51.92	24.24	0.527
11	Purulia	26.69	45.41	13.25	0.758
12	Howrah	51.36	60.78	40.64	0.353
13	Hooghly	48.79	57.99	38.65	0.340
14	Kolkata	69.12	73.47	63.01	0.210
15	24 Parganas	46.14	55.78	35.04	0.368
16	Medinipur	42.73	55.57	29.24	0.480

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1981



Map-3.7 Spatial Pattern of gender disparity in literacy of total population in West Bengal, 1981

The gender disparity in the literacy rate of the total population is not uniform in all the districts of West Bengal in 1981. It is observed that the disparities in literacy of total population vary from one district to another district. The range of disparity Index value is 0.210-0.758, which was recorded in Kolkata and Purulia districts respectively. The spatial pattern of gender disparity has been categorized into four classes for mentioning gender disparity in literacy of total population. The classes are 1. Very low (0.210-0.273), 2. Low (0.274-0.368), 3. Moderate (0.369-0.527), 4. High (0.528-0.758) disparity zone (Map-3.7).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.210-0.273):**

The very low disparity is observed in two districts of West Bengal, such as Kolkata (0.210) and Nadia (0.273).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.274-0.368):**

In an area of low disparity zone, the value of disparity index varied between 0.274-0.368. Eight districts are located to this zone. These are Murshidabad (0.333), Burdwan (0.338), Hooghly (0.340), Howrah (0.353), Birbhum (0.359), Darjeeling (0.362), Jalpaiguri (0.368) and 24 Paragons (0.368).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.369-0.527):**

Five districts out of sixteen of West Bengal are located to an area of moderate disparity zone, namely West Dinajpur (0.437), Malda (0.441), Coochbihar (0.442), Medinipur (0.480) and Bankura (0.527).

**4. High disparity zone (0.528-0.758):**

The district of Purulia is located in the high disparity zone as the value of Disparity Index is 0.758.

### **3.14 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1981**

The Constitution of India assures social justice and equality of opportunity to all. The Scheduled Caste is a special category that gets reservations under these principles. However, various problems are obstructing its achievement. There is a lack of consciousness, it is stated that there is no regarding the full availability of Government opportunities. Most of the Scheduled Caste children are historically protein-deprived and first-generation learners (Premi, 1974). They are not learning from tradition and are in a disadvantageous position than other people, who have been taking education from generation (Premi, 1974).

Besides, the Scheduled Caste population in the Hindu caste system is considered untouchable. Its reflection can be seen in the case of education, health, and collection of drinking water. As a result, the difference in education between upper caste and lower caste Hindus can be noticed (Alexander, 2003).

Table-3.8 provides an overview of literacy rates and gender disparity of Scheduled Caste population in all the districts of West Bengal in 1981. The Disparity Index reveals that gender disparity exists in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal. The gender disparity of Scheduled Caste literacy rate is highest in Purulia district (0.776). But it stated that comparatively, the gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Caste people in the Purulia district of West Bengal has decreased from 1971 to 1981 (Table-3.5 & 3.8).

In terms of the total literacy rate in different districts of West Bengal, the highest gender disparity is observed in the Purulia district (0.758). Therefore, it can be stated that Purulia district lags far behind other districts of West Bengal in terms of gender equality in total and Schedule Caste literacy rates in 1981. And the lowest gender

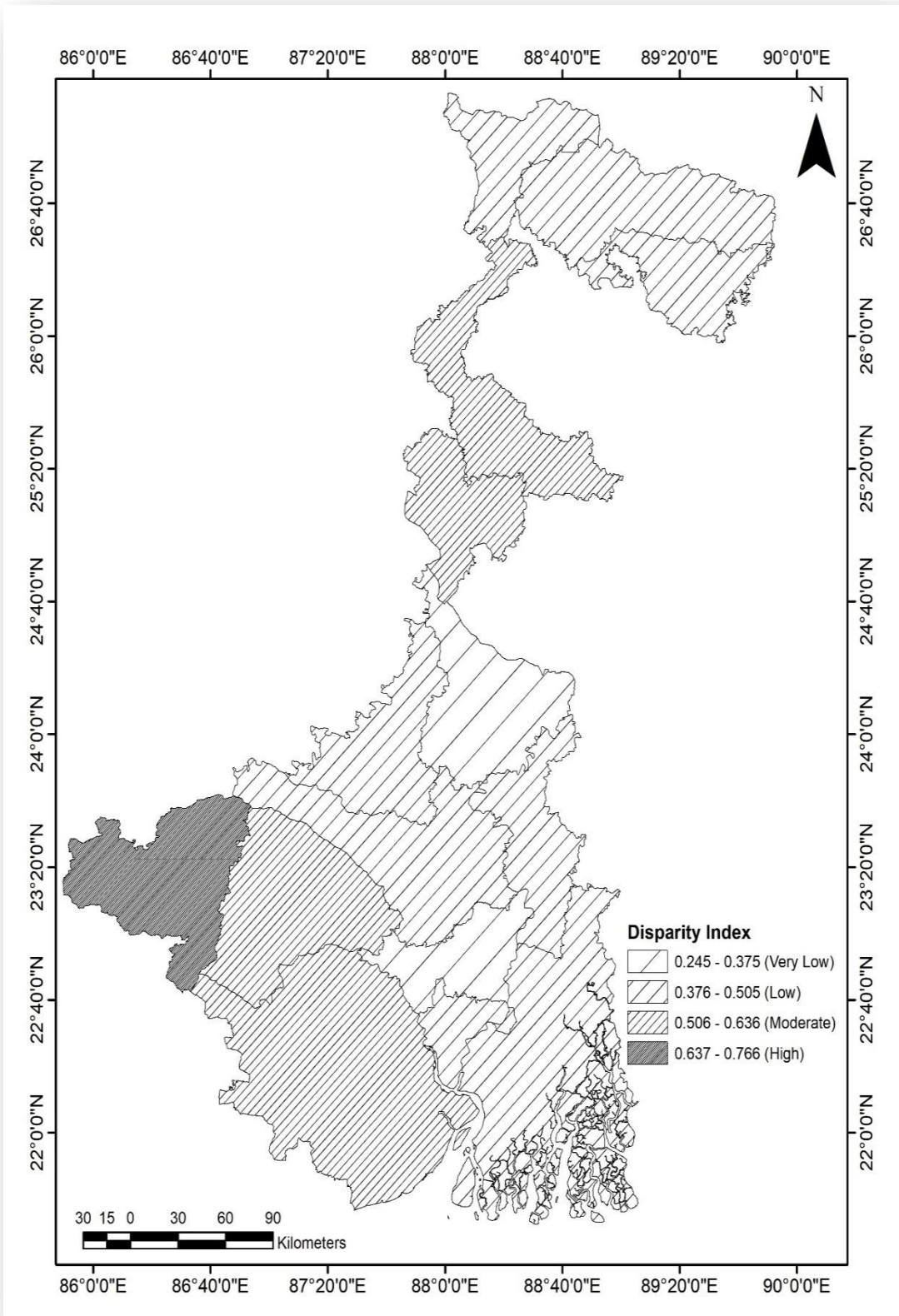
disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population is observed in Hooghly district (0.304). Here females are slightly behind males in literacy rate, the male literacy rate is 26.53% and the female literacy rate is 25.18 %. So, the gap between male and female literacy is 1.35 % (Table-3.8).

Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.631), West Dinajpur (0.581), Malda (0.544), Medinipur (0.544), Coochbihar (0.496), Jalpaiguri (0.476), Birbhum (0.473), Nadia (0.459), Darjeeling (0.425), Howrah (0.409), Burdwan (0.390), 24 Parganas (0.390), Murshidabad (0.324), and Kolkata (0.245). It is stated that in all the districts of West Bengal the gender disparity in Scheduled Caste literacy has decreased in 1981 as compared to 1971.

**Table-3.8.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1981**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	20.50	28.94	11.49	0.496
2	Jalpaiguri	19.22	26.89	10.91	0.476
3	Darjeeling	26.65	35.35	17.02	0.425
4	West Dinajpur	16.57	24.68	7.90	0.581
5	Malda	16.09	23.65	8.12	0.544
6	Murshidabad	12.99	16.95	8.80	0.390
7	Nadia	19.05	26.16	10.95	0.459
8	Burdwan	26.23	34.19	17.45	0.390
9	Birbhum	12.19	17.50	6.64	0.473
10	Bankura	12.46	19.39	5.31	0.631
11	Purulia	15.14	24.46	5.25	0.766
12	Howrah	25.26	33.47	16.37	0.409
13	Hooghly	25.87	26.53	15.18	0.304
14	Kolkata	36.26	41.20	28.47	0.245
15	24 Parganas	26.23	34.19	17.45	0.390
16	Medinipur	22.69	32.74	12.18	0.544

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1981



Map-3.8 Spatial Pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal, 1981

The gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste population is not uniform in all the districts of West Bengal in 1981 (Map-3.8). The disparities vary from one district to another district. The range of the Disparity Index is 0.029 to 0.766. The spatial pattern of the Disparity Index has been categorized into four classes to mention the gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in all the districts of West Bengal in 1981. The classes are Very Low (0.245-0.375), Low (0.376-0.505), Moderate (0.506-0.636) and High (0.637-0.766) disparity zone.

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.245-0.375):**

Kolkata (0.245), Hooghly (0.304) and Murshidabad (0.390) districts are located in the area of low disparity zone.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.376-0.505):**

Seven districts of West Bengal are located to an area of low disparity zone (0.367-0.505) such as 24 Pargans (0.390), Burdwan (0.390), Howrah (0.409), Darjeeling (0.425), Nadia (0.459), Birbhum (0.473), Jalpaiguri (0.476) and Coochbihar (0.496).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.506-0.636):**

The districts Malda (0.544), Medinipur (0.544), West Dinajpur (0.581) and Bankura (0.631) are belonged to the moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.637-0.766):**

Purulia (0.766) district is located to the high disparity zone.



### **3.15 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1981**

Table-3.9 provides an overview of the district-wise Scheduled Tribe literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy rate in West Bengal in 1981. The gender disparity in literacy rate is much higher among the Scheduled Tribe people as compared to that of the total population as well as Scheduled Caste population in 1981 (Table-3.7, 3.8&3.9).

According to calculated Disparity Index (D.I) the gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe can be observed in all the districts of West Bengal, females lag far behind in every district in terms of literacy rate. Purulia district has the highest gender disparity in total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population literacy, the Disparity Index value is 0.758, 0.766 and 0.942 respectively. But comparatively in the Purulia district gender disparity of Scheduled Tribes decreased from 1971 to 1981(Table-3.6 &3.9).

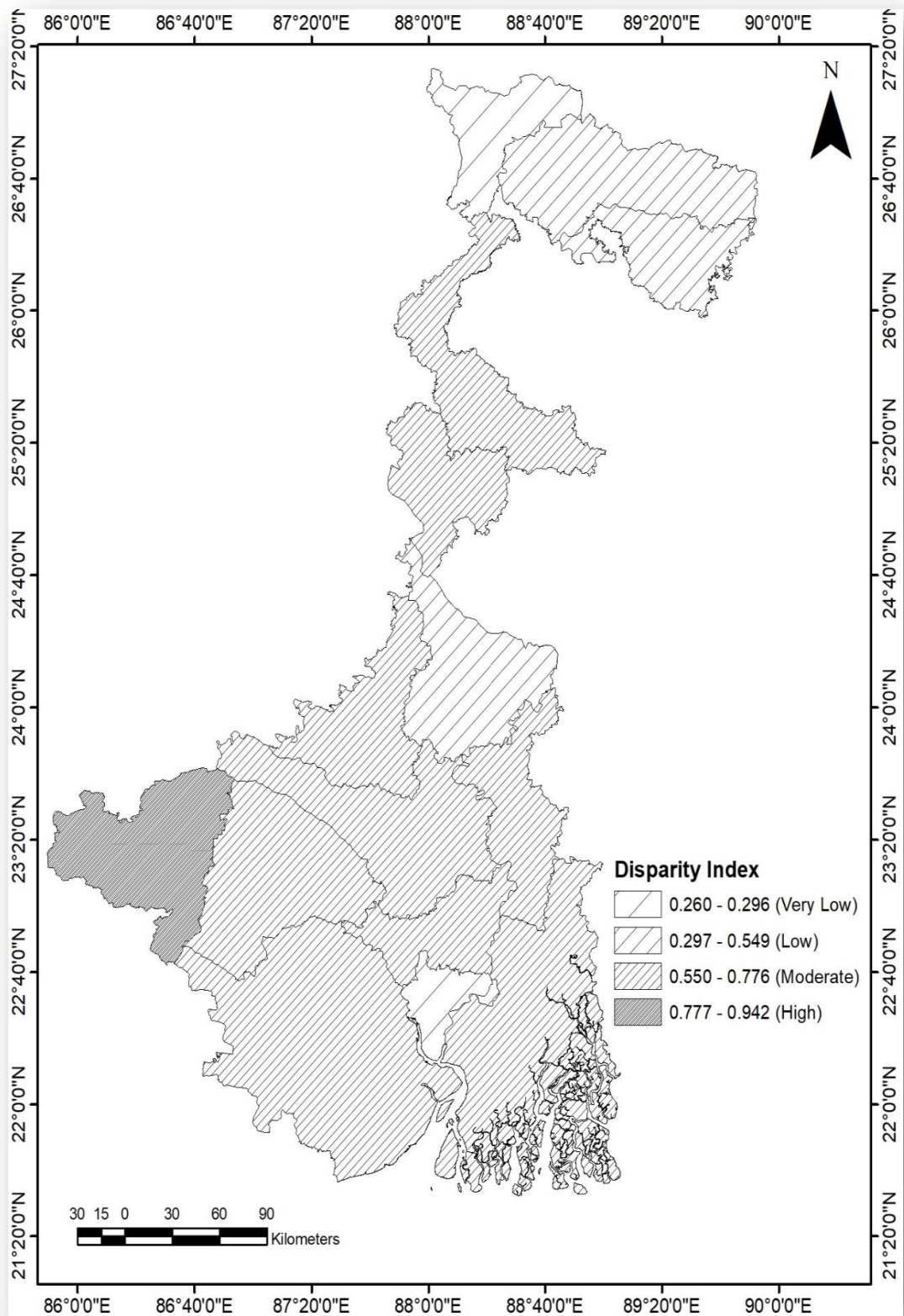
And lowest gender disparity in literacy in Kolkata district, in terms of total (0.210) and Scheduled Tribe population (0.260). This, it can be said that in Kolkata district the male and female literacy rate is comparatively better than in other districts of West Bengal.

In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.776), Malda (0.775), Burdwan (0.752), Hooghly (0.748), Medinipur (0.718), 24 pagans (0.679), Nadia (0.679), West Dinajpur (0.653), Jalpaiguri (0.549), Murshidabad (0.584), Coochbihar (0.439), Howrah (0.296) and Darjeeling (0.295).

**Table-3.9.: District-wise Gender disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1981**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	13.07	18.09	7.43	0.439
2	Jalpaiguri	10.15	15.20	4.81	0.549
3	Darjeeling	19.70	24.79	14.28	0.295
4	West Dinajpur	9.09	14.36	3.59	0.653
5	Malda	6.28	10.78	1.98	0.775
6	Murshidabad	6.30	9.61	2.92	0.548
7	Nadia	9.30	14.96	3.54	0.679
8	Burdwan	6.16	10.65	2.06	0.752
9	Birbhum	6.48	10.88	2.00	0.776
10	Bankura	13.81	22.49	5.04	0.737
11	Purulia	12.65	21.93	3.10	0.942
12	Howrah	15.56	19.26	10.74	0.296
13	Hooghly	9.62	15.83	3.24	0.748
14	Kolkata	36.76	41.12	27.72	0.260
15	24 Pargana	11.33	18.26	4.29	0.697
16	Medinipur	12.66	20.46	4.68	0.718

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1981



Map-3.9 Spatial Pattern of gender disparity in the literacy of Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal in 1981

The gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe is not uniform in all the districts of West Bengal in 1981. It is observed that the disparities in scheduled Caste literacy vary from one district to another district. The range of disparity Index value is 0.260-0.942, which was recorded Kolkata and Purulia districts respectively. The spatial pattern of gender disparity has been categorized into four classes for mentioning gender disparity in Scheduled Caste literacy. The classes are 1. Very low (0.260-0.296), 2. Low (0.297-0.549), 3. Moderate (0.550-0.776), 4. High (0.777-0.942) disparity zone (Map-3.9).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.260-0.296):**

The area of very low disparity is observed in three districts of West Bengal, such as Kolkata (0.260), Darjeeling (0.295), and Howrah (0.296) respectively.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.297-0.549):**

In an area of low disparity zone, the disparity index value varied between 0.297-0.549. Three districts are found to this zone. These are Coochbihar (0.439), Murshidabad (0.548) and Jalpaiguri (0.549).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.550-0.776):**

Nine districts out of sixteen of West Bengal are located to an area of moderate disparity zone, namely West Dinajpur (0.653), Nadia (0.679), 24 Parganas (0.697), Medinipur (0.718), Bankura (0.737), Hooghly (0.748), Burdwan (0.752), Malda (0.775) and Birbhum (0.776).

**4. High disparity zone (0.777-0.942):**

Purulia (0.942), the only district of West Bengal is situated in high disparity zone.

### **3.16 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total population in West Bengal, 1991**

The total literacy rate of West Bengal in the year 1991 was 57.70 %, of which male literacy rate was 67.80 % and female literacy rate was 46.60% (Census of India, 1971). Thus, in the year 1991, females are lagged far behind male in total literacy rate in West Bengal.

Table-3.10 provides an overview of the district-wise total literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy in different district of West Bengal in 1991. From the calculated Disparity Index, it is understood that the highest gender disparity in literacy is observed in Purulia district (0.735). So, it stated that gender disparity in 1991 is slightly decreased than in 1981 in total literacy rate (Table-3.7&3.10). But the issue of gender disparity in literacy rate has remained clear and females are lagging behind male in the district.

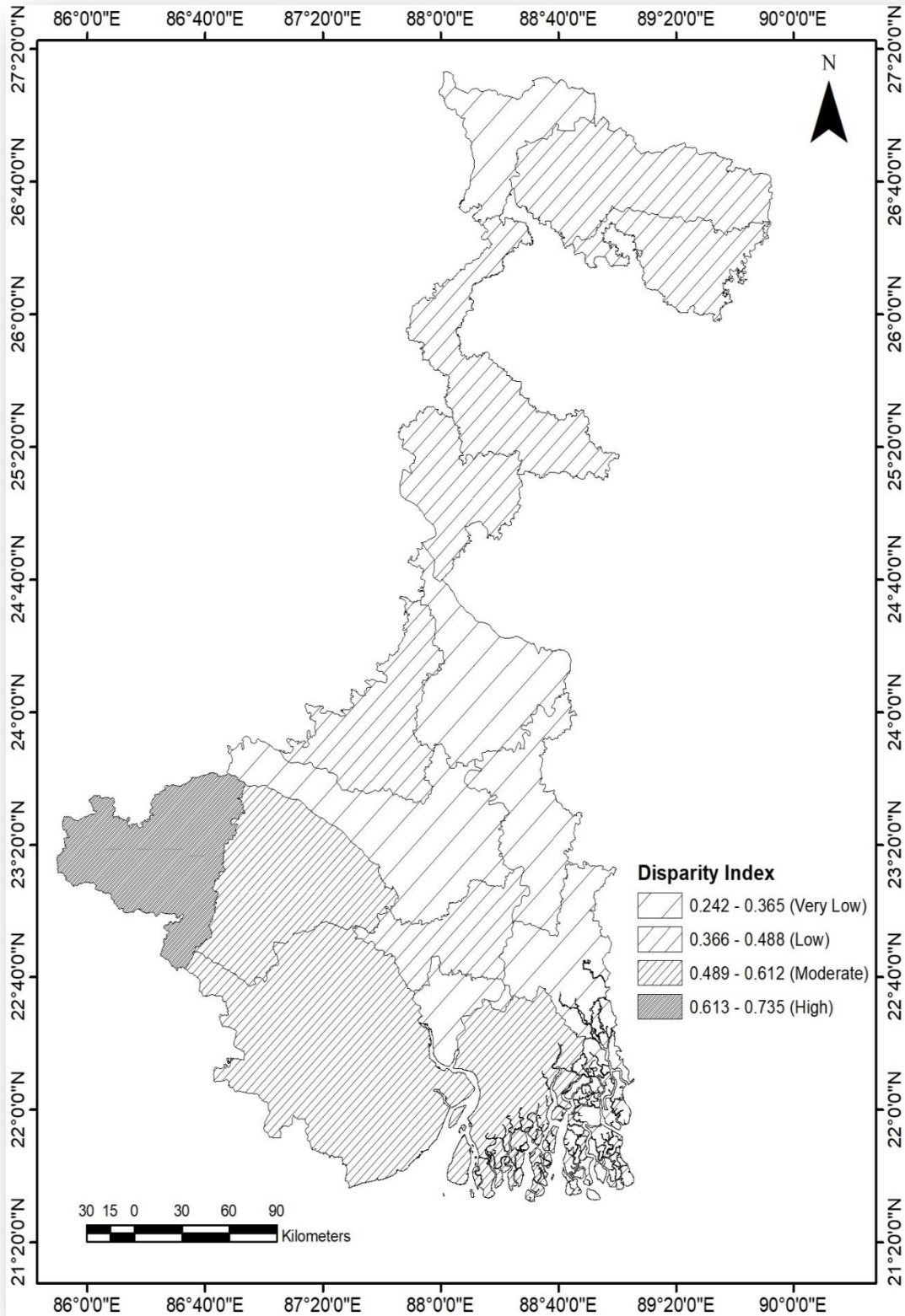
Lowest gender disparity is observed in the Kolkata district (0.242). Therefore, in the district of Kolkata, females are marginally behind the males in literacy rate as compared to the other districts of West Bengal.

In order of gender disparity, Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.541), Medinipur (0.522), 24(S) Paragons (0.502), Coochbihar (0.457), Jalpaiguri (0.408), West Dinajpur (0.408), Malda (0.402), Birbhum (0.390), Hooghly (0.374), Howrah (0.365), Bardwan (0.364), Darjeeling (0.347), 24(N) Parganas (0.318), Murshidabad (0.313) and Nadia (0.273) district.

**Table-3.10.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 1991**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	45.80	57.40	33.30	0.457
2	Jalpaiguri	45.10	56.00	33.20	0.408
3	Darjeeling	57.90	67.10	47.80	0.347
4	West Dinajpur	39.30	49.80	27.90	0.408
5	Malda	35.60	45.60	24.90	0.402
6	Murshidabad	38.30	46.40	29.60	0.313
7	Nadia	52.50	60.00	44.40	0.273
8	24(N) Parganas	66.80	74.70	58.00	0.318
9	24(S) Parganas	55.10	68.50	40.60	0.502
10	Kolkata	77.60	81.90	72.10	0.242
11	Howrah	67.60	76.10	57.80	0.365
12	Hooghly	66.80	75.80	56.90	0.373
13	Medinipur	69.30	81.30	56.60	0.522
14	Bankura	52.00	66.70	36.50	0.541
15	Purulia	43.30	62.20	23.20	0.735
16	Burdwan	61.90	71.10	51.50	0.364
17	Birbhum	48.60	59.30	37.20	0.390

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1991



Map-3.10 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population West Bengal, 1991

The gender disparity in the literacy rate of total population in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of Disparities Index in literacy rate has been divided into four classes for showing gender disparity in literacy of total population in 2011. The classes are categorized into 1. Very low (0.242-0.365), 2. Low (0.366-0.488), 3. Moderate (0.489-0.612), and 4. High (0.613-0.735) disparity zone (Map-3.10).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.242-0.365):**

In an area of very low disparity zone, the districts Kolkata (0.242), Nadia (0.273), Murshidabad (0.313), 24(N) Parganas (0.318), Darjeeling (0.347), Bardwan (0.364), and Howrah (0.365) are located.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.366-0.488):**

Six districts of West Bengal are located in low disparity zone. The value of Disparity Index of the very low disparity zone varies from 0.366-0.488. The districts, Hooghly (0.374), Birbhum (0.390), Malda (0.402), West Dinajpur (0.408), Jalpaiguri (0.408) and Coochbihar (0.457) are located in this disparity zone.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.489-0.612):**

The districts 24(S) Parganas (0.502), Medinipur (0.522) and Bankura (0.541) are located in the area of moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.613-0.735):**

Only one district of West Bengal is situated in the high gender disparity zone. The district Purulia is located in this zone. The value of disparity index is 0.735.



### **3.17 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1991**

Table-3.11 provides the district-wise gender disparity in literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal in 1991. From the Disparity Index, it is clear that gender disparity exists in the literacy rates of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal. The range of Disparity Index in the total literacy is 0.242 to 0.753 and the range of the Disparity Index in Scheduled Caste literacy is 0.288 to 0.789.

Thus, it is clear that gender disparity in literacy rate is more noticeable in SCs population than the literacy rate of total population in West Bengal in 1991 (Table-3.10&3.11).

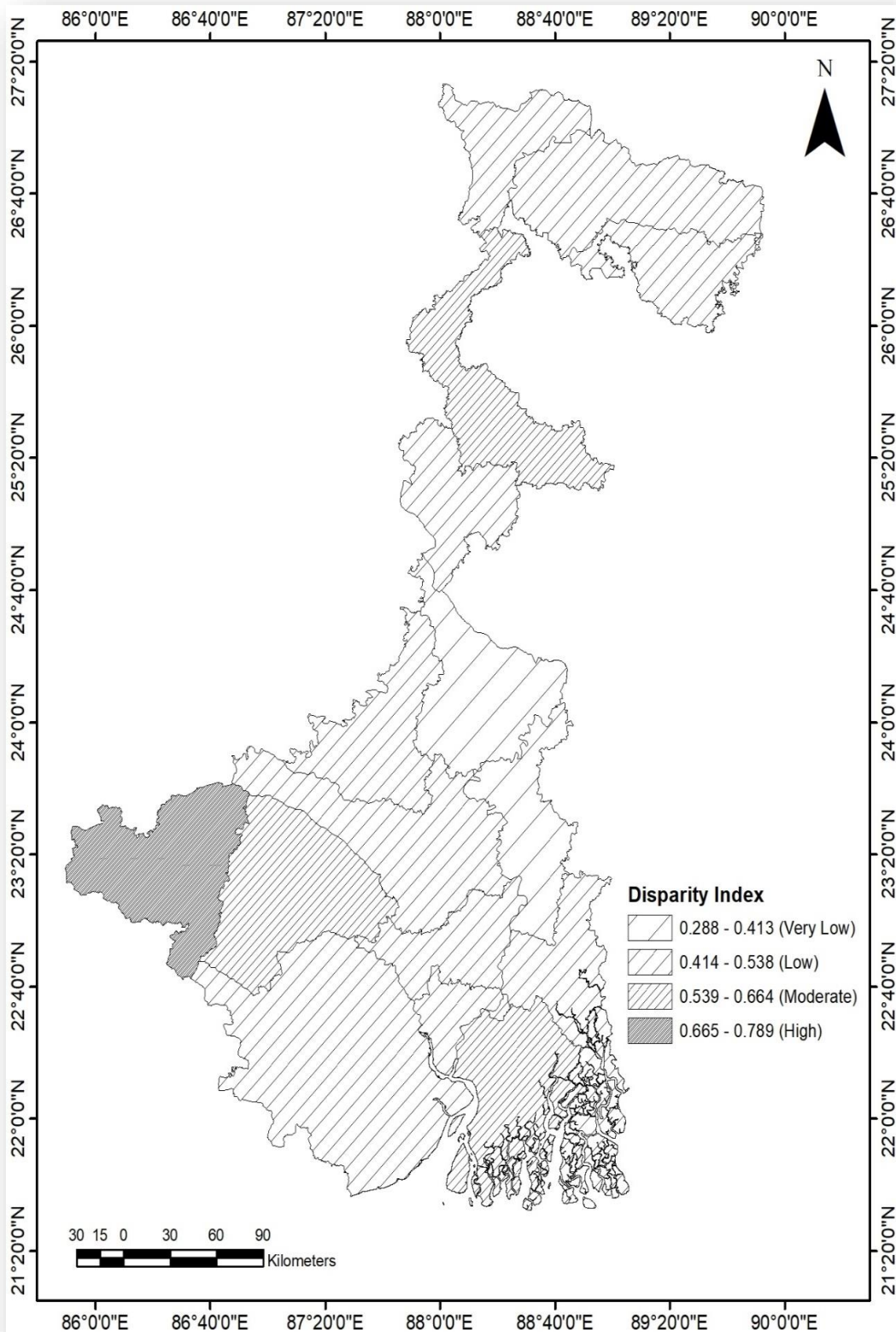
Among all the districts of West Bengal, the highest gender disparity in literacy can be observed in the Purulia district (0.789), whereas the lowest gender disparity is observed in the Kolkata district (0.288), therefore, it can be stated that there is a slight gap between Scheduled Caste male and female literacy. Besides, female literacy rate in Kolkata district is much higher than the other districts of West Bengal. The highest gender disparity in literacy rate of total population as well as SCs population, can be found in Purulia District and contrarily Kolkata district had registered the lowest gender disparity in both the cases.

In order of the calculated Disparity Index, Purulia district is followed, respectively by districts of Bankura (0.650), 24 (S) Parganas (0.567), West Dinajpur (0.552), Malda (0.537), Jalpaiguri (0.524), Medinipur (0.520), Birbhum (0.551), Coochbihar (0.509), Hooghly (0.462), Darjeeling (0.444), Bardwan (0.440), 24(N) Parganas (0.417), Howrah (0.414), Murshidabad (0.324) and Nadia (0.360).

**Table-3.11.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 1991**

Sl. No.	District	Scheduled Caste Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	41.07	54.31	26.87	0.509
2	Jalpaiguri	11.34	54.82	26.57	0.524
3	Darjeeling	46.30	58.14	33.25	0.444
4	West Dinajpur	33.05	45.72	19.06	0.552
5	Malda	33.89	46.63	20.18	0.537
6	Murshidabad	32.79	40.54	24.42	0.324
7	Nadia	45.32	55.03	34.78	0.360
8	24(N) Parganas	55.51	64.72	41.21	0.417
9	24(S) Parganas	49.79	64.99	33.44	0.567
10	Kolkata	56.53	63.51	47.25	0.288
11	Howrah	44.87	55.98	32.87	0.414
12	Hooghly	40.66	52.78	27.80	0.462
13	Medinipur	54.56	68.66	39.75	0.520
14	Bankura	26.96	40.27	13.08	0.650
15	Purulia	31.81	48.93	13.47	0.789
16	Burdwan	36.57	47.49	24.69	0.440
17	Birbhum	27.66	38.47	16.13	0.511

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1991



Map-3.11 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal, 1991

The gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste population is not uniform in all the districts of West Bengal in 1991. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The range of the Disparity Index is 0.288-0.789) The spatial pattern of the Disparity Index has been categorized into four classes to mention the gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in all the districts of West Bengal in 1991. The classes are 1. Very Low (0.288-0.413), 2. Low (0.414-0.538), 3. Moderate (0.539-0.664) and 4. High (0.665-0.789) disparity zone (Map-3.11).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.288-0.413):**

In the very low disparity zone, three districts of West Bengal are situated, namely Kolkata (0.288), Murshidabad (0.324), Nadia (0.360) respectively.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.414-0.538):**

The districts of West Bengal belonging to the low gender disparity zone (0.414-0.538) are Howrah (0.414), 24(N) Parganas (0.417), Bardwan (0.440), Darjeeling (0.444), Hooghly (0.462), Coochbihar (0.509), Birbhum (0.511), Medinipur (0.520), Jalpaiguri (0.524), and Malda (0.537) respectively.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.539-0.664):**

West Dinajpur (0.552), 24(S) Parganas (0.567) and Bankura (0.650) districts are located in an area of moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.665-0.789):**

Only one district of West Bengal is belonging to an area of high gender disparity zone, namely Purulia district and the disparity index value is 0.789.

### **3.18 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1991**

Table-3.12 shows the district-wise gender disparity in the literacy rates of the Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal in 1991. All district of West Bengal is being noticed with gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Tribe. Gender disparity in literacy rate is much higher among the Scheduled Tribes as compared to that of the total population as well as Scheduled Caste (Table-3.10, 3.11&3.12).

As per the Disparity Index value of the Scheduled Tribe population, the highest gender disparity in literacy rates is found in the Purulia district (0.821). It can be inferred that in Purulia district has the highest gender disparity in literacy rate in 1991 in case of total population, along with the SCs and STs. And lowest gender disparity in literacy of STs Population is found in the Darjeeling district (0.308).

Therefore, it can be said that there has a slight gap between male and female literacy rates, besides female literacy rate of Darjeeling district is much higher than in other districts of West Bengal in 1991(Table-3.12).

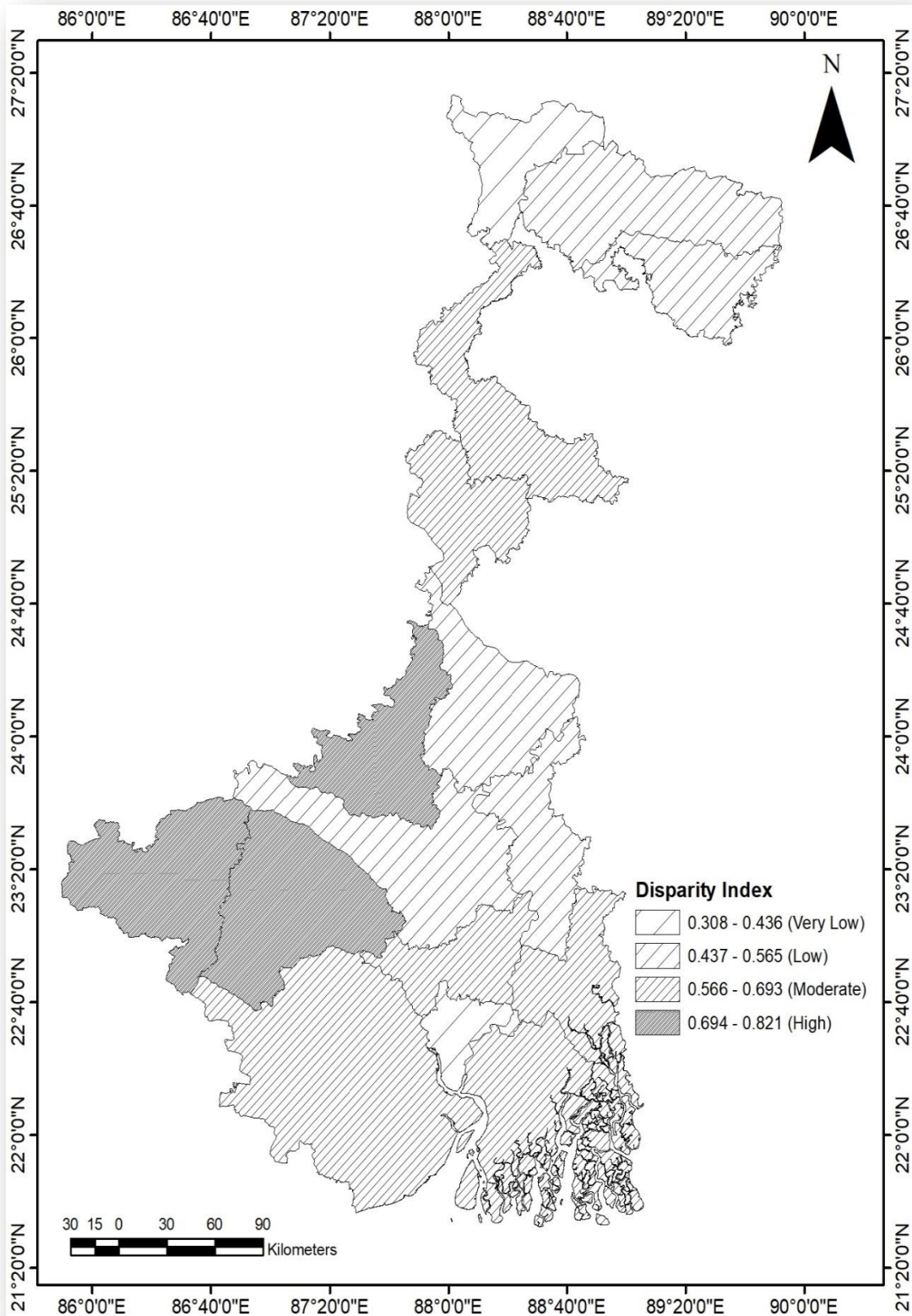
If we look at the spatial variation in literacy rates among the total population, SCs and STs population of West Bengal in 1991(3.10, 3.11&3.12), it is crystal clear that the district Purulia has highest gender disparity across the spectrum.

The highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of STs can be observed in Purulia district which is followed, in order of sequence, by Bankura (0.799), Birbhum (0.713), Malda (0.687), Hooghly (0.649), 24(S) Parganas (0.617), West Dinajpur (0.597), 24(N) Parganas (0.585), Medinipur (0.583), Nadia (0.542), Coochbihar (0.531), Burdwan (0.521), Jalpaiguri (0.510), Murshidabad (0.469), Kolkata (0.394) and Howrah (0.345).

**Table-3.12.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 1991**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	32.93	44.89	19.31	0.531
2	Jalpaiguri	22.38	31.69	12.52	0.510
3	Darjeeling	39.38	47.54	30.77	0.308
4	West Dinajpur	18.88	28.42	9.10	0.597
5	Malda	15.78	25.07	6.42	0.687
6	Murshidabad	18.39	25.95	10.60	0.469
7	Nadia	23.40	33.53	12.63	0.542
8	24(N) Parganas	25.32	36.73	13.08	0.585
9	24(S) Parganas	24.50	36.43	12.14	0.617
10	Kolkata	55.41	64.30	42.00	0.394
11	Howrah	42.36	51.01	31.95	0.345
12	Hooghly	28.14	42.01	13.95	0.649
13	Medinipur	40.31	55.57	24.56	0.583
14	Bankura	32.43	50.41	13.88	0.799
15	Purulia	27.61	43.91	10.55	0.821
16	Burdwan	25.98	36.70	14.83	0.521
17	Birbhum	14.76	23.63	5.63	0.713

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 1991



Map-3.12 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 1991

Gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population is not uniform throughout the state in 2001. The pattern of disparities varies from one district to another district. The district-level analysis reveals that the range of the disparity index is 0.308-0.821. Based on the district level variation, the state has been divided into four disparity classes, these are 1. Very low (0.308-0.436), 2. Low (0.437-0.565), 3. Moderate (0.566-0.693), 4. High (0.694-0.821) disparity zone (Map-3.12).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.308-0.436):**

The very low gender disparity in literacy rate is observed in three districts of West Bengal, such as Darjeeling (0.308), Howrah (0.345), and Kolkata (0.394).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.437-0.565):**

Murshidabad (0.469), Jalpaiguri (0.510), Burdwan (0.521), Coochbihar (0.531) and Nadia (0.542) districts of West Bengal are located in an area of low disparity zone.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.566-0.693):**

In an area of moderate disparity zone, the districts West Dinajpur (0.597), Medinipur (0.583), 24(N) Parganas (0.585), 24(S) Parganas (0.617), Hooghly (0.649) and Malda (0.687) are located.

**4. High disparity zone (0.694-0.821):**

Birbhum (0.713), Bankura (0.799) and Purulia (0.821) districts are located in an area of high disparity zone.



### **3.19 Summary:**

From the above discussion, it is stated that Purulia district has highest gender disparity in the literacy of total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal from 1961 to 1991.

From 1961 to 2011, the highest gender disparity in the literacy rate was observed among Scheduled Tribe people compared to total population and Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal. Besides, Bankura, West Dinajpur, Birbhum, Coochbihar, and Jalpaiguri districts have higher gender disparity in the literacy across the spectrum of total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. Kolkata and its adjoining district, such as Howrah, 24(N) Parganas has lowest gender disparity in literacy.

In case of Scheduled Tribe literacy rate, Darjeeling district has a lower gender disparity from 1961 to 1991. Overall, the gender disparity in literacy rate has been gradually decreased in all districts of West Bengal over the period 1961 to 1991.

## **CHAPTER-4**

### **Gender Disparity in the Literacy Rates: Post-liberalisation Phase, 2001-2011**

#### **4.1 Introduction:**

Gender disparity in the literacy rate in West Bengal is the long-standing phenomenon (Figure-3.1). It is clear that from 1961 to 1991, the literacy rate of total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe population increased in all the districts of West Bengal. But over the decades, gender disparity in literacy has been steadily decreased across the spectrum.

This chapter tries to analyze the gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes population with the respect to total population in all the districts of West Bengal of post-liberalisation Phase, 2001 to 2011.

#### **4.2 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of Total Population in West Bengal, 2001**

In the year 2001, the total literacy rate of West Bengal was 68.64%, of which the male literacy rate was 77.02% and the female literacy rate was 59.68% (Census of India, 2001). Therefore, there was a gap between the total male and female literacy rate in West Bengal in 2001.

A similar picture can be observed among the different districts of West Bengal. It can be stated that in all the districts of West Bengal, gender disparity can be observed in the literacy rate of total population. But in 2001, the literacy rate increased compared to the previous census years and the gender disparity in literacy has decreased.

Table-4.1 provides an overview of literacy rate and gender disparity in the literacy rate of total population in different districts of West Bengal in 2001. From the calculated Disparity Index, it stated that the gender disparity in the literacy rate is observed in all the districts of West Bengal. Purulia district has highest gender

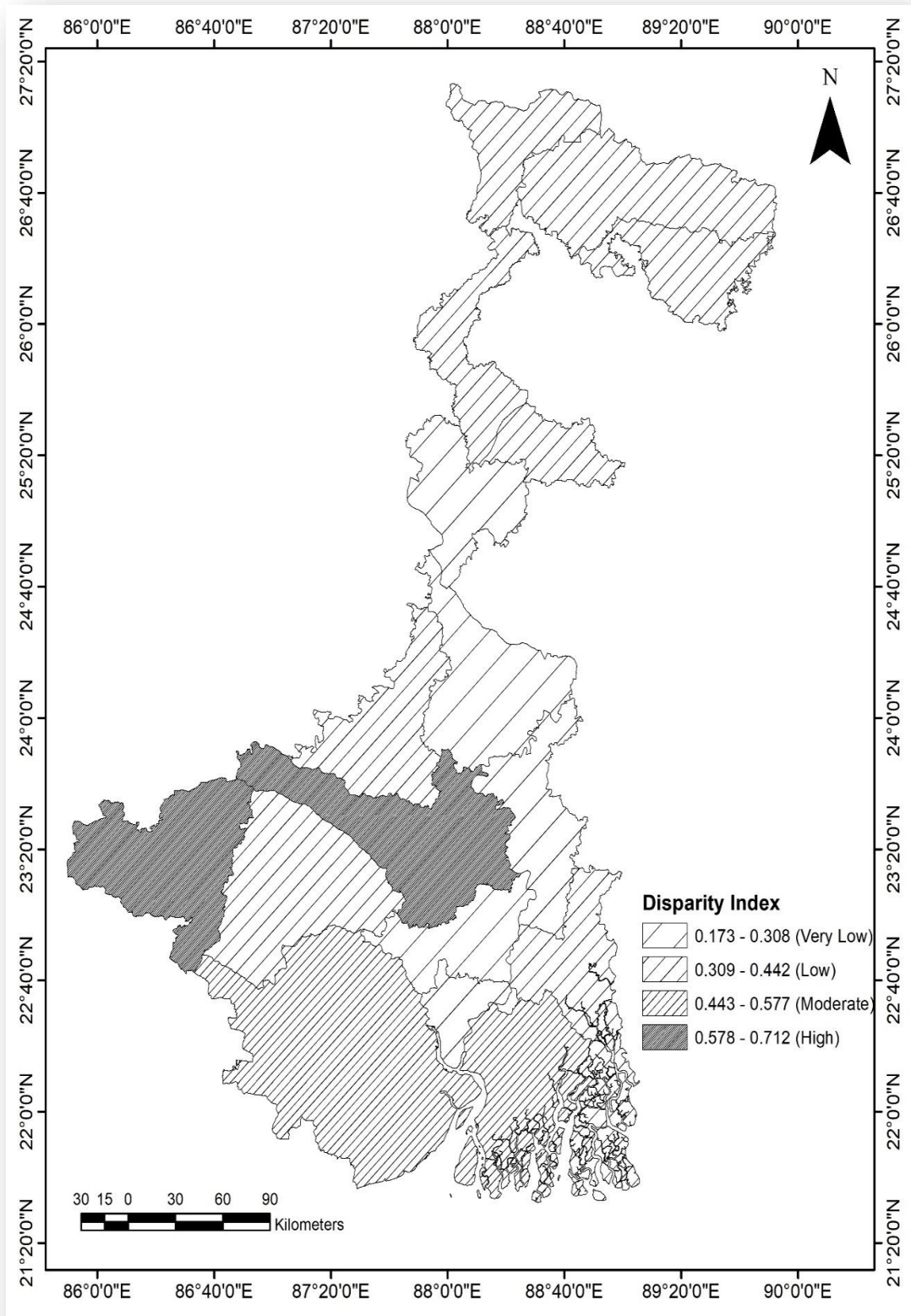
disparity in the literacy rate of total population. The value of Disparity Index is 0.990. Here, females are lagging behind males in the literacy rate. The male literacy rate is 85.30% and the female literacy rate is 37.20 %. The lowest gender disparity in literacy is observed in the Kolkata district (0.173). Therefore, in Kolkata district the females are slightly behind male in the literacy rate. Here the male literacy rate is 84.10% and female literacy rate is 78.00 %. Besides, the gender disparity in literacy rates of total population in Kolkata district has decreased from the year 1991.

Purulia district is respectively followed by Burdwan (0.586), 24(S) Parganas (0.520), Medinipur (0.499), Bankura (0.462), Coochbihar (0.396), Jalpaiguri (0.394), Uttar Dinajpur (0.390), Darjeeling (0.389), Birbhum (0.363), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.348), 24(N) Parganas (0.320), Malda (0.307), Nadia (0.246), Murshidabad (0.230), Howrah (0.211), and Hooghly (0.208).

**Table-4.1.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 2001**

Sl. No.	District	Total literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	67.21	76.80	57.00	0.396
2	Jalpaiguri	63.62	73.60	52.89	0.394
3	Darjeeling	72.87	81.30	63.90	0.389
4	Uttar Dinajpur	48.63	59.30	37.20	0.390
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	64.64	73.30	55.10	0.348
6	Malda	50.71	59.20	41.70	0.307
7	Murshidabad	55.05	61.40	48.30	0.230
8	Birbhum	62.16	71.60	52.21	0.363
9	Purulia	56.14	75.30	37.20	0.712
10	Bankura	63.84	74.20	49.80	0.426
11	Bardwan	71.00	79.30	49.80	0.586
12	Medinipur	75.17	85.25	64.63	0.499
13	Nadia	66.55	72.70	60.10	0.246
14	Howrah	77.64	79.90	70.90	0.211
15	Hooghly	75.59	77.20	67.70	0.208
16	Kolkata	83.31	84.10	78.00	0.173
17	24(N) Paragons	78.49	84.40	72.10	0.320
18	24(S) parganas	70.16	83.10	59.70	0.520

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001



Map-4.1 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in West Bengal, 2001

Gender disparity in the literacy rate of the total population is not uniform throughout the state in 2001. The pattern of disparities varies from one district to another district. The district-level analysis reveals that the range of the disparity index is 0.173 to 0.990. Based on the district level variation, the state has been divided into four disparity classes, these are 1. Very low (0.173-0.308), 2. Low (0.309-0.442), 3. Moderate (0.443-0.577), 4. High (0.578-0.712) disparity zone (Map-4.1).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.173-0.308):**

The very low gender disparity in literacy rate is observed in six districts of West Bengal, such as Kolkata (0.173), Hooghly (0.208), Howrah (0.211), Murshidabad (0.230), Nadia (0.246) and Malda (0.307).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.309-0.442):**

Eight districts of West Bengal are located in an area of low disparity zone, namely 24(N) Parganas (0.320), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.348), Birbhum (0.363), Darjeeling (0.389), Uttar Dinajpur (0.390), Jalpaiguri (0.394), Coochbihar (0.396) and Bankura (0.426) respectively.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.443-0.577):**

Medinipur (0.499) and 24(S) Parganas (0.520) districts are located to an area of moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.578-0.0712):**

Burdwan (0.586) and Purulia (0.712) districts are located to an area of high disparity zone.

### **4.3 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 2001**

Table-4.2 provides an overview of the district-wise literacy rate and gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal in 2001. From the Disparity Index, it stated that the gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population is observed in all districts of West Bengal and females lagging far behind males in terms of literacy rate.

Due to deprivation and poor socio-economic status, Scheduled Castes children do not go to school, that way, they lag far behind in terms of education. Although schools were opened for them after independence, it was not possible to enroll all the children of Scheduled Caste. Besides in general, there is no state in India, where the female literacy rate is better than the male literacy rate. There is a more gradual disparity in rural areas than urban areas. Therefore, there is a need to focus on the female literacy rate, especially in rural areas to reduce gender disparity (Katiyar, 2016).

As per the value of Disparity Index, the highest gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population is observed in Purulia district (0.677), here females lagging far behind males in terms of literacy rate (Table-4.2). On the other hand, in case of total literacy rate Purulia district has the highest gender disparity. The value of the Disparity Index is 0.990.

Therefore, it stated that Purulia district lagging behind another district of West Bengal in terms of gender equality in spectrum of total and Scheduled Caste literacy rates in 2001.

The gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population is lowest in 24(N) Parganas district, the value of Disparity Index is 0.181. Here females are slightly behind males in terms of literacy rate. After Purulia district the higher gender

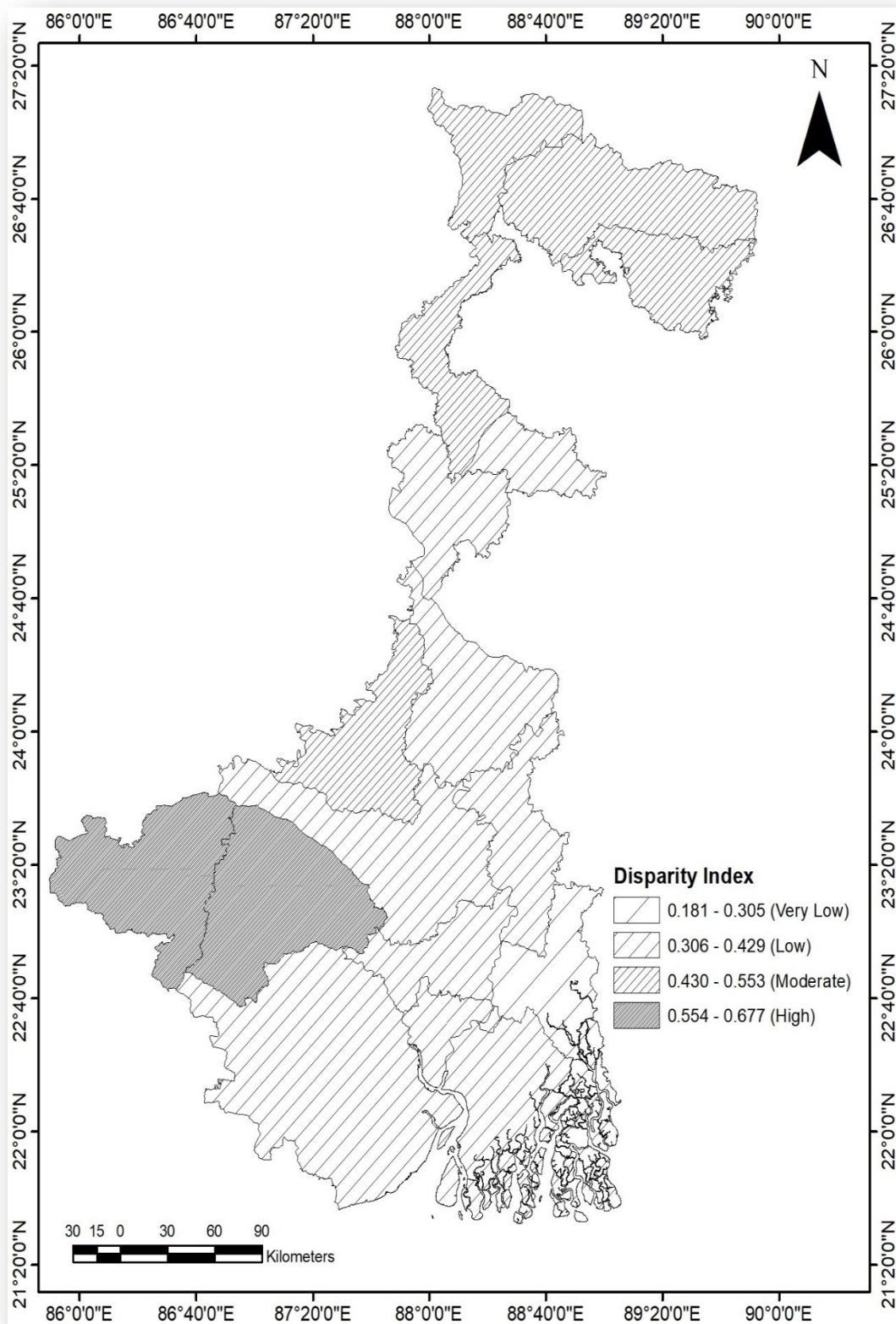
disparity of scheduled Caste literacy is followed by Bankura (0.572), Uttar Dinajpur (0.479), Darjeeling (0.448), Coochbihar (0.456), Jalpaiguri (0.445), Birbhum (0.439), Bardwan (0.427), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.427), Malda (0.4220, 24(S) Parganas (0.412), Hooghly (0.404), Medinipur (0.368), Howrah (0.353), Nadia (0.335), Murshidabad (0.319) and Kolkata (0.312).



**Table-4.2.: District-wise Gender disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 2001**

Sl. No	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	64.35	75.82	52.29	0.456
2	Jalpaiguri	61.78	73.37	49.62	0.445
3	Darjeeling	62.43	73.91	50.31	0.448
4	Uttar Dinajpur	50.06	63.49	35.71	0.497
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	51.99	63.74	39.59	0.427
6	Malda	51.17	62.75	38.87	0.422
7	Murshidabad	48.91	58.05	39.87	0.319
8	Birbhum	45.74	57.57	33.05	0.439
9	Purulia	45.15	63.01	26.35	0.677
10	Bankura	42.92	58.22	27.11	0.572
11	Burdwan	51.99	63.74	39.59	0.427
12	Medinipur	54.32	62.25	41.39	0.368
13	Nadia	63.09	71.76	53.94	0.335
14	Howrah	61.13	70.50	51.40	0.353
15	Hooghly	56.01	67.26	44.73	0.404
16	Kolkata	70.54	77.25	62.26	0.312
17	24(N) Parganas	70.74	70.79	61.41	0.181
18	24(S) Parganas	67.36	79.63	54.21	0.412

Source: Calculate from Census of India, 2001



Map-4.2 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal in 2001

Gender disparity in literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste population is not uniform throughout the state in 2001. The pattern of disparities varies from one district to another district. The district-level analysis reveals that the range of the disparity index is 0.181 to 0.677. Based on the district level variation, the state has been divided into four disparity classes, these are 1. Very low (0.181-0.305), 2. Low (0.306-0.429) 3. Moderate (0.430-0.553), 4. High (0.554-0.677) disparity zone (Map-4.2).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.181-0.305):**

The very low gender disparity is observed in only one district of West Bengal, namely 24(N) Parganas (0.181).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.306-0.429):**

Ten districts out of twenty-three districts of West Bengal are situated in an area of low disparity zone, namely Kolkata (0.312), Murshidabad (0.319), Nadia (0.335), Medinipur (0.368), Howrah (0.368), Hooghly (0.404), 24(S) Parganas (0.412), Malda (0.422), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.427) and Burdwan (0.427) respectively.

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.430-0.553):**

The moderate gender disparity in the literacy rate is observed in five districts of West Bengal, such as Birbhum (0.439), Jalpaiguri (0.445), Darjeeling (0.448), Coochbihar (0.456) and Uttar Dinajpur (0.497).

**4. High disparity zone (0.554-0.677):**

Only two districts namely, Bankura (0.572) and Purulia (0.677) are located in the area of high disparity zone.

#### **4.4 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 2001**

Table-4.3 provides an overview of district-wise gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal in 2001. From the Disparity Index, it is stated that there is gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe in all the districts in West Bengal. But the value of the Disparity Index has dropped a lot compared to previous years. Purulia district has the highest gender disparity in the spectrum of total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe literacy rate. The D.I value is 0.990, 0.677 and 0.713 respectively and the females are lagging behind males in literacy rate (Table-4.1, 4.2&4.3).

Lowest gender disparity of Scheduled Tribe literacy is observed in the Howrah district (0.333). Besides, in case of total literacy, the lowest gender disparity lies in the Kolkata district (0.173).

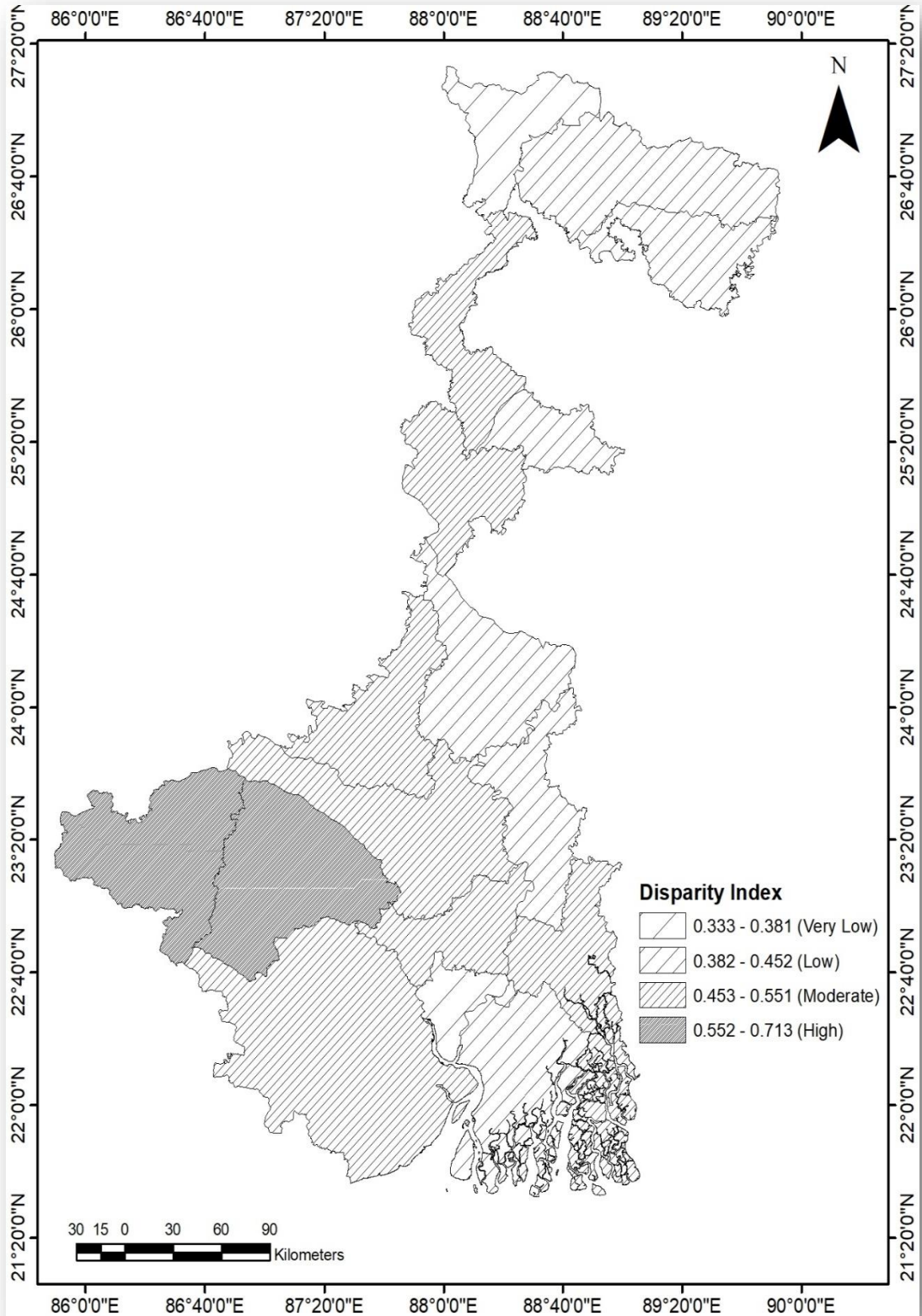
Thus, in both cases, the female literacy rate in Howrah and Kolkata districts is comparatively better than in another district of West Bengal in 2001.

Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.668), Birbhum (0.551), Malda (0.519), Bardwan (0.499), Hooghly (0.490), Medinipur (0.499), 24(N) Parganas (0.480), Uttar Dinajpur (0.479), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.452), 24(S) Parganas (0.449), Jalpaiguri (0.427), Nadia (0.414), Coochbihar (0.411), Murshidabad (0.409), Kolkata (0.399), and Darjeeling (0.381).

**Table-4.3.: District-wise Gender disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal, 2001**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	55.31	66.38	43.30	0.411
2	Jalpaiguri	42.59	54.24	30.67	0.427
3	Darjeeling	55.48	67.07	45.85	0.381
4	Uttar Dinajpur	28.68	39.51	17.63	0.479
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	42.82	55.14	30.22	0.452
6	Malda	32.16	44.72	19.63	0.519
7	Murshidabad	35.79	46.17	25.01	0.409
8	Birbhum	31.20	44.17	18.17	0.551
9	Purulia	42.64	61.26	23.40	0.713
10	Bankura	49.60	67.84	31.13	0.668
11	Burdwan	41.83	55.36	28.19	0.499
12	Medinipur	47.97	61.24	33.29	0.499
13	Nadia	40.63	51.78	29.20	0.414
14	Howrah	52.06	61.16	42.19	0.333
15	Hooghly	45.45	59.23	31.94	0.490
16	Kolkata	76.39	83.66	67.07	0.399
17	24(N) Paragons	46.09	58.38	33.27	0.449
18	24(S) Paragons	43.29	56.33	29.88	0.480

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001



Map-4.3 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 2001

The gender disparity in the literacy rates of the Scheduled Tribe population is not equal in all the districts of West Bengal in 2001. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The range of the Disparity Index is 0.333 to 0.713. The spatial pattern of the Disparity Index has been categorized into four classes to mention the gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe population in all the districts of West Bengal in 2001. The classes are 1. Very Low (0.333-0.381), 2. Low (0.382-0.452), 3. Moderate (0.453-0.551) and 4. High (0.552-0.713) disparity zone (Fig-4.3).

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.333-0.381):**

In the very low disparity zone, only three districts of West Bengal are located, namely Howrah (0.333), Kolkata (0.399) and Darjeeling (0.381).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.382-0.452):**

Six districts of West Bengal are found to the low disparity zone (0.382-0.452), such as Murshidabad (0.409), Coochbihar (0.411), Nadia (0.414), 24(S) Parganas (0.414), Jalpaiguri (0.427) and Dakshin Dinajpur (0.452).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.453-0.551):**

In an area of moderate disparity zone, the districts of Uttar Dinajpur (0.479), Hooghly (0.490), Bardwan (0.499), and Medinipur (0.499), Malda (0.519) and Birbhum (0.551) are located.

**4. High disparity zone (0.552-0.713):**

Bankura (0.668) and Purulia (0.713) districts are located to the high disparity zone.

#### **4.5 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of Total Population in West Bengal, 2011**

Although the total literacy rate in West Bengal increased in 2011 compared to previous census years, there is still gender disparity in the literacy rate. According to the Census of India 2011, the total literacy rate in West Bengal was 77.08%, of which the male literacy rate was 81.70% and female literacy rate was 70.50%. Therefore, it stated that there is difference in the literacy rate between male and female literacy.

Table-4.4 provides the district-wise gender disparity in the total literacy rate of West Bengal. From the value of Disparity Index, it is clear that all the districts of West Bengal have gender disparity in the literacy rate, and females are lagging behind male in term of literacy rate. The highest gender disparity is observed in the Purulia district (0.548). Here, the male literacy rate is 78.85% and female literacy rate is 51.29.

Therefore, the females are lagging behind males and the lowest gender disparity is observed in Murshidabad district (0.142). Here the male literacy rate is 71.02 % and female literacy is 63.88 %.

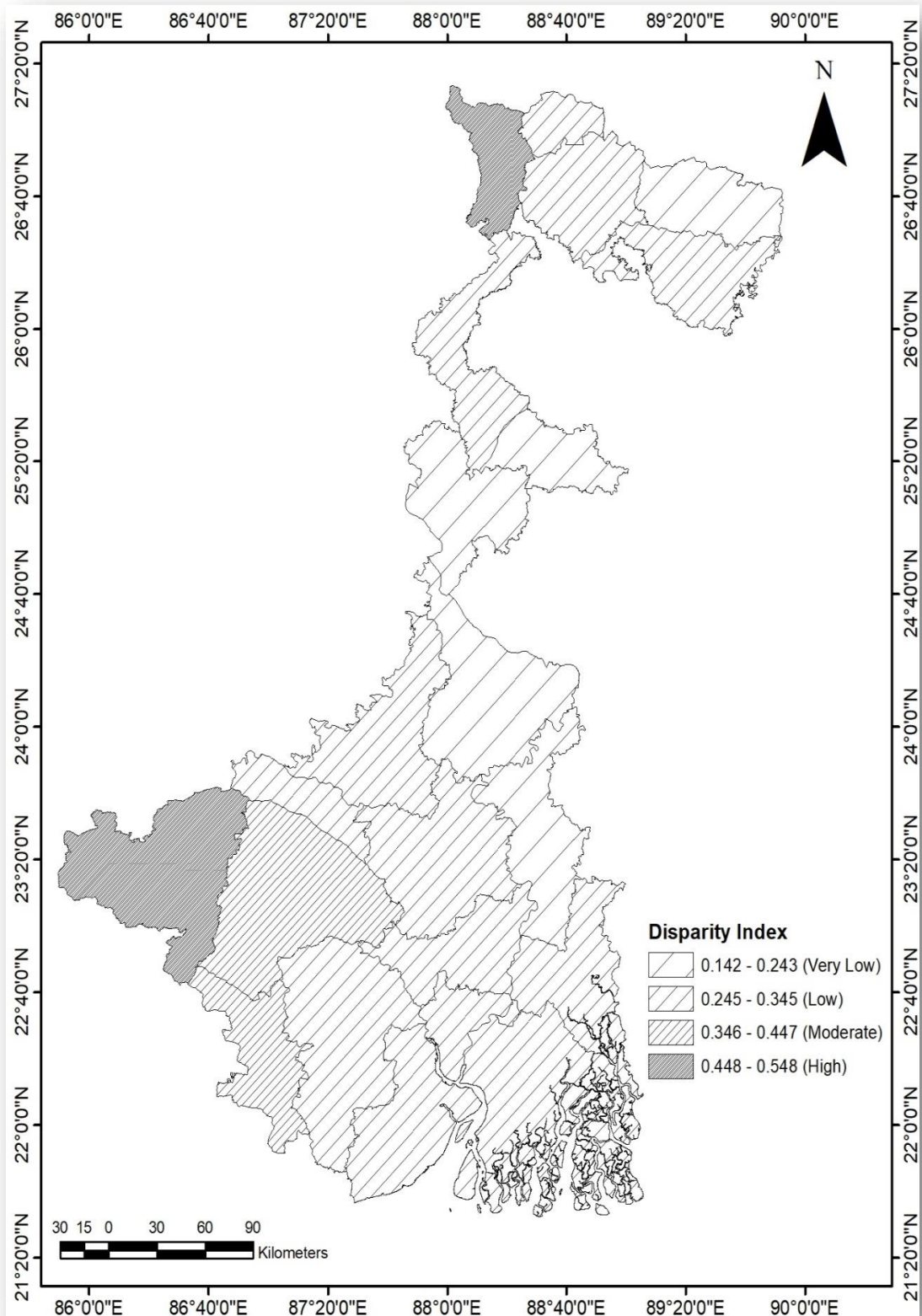
Purulia district is respectively followed by Darjeeling (0.501), Bankura (0.445), Jhargram (0.368), Hooghly (0.337), 24(S) Parganas (0.331), Paschim Medinipur (0.318), Purba Bardwan (0.310), Coochbihar (0.294), Kalimpong (0.294), Purba Medinipur (0.286), Paschim Bardwan (0.286), Birbhum (0.283), 24(N) Parganas (0.260), Jalpaiguri (0.259), Howrah (0.257), Uttar Dinajpur (0.245), Alipurduar (0.233), Nadia (0.194), Malda (0.174), and Dakshin Dinajpur (0.143).



**Table-4.4.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Total Population in West Bengal, 2011**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	75.49	81.52	69.08	0.294
2	Alipurduar	72.12	69.84	57.48	0.233
3	Jalpaiguri	71.35	71.90	58.40	0.259
4	Kalimpong	79.33	82.37	70.30	0.294
5	Darjeeling	76.43	83.03	60.64	0.501
6	Uttar Dinajpur	60.12	66.65	53.12	0.245
7	Dakshin Dinajpur	73.86	79.63	73.74	0.143
8	Malda	62.71	67.27	57.84	0.174
9	Murshidabad	67.53	71.02	63.88	0.142
10	Nadia	75.58	79.58	71.35	0.194
11	Birbhum	70.90	77.42	64.07	0.283
12	Bankura	70.95	81.00	60.44	0.445
13	Purba Burdwan	76.21	82.42	69.63	0.310
14	Paschim Burdwan	71.47	70.95	55.77	0.286
15	Purulia	65.38	78.85	51.29	0.548
16	Hooghly	82.55	87.93	76.95	0.337
17	Howrah	83.85	87.69	79.73	0.257
18	24(N) Parganas	84.95	88.66	81.05	0.260
19	24(S) Parganas	78.57	84.72	72.09	0.331
20	Kolkata	87.14	89.08	84.98	0.158
21	Paschim Medinipur	75.96	82.96	69.99	0.318
22	Jhargram	69.37	76.80	58.58	0.368
23	Purba Medinipur	71.47	70.95	55.77	0.286

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2011



Map-4.4 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in West Bengal, 2011

Map-4.4 shows that the gender disparity in literacy rate of total population in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of Disparities Index in literacy rate has been divided into four classes for showing gender disparity in literacy of total population in 2011. The classes are categorized into 1. Very low (0.142-0.243), 2. Low (0.244-0.345), 3. Moderate (0.346-0.447), and 4. High (0.448-0.548) disparity zone.

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.142-0.243):**

In an area of very low disparity zone, the districts of Murshidabad (0.142), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.143), Kolkata (0.158), Malda (0.174), Nadia (0.194), and Alipurduar (0.233) are located.

**2. Low disparity zone (0.244-0.345):**

Thirteen districts of West Bengal are located in low disparity zone, such as Uttar Dinajpur (0.245), Howrah (0.257), Jalpaiguri (0.259), 24(N) Parganas (0.260), Paschim Burdwan (0.286), Purba Medinipur (0.286), Birbhum (0.283), Kalimpong (0.294), Cooch Bihar (0.294), Purba Burdwan (0.310), Paschim Medinipur (0.318), 24(S) Parganas (0.331) and Hooghly (0.337).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.346-0.447):**

The districts Jhargram (0.368) and Bankura (0.445) are located in area of moderate disparity zone.

**4. High disparity zone (0.448-0.548):**

Two districts of West Bengal are found to an area of high disparity zone, namely Darjeeling (0.501) and Purulia (0.548).

#### **4.6 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste Population in West Bengal, 2011**

According to the Census report, 2011 the Scheduled Caste people are the most backward and deprived section of Indian society. They lag far behind in terms of various Human Development Indicators including literacy.

Table-4.5 reveals that the literacy rate and gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Caste population in different districts of West Bengal in 2011. As per the calculated Disparity Index, the highest gender disparity of Scheduled Caste literacy is observed in the Purulia district (0.510). It is stated that from 1961 to 2011 Purulia district has the highest gender disparity in literacy rate of SCs population and all Census years' females lagging behind the male. The lowest gender disparity of Scheduled Caste literacy is observed in the Alipurduar district (0.190); besides, it is significant to note that in 2011, in all the districts of West Bengal the gender disparity in literacy has decreased as compared to the previous year. But the disparity in literacy in all the districts of West Bengal remains.

The Scheduled Caste is far behind in the society, and 71% of Scheduled Caste farmers, work wages on land. They do not own. Most bonded laborers are Scheduled Caste. They have a literacy rate of 66.1% against the all-India level of 73%. In the case of scheduled females, the literacy level is 56.5% against all India's female literacy rate of 64.6% (Census of India, 2011).

Besides more than 60 years of independence, 60 years of reservation for Scheduled Caste in the education sector are very few in higher education. They are very much behind in the education sector. The main reasons for the problem can be traced in Hindu society through the caste system. They are considered less important and are

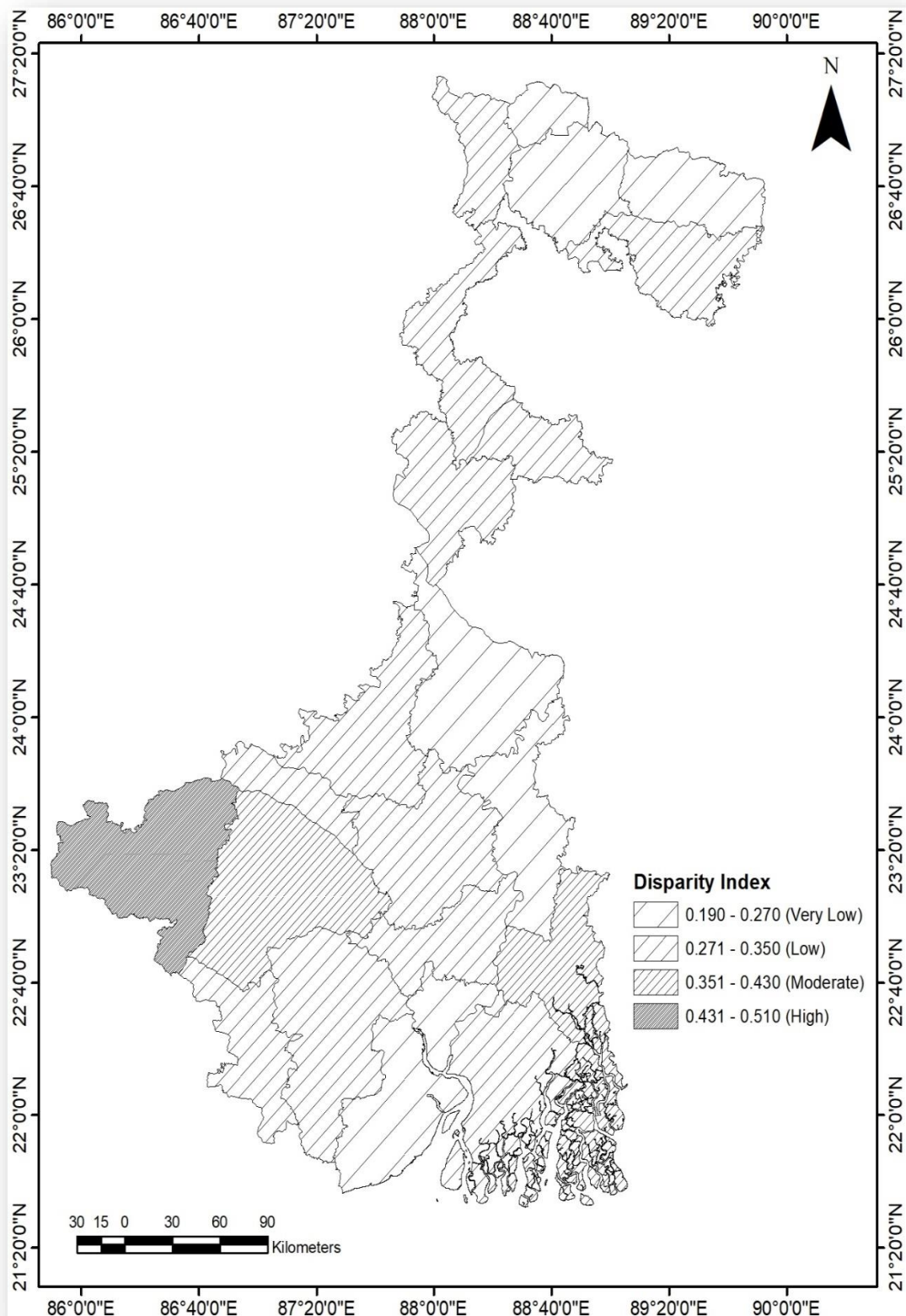
often excluded from the residential area. They are called untouchable and deprived of many facilities including education (Benjamin, 2008).

Purulia district is respectively followed by Bankura (0.420), 24(N) Parganas (0.409), Paschim Burdwan ( 0.346), Coochbihar (0.332), Purba Burdwan (0.328), Uttar Dinajpur (0.327), Hooghly (0.326), Kolkata (0.325), 24 (S) Parganas (0.317), Birbhum (0.315), Jhargram (0.311), Paschim Medinipur (0.308), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.304), Malda (0.287), Darjeeling (0.272), Purba Medinipur (0.268), Jalpaiguri (0.265), Nadia (0.261), Howrah (0.260), Murshidabad (0.236), and Alipurduar district (0.190).

**Table-4.5.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal, 2011**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1	Coochbihar	73.57	80.67	66.01	0.332
2	Alipurduar	58.60	71.42	61.66	0.190
3	Jalpaiguri	66.58	69.92	55.72	0.265
4	Kalimpong	70.05	76.20	64.01	0.254
5	Darjeeling	63.96	71.21	56.90	0.272
6	Uttar Dinajpur	62.41	70.87	53.31	0.327
7	Dakshin Dinajpur	66.26	73.82	58.24	0.304
8	Malda	61.04	68.58	52.91	0.287
9	Murshidabad	62.23	68.45	55.68	0.236
10	Nadia	73.34	79.01	67.29	0.261
11	Birbhum	59.42	67.98	50.42	0.315
12	Bankura	54.03	65.74	42.10	0.420
13	Purba Burdwan	55.56	65.81	47.42	0.328
14	Paschim Bardwan	53.21	59.80	40.10	0.346
15	Purulia	56.07	69.82	41.63	0.510
16	Hooghly	68.36	76.29	60.24	0.326
17	Howrah	71.33	77.29	65.12	0.260
18	24(N) Parganas	79.70	84.38	67.76	0.409
19	24(S) Parganas	76.31	85.37	73.69	0.317
20	Kolkata	79.31	85.02	72.85	0.325
21	Paschim Medinipur	61.06	72.04	55.87	0.308
22	Jhargram	56.31	54.61	36.94	0.311
23	Purba Medinipur	71.83	77.86	65.40	0.268

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2011



Map-4.5 Spatial pattern of gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Caste population in West Bengal, 2011

Map-4.5 shows that the gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste is not uniform in all the districts of West Bengal in 2011. It is observed that the disparities in Schedules Caste literacy vary from one district to another district. The range of disparity Index value is 0.190-0.270, which were recorded Alipurduar and Purulia districts respectively. The spatial pattern of gender disparity has been categorized into four classes for mentioning the gender disparity of Scheduled Caste literacy. The classes are 1. Very low (0.190-0.270), 2. Low (0.271-0.350), 3. Moderate (0.351-0.430) and 4. High (0.431-0.510) disparity zone.

**1. Very low disparity zone (0.190-0.270):**

The very low disparity is observed in eight districts of West Bengal, such as Alipurduar (0.190), Kalimpong (0.210), Murshidabad (0.236), Howrah (0.260), Nadia (0.261), Jalpaiguri (0.265), Purba Medinipur (0.268), and Kolkata (0.325).

**2. Low disparity zone (0.271-0.350):**

In an area of low disparity zone, the disparity index value varied between 0.271-0.350. The districts located in the area of low disparity zone are Darjeeling (0.272), Malda (0.287), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.304), Paschim Medinipur (0.308), Jhargram (0.311), Birbhum (0.315), Hooghly (0.326), Uttar Dinajpur (0.327), Purba Burdwan (0.328), Coochbihar (0.332) and Paschim Burdwan (0.346).

**3. Moderate disparity zone (0.351-0.430):**

Only two districts such as 24(N) Parganas (0.409) and Bankura (0.420) are located to an area of moderate disparity zone.



#### **4. High disparity zone (0.431-0.510):**

The Purulia district belongs in an area of high disparity zone. The Disparity Index value is 0.510.

#### **4.7 Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 2011**

Table-4.6 shows the district-wise gender disparity of Scheduled Tribe literacy rate in all districts of West Bengal. As in the previous census year, gender disparity was also observed in the Schedule Tribe literacy rate. It can be said that in Twenty-three districts of West Bengal females are lagging behind males in literacy rate in 2011.

As per the Disparity Index Jhargram district (0.551) has the highest gender disparity and Kalimpong district (0.218) has the lowest gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe population.

Thus, the females in the Kalimpong district are slightly behind males in terms of the literacy rate. On the other hand, in terms of total literacy rate, the highest gender disparity is seen in the Purulia district (0.548), and the lowest gender disparity is seen in the Kolkata district (0.156). But in the case of the Scheduled Tribe literacy rate, the Purulia (0.503) district stands Second highest gender disparity in literacy.

Daripa (2018), argues that poverty is a constant issue for the Scheduled Tribe people of this district. The people from ST communities consider it a luxury to send their children to school; they engage their children in various activities to alleviate poverty. The lack of adequate schools in the Scheduled Tribes area has severely hampered the educational status of the Scheduled Tribes in this district.

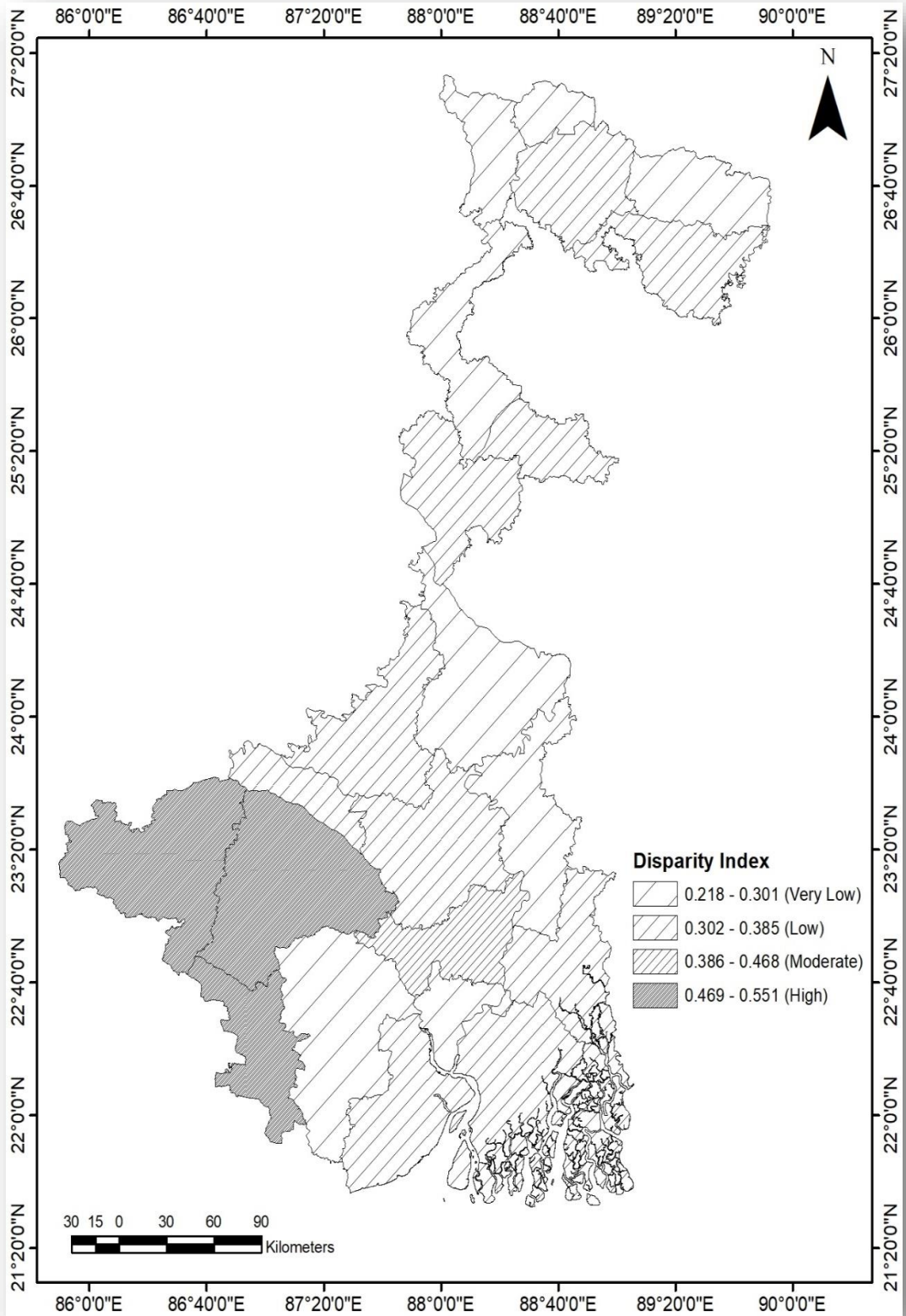
Jhargram district is respectively followed by Purulia (0.503), Bankura (0.499), Hooghly (0.391), Paschim Bardwan (0.356), Birbhum (0.351), 24(S) Parganas

(0.344), Coochbihar (0.325), 24(N) Parganas (0.317), Malda (0.316), Purba Medinipur (0.316), Purba Burdwan (0.307), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.304), Kolkata (0.303), Jalpaiguri (0.302), Uttar Dinajpur (0.293), Murshidabad (0.277), Nadia (0.275), Paschim Medinipur (0.266) and Alipurduar (0.252).

**Table-4.6.: District-wise Gender Disparity in Literacy Rate of the Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal, 2011**

Sl. No.	District	Literacy rate (%)			Disparity Index (D.I)
		Total	Male (X2)	Female(X1)	
1	Coochbihar	66.89	74.82	58.35	0.325
2	Alipurduar	52.67	59.97	45.55	0.252
3	Jalpaiguri	49.33	57.89	40.62	0.302
4	Kalimpong	70.79	75.91	65.52	0.218
5	Darjeeling	65.73	73.78	59.12	0.288
6	Uttar Dinajpur	43.76	51.96	35.48	0.293
7	Dakshin Dinajpur	57.02	65.54	48.50	0.304
8	Malda	46.86	55.83	37.86	0.316
9	Murshidabad	51.34	59.15	43.32	0.277
10	Nadia	57.75	65.35	49.98	0.275
11	Birbhum	47.48	57.57	37.67	0.351
12	Bankura	59.37	72.93	46.01	0.499
13	Purba Burdwan	46.96	55.41	37.91	0.307
14	Paschim Burdwan	49.44	60.93	40.72	0.356
15	Purulia	53.86	67.84	39.77	0.503
16	Hooghly	60.67	71.39	50.29	0.391
17	Howrah	70.86	77.08	64.23	0.272
18	24(N) Parganas	64.78	72.90	56.40	0.317
19	24(S) Parganas	59.72	69.03	50.17	0.344
20	Kolkata	82.06	86.81	76.57	0.303
21	Paschim Medinipur	51.45	61.09	47.04	0.266
22	Jhargram	51.74	61.99	31.38	0.551
23	Purba Medinipur	55.88	64.53	46.72	0.316

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2011



Map-4.6 Spatial patterns of gender disparity in literacy of Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal in 2011

Gender disparity in the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe population in different districts of West Bengal is not uniform. The disparities vary from one district to another district. The spatial pattern of Disparities Index has been categorized into four classes for mentioning gender disparity of Scheduled Caste literacy in the year 2011. The classes are 1. Very low (0.218-0.301), 2. Low (0.302-0.385), 3. Moderate (0.386-0.468) and 4. High (0.469-0.551) disparity zone (Map-4.6).

### **1. Very low disparity zone (0.218-0.301):**

Eight districts out of twenty-three districts of West Bengal are located in an area of very low disparity zone. The districts are Kalimpong (0.218), Alipurduar (0.252), Paschim Medinipur (0.266), Howrah (0.272), Nadia (0.275), Murshidabad (0.277), Darjeeling (0.288), and Uttar Dinajpur (0.293) respectively.

### **2. Low disparity zone (0.302-0.385):**

Elven districts of West Bengal are belonging to low disparity zone. These are Jalpaiguri (0.302), Kolkata (0.303), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.304), Purba Burdwan (0.307), Purba Medinipur (0.316), and Malda (0.316), 24(N) Parganas (0.317) Coochbihar (0.325), 24(S) Parganas (0.344), Birbhum (0.351), and Paschim Burdwan (0.356).

### **3. Moderate disparity zone (0.386-0.468):**

Only one district of West Bengal, namely Hooghly (0.391) belongs to an area of moderate disparity zone.

### **4. High disparity zone (0.469-0.551):**

The districts of Bankura (0.499) Purulia (0.503) and Jhargram (0.551) are located in the high disparity zone.

#### **4.8 Summary:**

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe are lagging far behind in all the districts of West Bengal in terms of literacy rate from 2001 to 2011. However, comparatively the gender disparity in literacy rate is higher in the Scheduled Tribes population in West Bengal. From 2001 to 2011 in Purulia district, the issue of gender disparity is evident in literacy rates of total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and the value of the Disparity Index is highest in most cases. Besides, Bankura, Coochbihar, Birbhum, West Dinajpur, and Jalpaiguri districts also have higher gender disparity in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population. In Kolkata and its adjoining districts, such as Howrah, Hooghly and 24(N) Parganas, the gender disparity is comparatively less in the literacy rate of total Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe population. On the other hand, the low gender disparity in Scheduled Tribe literacy rate is being observed in Darjeeling district in various censuses. However, it is significant that from 2001 to 2011, the gender disparity in literacy rates of total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes gradually decreased. But there is still gender disparity in the literacy rate of total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in all the district of West Bengal.

## **CHAPTER-5**

### **Summary and Conclusion**

The present study has discussed the Spatio-temporal Analysis of gender disparity in the literacy rate of the total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal. The literacy rate of all the districts of West Bengal has continuously increased decades by decades, but the increase in literacy rate varies between different districts and social groups of West Bengal. Mainly Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, 24(N) Parganas, 24(S) Parganas, Purba and Paschim Medinipur, Darjeeling, Dakshin Dinajpur districts have witnessed a huge increase in literacy rate, from 1961 to 2011. And Dinajpur, Purulia, Bankura, Malda, Murshidabad and Birbhum districts the rate of literacy has increased but it is comparatively lower than in the above-mentioned districts. Scheduled Tribe people are comparatively far behind the total population and Scheduled Caste population in terms of an increasing rate of literacy from 1961 to 2011.

Gender disparity has become a serious issue in the literacy rate in different districts of West Bengal. It is more noticeable in the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe than in the total population of West Bengal. However, in different decades from 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of all the districts has increased and the gender disparity in literacy has decreased. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe population in West Bengal are the most backward and deprived groups in the society. The literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population is continuously increased throughout the decades in different districts of West Bengal. Besides, gender disparity in literacy has gradually reduced from 1961 to 2011. The females are deprived in all the districts of West Bengal in terms of gender disparity in the literacy of total population, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe population. But

the literacy rate of females has increased every decade from 1961 to 2011. It can be stated that there is a wide variation between the decreasing trends of gender disparity in the literacy of the total population and SCs, STs Population in West Bengal. The rural districts of West Bengal have a higher gender disparity in the literacy rate than the urban districts across the spectrum of total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.

➤ The major findings of present dissertation are summarized as follows:

1. From the year 1961 to 2011, the literacy rate of total population, SCs and STs Population has increased in all the districts of West Bengal. But later, from the year 1991 to 2011, the literacy is increased at a very rapid rate or it can be stated that the literacy rate of all social categories in West Bengal has increased rapidly in the post-liberalisation phase.
2. There has a difference of increasing rate of literacy among the total population, Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe Population in West Bengal.
3. Females are deprived group in the literacy rate of total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in all the districts of West Bengal, from 1961 to 2011. But over the decades, the literacy rate of female population has increased.
4. Kolkata and its adjoining districts such as Howrah, Hooghly, 24(N) Parganas, Nadia, Purba Medinipur has higher literacy rate and Purulia, Bankura, Uttar Dinajpur, Jhargram, Coochbihar districts has lower literacy rate over the period 1961 to 2011.
5. In West Bengal, as a whole, gender disparity in literacy rate has been steadily declining from 1961 to 2011. But in case of SCs and STs Population the gender disparity in literacy has increase and decreased in different decades.



**6.** In case of Kolkata districts, the gender disparity in literacy rate of SCs and STs People has increase and decreased in different decades.

**7.** From 1961 to 2011, the gender disparity in literacy rate of total population, SCs and STs Population is being observed most of the rural districts including Purulia, Bankura, Coochbihar, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum and Uttar Dinajpur and Lower gender disparity in the literacy rate is observed in Kolkata and adjoining districts such as 24(N) Pargana, Howrah, and Hooghly in spectrum of total population, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.

**8.** In case of STs Population the Darjeeling districts has higher literacy rate and lower gender disparity in different decades.

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