

# **SYNOPSIS**

## **Dynamics of Minority Women's Empowerment in West Bengal (2014-2024): A Comparative Study Focusing on The District of Murshidabad and Malda.**

**Thesis submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
in International Relations (Arts)**

**By  
Situ Saikh  
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**Under the Supervision of  
Dr. Arup Bhattacharyya**

**Department of International Relations  
Jadavpur University  
Kolkata – 700032**

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## ▪ **Introduction:**

Gender discrimination is a pervasive issue that affects individuals of all genders, including male and female. However, this study will focus specifically on women's empowerment, recognizing that women have historically faced greater barriers and inequalities in various aspects of life. The struggle for gender equality remains a critical issue, as women often encounter systemic discrimination that limits their opportunities for education, employment, and participation in decision-making processes, and many more obstacles like this. Understanding women's empowerment is essential for fostering a more equitable society where all individuals can thrive, regardless of gender discrimination.

Women empowerment in India has gained considerable attention over the past few decades. Recognizing the significant gender disparities in education, health, and economic participation, various initiatives have been launched at both national and state levels to promote the rights and opportunities of women. The Indian government has implemented numerous policies aimed at enhancing women's status, such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign, aimed at combating gender-based discrimination and promoting the education of girls.

However, much remains to be done at the organizational level; obstacles are still present, and they are rather serious ones. Female gender in Indian society is even to date threatened; Women suffer high incidents of gender-based violence, and their roles across Indian society are restricted to domestic responsibilities and child care. Academic education remains a challenge to many girl child education due to poverty and poor perception towards girl child education especially in rural areas. In addition, women's access to employment is still restricted and while women are represented in the labour market, many of them work in

vulnerable and low-paid jobs with no prospects of permanent employment and employment benefits.

This is because apart from caste, in India, the caste conflicts with class and religious beliefs to determine the position of women empowerment. The overall life experience and resource attainment of women from minority-status groups is constrained by multiple forms of oppression. These issues have to be fixed through every other means, both empowering the female through the provisions of their rights and doing away with discrimination in every sector of society.

The socio-economic condition of women in West Bengal is quite active and is moving to a faster pace due to the government support programs and voluntary organizations. The government has started several schemes to bring change in the socio-economic status of women in the state – Kanyashree Prakalpa is aimed at providing financial assistance to girls for continuing education and caused a decline in the school dropout rate of female students. However, women's self-help groups (SHGs) have also emerged as important in empowering women, employment creation as well as joint ventures.

Women's empowerment has also been given a role by West Bengal's cultural and historical context. Women's movements have a long and rich legacy in the state fighting for rights and equality. While we've made these advancements, gender-based violence and discrimination continue. Despite all the progress made towards women's rights, issues like dowry-related violence, domestic abuse, and harassment continue to undermine these statuses.

Additionally, rural districts in West Bengal such as Malda and Murshidabad, are unique in their challenges with women empowerment. This Patriarchal structure paired with economic constraints has kept women from reaching education or employment opportunities. In some cases, the schemes promoted by

the government to boost women's rights have not been fully realized due to a scarcity of local governance and community resources.

Amongst the complications associated with women's empowerment in rural India, Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal exemplify a real social problem. Both districts suffer high levels of poverty and unemployment that most affect women. In these regions, gender roles are typically quite rigid and followed by tight societal norms for women including traditional responsibilities to care for children and conduct chores.

Women empowerment initiatives performed well in Malda. Significant development that has taken place of its setup is a self-help group that gave women opportunities to gain microfinance, engage in entrepreneurial activities, and develop skills that foment their economic independence. Improving the well-being of women has also been aided by programs directed towards educating women on health and reproductive rights.

Despite all that, Malda continues to have challenges. Even today there remain a lot of problems to be solved for women such as early marriage, domestic violence, inappropriate accessibility of education, and many more. Even though policies are designed to advance women's rights, enforcement and awareness both remain serious problems. In this research, every single one of these asking has been focused on through the study of concerned districts.

The problems faced by women's empowerment are similar to those at Murshidabad. Though the district has advanced in promoting education for girls, cultural barriers are resistant to change. There are, however, initiatives in place that attempt to train and develop skills for women, predominantly with limited access, given their socio-economic background. Although the districts cover various bases in terms of religion and ethnicity, the majority of the minorities

have their peculiarities in empowerment. That may be especially so for women in minority groups — Muslims, for starters, or scheduled castes — who face especially stiff barriers to empowerment. The world isn't fair for these women because cultural norms and economic disadvantages often intersect. Both systemic discrimination and cultural practices that value male authority can limit access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Women from these communities also often suffer stigma from the purpose of the social debates and marginalization that inhibits the capacity of women to claim their rights and seek avenues for upward mobility.

In contrast, despite hurdles, women in majority communities may also come across barriers, though they may be different. They may face limitations on their opportunities due to traditional gender roles and expectations but have better access to resources than minority women but still lapses like domestic violence and no decision-making power.

This means that any interventions that seek to mainstream women in these districts need to understand how women from both these backgrounds feel, think, and experience life. Education, vocational training, and health care should be viewed as priority areas for carrying out targeted programs, designed according to the capabilities of various communities, and equality for all. In other words, the cooperation of governmental ministries, non-governmental organizations, and communities is crucial to establishing the conditions that support the empowerment of all women in society at large.

Sexism remains a major impediment to women's actual social engagement, as it limits them in everyday lives. Although much improvement has been made in India and West Bengal specifically in Malda and Murshidabad there is still a problem that needs constant effort and commitment.

Social and economic transformation is incomplete without empowering women that's why it's also a Moral responsibility. Training women in education, health, and employment provides leverage to every human being in society which leads to a healthy society. The struggle for eradicating sexism has to go on to make sure every lady can freely and happily achieve her goals no matter her origins. Understanding each one of the minority and majority group women of Malda and Murshidabad is important to form a society in which equality of gender is not just a dream or an ideal mode but a realizable state.

In my research the proposed study titled "*Dynamics of Minority Women's Empowerment in West Bengal (2014 to 2024): A Comparative Study Focusing on the District of Murshidabad and Malda*" is altogether purely not a noble project, meanwhile, this research will open up many sides regarding actual developments of minority women community in our society. There are a lot of articles regarding women's issues and minorities that have been published by Indian as well as Western scholars, they always open up some new research dimensions, similarly, my research will also direct the women empowerment issues to a new pathway, especially for the asking of minority women's empowerment. I have reviewed plenty of articles to get some general information about the entitled topic. In 'Empowerment of Women; The Indian Context', here author Kiran Saxena shows many sides, which include the social status of women in India and their activity in the decision-making process. Although she does not distinguish between minority women and the majority women's community. She remarked on the transformation of women's activity basically how they are trying to achieve their goals and cope with social status. I implemented this thought on minority women and comparatively conducted this research in the regional sphere of Murshidabad and Malda.

The minority women empowerment issues do not emerge overnight; it has the legacy of the historical past. This research emphasizes the rights of minorities its women communities and how constitutional policy, prescriptions, and prejudices play a crucial role in preserving their rights. At the same time, this study also focused on the societal status of women as well as their empowerment procedures. Most of the research data has been collected through interviews, field surveys, and observations. However, my study especially focused on the political participation of minority women, their educational development status, and the empowerment procedures.

### **1.1. Importance of this Research:**

Why this study is important? To answer this question, need to remind you, that my research was conducted basically after the Left Period in West Bengal, so we all know that after more than three decades of the Left rules new government came into power in 2011, and my research is basically covered a decade (2014-2024) so generally, it becomes an important sphere regarding 'minorities' social status, specifically minorities women's social status. In this track-changing period, how minorities are dealing with society, how they have empowered themselves, are they educationally belong to the mainstream of society, does government implemented sufficient schemes to empower minority women in society, these are the rational quarries of this research, and I am optimistic that the research result would be shown on the actual improvement ratio.

Though the several schemes launched by the government for women empowerment but how come it helps the minority women's group? Is there any special scheme which launched only for minority women? All these are the

fundamental issues regarding this entitled research proposal, I hope that these quarries would help my research to reach its goals.

## **1.2. Objectives and Research questions:**

The following are the Objectives and Research questions of this study:

- To study the present status of Minority women's positions in terms of Educational and Economical circumstances in Murshidabad and Malda districts in West Bengal under the present Government.
- To study the effectiveness of the various schemes and programs for minority women in society in the concerned district in West Bengal.
- Since there is very little participation of women in politics, especially minority women, who are not active in this sphere, what is preventing minority women from participating in political activities in our society?
- Are the norms, practices, religions, customs, and prejudices social barriers to minority women empowerment?
- Minority women are far behind on the question of higher education and independence, what are the projects the can government implement to show interest in their higher education?
- To study the present status of women empowerment of all sects in the society after the lockdown period of the pandemic COVID-19 situation.
- To study the challenges faced by minority women in our society in getting involved in political participation and awareness programs.
- To find out the performance of the State Government schemes regarding women empowerment and minority women's satisfaction.

- To conduct a comparative study between minority-majority women's groups regarding the empowerment issues in the districts of Murshidabad and Malda.
- To find out the informing state and national policies on minority women's empowerment.
- How do constitutional laws, policies, prescriptions, prejudices, etc. impact women's empowerment issues?

### **1.3. Scope, Coverage and Rationality:**

The rationality behind choosing these districts is, that there are 23 districts (The West Bengal cabinet has approved the creation of seven new districts on 1 August 2022. This will increase the number of districts from 23 to 30) in West Bengal but only three districts where the minority communities form a majority group in number. So, I found that doing this research in Murshidabad and Malda districts would be a unique task. Although the minority communities are large in numbers, but not as much empowered as the Majority community, what are the basic reasons behind this phenomenon, this is the foremost asking of taking these districts as my research area, and also motivates me to take help of qualitative research method over the quantitative research methodology.

### **1.4. Data Collections and Sources:**

Both Primary and Secondary data have been collected. Primary data have been collected from documents like observations, conferences, seminar proceedings, journal articles, field surveys, interviews, semi-structured questionnaires, etc. and secondary data have been collected from documents like thesis, dissertations,

books, research articles, magazines, research journals, E-Journals, Report of different committees, official data of Govt. of West Bengal, Govt. of India, etc.

## **1.5. Research Methodology:**

The methodology that has been used in this research is the qualitative social science research method through a mixture of demographic field research and some quantitative analysis of selected patterns among the minority and majority women communities. The main research tool was a semi-structured questionnaire conducted alongside detailed interviews of nearly a hundred women from different communities like minority and majority. Out of the above number, approximately fifty percent are from the majority community and are remaining from the minority community women group. The numbers of women interviewed were evenly distributed among these two groups but it wasn't evenly distributed in every single block.

This research looks to browse the role of empowerment of minority women in achieving greater social inclusion based on political and social participation. The researcher conducted extensive interviews with Minority as well as Majority women communities based on an epistemological research procedure. The effort was to understand the various circumstances and obstacles of women negotiating in terms of social participation, empowerment, and the decision-making process.

Consequently, this study has focused on the socioeconomic and political status of Minority women. The study is based on extensive fieldwork carried out among the different women communities in several blocks in the state of West Bengal.

In addition to questions of the marginalization and exclusion faced by them in grassroots democratic processes, this study tries to give close attention specifically to whether these efforts at democratic decentralization have actually empowered and benefited the minority women community and also the scope of possible action that is available by the government.

### **1.5.1. Questionnaire, Interview Method, and Comparative Method:**

Given this basic objective for the research, the study was structured around the collection of qualitative data by conducting extensive interviews with targeted women groups in six blocks namely Sagardighi, Raninagar-I, Farakk, Kaliachak-I, English Bazar, and Old Malda.

The questionnaire was designed for the various women's participation in this empowerment process. A semi-structured questionnaire was designed for the survey and collected the necessary data and information from the Majority-Minority women's community in the selected places of Murshidabad and Malda district, mentioned above. As well as the unstructured questionnaire was also been used to conduct the study during the interviews and observations. All the aspects relating to women's empowerment and my research objectives are considered with proper care. Basically 'open-ended' questions were included in the questionnaire.

Lengthy interviews and data collection were carried out on approximately hundreds of women within these six blocks. The data has been collected from a wide range of age groups, and socio-economic and educational backgrounds. There was also variation in the political awareness of the respondents, whether

they are politically aware or not. While some of them had no knowledge regarding this, others had extensive experience with a natural tendency of modesty.

In the blocks that were chosen for this study, the focus was on carrying out substantive interviews with the targeted women communities, an endeavour was to interact with their male family members as well, to ensure the actual patriarchal views about women empowerment. To ensure some degree of consistency in the collected data, a structured questionnaire was prepared which was used for the interviews. The questions were targeted at gathering factual information, about the age, educational qualifications, and socio-economic-political status of the respondents. This was followed by more open-ended questions where the respondent was allowed to express their opinions more freely. The effort was to understand the kinds of social, political, and economic pressures the minority women are subjected to, the problems they experience in carrying out their development, and barriers in the question of empowerment.

There is a lot of comparative work done among the various Women's groups (Minority-Majority) in terms of certain parameters which has been described in this thesis clearly in another chapter using the Comparative Research Designs.

Finally, the research sought to understand how their development perspective differs from that of other communities of women. To this end, the data collection also included data on the kinds of developmental works undertaken by the State Government and how much people in the society getting benefitted from these schemes, whether they are happy with the government schemes or not, what the obstacles that prevent in implementing the schemes are the relevant queries.

## ▪ **Chapterization:**

A brief overview of the research and its design chapters have been shown in the following, here every single chapter has been summarized and showcased the main subjects of that.

### • **Chapter – I**

#### ***“Introductions”***

In the introduction, the whole concept of this research has been described, the objectives of this research, the rationality behind choosing the concerned districts, what methodology has been used, the sources of data collection, research questions, and the literature reviews have been shown very lucidly. It is a kind of index of this research, anyone can imagine the whole research objectives if one goes through the introductions.

### • **Chapter – II**

#### ***“Different Types of Empowerments that Empowering Women in Indian Society: A Pathway to Progress”***

The chapter focuses on women's empowerment as the key to social change concerning the geopolitical context of India, with special reference to West Bengal. They have ways of how women's lives and chances are impacted by their religious and cultural inclinations, prejudice, and traditions. Therefore, the study

focuses on the areas, namely, Murshidabad and Malda districts to explore the prominent historical and cultural background of women's empowerment.

Thus, the chapter elaborates on the various prejudices inherent within India, specifically the state of West Bengal that hinder women's autonomy. This aspect brings out the impression of how the culture of racism, sexism, feudal system, and materialism in society exert a discriminative and demeaning impact on the treatment of women. These biases are fairly evident through gender stereotyping, sexism, and different types of discrimination such as casteism and economism which hinder women's rights to education, health care, employment, and leadership. Sexism is rated as a top problem that starts in childhood and persists throughout the female population's working careers and later into their middle age. Other times the media empowers prejudicial types that continue to oppress women and demoralize their importance in society.

Moreover, the caste system supplemental discriminates against Dalit women because of twofold prejudice of gender and caste which hinder them and enslave them further indicating that the caste system hampers Dalit women by confining them to their positions and not allowing them to grow or excel. I hope that these biases will be addressed so that society can provide women with the conditions that they need to succeed. Consequently, this study investigates the influence of culture on women in Indian society especially on women in West Bengal.

It focuses on four main sub-themes, norms of the general culture that prevails, the legal framework, religious beliefs and practices as well as practicing households. Cultural trends are finally improving gradually, women are now willing to acquire productive assets and gain more power in the home and the household. Nevertheless, the culture and society suppress women and assign them an inferior status in many communities under analysis.

### • Chapter – III

#### ***“Impact of Religion, Customs, Prejudice, and Culture in Women's Empowerment”***

This chapter discusses the historical context and evolution of gender discrimination and feminism, emphasizing that these issues have persisted since the of civilization. It highlights the ongoing dominance of patriarchy, particularly in rural areas, while noting some progress in urban settings. The chapter distinguishes between freedom and tyranny in feminist demands, suggesting that some contemporary feminist movements may inadvertently create new forms of inequality by marginalizing men from power positions.

The chapter discusses the historical context and evolution of feminism, highlighting the persistent issue of gender discrimination and the patriarchal that have dominated society. It outlines four waves of feminism and different challenges of it, the first wave, emerging in the late 19th century, focused on women's rights and challenged the notion of female inferiority, primarily advocating for white women's rights. The second wave, during the 1960s and 70s, sought to redefine women's roles and was influenced by the Civil Rights movement, leading to the emergence of various feminist ideologies, including liberal feminism. The third wave in the 1990s celebrated individuality and addressed racial disparities. Women began embracing their uniqueness and rebelling against traditional ideas. The third wave of feminism happened in the 1990s after women gained more rights and power from the second wave. Women began embracing their uniqueness and rebelling against traditional ideas. This

wave of feminism also became more aware of racial issues. Paid more attention to racial disparities that were sometimes overlooked before. while the fourth wave, characterized by the influence of social media, emphasizes inclusivity and intersectionality, critiquing "white feminism" for neglecting the experiences of women of colour. In the fourth wave, feminism continues to consider intersectionality, which means understanding how different forms of discrimination overlap.

Critics call out "white feminism" for not recognizing the unique struggles of women of color and suppressing their ideas. One thing is clear, social media has played a crucial role in this new wave, bringing feminism into the digital age. It keeps building on the ideas of inclusivity and questions what empowerment, equality, and freedom means each wave reflects a shift in focus and understanding of gender equality, adapting to the changing societal landscape. These are the parameters of this research and also imply the same ideas in West Bengals women issues, especially in the districts of Murshidabad and Malda. Although my research area is West Bengal, without considering the world women's movements it is not possible to conclude the empowerment process in this research.

- **Chapter – IV**

***“Theme of Empowering Women and Navigating Constitutional Laws,  
Governmental Schemes, and Policy Prescriptions”***

This chapter tries to explain the status of women in India especially West Bengal, constitutional and legal provisions, and policy measures for the protection of

women's rights. Constitutional rights are the rights that are defined in the Constitution, legal rights which are established by the government by-laws. Out of all the articles these two are one of the principal articles heavily emphasizing the State's obligations and legal responsibility for the protection of women and their rights to equality. It also looks at individuated laws including the Equal Remuneration Act and the Maternity Benefit Act to ban gender wage inequalities and the status of women in the economic dimension.

The same chapter also deals with the relationship between minority politics and women's emancipation, especially under the banner of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act which draws attention to the plight of women from minority communities. Initiatives like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" aim to improve the education and well-being of girls, and what is the impact of it, especially in minority contexts in this state. The chapter concludes with a discussion on the Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to increase women's representation in political decision-making, underscoring the ongoing efforts to create a more equitable society for women in West Bengal and beyond.

Chapter three presents an analysis of the effects of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution of India regarding local governance emphasizing the vindication of women through seat harbouring in panchayat and municipal formations. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment stipulates 33% of women for the panchayats, and the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment similarly directs provisions for women to the municipal bodies and elemental advancement and solution to gender-related concerns. The chapter also discusses such interventions as PMMVY for pregnant and lactating mothers and SSY to secure the financial destinies of the girl child.

The chapter highlights initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which provides financial assistance to pregnant and lactating

women, and the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), aimed at securing the financial future of girl children. Additionally, it details specific programs in West Bengal, such as Kanyashree Prakalpa, which incentivizes girls to stay in school and delay marriage, and Rupashree Prakalpa, which offers financial support for daughters' weddings to alleviate the burden on low-income families. The Swasthya Sathi scheme is also mentioned, providing health coverage to families with a focus on women as the primary beneficiaries. Collectively, these initiatives reflect the state's commitment to enhancing women's economic, social, and educational status, thereby fostering a more inclusive society.

The chapter discusses various skill development and empowerment initiatives in West Bengal, focusing on programs like Utkarsh Bangla and Swavalamban. Utkarsh Bangla aims to enhance women's financial independence through skill training and employment opportunities, particularly targeting youth and women. The program is part of a broader commitment by the West Bengal government to improve productive employment through the West Bengal Skill Development Mission.

Sabooj Sathi, which is enhancing the effectiveness of providing bicycles to high school students made a special focus on female students from poor families to improve their educational attendance rate. On the same note, it has challenges in how it will fairly distribute its resources and meet the needs of students who are disabled. A prime viewpoint of Swavalamban is to train and educate the 'less privileged' women, from the minorities, in skills and entrepreneurial techniques for their developmental and economic uplift. The chapter underlines that such programs should include community participation, and follow culturally appropriate practices, Utilizing women's universities and colleges as anchors for

education and skill development, the study seeks to empower minority women and girls to change their socio-economic status.

The chapter discusses the "Muktir Alo Scheme," initiated by the Bengal government to support sex workers and victims of trafficking. The scheme was started on September 4, 2015, to reform such a person by giving training, counselling as well as required equipment that will help to reintroduce in society. However, the goal of the program may be laudable, the program has been subject to criticism in terms of efficiency simply because a mere 75 individuals have claimed to have received benefits from it since its inception. The chapter is focused on the issues of sex workers, who had no other choice but to become prostitutes, and the necessity to establish stable help.

Further, the chapter also describes the formulation of the All-Women Police Stations in West Bengal precipitating the protection and rights of women. From 2011, these stations are intended to create a comfortable atmosphere for women which can help them to report a crime and obtain help. Expanding this strategy is the government's aim to address the increase in gender-based violence and to recruit more women in the police services. In sum, the chapter focuses on the challenge of guaranteeing the rights and the restructuring of vulnerable women in society.

- **Chapter – V**

***“An Analysis of Comparative Study of Women's Empowerment  
Manifestations: Minority vs Majority”***

This chapter is built up through the primary research data. I have collected the whole data through interviews, field surveys, and observation, etc. In West

Bengal total of two districts have been chosen and in between these districts 6 blocks have been chosen as research areas, out of these, 3 blocks belong to the Murshidabad district and the other 3 blocks are from Malda district.

In Murshidabad, I have chosen the Raninagar-I, Sagardighi, and Farakka blocks for my field survey. Similarly in the Malda district, Old Malda, English Bazar, and Kaliachak-I blocks have been selected for this research.

This chapter is completely based on primary sources of data, Some parameters have been selected for the survey questionnaire, like Marital Status, Political Awareness, Educational Institutions availability, Educational Literacy rate and ratio, Monthly Income, satisfaction of government schemes regarding women empowerment, etc.

Based on these questions, I have collected the data in two groups, the Minority Communities of Women's group and the Majority Community of Women Group. Meanwhile, shorted the age group without discriminating between the communities. Showcasing the data through the various figures, on emphasizing the governmental schemes and their benefiting people.

Finally, a comparative analysis was done on these groups based on collected data. Some portions are dominated by the Minority women's community meanwhile some portions are the Majority women's community. I have found a mixed response about the governmental scheme's implementation, most of the people from this concern region are not happy with this. They claimed that regarding women empowerment issues, governmental activities are not enough and not up to the mark. The government should be involved in every aspect of the women's empowerment questions. Until and unless the ground level women are not benefited the whole society will not able to be empowered.

The comparative analytical ways, that have been described are implemented in every single block of my research ( Sagardighi, Raninagar-I, Farakka, Old Malda, English Bazar, Kaliachak-I). In these mentioned blocks, a comparative analysis of majority-minority empowerment issues took place.

In conclusion note, I definitely would like to mention that, real women's empowerment will take place when society as a whole is educated through a proper education system, without distinguishing the minority-majority sects.

Political awareness is an inevitable feature of the development. If women get involved in the political process then they will learn what is right or wrong for them, and that will be the initial steps for real women empowerment. Not only that, but women should also contribute to their families through empowering themselves. The concept, that women are only born to serve a particular patriarchal society, should be changed by us. Make them feel they are the same as you are, as a researcher my recommendations are, to implement these questions as soon as possible, so the question of empowerment will arise and achieve its aim.

- **Chapter – VI**

***“Exploring the Social Mobilization and Contextualizing Women's  
Empowerment through the Lens of Majority-Minority Correlative  
Dynamics.”***

This chapter is structurally built on the data collected from primary sources, offering in-depth comparative analysis between minority and majority

communities on multiples of important societal and economic parameters. The objective of these comparisons is to reveal the underlying disparities, trends, and challenges that really exist between these communities in the society. Although the previous chapter focused on analyzing specific blocks and districts, relevant to the study, this chapter takes a broader different approach. No distinctions have been made based on geographical boundaries such as blocks or districts. Instead, the entire database has been utilized holistically, providing a comprehensive view of the statuses of both minority and majority communities on a larger scale of society.

implementation and effectiveness of government schemes are the Important areas that have been browsed in this chapter, focusing on how these initiatives impacted both the communities in society. By showing side by side the outcomes, the study highlighted potential inequalities in access, participation, and benefits. This analysis also enlightens whether these schemes are successful in promoting social inclusion or fall short, leaving certain groups marginalized.

In addition, to examining the governmental interventions, the chapter builds into several other critical dimensions, such as educational engagements, literacy rates, political awareness activities, and participation within both communities. Political engagement, including the involvement of decision-making processes and civic activities, is assessed to standardize the extent of representation and empowerment. Furthermore, the chapter evaluates community feedback on government policies and initiatives, providing valuable insights into public perception and satisfaction.

Marital status like social indicators and other demographic factors are also been analyzed as well, as they often play a significant role in shaping individual opportunities and social outcomes. These elements can be viewed as stand-alone

factors and in relation to their impact on broader issues like gender equality and women's empowerment.

In this detailed comprehensive and comparative analysis, this chapter tries to identify the barriers and obstacles that hinder women's empowerment process in society. The findings also provide a lucid understanding of the structural and social challenges that women's face, also helping to exact areas where targeted interventions and policy reformations are needed. By reconsidering these challenges, the chapter offers effective solutions and recommendations that could facilitate the empowerment of women and promote greater equality across all the sections of the society.

## • **Chapter – VII**

### ***“Findings and Conclusion”***

To summarize, this chapter highlights the essential conclusions arrived after the completion of the entire research, offering a brief account of the know-how gained in the course of research. It presents the general outcomes of the study with the emphasis laid on the trends, facts and findings established in the ethnic comparison of the minorities and majorities. This summary assists the audience in grasping the central ideas and results that were presented in the course of the research, which in turn facilitates understanding of the interactional forces inhibiting women's empowerment.

Equally important is the fact that besides providing a synthesis of the results, the chapter provides some crucial recommendations meant for mitigating the identified problems. These are practical strategies advanced for bettering the

position of women in the society. In particular, they correlate with increasing access to quality education, enhancing women's participation in political as well as social spheres, ensuring equity in the distribution of government services, and eliminating adverse cultural and social norms that hinder women's development. The recommendations consider it vital to put in place all the necessary structures to ensure the successful implementation of the interventions meaning that it is not left to just government and non-government organizations or community leaders. They further provide for affirmative action policies that take into account disparities between minority and majority women in order to facilitate all-inclusive empowerment programs for women.

In the end, this chapter does not only provide an overview of the key findings of the research but also proposes the way to go in boosting women's empowerment as a policy. It acknowledges the need for more focus and active measures in the quest for gender balance and provides clear actions that need to be taken in order to address the current state of inequalities and empower women in all spheres of life.

### ▪ **Conclusion:**

Finally, this research ends with containing suggestions and recommendations for the empowerment of minority women in some specific blocks in Murshidabad and Malda in West Bengal along with the scope of further research.

I must mention one important subject of this research which is limitations, which I faced in every aspect during the interviews and interactions. It is very difficult to collect data from women's communities, as they are very modest in showing their feelings, sometime they may not feel comfortable sharing experiences with

male people. They are very much introverted and possessed with family and not interested in sharing the cons of the family if they have any of them. Some of them are not sharing their name as well, and many religious obstacles are there behind this act.

In the question of monthly income, they are not willing to share the exact date because of a misunderstanding, sometimes they have doubted me as an income tax officer, and many of them assumed me an agent of the central government who came to collect the data to implement the NRC.

Last but the least, after the COVID pandemic people are scared to interact with unknown people, that's why in many places I need to take the help of some local students who actually know me personally.

In this research, the most important part is the bibliography which follows APA reference styles, provided at the end of this discussion. The appendix section of this thesis contains different subjects, like, an abbreviation, questionnaires, figures (tables, charts, diagrams, pictures), etc.

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