

# Socio-Economic and Cultural Transformation of Women after Establishment of Educational Institutions: A Case Study of Diamond Harbour Blocks-I & II.

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## Abstract:

Contemporary societies of Diamond Harbour two Community Development (CD) blocks are changing rapidly. The Diamond Harbour subdivision has nine CD blocks. Among them the block-I has one municipality (16 ward) and eight gram panchayets. The block-II has only eight gram panchayet. It is situated on the eastern banks of the Hooghly River where the river meets the Bay of Bengal and the NH-12 highway and Diamond Harbour-Sealdah railway in the vicinity of Kolkata. These two CD blocks is large with an area of 164.02 sq.km. There are population of 346967 including male (177502) and female (169445) (according to 2011 census). In the past (before 20 years) time, the two CD blocks was fully dependent on agriculture, brick field and fishery. But after establishment of the educational institutions, the two CD blocks become a developed blocks. Here the study mainly focuses on the identification of Socio-Economic and Cultural transformation of Women of the two CD blocks due to establishment of educational institutions as Neotia Institute of Technology management and Science (2002), Diamond Harbour Women university (2013), Neotia University (2014), Fakir Chand College (1948), Shishuram Das college (2010), Sadhan Chandra Mohavidyalaya (2007), Jyotirmoy Basu Vocational Training Centre (2001), Diamond Harbour Government Medical College and hospital (2019), Ramkrishna Mission Ashram (boys and girls), English Medium School, IIT Engineering College and various Schools and Madrasahs. When the Educational institutions was set up in 2000 the transformation started and then after 2013 when the Diamond Harbour Women University and Neotia University (2014) were established a huge changes is seen in change in language pattern, dress style, traditional customs, mentality of women, women's live, traditional custom disturbed, old ideas and superstitions, view point of women, literacy rate of women, attitude of men, inspire for education, daughter will go to university, try to get govt. job, moving out from house, laws and customs, divorce rate, status of women, dowry system, status of widow women, conservative minds in the women so on. It also incorporates development of music, dance, sports, art belief, morals, and knowledge, and any other capabilities of women etc. Therefore an attempt has been made here to identify the Socio-economic and Cultural transformation of two CD the blocks and its benefit of Women's Society.

**Keywords:** Block, Culture, Education, Economic, Institution, Social, Transformation, Women.

## Introduction

In world, the status of women in any society is a significant pointer to the level of development of that society. Education of women in the education of women is the most powerful tool of change of socio-economic and cultural position in society. Education is an important aspect that plays a great role in socio-economic and cultural change in the modern world. Education is the most powerful instrument to bring about socio-economic and cultural revolution. Education for all, at all levels, and at all ages of women is the only remedy to bring about the desired socio-economic and cultural change in any society. So Education is the peaceful weapon of social changes. Socio-economic and cultural change of women in Diamond Harbour two CD block-I and block-II under the impact of the modern global presents yet another important facet of socio-economic and cultural dynamics. The Social and cultural institutions and their values are changing the Diamond Harbour two CD blocks in various aspects. Among the agents of social change, education plays an important role in women's life. The educational institutions have to play an important role in bringing about socio-economic and cultural change. The socio-economic and cultural patterns are varied and often complex in Diamond Harbour two CD block's society. Educational institutions to simplify and categories the bewildering variety of socio-economic and cultural patterns and preserves them for use, and enables the woman to understand them better. An educational institution minimizes their role by changing the attitude of the women. In a democratic system the position of women is equal with that of men. Now a day, Women are also conscious about their rights, obligations and all round development.

## Objectives

- To identify the socio-economic and cultural problems and change of the women due to setting up of DHWU, Neotia University, Fakir Chand College and various educational institutions of Diamond Harbour two CD blocks.
- To find out any change in occupational pattern and demographic pattern such as sex ratio, age structure and Socio-economic and Cultural phenomena etc.
- To identify the level of socio-economic and cultural transformation among the women of that study areas by institution setup.
- To estimate the changing pattern of literacy among the women and find out the awareness about education.
- To identify the benefits of institution setup among the Women and the effects of setting up of the educational institutions in these two blocks.
- To have knowledge of the institutional facilities available in the two blocks and to find out whether they are sufficient enough to meet the changing local socio-economic and cultural amenities by the Institutions setup.

## Statement of the Problem

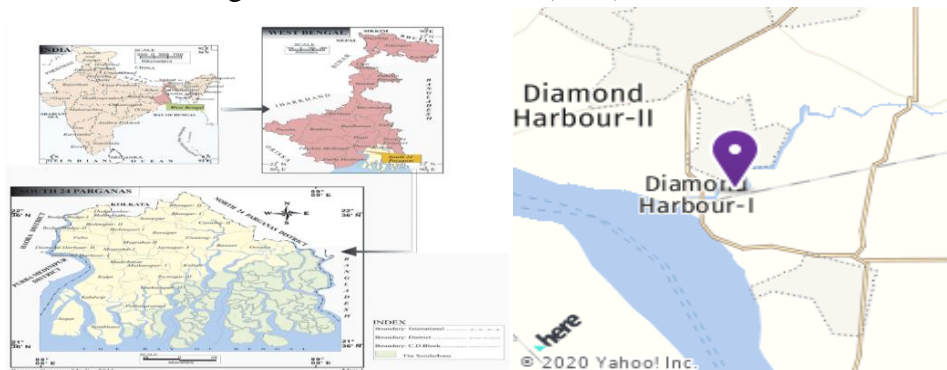
- The secondary data is not available yet, for the year 2021, from the two CD blocks including Municipality and Gram Panchayat. So there is no authentic data of the changes of socio-economic and culture of Diamond Harbour two CD blocks.
- Most of the Women have been suffering from the lack of awareness and literacy. They are not aware of the social-economic and cultural phenomena.
- None have conducted any study related to topic of women in these two blocks.

## Methodology

The methodology of the whole study has been divided into three steps - The pre-field has been done covering-literature review, Finalizing the objectives, Finalizing the study area, Data aspect, Maps, Formulation of Structure and semi structure questionnaire, making Experimental research design and Mixed Methodology. The field survey includes-Questionnaire survey including Purposive sampling, Interview, Secondary data from census, district gazetteers, Municipality office, BDO,GP records etc. The Post field survey- Analysis of the data collected, preparation of final maps, tables and diagrams and Tabulation, Statistical analysis. Data interpretation and analyzed through feminist perspective with help of feminist research methodology. Report writing.

## Geographical Location of Study Area

These two CD blocks are situated on the eastern banks of the Hooghly River where the river meets the Bay of Bengal and the NH-12 highway and Diamond Harbour -Sealdah railway in the vicinity of Kolkata. Geographically the area extended from 22.1987 N & 88.2023 degree E (approx). The boundary of this most important settlement area of South 24 parganas are as follows North Falta CD block and Hawra district, South the Kulpi CD block and the Sutahata CD block in the Purba Medinipur district, West Magrahat-I CD block, East across the Hooghly river. The CD block-I and block-II is with an area of 146.02 sq.km and It has an average elevation of 8 metres (26 ft).



## Condition of the Study Area

The rapid development activities in the two blocks have continued since 2000. So, the socio-economic and cultural elements of the women became radically changes after establishment of various educational institutions as 199 primary school, 12 upper primary school, 20 High school, 23 higher secondary school, 3 High madrasa, 3 College, 2 Vocational college, 1 engineering and polytechnic college, 2 University and There are many NGO as women Organisations, Diamond harbor Rural Research institution, Diamond Harbour sub division Sri Ramkrishna social welfare and library, Kapathat Nari Kalayan Samity, Goanara Mohila etc are working here for improvement or all round development of women. For instance, the advancement of women's education has brought about a wonderful change in the lives of women.

In Diamond Harbour two CD blocks the share of female population is more or less same to the male population. According to 2011 census the no. female population 169445 (49%) in compared to 177502 (51%) male population. The female population in the two CD blocks is associated with household activities, manufacture, business works as agricultural and industrial workers including service worker

etc. The population composition is shown in the percentage of population under different caste category. It is evident that the share of the general caste population is high which is about 77.38%. Then the share of schedule caste and schedule tribe population is negligible which is about 22.60% and 0.025%. The 45.92 % of population having Muslim religion and the share of Hindu religious people is about 53.75% and others religion is about 0.34% (2011 census).

The occupational structure of the Diamond Harbour is composed of workers, non-workers and marginal workers. The no. of female marginal workers is few; here the females are associated with the domestic works and working in the agricultural fields, industrial sector. In the Diamond Harbour two CD blocks in 2011, among the class of total workers, cultivators numbered 8634 and formed 7%, agricultural labourers numbered 26716 and formed 22% household industry workers numbered 8104 and formed 6.73% and other workers numbered 78178 and formed 63.69%. Total workers numbered 121632 and formed 34.92% of the total population, and non-workers numbered 225335 and formed 65.08% of the population. The overall level of education in the region is high. Mainly the large portion of male and female are only educated up to the level of primary, secondary, and higher secondary standard which. The male have higher literacy rate than the female literacy rate. In the two CD blocks total educated persons are 81.56% are male and 70.83% are female and total illiterate persons of the two CD blocks are 1233 of which male population are 18.44% and female are 29.18 % (2011 census).

**Major Findings & Analysis**

The Diamond Harbour two Block had a total population of 346967 persons, according to 2011 census. The male person accounted 177502 persons (51%) and the female person accounted 169445 persons (49%). In Diamond Harbour two Block had 69 % of General caste population, 21.5 % of schedule caste and 9.5 % OBC population, according to the Primary survey. According to the primary survey in Diamond Harbour two blocks were 94.5 % Female population and 5.5% illiterate female population. At present, according to census data (2011)70.83% women are literate and only 29.17% of women are illiterate most which include the aged female population

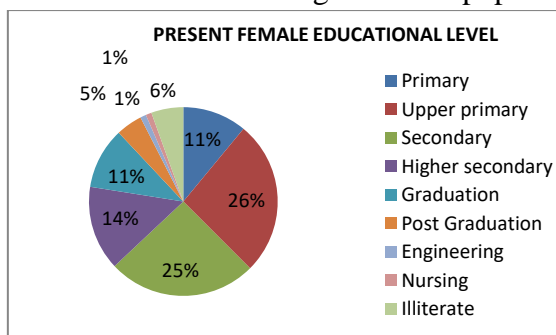


Figure-1

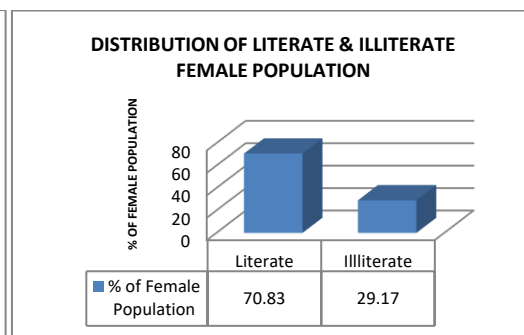


Figure-2

According to the Primary data total cultivators of the Diamond Harbour two Blocks are earlier 62.5 household or Domestic, 2% agricultural, 16.5 % industry,14% service. Now there are changes in 37.5 % household/Domestic, 7.5% agricultural, 26.5% industry, 18 % service and 11% trade.

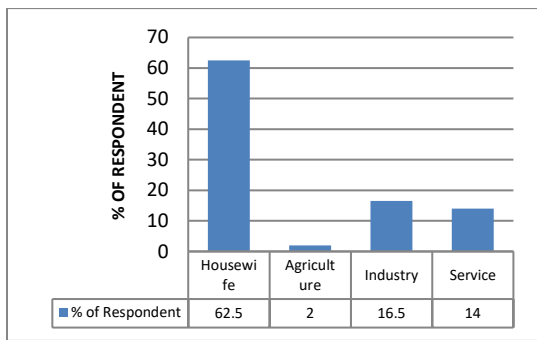


Figure-3

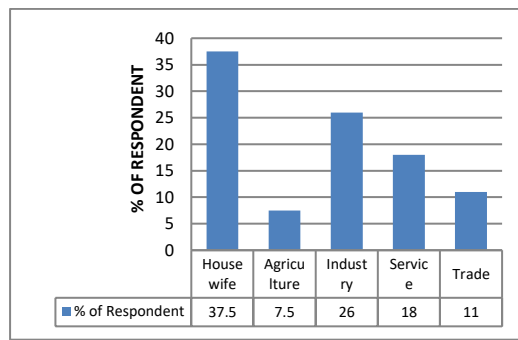


Figure-4

In Diamond Harbour the some villages and ward of Basuldanga, Bolsidhi, sarisha etc have PHC catering to over 80% of the women here. There have 9 PHC, 40 Family welfare sub centres, 18 Nursing Home, 1 Rural Hospital and 1 Superspeciality Hospital so on. As many of educational institutes have been established in these two CD blocks, the chances of employability & income has also been developed for the local women. According to primary survey, 51% women employed and 49% women are not employed in these two CD blocks. At present joining of women in the different Government administration sections are increased gradually. According to primary survey, most of the women (96.5%) are satisfied in this development and 3.5% women are disagreed for their unconsciousness or miss understanding. In the patriarchal society, gender bias as a social and cultural barrier. There is discrimination between men and women are bring suffering day by day in our society. We are about to overcome the gender bias in base of education progress and humanity. According to primary survey, There is no gender bias 87.5% women because, increasing of educational progress and well humanity. There are we see amount the women consciousness morality and well thinking etc. But till now 12.5% women are suffering in the gender bias. It has already mentioned that various educational institute have been established in the two CD blocks. So a large number of students come from outside daily and some of the students stay in mess in the two CD block. Besides students, teachers and other women who are employed in DHWU and Neotia University and other Educational Institute come to these two CD blocks. These students and outsiders almost come from urban areas. So their languages influence the local women and now try to use urban language. In the 2001 census, Bengali was the mother tongue for 97.9% of the population of the district, followed by Hindi with 1.5%, Urdu 0.3%, Odia and Telugu (0.1% each). According to primary survey, about 33.5% of respondents now use urban & mixed language, about 12% of respondents use urban language and about 66.5% of respondents use local language. It is clear that outsiders have an important role in changing language pattern.

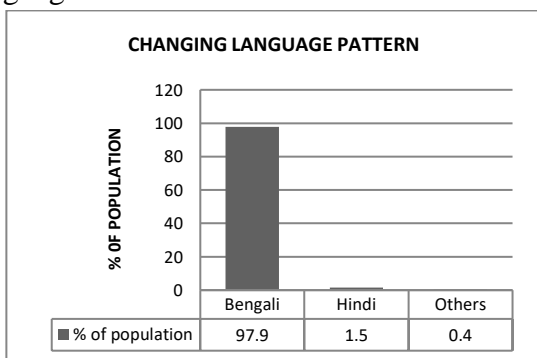


Figure-5

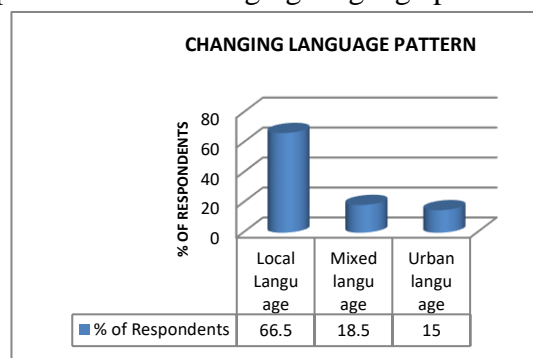


Figure-6

The Dress style reflects the improvement of standard of living condition and level of development. In these two CD blocks, outsiders also influence the dress style of the local women. According to 97.5% of

respondents, change in dress style has appeared both for girls and boys and only about 2.5% of respondents use the traditional dress. Girls are now using jeans, nighty, skirt etc who previously (20 years ago) wore saree, frock, churidar etc Change in dress style not only depicts the development of standard of living condition but also reflects the change in traditional mind to modern mind. Now days, the mentality of women have been changed. They are more housewife (40%) and business (36.5%) minded and lack of women (23.5%) are not business minded they are service minded. Their (dialect) language pattern has been changed. Many of women are learning English word and urban terms. As the number of educational institutions has grown, the percentage of women enrollment has grown and the lifestyle of women has also been changed a lot. They are using social Medias and a drastic change is seen in their life style, income increased, socializing, loss of traditional value, food habit, household amenities, dress choice etc revolution is prominent in almost 95% women. So, 22% women are agreed about the change of local ideas and superstitions and most of the women (78.5%) are not agreed with it. At present, men and older people in the family and society have changed their attitudes towards the word "women". According to primary survey, most of the women (93.5%) supposed the changes in attitude of male and elderly persons of family to words women and 6.5% women do not supposed the changes in attitude of male and elderly persons of family to words women. Most of the women inspire their children for proper education in these two CD blocks. According to the primary survey, all the women (100%) inspire their children for the accurate proper education. Most of the women (91.5%) express their view that their daughter will be higher educated due to establishment of DHWU and Neotia University. But 8.5% women will not reach to University level for their poverty, lack of attitude social awareness and lack of higher education etc. Most of the women think that their daughter will go up to the university level because university is located in these two CD blocks.

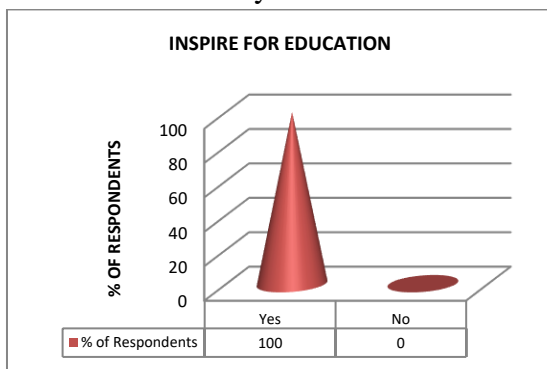


Figure-7

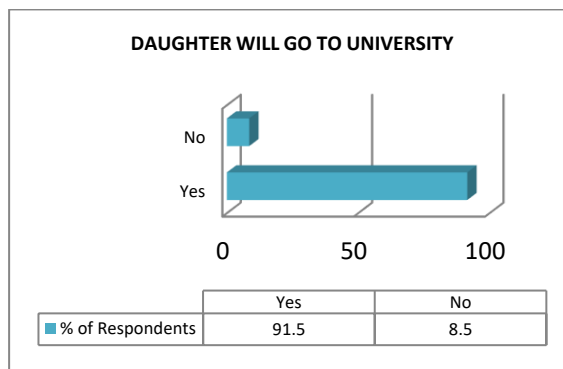


Figure-8

In these two CD blocks some women are higher educated. So they are trying to get the Government ant Non Government service or job. According to the primary survey, most of the women (86%) express their view that their daughter trying to get Government and Non Government service or job and 14% women express their view that their daughter will not get the Government ant Non Government service or job. Dowries have a long history in the two CD blocks and other parts of the Diamond Harbour. Dowry system is a curse in the patriarchal society. At about 20 years ago the dowry system was dangerously continued. So most of the women think that the widow life in these two CD block is better than others or adjance region. Because after 2000, here establishment various educational institutions, progress of literacy rate, mass awareness, changing mentality, socialization, etc. So, the widows are getting marriage again. They are getting widow’s allowance and others facilities. So most of the women think that the divorce rate in these two CD blocks is better than others or adjance region. Because after

2000, here establishment of the many educational institutions, progress of literacy rate, mass awareness, changing mentality, socialization, applicable Divorce law etc.

## Conclusion

After analyzing the whole article, it can be said that, the socio-economic and cultural transformation of Women of Diamond Harbour two CD blocks are consisting Municipality and Grampanchayat areas, are under the Diamond Harbour subdivision has transformed from Rural to Urban pattern after the establishment of the Educational Institutions from the year 2000-2020. The socio-economic and cultural conditions in the Diamond Harbour CD blocks-I and II were undeveloped before the year 2000. In that time, there was no adequate number of educational institutions except a few institutions; there was no in sufficient quantity of institutions for higher education, English medium school, engineering college, polytechnic college, vocational college, medical college. This led to poor percent of educated person especially women education was very poor. In that time, socio-economic and cultural background was very poor and there was not better advantage for women's life. In the first decade of the twentieth century, since 2000, there have been improved educational institutions, improved transport and communication systems, tourism industry, industrialization, agricultural development, various public and private projects and Betty Bachao Betty Porao, Kanyashree, Sabuj Sathi etc. For women, socio-cultural and cultural elements have been transformed. As a result of the establishment of all these educational institutions, the rate of education of women is increasing rapidly. For example, in 1981 the literacy rate was 32.79%, in 1991 it was 49.66%, in 2001 it was 59.22% and in 2011 it increased to 70.83% and changes in all socio-economic and cultural phenomena of women's society. From the above review, it can be said that the establishment of educational institutions has resulted in a remarkable change in the socio-economic and cultural life of women in these two blocks. So, women are playing an important role in the society through independent living, free thinking, self-determination, etc, out of the confines of patriarchal society. Therefore an attempt has been made here to identify the socio-economic and cultural transformation of the women in my study area and its benefit of Women's society.

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