TAKING A LOOK AT THE DIFFERENTIALS IN THE FEMALE LITERACY RATE ACROSS VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL (2001 TO 2011)

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Abstract: Literacy is considered to be an extremely important measure for bringing about equitable, sustainable development in a society and for this attainment of female literacy and female education is imperative. This paper highlights the differentials in the female literacy rate across the rural and urban areas among various districts of West Bengal for 2001-2011. It also throws light on the inter district disparity in the levels of female literacy between the rural and the urban counterparts and it also brings forth the gap in the differentials in the male-female literacy rate. This paper is divided into four sections, section one discusses the total literacy rate and female literacy rate, literacy rate in the urban and rural among the various districts of West Bengal for 2001- 2011. The second section discusses the male-female differential index among the various districts of West Bengal for both the years. The third section comparatively analyses the urban- rural differential index among the total and female population for both the years. The fourth section analyses the differences between the two years and tries to bring forth the possible reason for the changes. The data presented in the paper is obtained from the census record.

Index Terms - **Female literacy, male-female differential index, rural-urban differentials, sustainable development goals, district wise differentiation**

I. INTRODUCTION

Literacy is an extremely important and effective measure for bringing about inclusive and sustainable development (Sinha 2020). It is one of the most essential indicators which determine the quality of the human capital of a country (Chandra 2019). The person with the ability to read and write, having an understanding in any language and is above the age of seven years can be considered as a literate in India (Census 2011), (Census 2001), (Som and Mishra 2014). Literacy and education are two of the most important factors which can act as a catalyst for bringing about growth and development of a nation (Chattoraj and Chand 2015), it can be interpreted as both the cause and the effect of development (Som and Mishra 2014). Education is an extremely important factor which stimulates the process of character building; it also shapes the mindset of the people and helps in the development of intellect of the individuals (Som and Mishra 2014). In this regard education of women is indispensable for bringing about development in the society and country (Singh and Rabindranath 2020), it is instrumental to improve the socio-economic status of women in the society and increasing their job opportunities (Singh and Rabindranath 2020), (Gouda and Sekher 2014). Literacy levels reflect the socio-economic and cultural setup of a nation, ethnic group,

community as it qualitatively, quantitatively reflects the human resources such as fertility, mortality, age of marriage and economic participation (Som and Mishra 2014) According to the Right to Education Act every child aged between six to fourteen years has the right to get free and compulsory education in India. Other than this both the government at the centre and the state has made considerable efforts to improve the literacy levels of women. Attainment of equitable and good quality of education, promotion of lifelong learning opportunities and making substantial efforts to ensure that a considerable portion of adults attain literacy has been stressed on time and again in the goal four of the Sustainable Development Goals (Sinha 2020) and goal five of the Sustainable Development Goals also aims at achieving gender equality and empowerment for all girls and women (United Nations 2020). The Government of India and the government of West Bengal has also taken up several steps and granted various scholarships to promote literacy. This paper aims at analysing the spatio-temporal pattern of female literacy rate among the various districts of West Bengal from 2001-2011. This paper also aims to bring out the differences in the female literacy pattern between the rural and the urban areas from 2001- 2011.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Literacy is essential and elementary for empowering oneself, being able to understand and harness ones abilities to the fullest potential and helping an individual to advance through educational opportunities is primarily dependent on the attainment of literacy (Chattoraj and Chand 2015). Literacy is a human right, it is a tool for personal empowerment (Islam 2019), (Vachaspati 2019), (Jhariya and Jain 2014), (Som and Mishra 2014), (Shafiqullah 2011), it is a means for socio-economic and cultural development (Jangra and Kaushik 2016), (Shakir, Lone and Zafar 2012). It is a catalytic factor which helps in developing the capabilities of an individual. It is an extremely important component while computing human and gender development index (Jhariya and Jain 2014), which is used to measure various socio-cultural changes in the society (Som and Mishra 2014). It is closely inter-related with the improvement in the societal status and position of the woman (Andres and Chavez 2015), (Chattoraj and Chand 2015). A positive correlation lies between higher levels of education and attainment of better health, nutritional status, economic growth and empowerment of various section and strata of the society (Sinha 2020). According to (Census 2011), (Census 2001), a person who is aged seven and above having the ability to read and write in any language is treated as literate. Other than this literacy and education is also seen as an important factor for reducing poverty, reducing disparity in the living standard between the rural and the urban areas (Pushkarna 2017), (Kumar 2014). Till date literacy is seen as one of the biggest challenges which are being faced by people all around the world (Shafiqullah 2011). There is a growing concern about the denial of education to women in developing countries and the condition is still worse in the rural counterparts (Sinha 2020), (Ahamad and Narayana 2016).

Since, literacy is a basic step towards the attainment of general wellbeing and is indispensible for attaining sustainable development (Sinha 2020), (Pushkarna 2017). In this regard it has been observed that attainment of elementary education is important hence the "Right To Education Act" empowers every child aged between six to fourteen years of age free elementary education. Among the Sustainable Development Goals, goal four focuses on ensuring inclusive, equitable, quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all (United Nations 2020). It was decided by the Government of India that keeping in mind the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals, ample efforts would be made to ensure that a substantial portion of the adults comprising of both men and women would achieve literacy and numeracy within the stipulated period of time (United Nations 2020). As a part of these efforts (NITI Aayog 2019), has ranked different States and Union Territories of India on the basis of their achievements with respect to their performance with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. Among the different states of India, West Bengal has ranked fourteenth in the composite index and was placed in the "performer" category in case of the goal 4 (NITI Aayog 2019). In addition to the goal four of the sustainable development goals, goal five aims at achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls (United Nations 2020) and in that category West Bengal has obtained the index score of 38 and was placed in the "aspirant" category (NITI Aayog 2019).

The total literacy rate of India is 74 percent, the literacy rate of females in India is 65.5 percent (Census 2011) and the total literacy rate of West Bengal stands at 67.41992 percent, in rural areas it is 63.06178 percent and in urban areas it is 76.73496 percent in 2011 (Sinha 2020). It can be observed that a huge discrepancy lies in literacy rate between the urban and the rural areas. This gap is even greater if the dimension of female literacy rate is considered and compared between the rural and urban population (Hira and Das 2018). The attainment of schooling among women in India continues to lag behind in comparison to that to men and in the Gender Inequality Index, India has ranked 132 out of 187 countries (Rammohan and Vu 2017). The high rate of illiteracy among women and the gender gap in the literacy attainment can be attributed to various socio-cultural and economic factors (Chandra 2019). Education of women is important for the progression of India's socio-economic growth as educating women can play a significant role in the eradication of poverty (Sahoo 2016). Various scholarships have been granted by the Government Of India such as– "Post Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship Scheme For Single Girl Child", "Post Graduate Merit Scholarship Scheme For University Rank Holders in General And Honours At Under Graduate Level", "Research Fellowship in Sciences For Meritorious Students", "Dr. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowships in Sciences", "Medical Sciences and Engineering Sciences", "Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Post Doctoral Fellowship in Humanities and Social Sciences", "Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship for SC/ ST Candidates", "Junior Research Fellowship", "Post Doctoral Fellowship to Women Candidates", "Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students", "Pragati Scholarship", other than this "Right To Education Act" which was enacted in 2009, "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", "Beti Bachao, Beti, Padhao", "Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Yojna", are some of the other initiatives which has taken by the Government of India to promote education and literacy (Save the Children India 2016). Alongside with it Government of West Bengal has also granted various scholarships to promote literacy such as – "Kanyashree", "Sabooj Sathi", "Sikshashree", "Swami Vivekananda Merit Cum Means Scholarship for Minorities", "Bigyanai Kanya Medha Britti Scholarship", "West Bengal Post- Matric Scholarship for SC/ ST/ OBC", "West Bengal Pre- Matric Scholarship for SC, ST Students" and "Hindi Scholarship Scheme".

The present study aims to analyse the variations in the level of female literacy among various districts of West Bengal.

III. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this paper is to analyse the spatio-temporal pattern in the rate of female literacy among the various districts of West Bengal for 2001-2011 and to examine the differentials between the literacy rates of female population staying in the urban-rural areas of the state.

IV. DATA AND SOURCES OF DATA

The data presented in this data has been derived from (Census 2001) and (Census 2011). It can be observed from the census records that among all the districts of West Bengal in 2001, the district of Medinipur was counted as one entire district but in 2011, the district of Medinipur was split in two districts, namely, Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur. Other than this it was observed from the data that Kolkata is the only district which did not have any rural population in 2001 as well as in 2011.

V. METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

In the first half of the paper a comparative analysis was drawn between the total, urban and rural female literacy between various districts from 2001 to 2011, in the second half of the paper total, rural and urban male female differential index was drawn between various districts from 2001 to 2011, in the third half a comparative analysis was drawn between the total and female urban rural differential index between various districts from 2001- 2011. In the fourth half of the paper a comparative analysis was drawn between the districts performance and compared with that of the state's from 2001 to 2011.

The following formulae was used-

- Total Female Literacy Rate is calculated by –

Total Female Literacy Rate = (District Wise Total Literate Females/ District Wise Total Population)*100

- Urban Female Literacy Rate is calculated by –

Total Urban Female Literacy Rate = (District Wise Urban Literate Females/ District Wise Urban Population)*100

- Rural Female Literacy Rate is calculated by –

Rural Female Literacy Rate = (District Wise Rural Literate Females/ District Wise Rural Population)*100

- Total Male – Female Differential Index is calculated using the formula-

Total Male – Female Differential Index = (Total Male Literacy Rate – Total Female Literacy Rate) / Total Literacy Rate

- Urban Male – Female Differential Index is calculated using the formula-

Urban Male – Female Differential Index = (Urban Male Literacy Rate – Urban Female Literacy Rate) / Urban Literacy Rate

- Rural Male – Female Differential Index is calculated using the formula-

Rural Male – Female Differential Index = (Rural Male Literacy Rate – Rural Female Literacy Rate)/ Rural Literacy Rate

- District Wise Urban- Rural Differential Index is calculated using the formula-

District Wise Urban- Rural Differential Index = (Urban Literacy Rate – Rural Literacy Rate)/ Total Literacy Rate

- District Wise Female Urban- Rural Differential Index is calculated using the formula-

District Wise Female Urban- Rural Differential Index = (Urban Female Literacy Rate – Rural Female Literacy Rate)/ Total Female Literacy Rate

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There has been a positive increase in the literacy rate for both males and females from 2001- 2011. Total female literacy rate of the state has increased by 5.74308 percent and in the rural areas it has increased by 6.14493 percent and in urban areas it has increased by 3.6397 percent from 2001 – 2011.
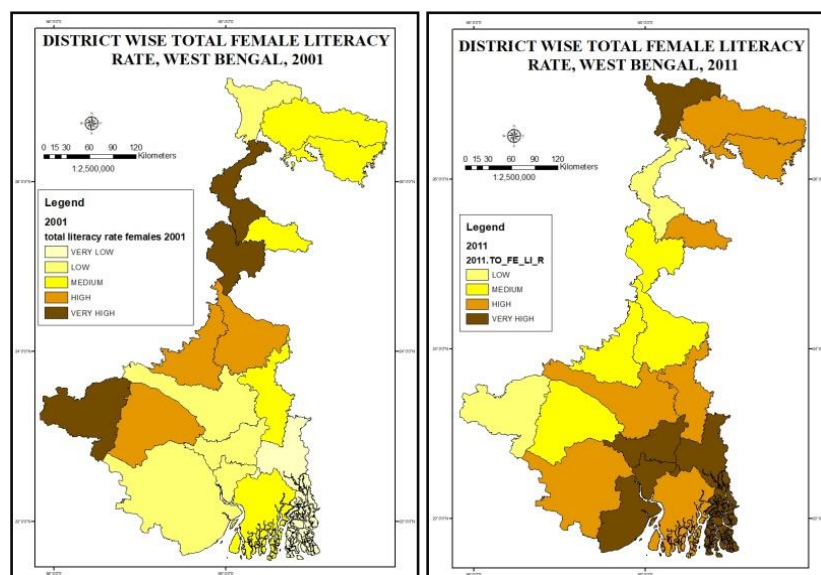

Figure 1– Map Showing District Wise Total Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001 – 2011)
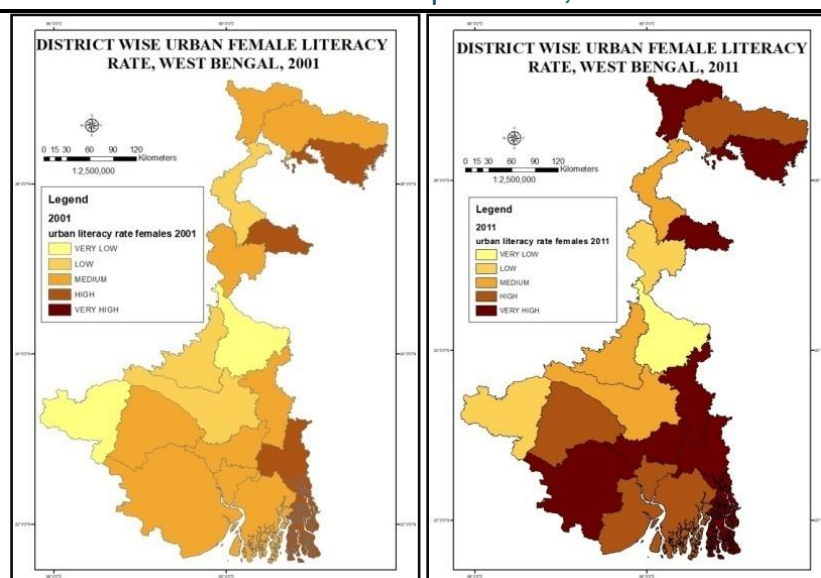
Figure 2– Map Showing District Wise Urban Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001 – 2011)
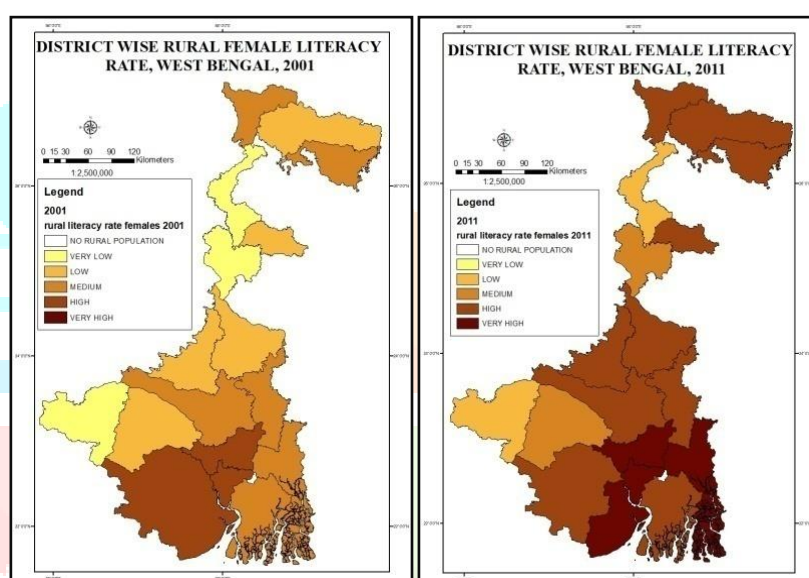

Figure 3– Map Showing District Wise Rural Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001 – 2011)

In 2001, Kolkata, North Twenty Four Parganas had very low total female literacy rate but in 2011, none of the districts of the state fell into that category. In 2001, Haora, Hugli, Darjiling, Medinipur, Barddhaman fell into the low category but in 2011, Uttar Dinajpur and Puruliya fell into that category. In 2001, Nadia, South Twenty Four Parganas, Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri were a part of the medium category but in 2011, only Maldah, Bankura, Murshidabad, Birbhum were a part of that category. In 2001, Birbhum, Bankura, Murshidabad fell into the high category but in 2011, more number of districts became a part of the category - Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Koch Bihar, Barddhaman, South Twenty Four Parganas, Paschim Medinipur, Nadia. In 2001, Maldah, Puruliya, Uttar Dinajpur had very high total female literacy rate and in 2011, Darjiling, Hugli, Haora, Purba Medinipur, North Twenty Four Parganas and Kolkata also became a part of this category.

Among the districts having urban population in West Bengal in 2001, Murshidabad and Puruliya had the lowest urban female literacy rate but in 2011 only Murshidabad had very low urban female literacy rate. In 2001, Barddhaman, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur had low urban female literacy rate but in 2011, only Puruliya and Maldah had low urban female literacy rate. In 2001, most of the districts namely- Haora, South Twenty Four Parganas, Bankura, Jalpaiguri, Maldah, Kolkata, Medinipur, Hugli, Darjiling, Nadia had medium urban female literacy rate but in 2011, only three districts- Uttar Dinajpur, Barddhaman, Birbhum fell in that category. In 2001, only Dakshin Dinajpur, North Twenty Four Parganas, Koch Bihar had high urban female literacy rate but in 2011, five districts had high urban female literacy rate – Jalpaiguri, South Twenty Four Parganas, Bankura, Haora, Purba Medinipur. In 2001, none of the districts had very high urban female

literacy rate but in 2011, eight districts namely- Paschim Medinipur, Nadia, Kolkata, Hugli, Darjiling, Koch Bihar, North Twenty Four Parganas and Dakshin Dinajpur became a part of this category. In both the years Murshidabad had recorded the lowest urban female literacy rate but in 2001 it was 25.31219 percent which increased to 28.47378 percent in 2011. The highest urban female literacy rate was recorded by Koch Bihar with 35.15322 percent in 2001 and in 2011 it was recorded by Dakshin Dinajpur with 38.99659 percent.

Among the districts having rural population in West Bengal in 2001, Uttar Dinajpur, Puruliya, Maldah had very low rural female literacy rate and in 2011, none of the districts fell into that category. In 2001, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Bankura, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur had low rural female literacy rate and in 2011, only two districts- Uttar Dinajpur and Puruliya fell into that category. In 2001, Koch Bihar, South Twenty Four Parganas, Nadia, Darjiling, Barddhaman, North Twenty Four Parganas had medium rural female literacy rate and in 2011, only Maldah and Bankura fell into that category. Among the districts having high rural female literacy rate in 2001, only Medinipur, Hugli, Haora were a part of that category but in 2011, Murshidabad, Birbhum Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Koch Bihar, Barddhaman, Nadia, South Twenty Four Parganas, Darjiling, Pashim Medinipur became a part of that category. In 2001, none of the districts had very high rural female literacy rate but in 2011, North Twenty Four Parganas, Hugli Haora, Purba Medinipur could be classified under this category. In both the years Uttar Dinajpur had the least rural female literacy rate but in 2001 it was 11.59419 percent which increased to 19.64713 percent in 2011. In 2001, Haora had recorded the highest rural female literacy rate with 27.3233 percent and in 2011 Purba Medinipur had recorded the highest rural female literacy rate with 34.65355 percent.

The male female differential index has registered a negative growth rate from 2001- 2011. The total male female differential index of the state was recorded at -0.11121 percent, however in urban areas it was lower than the rural counterparts of the state. In case of the urban areas, male female differential index was recorded at -0.04714 percent and in case of rural areas, male female differential index was recorded at -0.13711 percent.
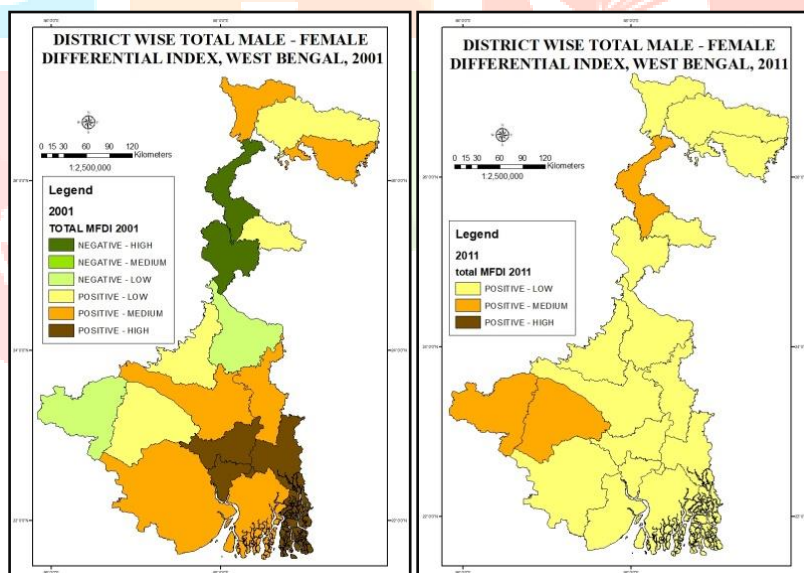

Figure 4– Map Showing District Wise Total Male – Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001 – 2011)

In 2001, four districts have recorded negative value for the total male - female differential index, which states that the female literacy of these four districts is greater than the male literacy. Among these four districts Uttar Dinajpur has recorded the highest difference of -0.28001 percent and Puruliya has recorded the least difference of -0.0475 percent. However in 2011, none of the districts had recorded a negative value for total male- female differential index, which means that the total female literacy rate of none of the districts was greater than the total male literacy rate. In 2001, among those districts which has recorded a positive value for the male – female differential index Birbhum has recorded the lowest value of 0.05474 percent and Kolkata has recorded the highest value of 0.38712 percent and in 2011, among those districts which has recorded a positive value for the male – female differential index, North Twenty Four Parganas has recorded the least value of 0.06616 percent and Puruliya has recorded the highest value of 0.23337 percent.
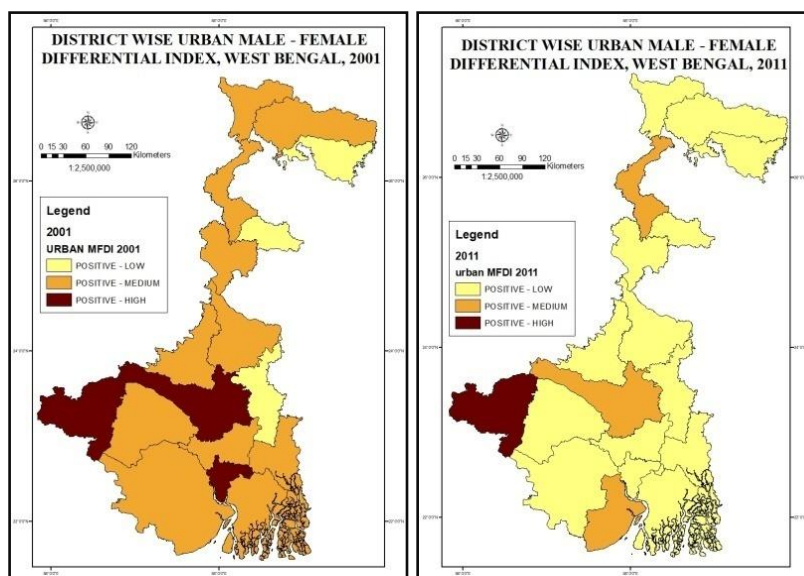
Figure 5- Map Showing District Wise Urban Male – Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001 – 2011)

In both the years, in case of urban male - female differential index, all the districts has recorded a positive value which states that the urban male literacy rate of all the districts is greater than the urban female literacy rate. In both the years Dakshin Dinajpur has recorded the lowest value in 2001, it was 0.07727 percent and in 2011, it has further decreased to 0.04523 percent. In both the years Puruliya has recorded the highest value in 2001, it was 0.1757 percent which has decreased to 0.1473 percent in 2011.

NAME	RURAL MFDI 2001	NAME	RURAL MFDI 2011
Darjiling	0.180563361	Darjiling	0.115007112
Jalpaiguri	0.223242914	Jalpaiguri	0.133081319
Koch Bihar	0.190620255	Koch Bihar	0.120923954
Uttar Dinajpur	0.304875155	Uttar Dinajpur	0.157297276
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.189640326	Dakshin Dinajpur	0.112874595
Maldah	0.219023367	Maldah	0.11037913
Murshidabad	0.151312933	Murshidabad	0.073232458
Birbhum	0.192740604	Birbhum	0.119493595
Barddhaman	0.174383845	Barddhaman	0.115011055
Nadia	0.140302449	Nadia	0.088690897
North Twenty Four Parganas	0.144860477	North Twenty Four Parganas	0.087625104
Hugli	0.136441294	Hugli	0.096248489
Bankura	0.252421944	Bankura	0.172819841
Puruliya	0.389660399	Puruliya	0.249028992
Medinipur	0.165214032	Haora	0.086317707
Haora	0.132931235	Kolkata	0
Kolkata	0	South Twenty Four Parganas	0.112074159
South Twenty Four Parganas	0.193754226	Medinipur	0.118947886
		Purba Medinipur	0.096455982

Figure 6– Table Showing District Wise Rural Male – Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001 – 2011)

In both the years, in case of rural male - female differential index, all the districts has recorded a positive value which states that the rural male literacy rate of all the districts is greater than the rural female literacy rate. In 2001, Haora has recorded the lowest value of 0.13293 percent which has decreased over the years and in 2011 Murshidabad had recorded the lowest value of 0.07323 percent. In both the years Puruliya has recorded the highest value but in 2001 it was 0.38966 percent which has decreased to 0.24903 percent in 2011.

The total urban rural differential index had decreased from 2001-2011 by -0.12892 percent however in case of female urban rural differential index, it has decreased from 2001-2011 by -0.19422 percent.
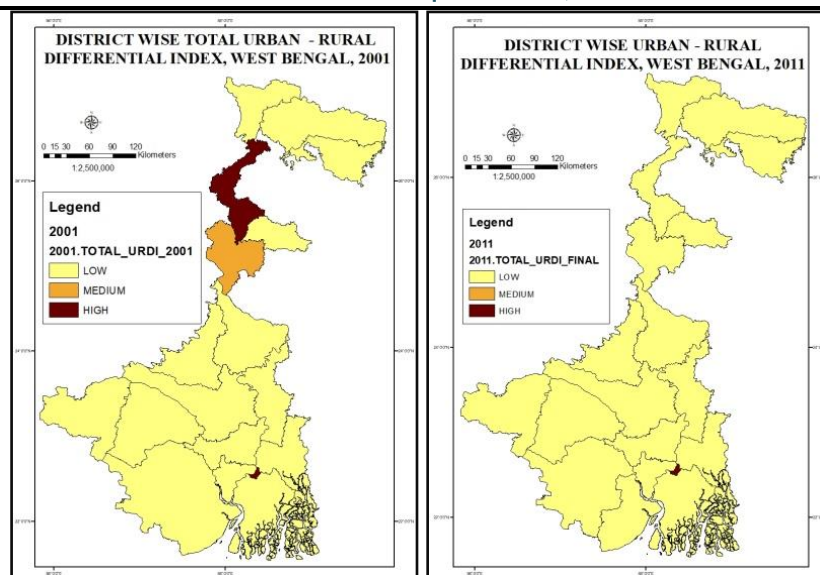
Figure 7- Map Showing District Wise Total Urban- Rural Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

In 2001, Haora has recorded the lowest value for urban– rural differential index with 0.13888 percent and in 2011 Purba Medinipur had recorded the lowest value with 0.03147 percent. In both the years Kolkata has recorded the highest value as it does not have any rural population. The values which were obtained were then divided into three categories comprising of low, medium and high. A significant level of disparity could be observed based on the data provided by both the years. In 2001, most of the districts were a part of the low category with exception to Maldah with was a part of the medium category and Uttar Dinajpur, Kolkata which was a part of the high category but in 2011, all of the districts became a part of the low category except Kolkata.
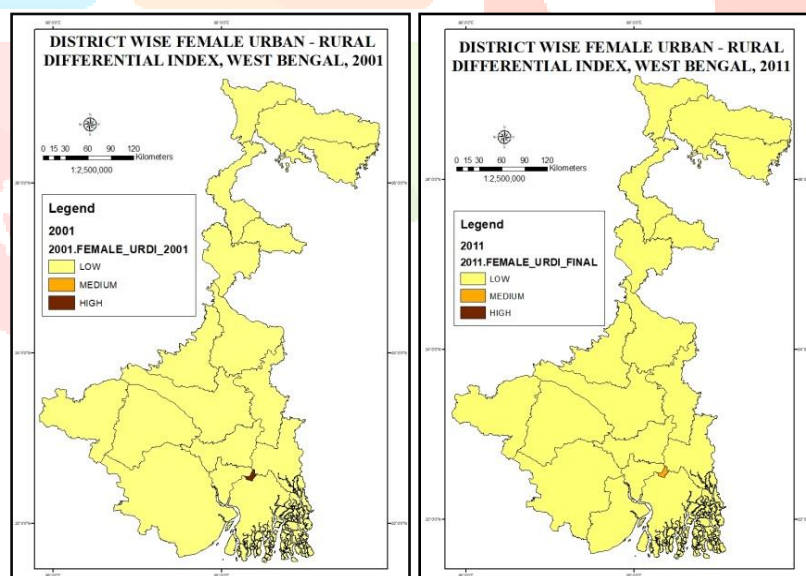

Figure 8- Map Showing District Wise Female Urban- Rural Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

In 2001, Haora had recorded the lowest female urban – rural differential index with 0.20474 percent which has decreased in 2011, Purba Medinipur has recorded the same with 0.039833 percent. In both the years Kolkata has recorded the highest female urban – rural differential index but it has decreased from 2.36641 percent in 2001 to 1 percent in 2011. It can be noticed that in both the years most of the districts could be categorised under the low category with the exception of Kolkata. In 2001, only Kolkata could be classified under the high category but in 2011, it could be classified under the medium category.

VII. CONCLUSION

It has been observed that the total female literacy of the state has increased by 5.74308 percent from 2001 to 2011. In the year 2001, nine districts had their total female literacy rate higher than the state's total female literacy rate. Among which Koch Bihar has the least difference and Uttar Dinajpur has the maximum difference. These nine districts were divided into three groups- low, medium and high depending on the difference from the state's total female literacy rate. Among which Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum fell into the low category, Bankura and Murshidabad fell into the medium category and Maldah, Puruliya, Uttar Dinajpur fell into the high category. In 2011, nine districts had their total female literacy rate higher than the state's total female literacy rate. Among which South Twenty Four Parganas had the least difference and Kolkata had the maximum difference. These nine districts were divided into three groups- low, medium and high depending on the difference from the state's total female literacy rate. Among which South Twenty Four Parganas, Paschim Medinipur, Nadia and Darjiling fell into the low category, Hugli, Haora, Purba Medinipur, North Twenty Four Parganas, Kolkata fell into the medium category but none of the districts fell into the high category.
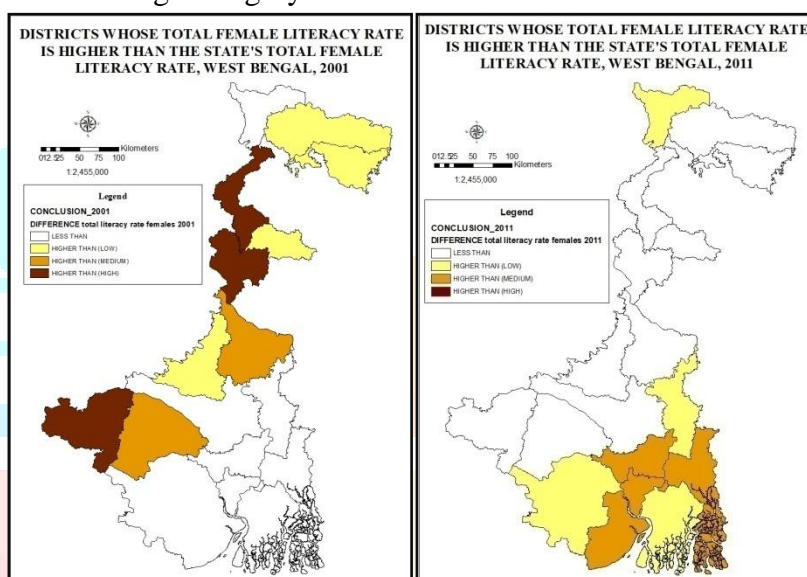

Figure 9- Map Showing Districts Whose Total Female Literacy Rate Is Higher Than The State's Total Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

NAMES	TOTAL LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2001	STATE TOTAL FEMALE LITERACY RATE 2001	DIFFERENCE 2001	NAMES	TOTAL LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2011	STATE TOTAL FEMALE LITERACY RATE 2011	DIFFERENCE 2011
KOLKATA	13.465071	24.6257315	-11.1606605	UTTAR DINAJPUR	21.15542573	30.36881116	-9.213385431
NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	17.7378584	24.6257315	-6.887873097	PURULIYA	21.25674248	30.36881116	-9.112068679
HAORA	18.32215916	24.6257315	-6.303572336	MALDAH	23.42565329	30.36881116	-6.943157871
HUGLI	19.86992798	24.6257315	-4.755803519	BANKURA	25.9588442	30.36881116	-4.409966963
DARJILING	21.85347495	24.6257315	-2.772256545	MURSHIDABAD	26.44563683	30.36881116	-3.923174336
MEDINIPUR	21.88920409	24.6257315	-2.73652741	BIRBHUM	27.32311864	30.36881116	-3.045692527
BARDDHAMAN	22.63032168	24.6257315	-1.995409815	JALPAIGURI	28.45860641	30.36881116	-1.910204752
NADIA	23.50904822	24.6257315	-1.116683277	DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	29.06508236	30.36881116	-1.3037288
SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	24.23832896	24.6257315	-0.387402541	KOCH BIHAR	29.1502636	30.36881116	-1.218547566
				BARDDHAMAN	30.18009701	30.36881116	-0.188714154

Figure 10 – Table Showing Those Districts Whose Total Female Literacy Rate Is Lesser Than The State's Total Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

When the total literacy rate of females of various districts were subtracted from the total literacy rate of the state then among those districts who had recorded negative difference or in other words the total female literacy of the state was higher than the total female literacy of the district, in 2001, Kolkata had the maximum difference and South Twenty Four Parganas had the least difference. In 2011, Uttar Dinajpur had the maximum difference and Barddhaman had the least difference. Thus it can be observed that though the

total female literacy has increased from 2001 to 2011 but a huge disparity still existed between various districts pertaining to the net increase or decrease from the previous year.

It has been observed that the female literacy rate of the state in urban areas has increased by 3.6397 percent from 2001 to 2011. In the year 2001, among these nine districts whose urban female literacy rate was greater than the state's urban female literacy rate Koch Bihar had the maximum difference and Medinipur had the least difference. Among these districts Medinipur and Hugli fell into the low category. Darjiling and Nadia fell into the medium category. Dakshin Dinajpur, North Twenty Four Parganas and Koch Bihar fell into the high category. However in 2011, among the districts whose urban female literacy rate was greater than the state's urban female literacy rate Purba Medinipur had the least difference and Dakshin DInajpur had the maximum difference. Among these districts Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur fell into the low category. Nadia, Kolkata, Hugli and Darjiling fell into the medium category. Koch Bihar, North Twenty Four Parganas and Dakshin Dinajpur fell into the high category.
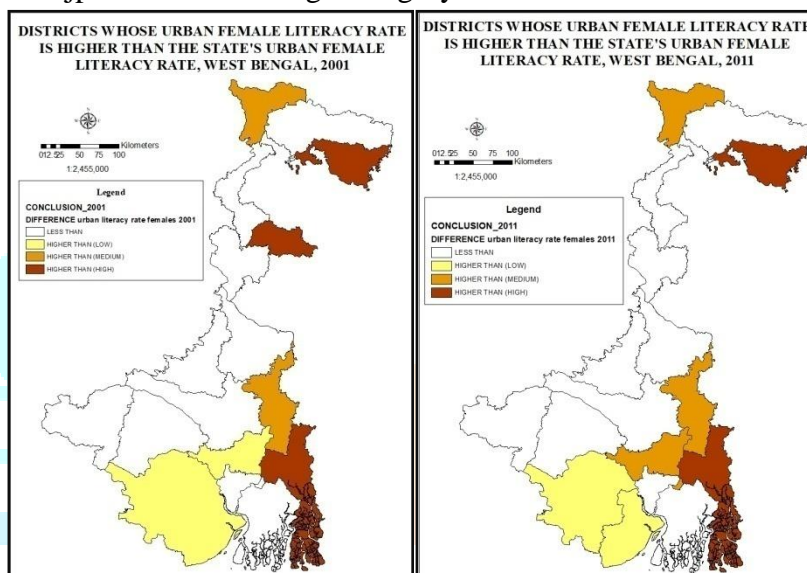

Figure 11- Map Showing The Districts Whose Urban Female Literacy Rate is Higher Than The State's Urban Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

NAMES	URBAN LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2001	STATE URBAN LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2001	DIFFERENCE 2001	NAMES	URBAN LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2011	STATE URBAN LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2011	DIFFERENCE 2011
MURSHIDABAD	25.31218696	31.94922998	-6.637043019	MURSHIDABAD	28.47378296	35.58893304	-7.115150077
PURULIYA	27.13780116	31.94922998	-4.811428816	PURULIYA	28.55692527	35.58893304	-7.032007767
BARDDHAMAN	28.67739438	31.94922998	-3.271835599	MALDAH	30.30406528	35.58893304	-5.284867755
BIRBHUM	30.24378918	31.94922998	-1.705440799	UTTAR DINAJPUR	32.16868933	35.58893304	-3.420243702
UTTAR DINAJPUR	30.75264143	31.94922998	-1.196588551	BARDDHAMAN	32.56496526	35.58893304	-3.023967775
HAORA	31.07449384	31.94922998	-0.874736139	BIRBHUM	33.43234367	35.58893304	-2.156589361
SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	31.22516617	31.94922998	-0.724063807	JALPAIGURI	33.78220985	35.58893304	-1.806723183
BANKURA	31.29633408	31.94922998	-0.652895898	SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	34.40766788	35.58893304	-1.181265153
JALPAIGURI	31.47860704	31.94922998	-0.470622935	BANKURA	35.1525988	35.58893304	-0.436334236
MALDAH	31.58877729	31.94922998	-0.36045269	HAORA	35.40718977	35.58893304	-0.181743262
KOLKATA	31.86386423	31.94922998	-0.08536575				

Figure 12- Table Showing The Districts Whose Urban Female Literacy Rate is Lesser Than The State's Urban Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

When the urban literacy rate of females of various districts were subtracted from the urban literacy rate of the state, then among those districts who had recorded negative difference or in other words the urban female literacy rate of the state was higher than the urban female literacy rate of the district, in both the years 2001 and 2011, Murshidabad has recorded the maximum difference which had increased from -6.63704 percent in 2001 to -7.11515 percent in 2011. In 2001, Kolkata has recorded the least difference of -0.08537 percent and in 2011 the least difference was recorded by Haora with -0.18174 percent.

It has been observed that the female literacy rate of the state in the rural areas has increased by 6.14493 percent from 2001 to 2011. In 2001, among these districts whose rural female literacy rate was greater than the state's rural female literacy rate Koch Bihar had the lowest difference and Haora had the maximum difference. Among these districts Koch Bihar, South Twenty Four Parganas, Nadia, Darjiling, Barddhaman fell into the low category. North Twenty Four Parganas fell into the medium category. Medinipur, Hugli and Haora fell into the low category. In 2011, among these districts whose rural female literacy rate was greater than the state's rural female literacy rate Koch Bihar had the lowest difference and Purba Medinipur had the maximum difference. Among these districts Koch Bihar, Barddhaman, Nadia, South Twenty Four Parganas, Darjiling, Paschim Medinipur fell into the low category, North Twenty Four Parganas, Hugli, Haora fell into the medium category and only Purba Medinipur fell into the high category.
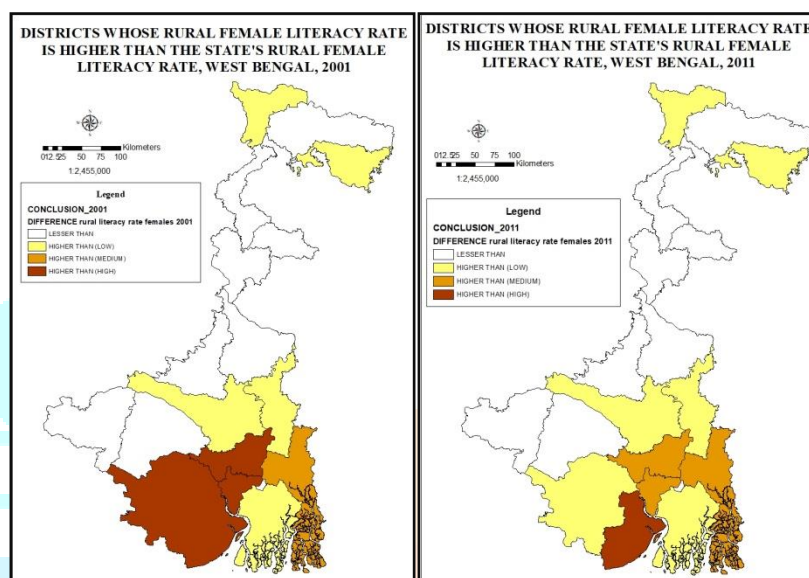

Figure 13- Map Showing The Districts Whose Rural Female Literacy Rate Is Higher Than The State's Rural Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

NAMES	RURAL LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2001	STATE RURAL LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2001	DIFFERENCE 2001	NAMES	RURAL LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2011	STATE RURAL LITERACY RATE FEMALES 2011	DIFFERENCE 2011
KOLKATA	0	21.78159407	-21.78159407	KOLKATA	0	27.92652404	-27.92652404
UTTAR DINAJPUR	11.5941921	21.78159407	-10.18740197	UTTAR DINAJPUR	19.64712546	27.92652404	-8.279398583
PURULIYA	13.56689127	21.78159407	-8.214702808	PURULIYA	20.19085568	27.92652404	-7.735668356
MALDAH	14.91457039	21.78159407	-6.867023688	MALDAH	22.34484079	27.92652404	-5.581683248
MURSHIDABAD	18.16075117	21.78159407	-3.620842901	BANKURA	25.12289571	27.92652404	-2.803628325
JALPAIGURI	19.19878781	21.78159407	-2.58280626	MURSHIDABAD	25.94752166	27.92652404	-1.979002377
BANKURA	19.78723541	21.78159407	-1.994358665	BIRBHUM	26.4237349	27.92652404	-1.502789141
BIRBHUM	20.15025742	21.78159407	-1.631336657	JALPAIGURI	26.45153147	27.92652404	-1.474992569
DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	20.24298719	21.78159407	-1.538606883	DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	27.43536199	27.92652404	-0.491162044

Figure 14- Map Showing The Districts Whose Rural Female Literacy Rate Is Lesser Than The State's Rural Female Literacy Rate, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

When the rural literacy rate of females of various districts were subtracted from the rural literacy rate of the state, then among those districts who had recorded negative difference or in other words the rural female literacy of the state was higher than the urban female literacy of the district, in both the years 2001 and 2011, Uttar Dinajpur has recorded the maximum difference but it has decreased from -10.1874 percent in 2001 to -8.2794 percent in 2011. In both the years 2001 and 2011, Dakshin Dinajpur has recorded the least difference but it has decreased from -1.53861 percent in 2001 to -0.49116 percent in 2011.

The total male female differential index of the state has decreased by -0.06421 percent from 2001 to 2011, this means that the difference between the total male literacy rate and female literacy rate has decreased over the years. In 2001, the district wise total male female differential index of eight districts was greater than the total state's male female differential index, among these districts South Twenty Four Parganas had the least difference and Kolkata has the maximum difference. Among these districts, South Twenty Four Parganas, Barddhaman, Darjiling fell into the low category. Medinipur, Hugli, Haora, North Twenty Four Parganas fell into the medium category. Kolkata fell into the high category. In 2011, the district wise total male female differential index of eleven districts was greater than the state's total male female differential index, among these districts South Twenty Four Parganas has the least difference and Puruliya has the maximum difference. Among these districts South Twenty Four Parganas, Dakshin Dinajpur, Maldah, Paschim Medinipur, Koch Bihar, Barddhaman, Birbhum, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Bankura fell into the low category. Puruliya fell into the medium category and none of the districts fell into the high category.
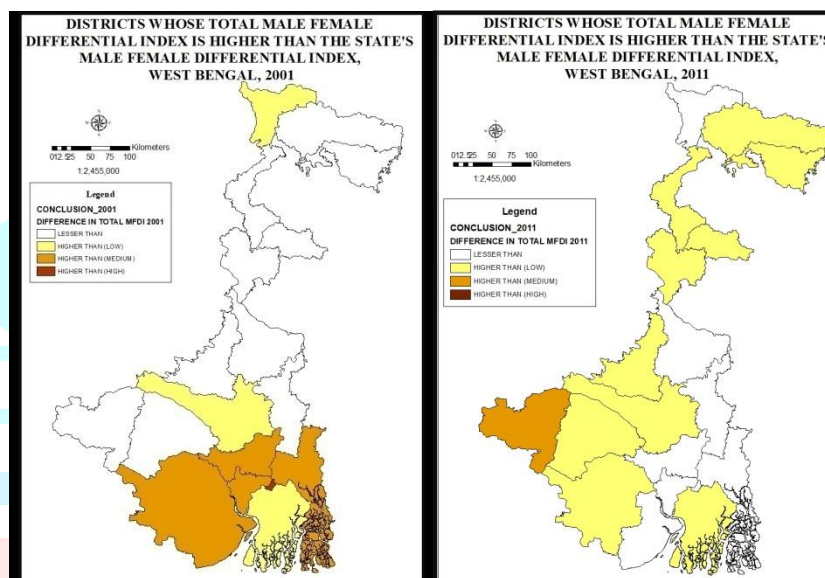

Figure 15- Map Showing Those Districts Whose Total Male Female Differential Index is Higher Than The State's Total Male Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

NAMES	TOTAL MFDI 2001	TOTAL STATE MFDI 2001	DIFFERENCE 2001	NAMES	TOTAL MFDI 2011	TOTAL STATE MFDI 2011	DIFFERENCE 2011
UTTAR DINAJPUR	-0.280006974	0.163327094	-0.443334067	NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.066161034	0.09911455	-0.032953515
MALDAH	-0.201363544	0.163327094	-0.364690637	MURSHIDABAD	0.073607549	0.09911455	-0.025507001
MURSHIDABAD	-0.091977678	0.163327094	-0.255304771	KOLKATA	0.074047619	0.09911455	-0.025066931
PURULIYA	-0.047496202	0.163327094	-0.210823296	HAORA	0.077788065	0.09911455	-0.021326484
BIRBHUM	0.054743309	0.163327094	-0.108583785	NADIA	0.079635863	0.09911455	-0.019478687
DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	0.083349281	0.163327094	-0.079977812	HUGLI	0.084632948	0.09911455	-0.014481601
JALPAIGURI	0.088424122	0.163327094	-0.074902972	DARJILING	0.091032506	0.09911455	-0.008082043
BANKURA	0.102368094	0.163327094	-0.060959	PURBA MEDINIPUR	0.095573148	0.09911455	-0.003541402
KOCH BIHAR	0.129710555	0.163327094	-0.033616538				
NADIA	0.153712609	0.163327094	-0.009614484				

Figure 16- Map Showing Those Districts Whose Total Male Female Differential Index is Lesser Than The State's Total Male Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

In 2001, among the districts whose total male female differential index was lesser than the state's total male female differential index, it can be observed that four districts comprising of Uttar Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad, Puruliya the total literacy rate of females was greater than the total literacy rate of males however in 2011 none of the districts fell into this category. In 2001, among all the districts whose total male female differential index was lesser than the state's total male female differential index, Uttar Dinajpur has the maximum difference and Nadia has the least difference. In 2011, among all the districts whose total male female differential index was lesser than the state's total male female differential index, North Twenty Four Parganas has the maximum difference and Purba Medinipur has the least difference.

The urban male female differential index has decreased by -0.05143 percent from 2001 to 2011. In 2001, the district wise urban male female differential index of seven districts was greater than the state's urban male female differential index, among these districts Murshidabad has the least difference and Haora has the highest difference. Murshidabad, Uttar Dinajpur, Bankura, Kolkata, Haora fell into the low category. Only Barddhaman fell into the medium category and only Puruliya fell into the high category. In 2011, the district wise urban male female differential index of eleven districts was greater than the state's urban male female differential index, among these districts Haora has the least difference and Puruliya has the maximum difference. Haora, Kolkata, Maldah, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Jalpaiguri, Bankura, Purba Medinipur, Uttar Dinajpur fell into the low category. Purba Medinipur, Jalpaiguri, Maldah, Birbhum was newly added in this category. Like 2001, Barddhaman and Puruliya fell into the medium and high category respectively in 2011 as well.
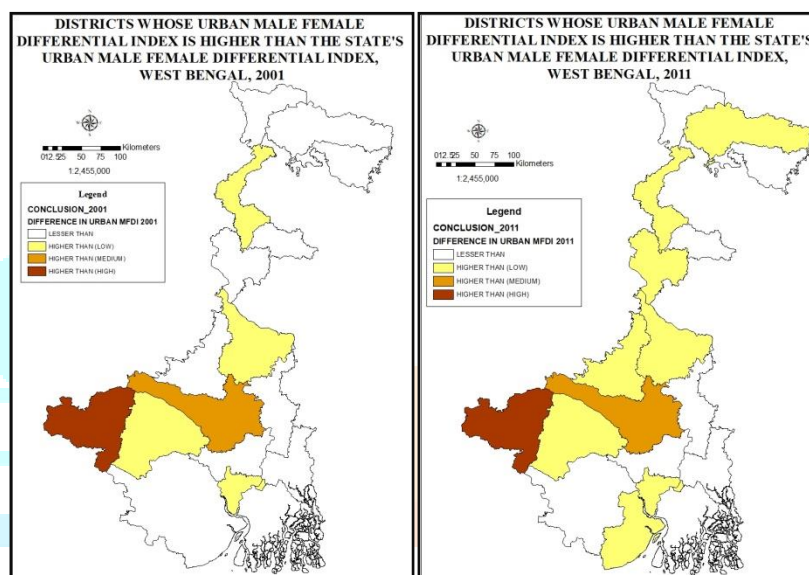

Figure 17- Map Showing Those Districts Whose Urban Male Female Differential Index Is Higher Than The State's Urban Male Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

NAMES	URBAN MFDI 2001	STATE URBAN MFDI 2001	DIFFERENCE IN URBAN MFDI 2001	NAMES	URBAN MFDI 2011	STATE URBAN MFDI 2011	DIFFERENCE IN URBAN MFDI 2011
DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	0.077264648	0.12384811	-0.046583462	DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	0.045227536	0.072419264	-0.027191727
KOCH BIHAR	0.080765642	0.12384811	-0.043082467	KOCH BIHAR	0.04887239	0.072419264	-0.023546874
NADIA	0.088194695	0.12384811	-0.035653415	NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.052724035	0.072419264	-0.019695229
MALDAH	0.093642637	0.12384811	-0.030205472	DARJILING	0.060510297	0.072419264	-0.011908967
NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.101829324	0.12384811	-0.022018785	NADIA	0.060712723	0.072419264	-0.011706541
JALPAIGURI	0.108914678	0.12384811	-0.014933432	PASCHIM MEDINIPUR	0.066148828	0.072419264	-0.006270436
DARJILING	0.11017745	0.12384811	-0.01367066	HUGLI	0.068198128	0.072419264	-0.004221135
MEDINIPUR	0.116075507	0.12384811	-0.007772603	SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.069958874	0.072419264	-0.002460389
HUGLI	0.119076836	0.12384811	-0.004771274				
BIRBHUM	0.119289626	0.12384811	-0.004558484				
SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.121232338	0.12384811	-0.002615771				

Figure 18- Table Showing Those Districts Whose Urban Male Female Differential Index Is Lesser Than The State's Urban Male Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

In 2001, number of districts having their male female differential index lesser than state's urban male female differential index has reduced from eleven in 2001 to eight in 2011 and among these districts South Twenty Four Parganas has the least difference and Dakshin Dinajpur has the maximum difference but in both the cases the percentage difference had reduced from 2001 to 2011.

The rural male- female differential index of the state has decreased by -0.06995 percent from 2001 to 2011. In 2001, among those nine districts whose rural male female differential index is higher than the state's rural male female differential index Dakshin Dinajpur has the least difference and Puruliya has the maximum difference. Dakshin Dinajpur, Koch Bihar, Birbhum, South Twenty Four Parganas, Maldah, Jalpaiguri and Bankura fell into the low category. Uttar Dinajpur and Puruliya were a part of the medium and high category respectively. In 2011, among those nine whose rural male female differential index is higher than the state's rural male female differential index Darjiling has the least difference and Puruliya has the maximum difference. Darjiling, Barddhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Birbhum, Koch Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur and Bankura fell into the low category and only Puruliya was a part of the medium category. As a deviance from the previous year only Puruliya fell into the medium category and none of the districts of the state was a part of the high category.
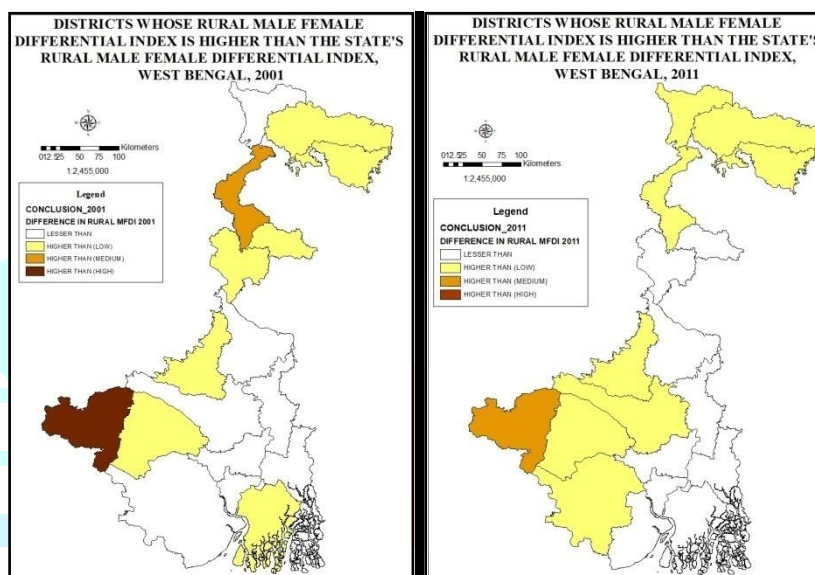

Figure 19- Map Showing Those Districts Whose Rural Male Female Differential Index Is Higher Than The State's Rural Male Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

NAMES	RURAL MFDI 2001	STATE RURAL MFDI 2001	DIFFERENCE IN RURAL MFDI 2001	NAMES	RURAL MFDI 2011	STATE RURAL MFDI 2011	DIFFERENCE IN RURAL MFDI 2011
KOLKATA	0	0.184265241	-0.184265241	KOLKATA	0	0.114312242	-0.114312242
HAORA	0.132931235	0.184265241	-0.051334006	MURSHIDABAD	0.073232458	0.114312242	-0.041079784
HUGLI	0.136441294	0.184265241	-0.047823946	HAORA	0.086317707	0.114312242	-0.027994536
NADIA	0.140302449	0.184265241	-0.043962791	NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.087625104	0.114312242	-0.026687138
NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.144860477	0.184265241	-0.039404764	NADIA	0.088690897	0.114312242	-0.025621345
MURSHIDABAD	0.151312933	0.184265241	-0.032952308	HUGLI	0.096248489	0.114312242	-0.018063753
MEDINIPUR	0.165214032	0.184265241	-0.019051208	PURBA MEDINIPUR	0.096455982	0.114312242	-0.01785626
BARDDHAMAN	0.174383845	0.184265241	-0.009881396	MALDAH	0.11037913	0.114312242	-0.003933113
DARJILING	0.180563361	0.184265241	-0.00370188	SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.112074159	0.114312242	-0.002238083
				DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	0.112874595	0.114312242	-0.001437647

Table 20- Table Showing Those Districts Whose Rural Male Female Differential Index Is Lesser Than The State's Rural Male Female Differential Index, West Bengal (2001- 2011)

In the year 2001, among the nine districts that had their rural male female differential index lesser than the state's rural male female differential index Darjiling has the least difference and in 2011, Dakshin Dinajpur has the least difference. However in both the years 2001 and 2011, Kolkata has the highest rural male female differential index but the percentage has reduced from 2001 to 2011.

The total urban rural differential index of the state has decreased by -0.12892 percent from 2001 to 2011. In 2001, among those eleven districts whose total urban rural differential index is higher than the state's total urban rural differential index Murshidabad has the least difference and Kolkata has the maximum difference.

Murshidabad, Bankura, Nadia, Birbhum, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Puruliya, Dakshin Dinajpur fell into the low category. only Maldah fell into the medium category. Uttar Dinajpur and Kolkata were a part of the high category. In 2011, among the nine districts whose total urban rural differential index is higher than the state's total urban rural differential index Birbhum has the least difference and Kolkata has the maximum difference. Birbhum, Nadia, Puruliya, Koch Bihar, Bankura, Maldah, Dakshin Dinajpur fell into the low category, Uttar Dinajpur was a part of the medium category, only Kolkata was a part of the high category and the percent by which the total urban rural differential index was higher than the state's total urban rural differential index has increased from 0.66828 percent to 0.79719 percent from 2001 to 2011 which clearly shows that the disparity between the urban and the rural areas has increased among these districts.
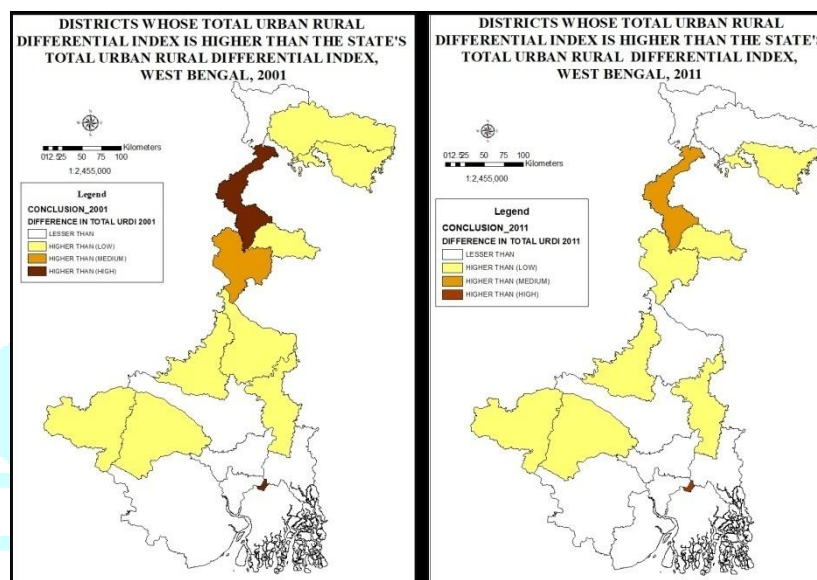

Table 21- Map Showing Districts Whose Total Urban Rural Differential Index Is Higher Than The State's Total Urban Rural Differential Index (2001- 2011)

NAMES	TOTAL URDI 2001	STATE TOTAL URDI 2001	DIFFERENCE IN TOTAL URDI 2001	NAMES	TOTAL URDI 2011	STATE TOTAL URDI 2011	DIFFERENCE IN TOTAL URDI 2011
HAORA	0.138879368	0.331723446	-0.192844078	PURBA MEDINIPUR	0.031471158	0.202806142	-0.171334984
MEDINIPUR	0.161361409	0.331723446	-0.170362037	HAORA	0.076268023	0.202806142	-0.126538119
BARDDHAMAN	0.194071737	0.331723446	-0.137651709	MURSHIDABAD	0.097540569	0.202806142	-0.105265573
HUGLI	0.198151669	0.331723446	-0.133571777	HUGLI	0.120031612	0.202806142	-0.08277453
SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.245342014	0.331723446	-0.086381432	SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.123282736	0.202806142	-0.079523406
NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.265177189	0.331723446	-0.066546256	BARDDHAMAN	0.123977622	0.202806142	-0.078828521
DARJILING	0.293332833	0.331723446	-0.038390613	PASCHIM MEDINIPUR	0.146671719	0.202806142	-0.056134423
				NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.173018973	0.202806142	-0.02978717
				DARJILING	0.19160923	0.202806142	-0.011196912
				JALPAIGURI	0.197918526	0.202806142	-0.004887616

Table 22- Map Showing Districts Whose Total Urban Rural Differential Index Is Lower Than The State's Total Urban Rural Differential Index (2001- 2011)

In 2001, among those districts whose total urban rural differential index is lower than the state's total urban rural differential index, it can be observed that Darjiling had the least difference and Haora had the maximum difference. Only seven districts were a part of this group in 2001 which increased to ten districts in 2011. In 2011, among those districts whose total urban rural differential index is lower than the state's total urban rural differential index, it can be observed that Jalpaiguri had the least difference and Purba Medinipur has the maximum difference.

The female urban- rural differential index of the state has decreased by -0.16058 percent from 2001 to 2011. In 2001, among the nine districts whose female urban rural differential index is higher than the state's female urban rural differential index Nadia has the least difference and Kolkata has the maximum difference. Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Darjiling, Maldah, Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, North Twenty Four Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur

were a part of the low category, none of the districts were a part of the medium category and only Kolkata was a part of the high category. In 2011, eleven districts whose female urban- rural differential index is higher than the state's female urban- rural differential index Darjiling has the least difference and Kolkata has the maximum difference. Darjiling, Birbhum, Jalpaiguri, Nadia, Maldah, Koch Bihar, Bankura, Puruliya, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur were a part of the low category, only Kolkata became a part of the medium category and none of the districts was a part of the high category. However the percent share by which Kolkata's female urban rural differential index was higher than the state's female urban rural differential index has reduced considerably from 2001 to 2011.
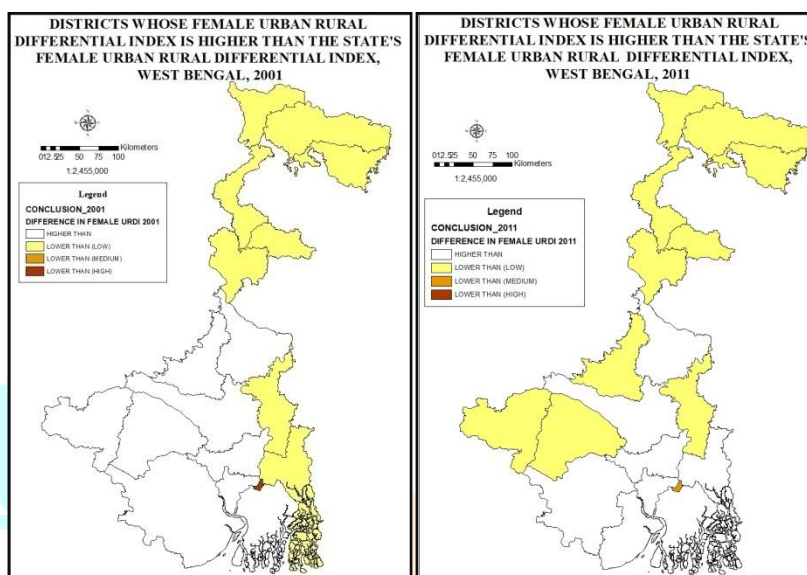

Table 23- Map Showing Districts Whose Female Urban Rural Differential Index Is Higher Than The State's Female Urban Rural Differential Index (2001- 2011)

NAMES	FEMALE URDI 2001	STATE FEMALE URDI 2001	DIFFERENCE IN FEMALE URDI 2001	NAMES	FEMALE URDI 2011	STATE FEMALE URDI 2011	DIFFERENCE IN FEMALE URDI 2011
HAORA	0.204735296	0.412886655	-0.208151359	PURBA MEDINIPUR	0.039832707	0.252311786	-0.212479079
BARDDHAMAN	0.234528348	0.412886655	-0.178358307	HAORA	0.090154791	0.252311786	-0.162156996
MURSHIDABAD	0.240597971	0.412886655	-0.172288684	MURSHIDABAD	0.095526582	0.252311786	-0.156785204
MEDINIPUR	0.279771834	0.412886655	-0.133114821	BARDDHAMAN	0.131454318	0.252311786	-0.120857468
HUGLI	0.317427801	0.412886655	-0.095458854	HUGLI	0.151412005	0.252311786	-0.100899782
SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.346612217	0.412886655	-0.066274437	SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.172776973	0.252311786	-0.079534814
BIRBHUM	0.364466797	0.412886655	-0.048419858	NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS	0.209179291	0.252311786	-0.043132496
PURULIYA	0.400429363	0.412886655	-0.012457292	PASCHIM MEDINIPUR	0.212557316	0.252311786	-0.03975447
BANKURA	0.409245881	0.412886655	-0.003640774				

Table 24- Map Showing Districts Whose Female Urban Rural Differential Index Is Lower Than The State's Female Urban Rural Differential Index (2001- 2011)

In 2001, nine districts had their female urban- rural differential index lesser than the state's female urban- rural differential index among which Bankura had the least difference and Haora had the maximum difference. In 2011, eight districts had their female urban- rural differential index lesser than the state's female urban- rural differential index among which Paschim Medinipur had the least difference and Purba Medinipur had the highest difference. Thus it can be observed that though the female literacy has increased and the disparity is reducing between the urban and the rural areas but inter district disparity still continues to coexist.

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