

## **Gender Inequality and its Impact on Socio Economic Structure: A Case Study of Gopalpur Mouza of Dakshin Dinajpur District, West Bengal, India**

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### **Abstract**

Gender inequality means unequal treatment or any kind of partiality whether it is positive or negative on the basis of their gender. Though Gopalpur mouza situated 5 km away from Gangarampur main town it is a typical rural area dominated by backwards class people of our society. For collecting information about gender inequality door to door survey has take into consideration. Female Educational status, differences in male and female daily income, women participation if different organisation, ownership of land are surely depicting the gender inequality in the study area. Absent of girl's school, early child marriage, illiteracy are the main problems in Gopalpur mouza. Government and local people should be introduced some awareness programme for minimising gender inequality.

**KEYWORDS**-Gender inequality, Gopalpur mouza, socio-economic status. Women participation.

### **Introduction**

Gender inequality is the social practices that deprive women of having the same opportunities and rights as men. In our patriarchy society it is a general tendency to provide extra benefits for the males in comparison to female. Patriarchy is a social system in which all political, moral, familial and economic powers and privileges are vested to the males. In the field of education and social life or any field whether it is exposed on not, whether it is intentionally or not that kind of treatment is call gender bias. When we are thinking that male and females are not equal from that point gender discrimination begins. It refers to the unequal treatment or any kind of partiality whether it is positive or negative on the basis of their gender. Gender discrimination was reflecting in famous people voice like Aristotle say women are morally, intellectually, physically inferior and they are only to reproduce and serve men at home. Genders are many types but when someone say about gender inequality then the discussion precede respect to male and female gender. Gender bias has been notice in our family, bigger society, at school, economic, political respect. When a couple taking their first child and family achieve the completeness from that point of time gender inequality was starting. Though the couple has started their marriage life by wishing a baby but in our Indian society family members are highly ambitious for male child except some of the cases. In India, gender inequality is like a poison and girls are forcefully feeding this poison by her own family members. There are too many dimensions where we can find out gender inequality. In India male childs are getting more quantities of food in comparison to the girls. Families are more conscious about nitrous food for the male child. Where there is a limited quantity of foods female childs having more tendency to deprived from sufficient feeding.

Gender discrimination has been critically observed from literacy rate of female in India. Percentages of literate female are lesser than male literacy and bigger number of girls dropout from their schools. Education is recognised as one of the main driving forces for economic and societal development. For empowering women and providing equal opportunities to the girls in both economic and social field is only possible by rise the education level (Yumusak et al. 2013). In India child marriage is a burden for the girls. Child marriage is a tradition for the Indian family and in many cases economically wealthy family also support this scenario. At any family whether it is economically good or not birth of a female child creating poisonous environment and family members blaming the mother for birth of a child as a girl. The peoples those are very close to the mother starting mental and physical torture to the mother. From the beginning of our human civilisation some of the social customs and traditions remains unchanged and exposed like a of course worshipping behaviour. Most of the peoples in the society are admire this customs and duties by following others instructions or following others. But inside all the social customs and duties gender discrimination is peek up. In many religious festivals females behaviour is much more restricted in compare to male. Gender inequality has the adverse impact on girls education and economic growth of a country (Ali. 2015). Adu-Oppong and Arthur (2015) to their study in Ghana discussed about several institutional factors that preventing well educated women for taking higher position at education. Khandaker and Rahman (2013) quoted in their paper about factors affecting gender inequality in respect of patriarchy societal setup, ignorance of female baby at birth, lack of education opportunity and less investment in women's health. Bandiera and Natraj (2013) make an attempt to find out whether gender inequality have any negative impact on development and economic growth. Kalsen and Lamanna (2008) in their paper discuss about hoe gender discrimination effecting education and employment on economic growth in developing countries.

Study Area

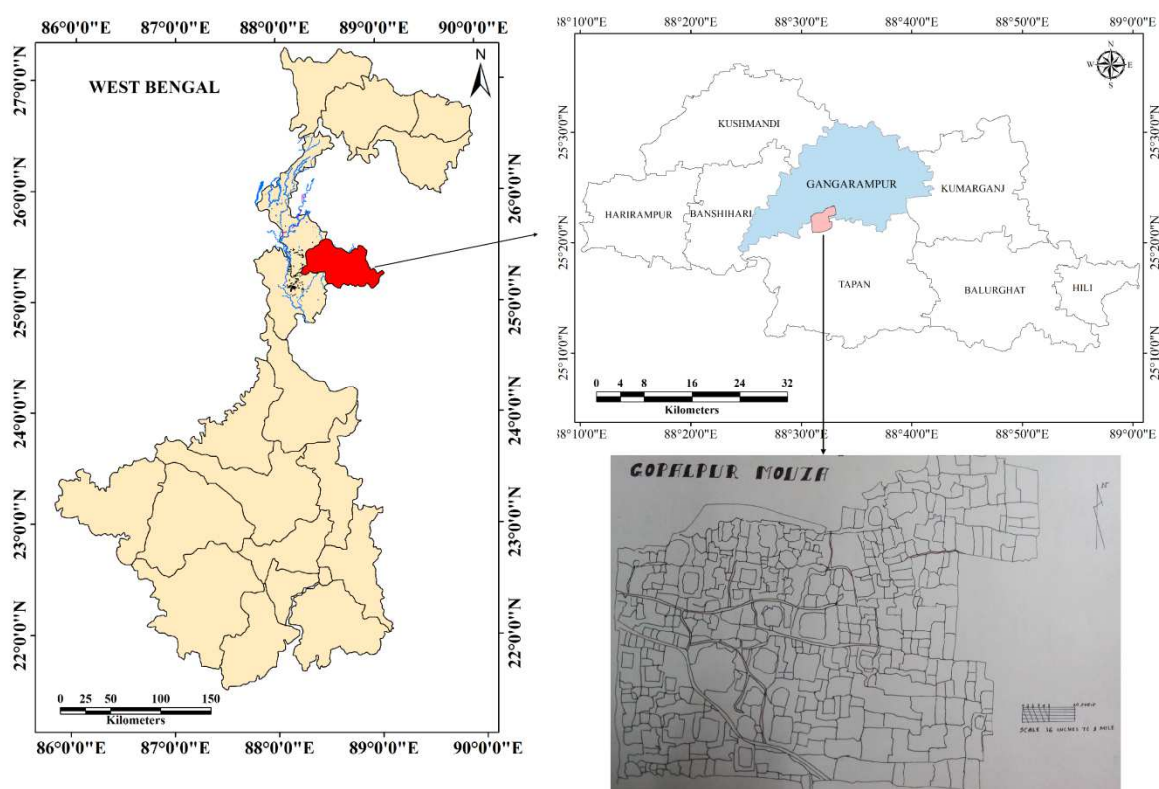


Figure 1: Location of the study area

Gopalpur mouza is located at the south eastern part of Gangarampur block. Total area of Gopalpur mouza is 10.78 sq.km. Gopalpur mouza is a typical rural area though only 5km away the Gangarampur sub division town is located. This area is situated 5km away to the left side of the Punarbhaba river. As the district is a part of alluvial plain region the newly formed alluvial soil has been observed in the study area. Monsoon deciduous type of forest can be observed in Gopalpur mouza. Agriculture is the main work of the people of the study area. Some of the women are engaged in Biri bunding activities for supporting their family. Only one primary school was situated in this area. Majority of the people belong to SC, ST and minorities groups.

### Objectives

1. To find out the prime areas of discrimination against female in Gopalpur mouza
2. To critically discuss the major problem which are facing by the female person of Gopalpur mouza.

### Data source and Methodology

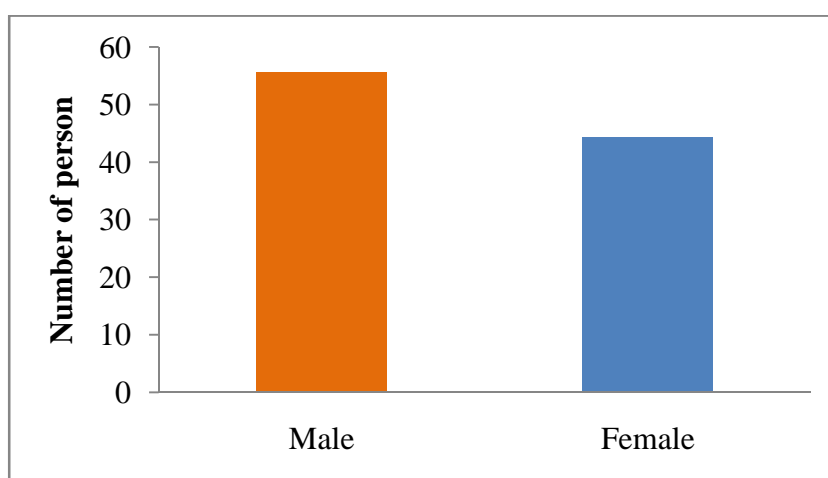
In this present work we are trying to investigate gender inequality and its impact on socio-economic status in the study area. The entire work is majorly based on primary data and some secondary data also taken into consideration. About 230 houses selected as a sample house for fulfilling the study. All the data collected through questionnaires method tabulated with MS Excel 2007. Different cartographic techniques have been used to prepare various diagrams related to gender inequality of Gopalpur mouza. The base map of the study has been prepared in Arc Gis (v.10.3.1) environment. Few

maps and information have also been collected from official website of Dakshin Dinajpur district. Some of the questions were open ended which covering women participations in the societal activities and what men thinking about empowering women in this area.

## Result and Discussion

*Table 1: Sex ratio of Gopalpur mouza*

Sex	Population	Percentage
Male	563	55.69
Female	448	44.31
Total	1011	100



*Figure 2. Sex ratio of Gopalpur mouza*

The above table showing is the sex ratio of Gopalpur mouza in the current year 2017. The sex ratio is 793 only. It is very much lower than the national level (940), state level (931) and obviously from the district level (954) as per the census of India 2011. This fact is the actually the main root of gender inequality starts. This sex ratio reflects the underdevelopment of the society. The people consider that their child would be their future security at old stage and this security can give only the male child in future. So there is a aspiration to have son. That is why from this point female inequality starts.

*Table 2: Ownership of land and house of Gopalpur mouza*

Household		Landhold	
Male	Female	Male	Female
215	38	44	5
84.98%	15.02%	89.8%	10.20%

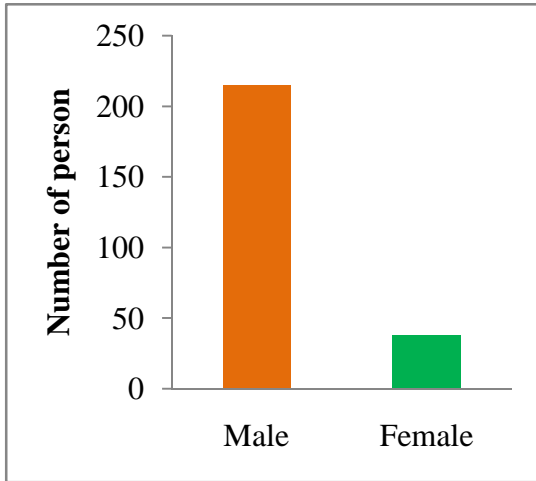


Figure 3. Ownership of household

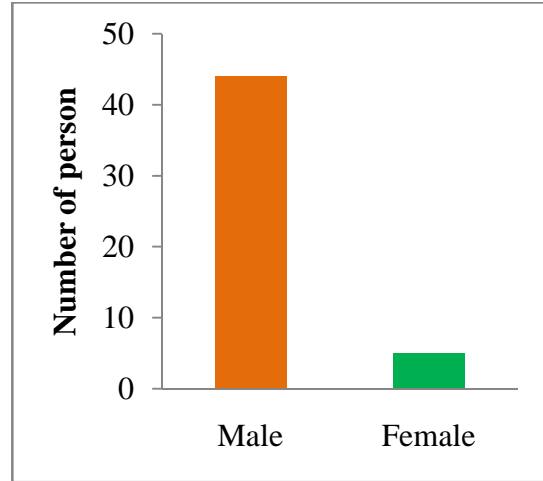


Figure 4. Ownership of landhold

A person having the ownership of land property along with house where a family reside, there is the tendency dominancy or priority of that person to the family. In this report Gopalpur mouza showing the same tradition of Indian families where male dominates on female. Only 9.43% land property is found owned by female, where as in case of house the percentage of slightly raised and it is only 14.78%. in most of the family the male members are the decision makers for his family. They are not keep any property or house in the name of his wife excepting only a few case.

Table 3: Caste structure of Gopalpur mouza

Caste	General	SC	ST	OBC	Total
Person	620	226	61	104	1011
Percentage	61.33	22.35	6.03	10.29	100

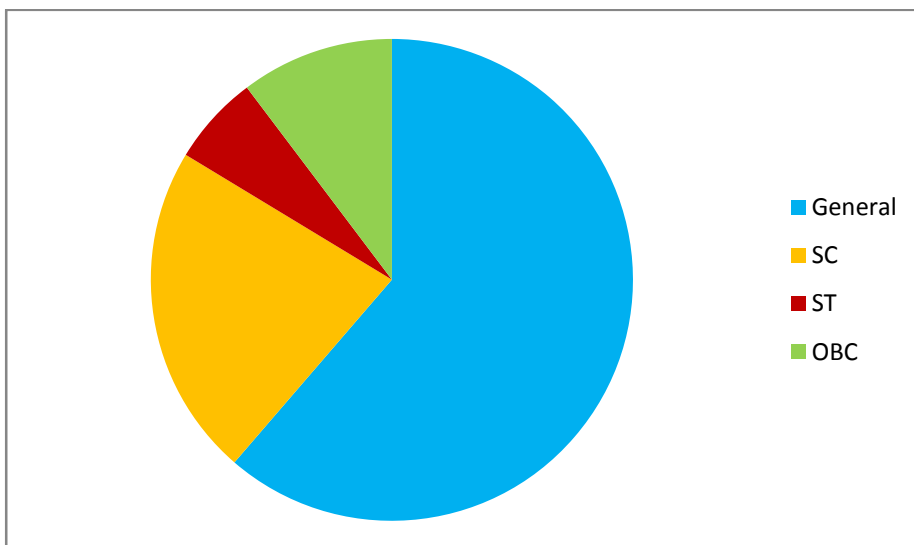


Figure 5. Caste structure of Gopalpur mouza

The caste structure showing that 61.32% people are falling in General Caste; 22.35% Schedule Caste; 6.03% Schedule Tribe and Other Backward Caste are 10.25%. Though there is no direct relationship in between caste structure and gender discrimination. Yet we can found the backwardness of society with schedule caste and schedule tribe people. In tribes families of Gopalpur mouza (mainly Santal) have the trend to provide education only the male child first.

Table 4: Age sex pyramid of Gopalpur mouza

Age	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
0-4	25	4.46	15	3.33
4-9	25	4.46	26	5.78
10-14	47	8.38	30	6.67
15-19	60	10.70	36	8.00
20-24	66	11.76	31	6.89
25-29	47	8.38	37	8.22
30-34	28	4.99	48	10.67
35-39	43	7.66	55	12.22
40-44	44	7.84	54	12.00
45-49	50	8.91	28	6.22
50-54	40	7.13	17	3.78
55-59	32	5.70	25	5.56
60-64	21	3.74	18	4.00
64+	33	5.88	30	6.67

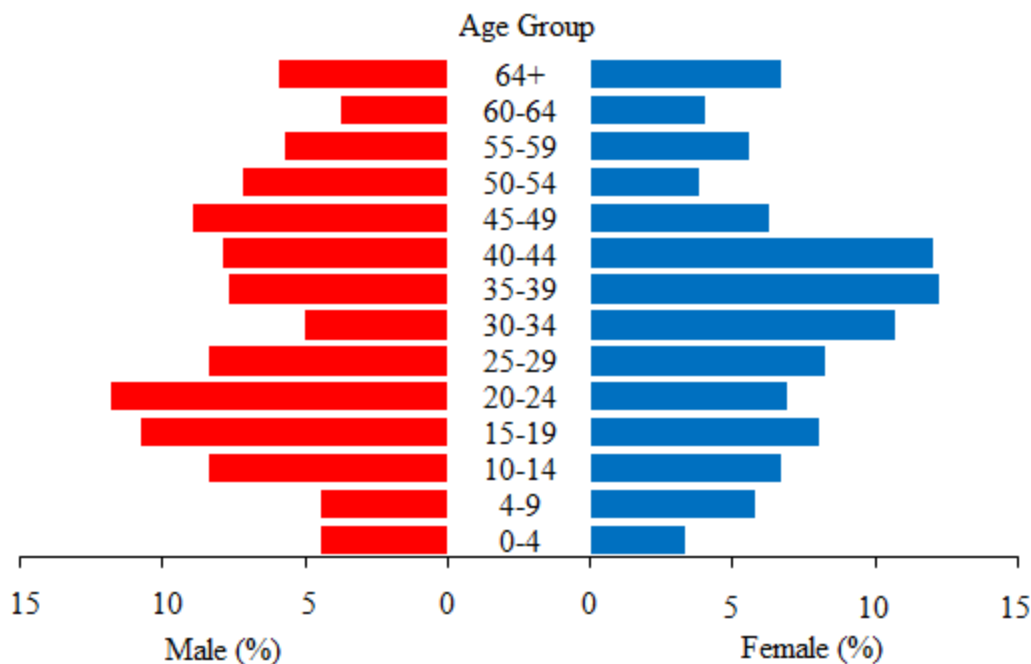


Figure 6. Age sex pyramid of Gopalpur mouza

Age sex pyramid depicts the clear picture of socio economic and demographic scenario of any region or country. The developing countries have the true pyramid shape age sex pyramid which base in wider and gradually top narrow. The age sex pyramid of Gopalpur mouza is showing quite different picture. Here the base is narrow in nature reflects the birth control of the people of the middle and upper part of the pyramid is wider in nature depicting the economically active population are large in number. Labour forces are abundant in nature. But the sex ratio is very much lower which is clearly appearing from this pyramid. This reflects the gender discrimination.

Table 5: Educational status of Gopalpur mouza

	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
Illiterate	61	10.82	95	21.25
Lower primary	96	17.02	75	16.78
Upper Primary	144	25.53	150	33.56
Madhyamik	79	14.01	87	19.46
Higher Secondary	82	14.54	16	3.58
Under Graduate	56	9.93	18	4.03
Post Graduate	35	6.21	5	1.12
Others	11	1.95	1	0.22

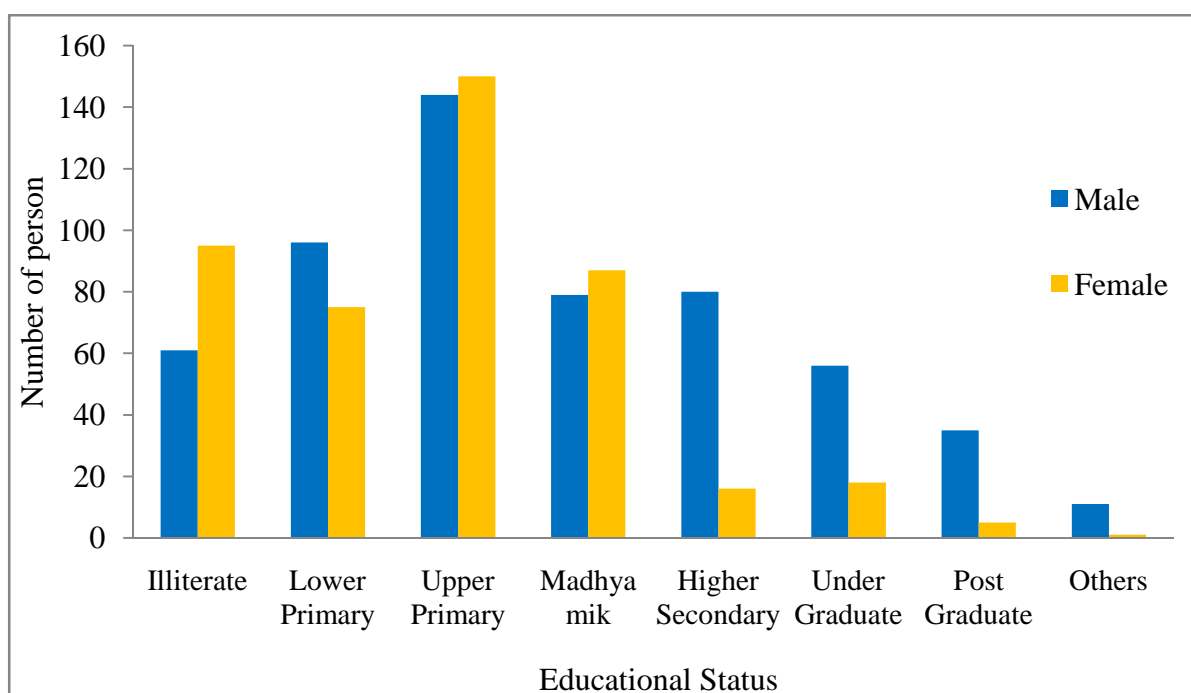


Figure 7: Educational status of Gopalpur mouza

Sex wise attainment of education level may be a good representative of gender inequality. Likewise the state and countries tradition like Gopalpur mouza has the same in case of female at lower and upper primary level is more or less same in contrast to male. The madhyamik level is showing that females are holding more percentage share (55.06%) than the male. But after the matriculation the percentage share of female of attainment in higher secondary, under graduate, post graduate and others have the decreasing tendency. The Sharpe fall of percentage of female education is purely from female discrimination. The parent seems there daughter as a so called “Burden” and they always try to give marriage their daughter as possible as they can.

Table 6: Age of marriage in Gopalpur mouza

Age group	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
<18	11	5.70	112	46.67
18-22	82	42.49	93	38.75
23-27	76	39.38	28	11.67
28-32	10	5.18	7	2.92
32+	14	7.25	0	0.00

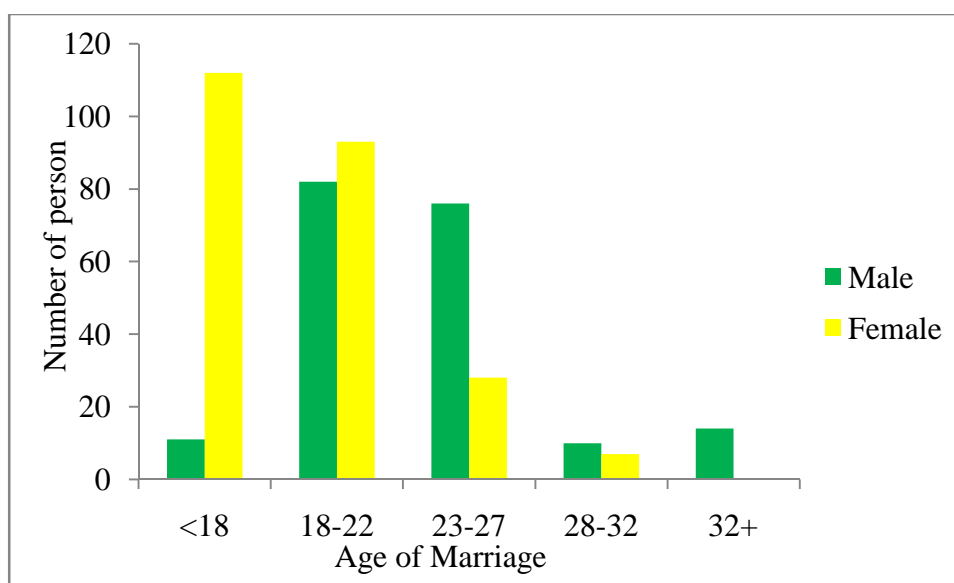


Figure 8: Age of marriage in Gopalpur mouza

Female having marriage at the lower age is one of the clear expression of gender discrimination. In Indian tradition society marriage age is very much lower. Often it is seen that in rural areas girls are married below 18 years old. It is one type of discrimination that the females who get married below 20 years. They cannot lead proper life and all the aspect of life before marriage. Their owners abolish after marriage in most of the cases. However by general expectation 91.73 % female got married before 18. It is very much harmful for society. It may lead to be the



population increases at a faster rate. Side by side holding a child at lower age (<18 years) may lead pregnancy problem, higher infant mortality rate etc.

Table 7: Participation in different organization in Gopalpur mouza

	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
Non Participation	479	85.08	442	98.66
Social	55	9.77	1	0.22
Cultural	9	1.60	5	1.12
Political	20	3.55	0	0.00

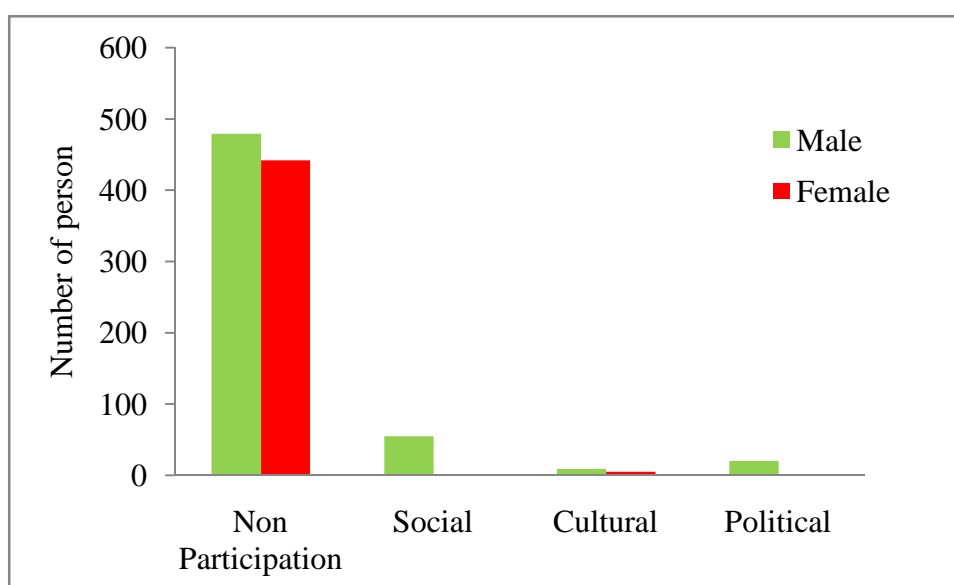


Figure 9: Participation in different organization in Gopalpur mouza

One of the important indicators of gender inequality is the rate of participation of women in different social, cultural and political organization or that related activities. In our country it is seen that leadership and membership are occupied by male members of the society. The power of decision making is confined in the hand of male expect in few cases. This trend truly found in the Gopalpur mouza, where only a few women are found to participate in some social and cultural organization. In political organization the female participation is nil. Especially here the root of gender discrimination is found. Here male dominates totally on female.

Table 8: Work participation in Gopalpur mouza

Work Types	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
Dependent	239	41.78	362	82.46
Primary Sector	91	15.91	17	3.87

Secondary Sector	200	34.97	44	10.02
Tertiary Sector	42	7.34	16	3.64

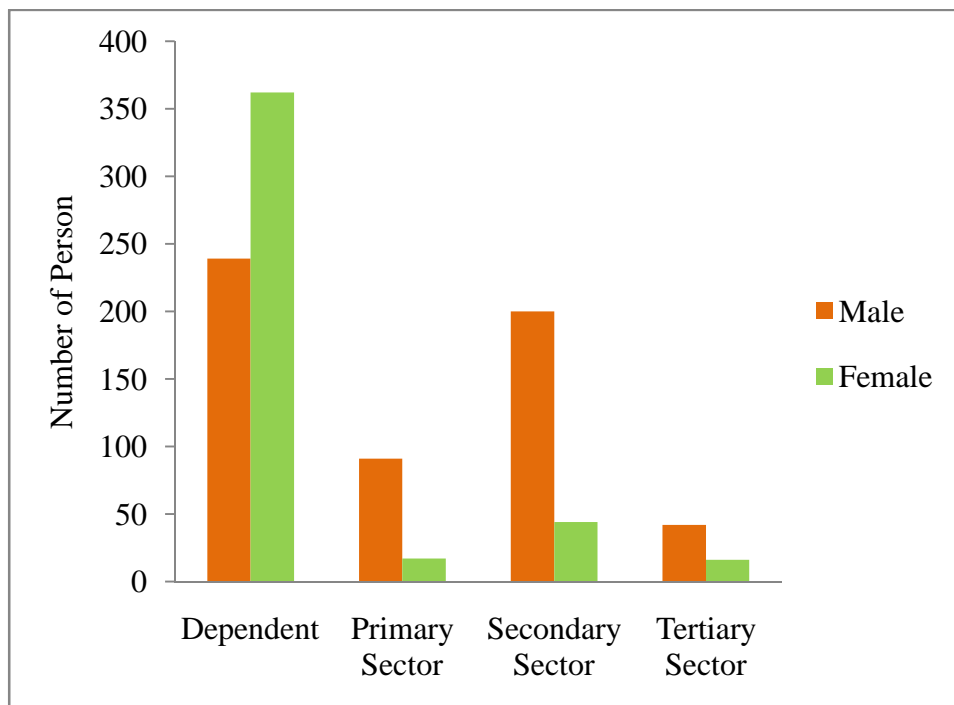


Figure 10: Work participation in Gopalpur mouza

Work participation of male and female indicates the nature and the development of the society or region or country. The percentage of dependent female is quite high (60.61%) than the male dependent (39.39%). Female work participation rate in primary and secondary is quite discouraging. The percentage age only 15.74 and 18.03 respectively. In tertiary sector participation of female is slightly higher (27.58%) but not adequate. The gender discrimination is also higher in the work participation. There may be found one reason, though not proper behind it and it is that that the female generally manage the family (cooking and other works). However this situation is actually poorer.

Table 9: Sex wise daily wage/ income in different sector of Gopalpur mouza

	Agriculture (daily wage/income in rupees)		Secondary daily wage/income in rupees)		
	Sowing	Cutting	Mason	Pottery	Biri Buinding
Male	200	250	180	200	0
Female	150	200	140	120	40

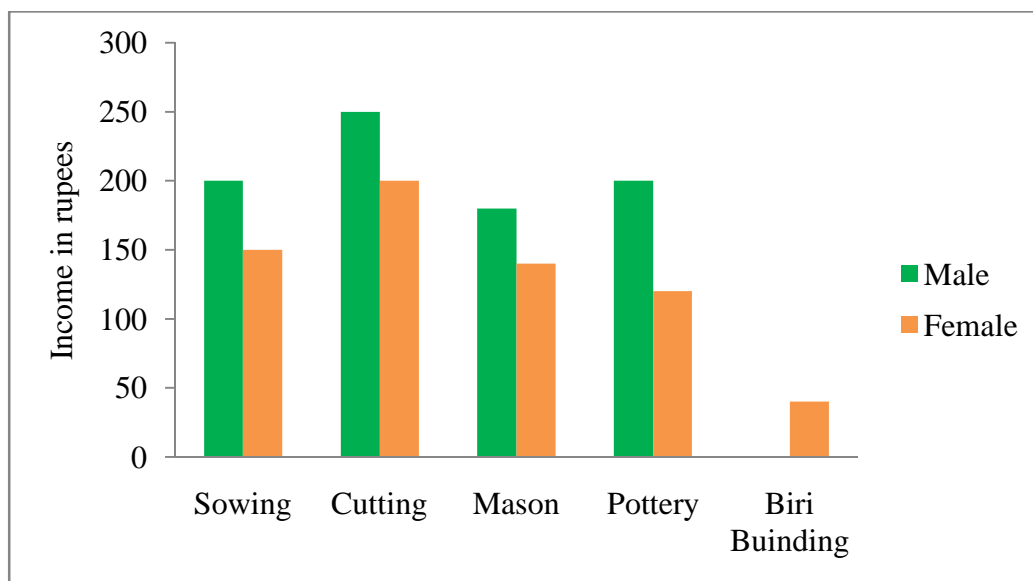


Figure 11: Sex wise daily wage/ income in different sector of Gopalpur mouza

The above table is showing the pure gender discrimination prevailing in the Gopalpur mouza as well as all over the rural society of west Bengal. In every sector of economy this discrimination may be found. In agriculture the daily sowing wage of a male is 200 rupees where as it is only 150 rupees only female. The cutting of crops is generally goes on contract basis, but the average daily wage male is 250 rupees and for female are only 200. On the other hand in the secondary sector, mainly in cottage industry labour as mason, work of pottery this discrimination is also found. In Gopalpur mouza and most part of the Dakshin Dianjpur the daily wage a female mason labour is only 120 to 140 rupees where as it 180 rupees for male labour. For the same work the difference of wage between male and female labour is the gender inequality.

Table 10: Economic status of Gopalpur mouza

Family Status	Number of Family	Percentage
APL	150	59.29
BPL	98	38.74
AAY	5	1.98

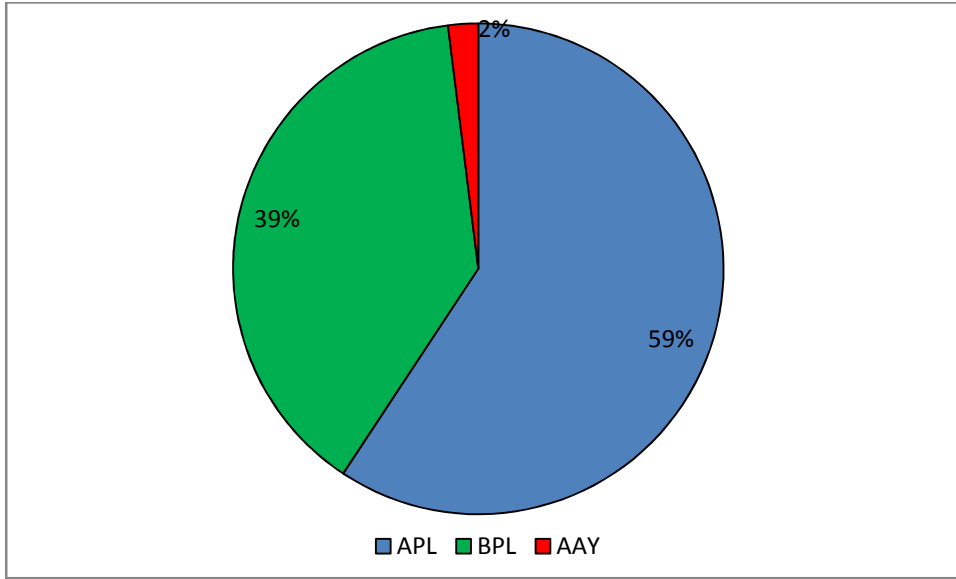


Figure 12: Economic status of Gopalpur mouza

The table showing that 59.2% family are leading status of above poverty line, 38.76% family are staying below poverty line and 1.97% family have the standards even poorer than BPL and it is called Antyodaya family. Economic status also leads the gender discrimination process in Indian society. When any family goes through the economic crisis they generally decide drop out their daughter from the school and always tries to give marriage. In this way economic backwardness leads to gender discrimination.

Table 11: Number of person attacked by serious diseases in Gopalpur mouza

Sex	Persons
Male	81
Female	59

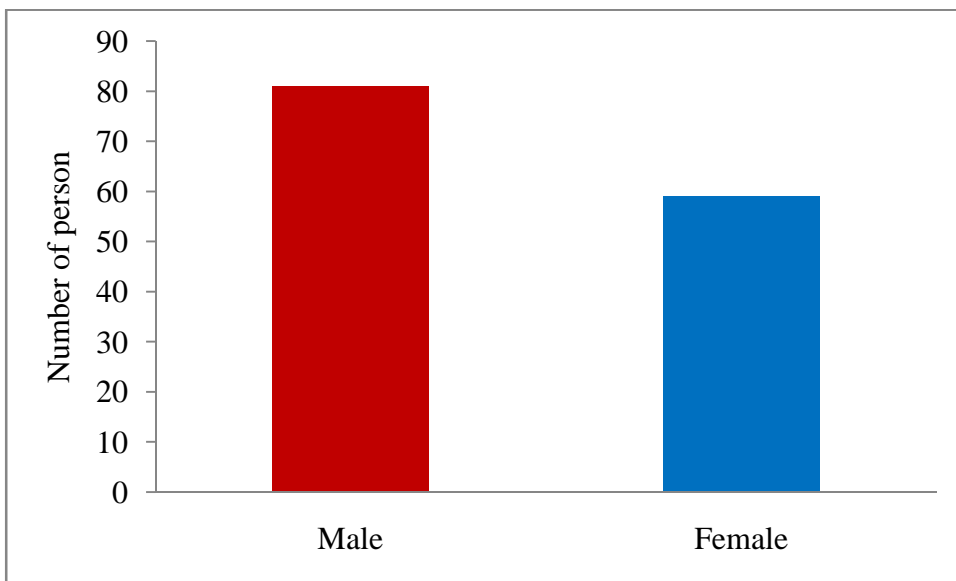


Figure 13: Number of person attacked by serious diseases in Gopalpur mouza

This above table is depicting the serious disease affecting people in Gopalpur mouza. It is clear from the table that male person are more attacked by serious diseases. During survey it is come to know that the serious diseases are T.B, Hapan, Cancer. The addiction of male to smoking and drinking are the main cause of such type of diseases.

Table 12: Various type of death (last 10 years) in Gopalpur mouza

Sex	Normal	Diseases	Accident
Male	32	31	3
Female	39	21	1

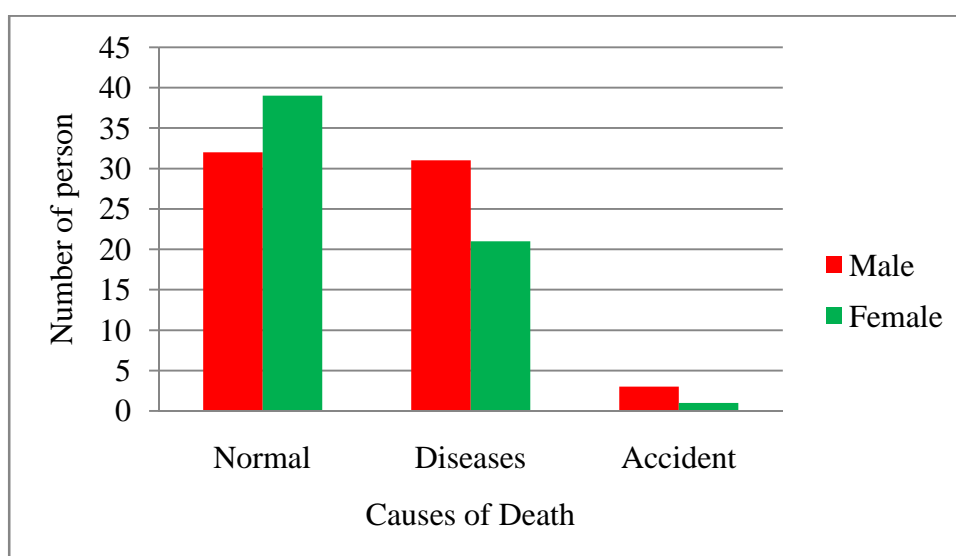


Figure 14: Various type of death (last 10 years) in Gopalpur mouza

The scenario of death by various ways is not discouraging for female discrimination as the percentage of death is higher in case of male member in Gopalpur mouza. Generally it was came out in time of door to door survey that male members are more addicted to smoking and drinking. As a result the males are more susceptible to serious diseases then female.

### Conclusion

Gopalpur mouza do not have the entire infrastructure facilities for development. They face an actuate problem of presence of girl’s school and only one higher secondary school. They are only one primary health care centre. Though female literacy rate is quite higher but higher education is not properly available for them. Most of the female education is limited up to matriculation. Work participation rate of female is very much lower in secondary and tertiary sector. Ownership of land and wealth is mainly confined to the male members of the family. The contribution of female person in decision making process is very lower. Daily wage of female in comparison to the male in primary sectors and also in some secondary activities are lower. Participation of female in social and political organization is very much poorer as a result they cannot be face or representative of the family. Number of primary school and at least one girl high school should be established for the girls. Government and local people should be introduced some awareness programme for minimising gender

inequality. Government policies for women education should be implemented properly.

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