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## STATUS OF EDUCATION AND LITERACY IN KARANDIGHI CD BLOCK OF UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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### Abstract

To facilitate connectivity between the northern and southern regions of the state of West Bengal (the government of WB on the recommendation) and on the recommendation of the State Reconstruction Commission, a part of the erstwhile Kishanganj subdivision comprising parts of Goalpokhar, Islampur, and Chopra police stations and Thakurganj police stations and adjoining parts of the erstwhile Gopalpur police station in Katihar subdivision were included in the state of West Bengal in 1956 from Purnia district of Bihar and officially connected with Raiganj subdivision of West Dinajpur district.

Later, the theIslampur subdivision was formed in March 1959, and with the launch of a community development programme in West Bengal, community development blocks were established in West Dinajpur district in 1960-61. Uttar Dinajpur district came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1992 after the bifurcation of West Dinajpur district into Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur district. Uttar Dinajpur district is one of the smaller districts in the state and stands 15<sup>th</sup> position in terms of area 3,142 square kilometers in the state.

As per the 2011 census, in Karandighi Community Development Block, amongst the two hundred (200) inhabited villages, 11 villages did not have a school, 145 villages had 1 or more primary schools, 44 villages had at least 1 primary and 1 upper primary school and 22 villages had at least 1 upper primary school and 1 secondary school.

**Keywords:** Karandighi, Islampur, Block, Development, Village, School, Education, Literacy.



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## STATUS OF EDUCATION AND LITERACY IN KARANDIGHI CD BLOCK OF UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

### Introduction

Karandighi as an administrative block is a community development block in the Islampur subdivision of Uttar Dinajpur district in the Indian state of West Bengal. The Dinajpur district was formed by the British government in 1786, with a part of the estate of Dinajpur Raj. In 1793, after the permanent settlement, the semi-independent Dinajpur Raj was further dissolved and parts of the Dinajpur Raj were added to the neighboring British districts of Purnia, Malda, Rajshahi, and Bogra. At the time of partition in 1947, the Radcliffe Line touches the Sadar and Thakurgaon subdivisions of the Dinajpur district in East Pakistan. The Balurghat subdivision of Dinajpur district was formed as West Dinajpur district (The year 1947) in West Bengal. The Raiganj subdivision was formed in 1948.

To facilitate connectivity between the northern and southern regions of the state of West Bengal and on the recommendation of the State Reconstruction Commission, a part of the erstwhile Kishanganj subdivision comprising parts of Goalpokhar, Islampur, and Chopra police stations and Thakurganj police stations and adjoining parts of the erstwhile Gopalpur police station in Katihar subdivision were included in the state of West Bengal in 1956 from Purnia district of Bihar and officially connected with Raiganj subdivision of West Dinajpur district.

Islampur subdivision was formed in March 1959. With the launch of a community development programme in West Bengal, community development blocks were established in West Dinajpur district in 1960-61. Uttar Dinajpur district came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1992 after the bifurcation of West Dinajpur district into Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur district. Uttar Dinajpur district is one of the smaller districts in the state and stands 15<sup>th</sup> position in terms of area 3,142 square kilometers in the state.

There are two Sub-Divisions in the Uttar Dinajpur district, these two are the Raiganj subdivision and Islampur subdivision. There are 9 Police Stations: (1) Chopra, (2) Islampur, (3) Goalpokhar, (4) Chakulia, (5) Karandighi, (6) Raiganj, (7) Hemtabad, (8) Kaliaganj, and (9) Itahar.

There are 9 Community Development Blocks in the district names are (1) Chopra, (2) Islampur, (3) Goalpokhar-I, (4) Goalpokhar-2, (5) Karandighi, (6) Raiganj, (7) Hemtabad, (8) Kaliaganj, and (9) Itahar.

### The objective of the study

This article intends to present a picture of the education and literacy in the Karandighi Community Development Block. At the same time, this article presents the location, population, infrastructural status, and economic condition of the block.

### Method

This paper is made based on data get from secondary sources. These secondary sources of data are the census reports, government reports, and articles of scholars.



### Location

Karandighi block is located in the North Dinajpur district of West Bengal, India. The latitude and longitude of this place are 22.57<sup>0</sup> N and 88.36<sup>0</sup> E. Karandighi Community. Development Block is surrounded by Goalpokhar-1 and Goalpokhar-2 Community. Development Blocks on the north, Haripur Upazila in Thakurgaon District of Bangladesh and Raiganj Community. Development Block on the east, and Balrampur Community. Development Block of Katihar district of Bihar on the south, and Baisi and Amour Community. Development Blocks of Purnia district of Bihar on the west. Further, at least 206 km of north Dinajpur district is connected to the Indo-Bangladesh border, and it covers the eastern boundary of the district. On the other hand, 227 km of Dinajpur district in the western end is connected to the border of Bihar.

Karandighi Community. Development Block has an area of 390.52 square kilometers. It has one panchayat samity, 13-gram panchayats, 212-gram samsads (village councils), 214 mouzas, and 200 inhabited villages. Karandighi police station serves this block. The headquarters of this Community. Development Block is also at Karandighi.

Gram panchayats of Karandighi block panchayat samiti are: Altapur-1, Altapur-2, Rasakhowa-1, Rasakhowa-2, Bazargaon-1, Bazargaon-2, Dalkhola, Domohona, Karandighi-1, Karandighi-2, Lahutara-1, Lahutara-2, and Raniganj.

### Population

As per the 2011 Census report of India, Karandighi Community. Development Block had a total population of 368,332, all of which were rural. There were 188,572 (51%) males and 179,760 (49) females. Population below 6 years was 66,984. Scheduled Castes numbered 107,936 (29.30%) and Scheduled Tribes numbered 28,773 (7.81%).

In the 2001 census, the Karandighi community development bloc had a population of 318,793, of which 163,876 were males and 154,917 were females. Decadal growth for the period 1991 to 2001 was 38.53%, against 28.72% for Uttar Dinajpur district.

Large villages (with 4,000+ population) in Karandighi Community. Development Block were (2011 population in brackets): Bagela (6,122), Raniganj (6,609), Bhulki (5,193), Gopalpur (7,109), Rautara (4,260), Bhabanipur (4,509), Khanta (6,457), Andharia (5,011), Bajargaon (5,296), Fatepur (4,676), Kochra (5,256), Dulepur (4,243), Sabdhan (5,834), Lahutara (4,324), Sohar (4,893), Jujhapur (8,665), Kamartor (4,995) and Raghapur (8,434), Altapur (3,092).

The decadal growth of the population in Karandighi Community Development Block in 2001-2011 was 15.51%. The decadal growth of population in Karandighi PS in 1991-2001 was 30.57%, in 1981-91 was 36.03% and in 1971-81 was 38.40%. The decadal growth rate of population in Uttar Dinajpur district was as follows: 30.2% in 1971-81, 34.0% in 1981-91, 28.7% in 1991-2001 and 23.2% in 2001-11. The decadal growth rate for West Bengal was 13.93% in 2001-2011, 17.77% in 1991-2001, 24.73% in 1981-1991 and 23.17% in 1971-1981.



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Uttar Dinajpur district has the highest decadal population growth rate in West Bengal with a figure of 23.2% for the decade 2001-2011 and is much higher than the state average of 13.8%.

### **Infrastructure**

As a result of passing through this block of National Highway-34, many rural roads have been connected to this highway. Some of them are constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gramen Sadak Yojana and some are through the district and state government development projects. This facility of communication has also had a positive impact on the lives of rural residents of the area. Maximum numbers of villages are connected with the national highway.

There are 200 inhabited villages in Karandighi Community. Development Block. All 200 villages (100%) have a power supply as well as a drinking water supply. Eighteen(18) villages (9%) have post offices. One hundred seventy-six (176) villages (88%) have telephones including landlines, public call offices, and mobile phones. One hundred and three (103) villages (51.50%) have a concrete approach road and fifty-eight (58) villages (29.00%) have transport communication includes bus service. Three (3) villages (1.50%) have agricultural credit societies. Seven (7) villages (3.50%) have banks.

### **Economy**

Karandighi block is a group of several growing villages. All these villages are growing villages based on agricultural work and productivity. As a result, agriculture and agricultural commodities are the driving force of the economy of the region. The wheels of business, trade, industry, and economy of the region run around this agricultural commodity.

The number of people involved in agriculture in the region is very high, different people are involved in agriculture in different ways. Some are involved as landowners, some as farmers, some as agricultural machinery shopkeepers, and some as mechanics, some as crop seeds shopkeepers, some as tractor owners, some as tractor drivers, some as fertilizer shopkeepers, and some as agricultural laborers. Some as the owner of rice mills and oil mills and some of as labor of these rice mills.

The Census of 2011 records explains in detail when a person is a farmer and when he is a laborer. A person is considered a farmer if the person is engaged in cultivation/supervision of land owned by self/government/institution. Again, when a person works on another person's land for cash or kind or shared wages, he is considered an agricultural laborer.

The household industry is defined as an industry run by one or more members of an industrial family or family within the village, and one that does not qualify for registration as a factory under the Factory Act. As a result, the beedi industry of this region and rice mills are a part of the minor industry.

Apart from traders, farmers, and agricultural laborers, people involved in some other economic activities also live in this area. These include doctors, teachers, office workers, transport workers, artists, etc.



In Karandighi CD Block in 2011, amongst the class of total workers, cultivators numbered 30,532 and formed 20.45%, agricultural laborers numbered 64,933 and formed 43.49%, household industry workers numbered 13,301 and formed 8.91% and other workers numbered 40,538 and formed 27.15%. Total workers numbered 149,304 and formed 40.54% of the total population, and non-workers numbered 219,028 and formed 59.46% of the population.

### **Education**

In the session 2011-12, there were 199 state government-aided primary schools in Karandighi CD block (including Dalkhola) where 58,972 students were studying and 1233 teachers were working in these primary schools. At that time, there was 11 state government aided upper primary schools in the area, including 1,173 students, and a total of 26 teachers were working in this level of schools. There were 8 state government-aided secondary schools with about 9752 students and a total of 53 teachers were working in these schools. There were 20 state government-aided higher secondary level schools and a total of 31,402 students were studying in these schools. A total of 497 teachers were working in these schools. In addition, in the 2011-12 session, Six hundred seventy (670) institutions were operational for special and non-formal education including 51,1110 students in the Karandighi CD block, and a total of 1010 teachers were working in these institutions.

There are some old and well-known state government-aided secondary schools in the area. These schools are playing a leading role in promoting education in the region. Some of these secondary schools are currently upgraded to higher secondary levels of education and affiliated to the West Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) and West Bengal Council Higher Secondary Education (WBCHE). Some of these schools are-Dalkhola High School H.S (1947). Karandighi High School H.S (1956), Rasakhowa High School H.S (1958), Madar Gachhi High School H.S (1961), Tithpukur High School H.S (1962), Dwarin High School H.S (1963), Begua High School H.S (1967), Damdama High School H.S (1967), Altapur High School H.S (1971), Palsa Rashbihari High School H.S (1972), Rahatpur High Madrasa H.S (1973), Dalkhola Girls High School H.S (1973), Jharbari High School H.S (1984), Karandighi Girls High School H.S (2000), Dalkhola Hindi High School (2000), Raghampur High School (2000), Kamartor High School H.S (2001), A Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya was established in the year 2005 in Dalkhola near National Highway-34 and approximately 3.5 Km Away from Dalkhola Railway Station. This is registered to naboday Vidyalaya Samiti and affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). In the financial year 2009-10, a state-aided model school is established at Karandighi.



A higher education institute was set up in 1995 near Dalkhola with the help of the state government to meet the higher education needs of the students of the block while the number of students in the 2011-12 session was 2457. The number of students increases every year and the institute is known as Shree Agrasen College. This is affiliated with the University of Gour Banga.

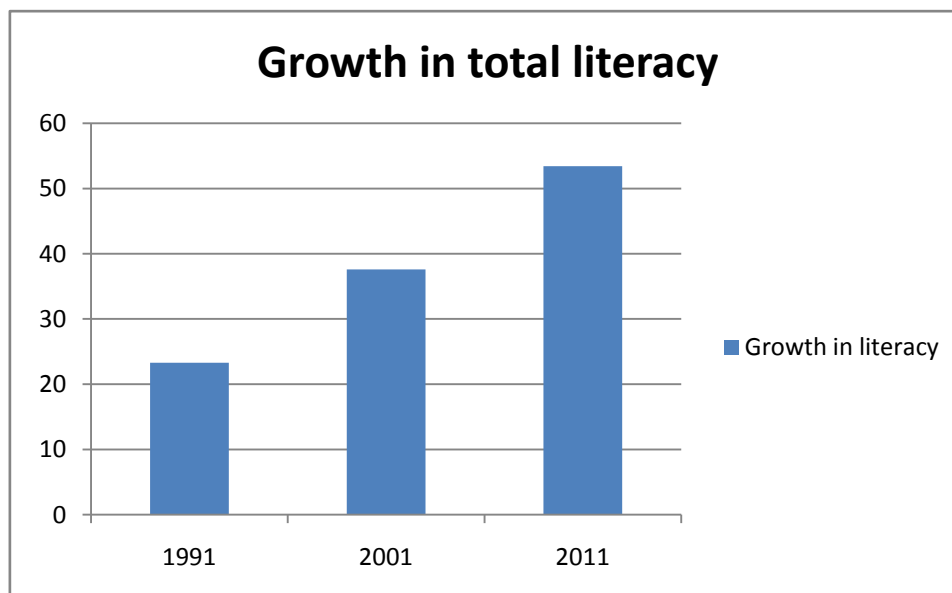
### Literacy

With the increase in the literacy volume of the block, the literacy level of the district also increases, and that effect is seen in the total literacy of the state.

Uttar Dinajpur district was ranked 523rd among Indian districts in the 1991 Census in terms of literacy whereas, in 2001, it was ranked 494th out of 595 Indian districts in terms of literacy rate. Later, it was ranked 575 out of 640 districts in the 2011 Census.

Census reports of 1991 and 2001 shows that the total literacy of Karandighi CD Block was consecutively 23.30 percent and 37.60 percent. As per the 2011 census, the total number of literates in Karandighi CD Block was 160,973 (53.42 percent of the population over 6 years) out of which males numbered 93,115 (60.43 percent of the male population over 6 years) and females numbered 67,858 (46.08% of the female population over 6 years). The gender disparity (the difference between female and male literacy rates) was 14.34%.

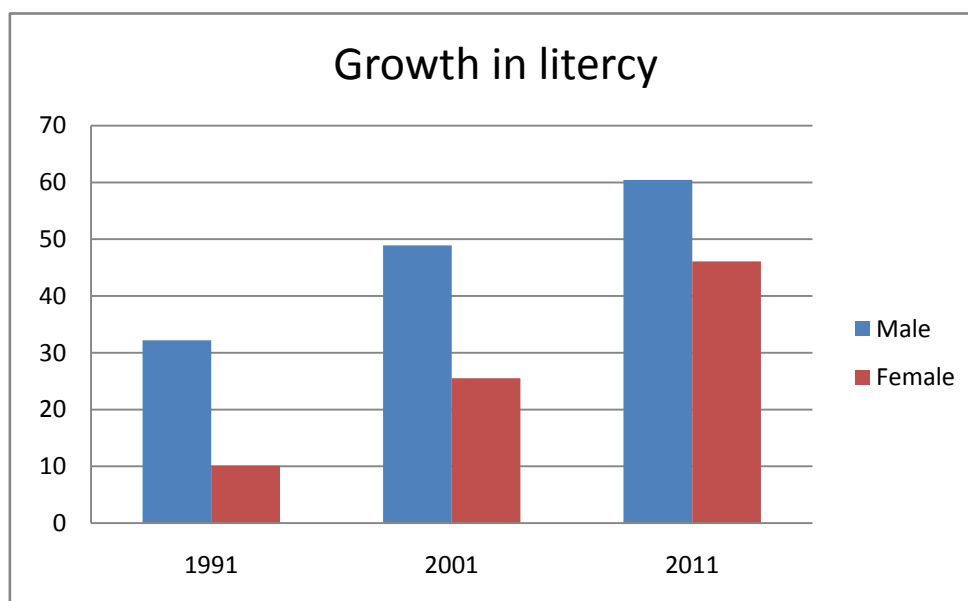
Table-1



Sources: District census handbook, Uttar Dinajpur 2011

The literacy rate in Uttar Dinajpur district at 60.13% in 2011, up from 47.89% in 2001, was the lowest amongst all districts of West Bengal. The highest literacy rate amongst the districts of West Bengal was that of Purba Medinipur district at 87.66% in 2011.

Table-2



Sources: District census handbook Uttar Dinajpur 2011

According to the Human Development Report for Uttar Dinajpur district Goalpokhar-1, Goalpokhar-2, Karandighi, and Islampur blocks in that order stood at the very bottom of the literacy scale in the state. These community development blocks are identified as educationally backward blocks.

Karandighi community development block has a vast rural area, and a large amount population lives in villages. At present, these villages are connected by concrete roadways to Block headquarter and district headquarter to avail themselves of their health, educational, and other civil facilities. This connectivity to movement has influenced the lifestyle of people of this area. Schools are also connected by concrete roads with localities. So that children can easily avail themselves of the education facility. As a result, overall it has shown a positive effect on the growth in literacy.

### Conclusion

The Karandighi community development block was formed with parts of two states: West Bengal and Bihar. The population and demography of the block are characteristically different from other blocks in the Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal. In the past, most of the residents of the area lived in poverty because of their lack of agricultural income. They were busy arranging food for their members of a family. They could not pay much attention to children's education due to a lack of money and time. In the past, the roads in this area were made of soil, not concrete, the soil roads were damaged every monsoon. It had been very difficult to walk and travel through those roads. Not every locality had educational institutions because of which the total number of educational institutions in the area was also less. Many children could not go to schools in remote villages every day because of bad



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roads. The spread of education in villages in the block was disrupted due to all these various reasons in the past.

The government's efforts and efforts of the people of the area and the improvement in the agriculture sector have improved the financial condition of the residents involved in agricultural activities at a proportionate rate. At present, the road, connectivity, and electrical system in the region have improved. As a result, the thoughts and needs of the people of this area have changed. Now the maximum numbers of parents are aware of the importance of education, each of them trying to send their children to school to get a formal education. This has led to an increase in the number of students in schools in the block every year. At the same time, the number of state government-aided educational institutions at different levels has also increased to meet the increased demand for formal education.

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