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# Education of Muslim Women in West Bengal: Problems and their Solutions

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### ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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Education of Muslim Women in West Bengal: Problems and their Solutions Abstract:  
Education is a process that is the main reason for the development of a country, be it social, economic, cultural reasons. But it is seen that Muslim women in our country are far behind in terms of education. This is far behind the modern social system. Before independence, the education rate of Muslim women in India and West Bengal was very poor.

### Abstract

Education is a process that is the main reason for the development of a country, be it social, economic, cultural reasons. But it is seen that Muslim women in our country are far behind in terms of education. This is far behind the modern social system. Before independence, the education rate of Muslim women in India and West Bengal was very poor. Although there has been some gradual improvement since independence, it is still far behind other nations. There were no suitable schools and dormitories for women's education. Although the rate of education for women has improved somewhat since independence, the rate of education for Muslim women has not been satisfactory. But there was a lot of interest in learning and knowing among Muslim women. Then gradually when the Equality of Education Act, the Education for All Act, the Protection of Minorities Act was enacted by the Indian Constitution, the tendency of Muslim women to go to school gradually increased. There are many reasons why Muslim women lag behind in education, such as poverty, negative attitudes, over-conservatism, lack of awareness, lack of suitable environment. Only women can raise their children in a way that will help them to progress and prosper in the future. This paper paints a picture of the problem of education of Muslim women in West Bengal and its solution.

### Key Words

Education, Muslim Women, West Bengal,  
Problem, Solution.

*“Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship.”*

— Kofi Annan

## Introduction

India is a country where people of almost all religions live. Among the minorities in India, Muslims are the largest, that is, the largest minority. The same picture is seen in the case of West Bengal. According to the 2011 census, the total population of India is 1210193422, and the total population of West Bengal is 9134836, out of which the Muslim population of West Bengal is 24536001 which is 26.7% of the total population of the state, and 12.17% of the 26.8% Muslim population. Among the minorities in West Bengal, Muslims are the number one, but lag behind in education, economically and socially. Where other minority communities are far ahead in India and West Bengal. Not only Muslim women but more or less women of all religions are victims of social conservatism. The West Bengal government has launched various projects for the education of girls, besides arranging scholarships for the minority community, which is yielding good results in increasing the rate of education of girls.

## Objective

- To study the position of West Bengal regarding Muslim women education in India.
- To study the trend of Muslim women education in West Bengal rate in West Bengal.
- To study the educational status of Muslim women in West Bengal.
- To analysis the initiated schemes related to educational development.
- To discuss the problems and their solutions of Muslim women.

## Method of the study

Documentary studies constitute an important approach in social science research. In this study, documentary analysis has been followed. So, the study is documentary nature. It is based on official documents and secondary data. The conclusion made in the study was based on Secondary sources like books, the Journal reports, Census reports etc..

## Women Education in West Bengal

Education awareness has increased among parents in West Bengal. Poor parents, village parents also arrange for girls to read and write at least some distance. However, child marriage is still prevalent in the village. Most parents in the city want their daughters to go to college. Many girls study up to secondary level in slum areas.

The city also has many vocational schools for girls that help mayors become self-sufficient.

However, it should be kept in mind that the education of Muslim women in West Bengal has improved a lot. At the moment, many measures have been taken in the state to improve the education of Muslim women.

## Importance of Muslim Women Education

Women play a significant role in society – a wife, a mother, a sister, a caretaker, a nurse, etc. They have a better understanding of the social structure and are more compassionate towards the need of others. An educated mother will weigh the importance of female education, the same as boys.

- Women are progressively turning into a crucial segment of the economy and improvement through training.
- Through education, liberation and empowerment of women have to lead to economic gains in India.

- Women's education in the rural section of the country has played a crucial role in making them employable.
- The government should lay essential accentuation on young lady youngster schooling and wellbeing in the country segment of India because of the high populace rate in towns contrasted with metropolitans.
- An educated woman contributes to the country's overall development through her role in the army, social service, politics, education, corporate sector, etc.
- Women's education is essential for the eradication of various social crimes and evils prevalent in the society.
- Women's lives improve the journey man. An educated woman can earn her own living; she does not have to depend on anyone.

### District Wise Literacy rate by Sex and Religion

According to the 2001 census, Muslim women are lagging behind in terms of the rate of Hindu-Muslim education.

Table:1

Districts / State	Religion	Male	Female
West Bengal	Muslim	64.61	49.75
	Hindu	81.12	63.09
Darjeeling	Muslim	60.86	37.92
	Hindu	80.78	63.67
Jalpaiguri	Muslim	64.98	45.01
	Hindu	74.14	53.50
Cooch Behar	Muslim	64.59	47.11
	Hindu	79.30	58.79
Uttar Dinajpur	Muslim	45.98	25.50
	Hindu	68.76	45.77
Dakshin Dinajpur	Muslim	72.81	61.33
	Hindu	72.42	52.34
Maldah	Muslim	51.56	38.68
	Hindu	65.80	44.00
Murshidabad	Muslim	54.21	42.76
	Hindu	71.36	55.72
Birbhum	Muslim	68.28	50.97
	Hindu	72.24	51.88
Bardhaman	Muslim	75.54	61.39
	Hindu	79.43	60.97
Nadia	Muslim	54.42	44.03
	Hindu	78.13	64.46
North 24 Parganas	Muslim	71.41	58.13
	Hindu	87.62	75.71
Hooghly	Muslim	79.43	67.31
	Hindu	83.29	67.51
Bankura	Muslim	71.81	46.96
	Hindu	77.53	50.88

Districts / State	Religion	Male	Female
Purulia	Muslim	71.32	34.14
	Hindu	74.69	37.56
Medinipur	Muslim	75.05	54.36
	Hindu	86.51	66.41
Howrah	Muslim	74.13	60.78
	Hindu	85.90	72.82
Kolkata	Muslim	71.25	63.61
	Hindu	86.97	80.15
South 24 Parganas	Muslim	68.84	50.27
	Hindu	83.90	62.94

(Source: Census of India, 2001)

### Problems of Muslim's Women Education in West Bengal

Muslim women are the most backward in West Bengal and all over India. This backwardness has been going on for a long time. Muslim girls lag far behind other communities in education. The reasons for the backwardness of Muslim women in this regard are discussed below:

- **Poverty:** The main reason for the backwardness of Muslim women in terms of education is poverty. Most of the girls are involved in housework or some kind of cottage industry, so there are very few girls who go to school.
- **Conservatism:** Social conservatism is one of the obstacles to the expansion of Muslim women's education. This conservatism was especially prevalent among the Muslim backward communities and tribes.
- **Child marriage:** Child marriage is another obstacle to the expansion of women's education. Although there are laws about the rules of marriage, child marriage is still prevalent in poor families. As a result, many girls are forced to move away from education. Because it is not possible to study after marriage.
- **Social oppression:** The social oppression on women was so strong that the society does not think about the education of women.
- **Contempt:** Women had no place of respect in society. Women were looked down upon. As a result, no one thought about women's education.
- **Poor illiterate guardian:** Poor illiterate mothers are one of the obstacles in the way of expansion of women's education. Illiterate mothers prefer their children to do housework or to work in other families instead of studying. Mother's illiteracy is hampering children's literacy. As a result, women in India and West Bengal are drowning in an illiterate darkness in the society.
- **Dowry system:** Dowry system is a serious problem in women's life in today's society. In many families, marriage is considered a lucrative business, and helpless fathers are forced to spend their entire lives saving their daughters in the hands of immoral young men. Failure to pay dowry can lead to domestic and psychological abuse of the bride, even brutal killings.
- **Worldly responsibilities:** Both men and women of farming and working families earn. But most of the responsibilities of the world have to be borne by women. Many women are left without treatment.
- **Lack of social awareness:** Even at the turn of the twentieth century, we have seen that despite raising awareness among Muslim women about different kinds of social awareness, they are falling into the category of those backward people. As a result, they do not have the right idea about their lives and this is why Muslim women are facing various problems.



- Many good girls are being barred from studying due to financial problems.
- It is very inconvenient for girls to get education in rural areas. Most schools do not have separate toilets for girls which is very inconvenient for girls.
- The distance from the residence to the school became an obstacle in the way of education of Muslim women. Many girls are lagging behind in education due to poor transportation.

### **Possible solution to the problem of Muslim women's education:**

Muslim women are lagging behind in terms of education, the Governments of India and West Bengal have taken various steps to improve their education, and many women have set up educational institutions. Below are some possible solutions to the problem of Muslim women's education:

- Everyone must come forward for the development of Muslim women's education. Those who know the importance of education should inspire other children.
- Education needs to be made vocational. Education will increase the earning capacity of women. For this, women's education should be made vocational. One of the aims of education after women's primary education will be to build well-housewives, good mothers and good citizens.
- Parents need to be aware and send their children to school.
- Arranging various types of scholarships for the financially backward meritorious students.
- Each school has to have separate toilets for girls.
- Trained female teachers need to be recruited for teaching women.
- Provide technical education for girls. The girls will be able to be self-reliant and not dependent on anyone else.
- Family education is an important part of women's education. Women's education projects need to focus on the education of both children and parents.
- Poor students have to make arrangements to provide free clothes and books from one and a half schools. As a result, women who are deprived of the light of education despite their interest in education due to financial constraints will benefit a lot.
- Accommodation has to be arranged for the teacher to stay near the school without rent.
- All prejudices and conservatism must be eradicated in the field of women's education.
- We need to create opportunities for girls to do part-time jobs as well as get part time jobs. At the same time, girls need to increase their job opportunities for the whole time. In addition to teaching, nursing and social work, job opportunities need to be increased in other fields.
- Separate dormitories have to be built for girls to stay.
- Courses for older women need to be arranged for a short time.

In this way the state of education of the whole community can be changed.

### **Conclusion**

*"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another."*

- Nelson Mandela.

A mother is said to be equal to 100 teachers. Because a mother can educate her child well and educate an entire family, so our job will be to further improve the education system for girls. Giving girls the opportunity to learn. The biggest problem in our country is the illiteracy of women even

though it is much lower than before. It is true that after independence, women's education has improved a lot in India and West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal has made various arrangements for the development of women's education. Aikyashree, Kanyashree Sabooj Sathi has launched many such projects which play a special role in women's education.

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