EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE STUDIED VILLAGES

The educational facilities are been characterized with primary, secondary and higher educational institutions of the area. Educational facilities are been categorised and discussed below:

Primary Education

Primary education is the first stage of compulsory education. In countries, primary education generally covers the first six or seven years of school life. In many countries, although primary education is compulsory, parents may provide this level of education at home. However this education is provided, its importance is undeniable. The United Nations has identified universal primary education by 2015 as one of its Millennium Development Goals.

Figure 7.1: Primary schools (Salboni block)  
Figure 7.2: Mid-day meal programme (Kashijora)

Though there are good numbers of primary schools surrounding the studied area of Salboni block (fig 7.1) but still the situation is lacking behind for the ST students. Due to distance from the residence the tribal girls are dropped out at very early age and primary classes. The economic reason is very strong for the poor educational attainment rate among ST boys and girls. Mid-day meal programme has been taken care by the local
promoting authority with full attention as the tribal students in primary classes are been attentive due to this nutritional programme. At least they can get lunch at schools and due to this the parents are also very interested to send their children (both boys and girls) to school regularly. This incentive programme to develop the education level of ST has been successful in this way.

**Figure 7.3** Boys Students (Class I-VIII) (Tarinichok)

**Figure 7.4:** Hygiene programme for students at Tarinichok

With the above photograph 7.4 it is clear that health and hygiene programmes are also incorporated at the schools of the studied villages. From the very early age of student life the concept and consciousness about health and hygiene is necessary and it must be a process of learning at school in primary classes (From class I-IV).

**Figure 7.5:** Students of class I and III (Kashijora Village)
With the help of teaching tools like some playing material the small kids are being attracted towards education and they can acquire knowledge and memorise the lesson more appropriately. Environment plays an important role in tribal student and forest has been already associated in their daily life very closely. In the studied villages Arabari forest has played similar important role in ST’s life and in its education pattern. With the example from their own environment the ST students can able to understand the importance of education. Education is the enhancer and lighthouse of the better life-this should be included with the Environment studies (EVS).

**Figure 7.6:** ST students are busy with study

![ST students are busy with study](image)

**Figure 7.7:** Play time in front of School play ground (Tilakhula Village)

![Play time in front of School play ground](image)

Play is an eminent part of learning so a play ground is necessary at school. In primary section the students need a play ground as they can achieve their education
through play and game with full freedom. In three of studied village the play ground is available. Most of the tribal families are not aware about the scholarship schemes available for their children to complete his/her higher study. So the enrolment rate in the secondary schools is going to less than primary level. Even the Mid-day meal schemes are very much popular among the tribal families and the parents are interested to send their children to pre-primary, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and primary school. It is familiar among the tribal parents due to their poor economic condition. The Mid-day meal is an attractive incentive to enrol their children to schools.

Secondary Education

**Figure 7.8**: Madhyamik Siksha Kendra, Salboni block

![Madhyamik Siksha Kendra, Salboni block](image)

**Figure 7.9**: Salboni High School (Tarinichok)  **Figure 7.10**: With respondent Lakkhi

Secondary education is also important for one’s life. For ST students there are number of scholarships available now from both central and state government. Even now
the application process are easy due to online application for scholarship to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Caste students in West Bengal\(^{30}\) is also been introduced and implemented through Salboni block development and Salboni Panchayat Samity\(^{31}\). Secondary education is also a vital step towards the career and better future for the students. The importance of secondary education has not been incorporated in the life of ST students as their drop out rate is so high that they are not enrol to the secondary classes further more.

**Pre-Matric Scholarship Schemes under Central Assistance**

Pre-Matric scholarship has been provided to ST students reading classes IX & X. The main objective of this scheme is to support parents of SC and ST children for education of their wards studying in classes IX & X so that the incident of drop out, especially in the transition from the elementary to secondary stage is minimized and to improve participation of SC and ST children in classes IX & X of the Pre-Matric stage so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education. Under this scheme, each eligible student whose parents /guardians income does not exceed Rs. two lakh p.a. is paid through respective Bank account in the following manner:

**Table 7.1: Granted scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hosteller</th>
<th>Day Scholar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 750/- p.m. for 10 months only (Rs. 350/- from Government of India &amp; Rs. 400/- by State Government)</td>
<td>Rs. 150/- p.m. for 10 months only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhoc Grant –Rs. 1000/- p.a.</td>
<td>Adhoc Grant Rs. 750/- p.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Ministry of Backward class development, India

Scholarships are provided to boost them financially and as well as mentally that the ST students can achieve the educational attainment even with financial problems at their families.

\(^{30}\) http://www.oasis.gov.in/

\(^{31}\) http://www.salboni.in/index.php
Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes under Central Assistance

The objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stages to enable them to complete their education. The Income ceiling of parents/guardian has recently been enhanced from Rs. 2,00,000/- p.a. to Rs. 2,50,000/- p.a. The Government of India bears the entire expenditure beyond the committed liability which is to be borne by the State Government. The committed liability of the State government is equal to the sum total of expenditure incurred during the closing year of the last plan period.

Thus the committed liability of the State Government for the year 2012-13 shall be equal to the total expenditure incurred under each of the schemes (Post-Matric Scholarship for SC and Post-Matric Scholarship for ST) during 2011-12, the last year of the 11th Five-Year Plan period. The rates of Post-Matric Scholarship have been revised with effect from 01-07-2010. However, the Government of India has decided that such committed liability shall be decided by calculating the expenditure in the pre-revised rates. The State Government follows the rates fixed by the Government of India.

Table 7.2: Distribution of scholarship of ST students in different streams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Course of Study</th>
<th>Rate of maintenance allowance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Medical / Engineering / B.Sc(Agr) / M.Phil / Ph.D / L.L.M</td>
<td>Hostellers: 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>B. Pharm / B. Nursing / L.L.B / Hotel Management / Post Graduate Courses etc</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>General courses up to graduate Level.</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Classes XI and XII in 10+2 system Intermediate courses / ITI / Polytechnic Courses</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Backward Development, India
However, in cases of Post-Matric Scholarship for hostellers in Group III & IV are less (Rs. 570/- & Rs.380/- per month respectively) than the rates fixed by the State Government. The scholarship is given for study of various recognized post-secondary courses pursued in recognized educational institutions. Since the maintenance allowance for different courses varies widely, the same have been grouped into 4 categories and shown below as I, II, III, and IV. The amount of scholarship admissible for each group has also been indicated below. Tuition fees and compulsory non-refundable fees are also paid as per approved rate of the government institution.

**Higher Education**

For higher education the students are going to Midnapur city. This place is well connected with south-eastern railway and road ways. It has a number of colleges, which provide a great platform for higher education in the field of engineering, arts and social science, law, commerce, medical science, journalism etc.

**Different colleges nearby studied villages**

- **Raja Narendralal Khan Women’s College (Gope College)**

  Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College, also known as Gope College or Raja Narendra Lal Khan Mahila Mahavidyalaya, is an undergraduate women's college situated in Midnapore, West Bengal. It was established in the year 1957. The college is located in Midnapore in the Paschim Medinipur district. It is easy to reach the college. It is 2 km from Midnapore Railway Station and 14 km from Kharagpur Railway Station, both under the South Eastern Railway. Midnapore Central Bus Stand is 3 km from the college. Recently, Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College has been re-accredited and awarded ‘A’ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The college is also recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Some scholarships are also available for the SC and ST students for getting higher education.

- **Midnapur Law College**

  Midnapore Law College is a college imparting education in law in Midnapore, West Bengal. It was established in the year 2002 and offers five years integrated Bachelors of Law (B.A. LL.B.) degree and three years LL.B. degree. The college is affiliated to Vidyasagar University. It started with a five year LL.B. course in 2002, when it was following the syllabus of the University of Calcutta. Shortly thereafter, it had to start
following the newly-set syllabi of the University Grants Commission (U.G.C) of India as the course curriculum.

It had to get into a semester system from an initially planned annual system, which was not a smooth affair for both the students as well as the teachers. Eventually, it got affiliated to the Vidyasagar University, which agreed to confer a B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) upon successful completion of the five years' course. Soon after, the college started a three year post-graduate LL.B. course also. The college has a resourceful library that serves to study various areas of law. At one time, the college used to regularly coordinate and collaborate with the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata in holding seminars within its campus.

- **Midnapur Medical College**

Midnapore Medical College and Hospital is a Government Medical college imparting education in medicine in Midnapore, West Bengal. It was established in the year 2004 and offers MBBS degrees. The college is affiliated to West Bengal University of Health Sciences and is recognised by Medical Council of India. The selection to the college is done on the basis of merit through WBJEE. The college has received letter of permission to start post graduate courses in 9 disciplines. The number of pg courses as well as student per course will be increased in subsequent years with the permission of MCI.

- **Midnapore College (Autonomous)**

Midnapore College has stepped into 142 years of its eventful existence withstanding all the storms and buffets which long life necessarily involves. Beginning as the College Section of the then Midnapore Zilla School (in 1834) as the pioneer College in Midnapore, it has now become one of the best colleges in West Bengal. It achieved the dignified status of a Degree College in Science in 1873 under the affiliation of Calcutta University. Thanks to the selfless devotion of its outstanding benefactors, it has now achieved prominence among the students a yearning for higher learning; the outcome being the elevation of the standard of learning. This College had a very humble beginning. In 1836 it was under the Government Control and then converted into a Zilla School in 1840. In 1873 an endowment of Rs. 60,000/- (sixty thousand) was handed over to the Government and the Zilla School was raised to the status of a Second Grade College.
• Chandrakona Vidyasagar Mahavidyalaya

Chandrakona Vidyasagar Mahavidyalaya, also known as Chandrakona College, is an undergraduate, coeducational college situated in Chandrakona, Paschim Medinipur in West Bengal. It was established in the year 1985. The college is affiliated with Vidyasagar University. The college was started to promote higher education in this region. The aim of the college is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need in this era of information and teaching and as well as to provide ideal environment to develop mental, Physical, social and spiritual level of students.

The college is involved to create and sustain an academic environment conductive to academic and professional excellence with social, cultural and moral values. The college offers under graduate course in arts and science Stream. The college has state-of-the-art technologies and infrastructure.

• Garhbeta College

Garhbeta College is a co-educational college situated in Garhbeta, Paschim Medinipur in West Bengal. It was established in the year 1948 and offers undergraduate education. The college is affiliated to Vidyasagar University. Garhbeta College was founded on 13 August 1948 under the leadership of the freedom fighter Gobinda Kumar Singha to impart higher education to the economically backward and geographically remote area of the Midnapore District. The College started with only 50 students in a section of Banerjee Danga High School. On 12 February 1950 the college was permanently shifted to its own building constructed on a large 22 acres (89,000 m2) campus full of greenery. A local freedom fighter, Late Basanta Kumar Sarkar donated 12.58 acres (50,900 m2) of land and 9.56 acres (38,700 m2) of land was further donated by Midnapore Zamindar Company. The College was originally affiliated to the University of Calcutta and was later affiliated to Vidyasagar University with its creation in 1985.

In course of time, various degree courses have been started taking the total number to thirteen. The college also offers a Bachelor of Physical Education (B. P. Ed.) from 2004 and some vocational courses as well. The college is situated slightly away from town with a campus of 22 acres (89,000 m2). The college has its own hostel for boys with a seating capacity of 60 only. The college have separate common rooms for boys and girls with facilities for indoor games like carom and table tennis. Further there is provision for
playing outdoor games. There is an in campus canteen offering snacks and beverages. The college also have a Netaji Subhas Open University study center to facilitate distance education. The college has a well-developed library with about 25,000 books, journals and periodicals. There are laboratories with minimum adequate facilities for the science subjects. There is a medicinal plant garden maintained by the Department of Botany.

**Vidyasagar University**

Vidyasagar University is a state-government administered; affiliating and Research University in Paschim Medinipur district of southern West Bengal, India. It offers courses at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. The university was established on 29 September 1981 by the Vidyasagar University Act 1981 (West Bengal Act XVIII of 1981) of the state of West Bengal to commemorate Pandit Iswar Chandra Bandyopadhyay, also known as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the great educationist and social worker of 19th century Bengal. The University Grants Commission accorded recognition to the university under Section 12 B on March 1, 1990. Vidyasagar University, named after one of the most illustrious sons of Bengal as well as one of the doyens of Indian Renaissance, Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, has grown out of a long cultural and educational movement in West Bengal in general and in the undivided district of Midnapore in particular.

All the higher educational facilities are purposeless until the STs are going to ready to accept the primary level education. Their mental readiness is most important towards education. So in Midnapur Sadar, there are number of eminence colleges and even Vidyasagar University which is a State University is there to facilitate the students. From the educational attainment rate it is clear that the enrolment rate in higher studies is very poor among the tribal of the studies villages. Initiative of awareness building is to be started from primary classes to motivate the ST students for higher studies. The information about RTE act, 2009 and intimation about the schemes to facilitate their education should be provided to the students as well as to their parents.

“If the mountain does not come to Mohammed, Mohammed must go to the mountain. If the poor cannot come to education, education must reach them at the plough, in the factory, everywhere”

-Swami Vivekananda