Gender inequality is deeply rooted multifaceted social issue and the degree of its magnitude varies across social groups and geographic localities. Moreover, gender inequality may persist within a society in a hidden form. The proper elucidation of gender inequality is, therefore, a complex and intricate task, especially in diverse society. As forms of gender inequality are often implanted and overlapping it replicates a set of underlying processes also.

This study is concerned with the questions why gender inequality persists in a rural society i.e. rural areas of Chakdah and Haringhata C.D. Blocks in Nadia District, West Bengal, what is the religion and caste wise underlying variables responsible for gender inequality and what are the case specific measures which may reduce gender inequality.

In this study, the nature of gender inequality has been analysed across overall population, religions and castes on a spatio-temporal scale. The study has covered the period from 1991 to 2011. Based on the secondary data, the entire study area has been divided into three distinct gender inequality zones i.e. high, moderate and low. Five Villages from each zone of gender inequality i.e. altogether 15 Villages have been selected for in depth study through extensive field survey. An attempt has been made in this section to measure the level of gender inequality of these sample Villages across overall population as well as caste and religion groups and to identify the variables responsible for this inequality. Finally, specific measures have been suggested to reduce gender inequality based on the main findings of this study.