

Educational Development in Blocks of Paschim Medinipur District (West Bengal) between 2005-2006 and 2012-2013: Panel Data Analysis through Education Index

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Education is considered as a crucial factor in determining the level of social development of a region directly and the level of its economic development indirectly. Educational development being multi-faceted, this paper constructs a composite Education Index for the Blocks of Paschim Medinipur District (West Bengal, India) over the period 2005-2006 to 2012-2013. Education Index is observed to have high inter-block as well as high inter-temporal variations. These variations are explained by factors like social status of the people, urbanization, employment status and demographic structure in a panel data framework. Urbanization, social status of the people and demographic structure are statistically significant both partially and individually. Work Participation Rate is statistically significant partially but not individually.

I Introduction

Education is treated as one of the most important aspects of social development leading to human development in particular and economic development in general. It helps the human beings achieve one of the most important aspects of human life, viz., knowledge. Achievement of much desired knowledge is important not only for its own sake, it also as it acts as an instrument for the attainment of a decent standard of living and is an indirect instrument for the attainment of a long and healthy life. It is difficult to capture the achievement of knowledge by a single variable. It can be reflected by a number of partial achievements or ends like enrolment ratio, dropout rate (inversely), literacy rate, adult literacy rate, female literacy rate, literacy rate of the weaker sections, etc. and a number of instruments or means like availability and access to schools, teacher student ratio, child population teacher ratio, student school ratio, student classroom ratio, basic amenities available in the schools, etc. A large number of variables, means and ends may be identified to explain the present status of achievement of knowledge in a society. Attainment of knowledge is dependent on a number of factors like social status of the people, urbanization, employment status of the people, demographic structure, etc.

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