

## **ABSTRACT**

Human resources form the basis for wealth of nations. Capital and natural resources are the passive factors of production. The human capital plays a very important role in the growth and development of a nation. The pace of growth and development is determined by how powerful or productive the human capital is. If the quality of human capital is high, its productivity will also be high. The quality of human capital depends upon the quality of education. Education propels growth and development of a nation. It is the education which enriches the quality of human capital. Education makes the people understand many problems related to social, economic, technological, and cultural aspects of overall development of a nation. The history of development of the countries, particularly the developed countries, is replete with numerous examples showing that the higher the level of education of the people, the speedier is the pace of development. In recent years many developing countries also have achieved rapid economic growth and social development by imparting good education to their people, by adopting various means to increase the enrolment of the children in school, and to improve their learning achievement scores by creating high quality infrastructural facilities in schools. As education should start from the childhood, the children should be encouraged to take lessons from nursery class onwards.

In our country, various steps have been taken by the state and central governments to increase enrolment of students in schools and to improve the students' learning achievement scores. Despite the adoption of many measures by the governments to achieve and overall educational development reaching the nook and corner of the country, our objective of educating all children of the country including the male and female, urban and rural, the under-privileged is yet to be fulfilled.

In this study we are analyzing the present status of primary education in the district of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India, the status of enrolment across schools and overtime and the present state of learning achievement scores of the students. Attempts have also been made to identify the factors that may have positive as well as negative effects on these to important parameters of growth in education, namely, students' enrolment and students' learning achievement scores -one refers to quantity or number and the other one to quality of education.

Methodologies used in the study are, among many others, Disparity Index and Multiple regression models that include both qualitative (dummy) and quantitative variables. Our study focuses on the Disparities with reference to multi-dimensional aspects of education, such as - gender (male and female), location (urban and rural), school management (public and private) and caste (general and non-general).