

STATUS OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND WORK PARTICIPATION IN THE WARD NUMBER 122 OF KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION – A GRASS ROOT LEVEL ANALYSIS

Samik Chakraborty¹ and Uday Chatterjee²

¹ Guest Lecturer, Department of Geography,
Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri College, Kolkata, (West Bengal), India. Email:
samik.chakraborty2012@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography, Bhatler College, Dantan, (under Vidyasagar University),
Paschim Medinipur (West Bengal), India
Email: raj.chatterjee459@gmail.com

Abstract : *The present study is trying to explore very small effort to identify the status of two very basic things for women i.e. education and work participation. The study is based on primary as well as secondary sources of data. Primary data has been collected from 150 households in the Ward Number 122 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation by classifying them into three equal sample groups of the high, medium and low-income level to make comparisons. Secondary data has been collected from the District Census Handbook, Kolkata, 2011. The major findings of this study uphold the areas of deprivation of women in terms of education and work participation compared to men. And it is high time to think about how these differences can be minimized. The study is finally concluded with some recommendations which may be considered as fruitful to solve these problems to some extent.*

Key words: Women; Education; Work Participation; Gender Bias.

Introduction

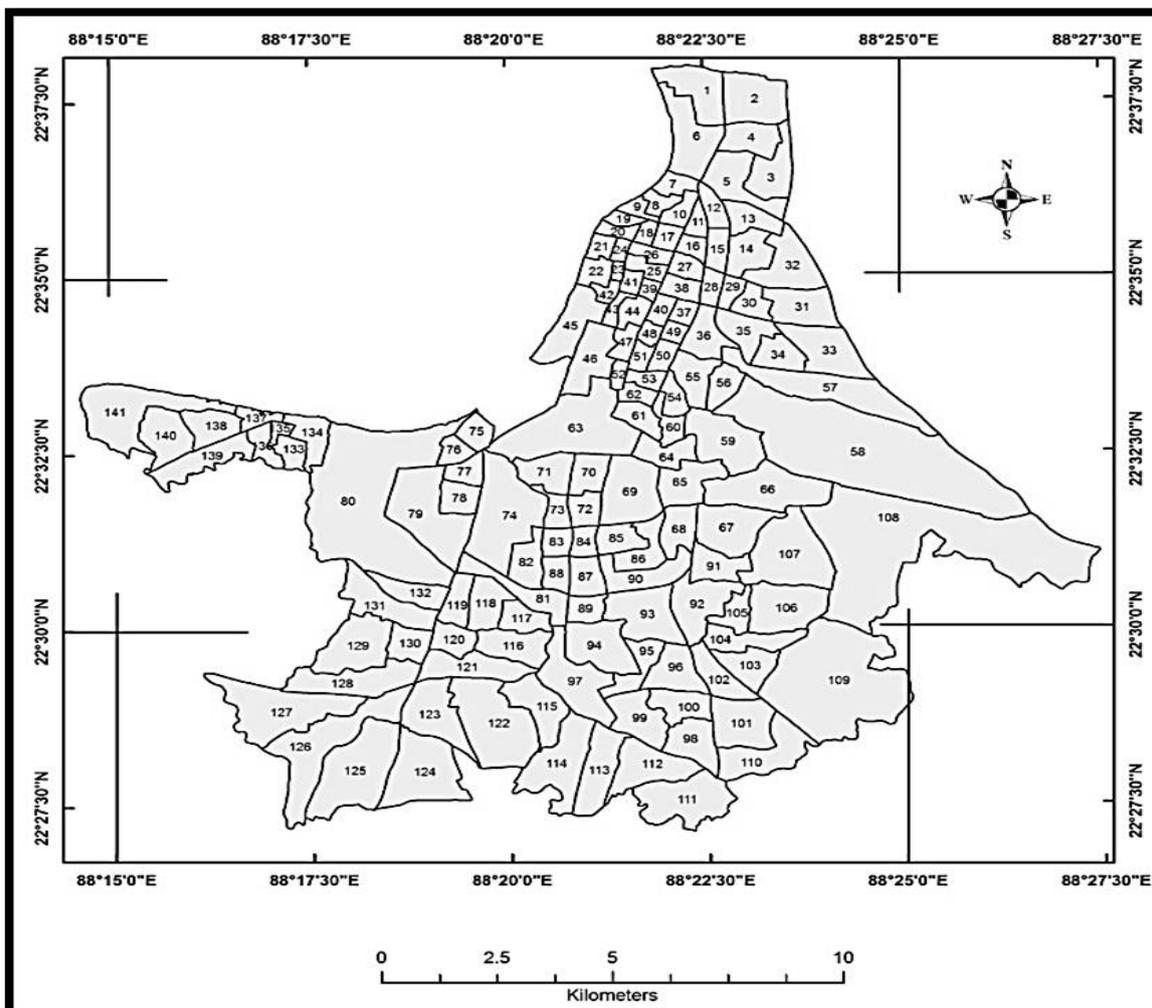
Now day's we acknowledged that days have been changed a lot from before in terms of living. Percentage of literacy is increasing in every decade. Because there is a sharp growth observed in student enrollment for schools and colleges. Usually, the rate of work participation has also increased. At times it is creating tremendous pressure on employment sectors. As a result, a huge number of urban unemployment is being generated day by day. A large number of people nowadays have accustomed to modern means of communication such as mobile phones, internet and so on. There a radical change has seen in the attitude of people towards women in our society. Now women are playing important roles in every sector of life besides men. Government has taken a lot of initiatives in favour of women empowerment. These steps are really commendable. But it should remember that the darkness always prevails under the lamp. In spite of all empowerment measures, it can be said that women yet don't get equal opportunities compared to men in various prospects of life. Women confront several problems in their daily life. Their basic human rights are being violated repeatedly in a variety of ways. Women don't get enough priorities regarding education, employment and so many things. Not only underdeveloped and developing countries are suffering from these but also developed countries facing the same. Sometimes it is more painful to see when the negligence also comes from her mother to a girl child or women, in addition to others. Though it sounds bad, it's true. For instance, in most of the families, mother's care and love are seen more for their sons than daughters. So many reasons are there to do like that. It is unknown when and how the problem will come to an end completely. But the efforts should be continued. Only the government will not be able to do this, goodwill is also needed from every people from every section of society.

Present Study

Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study focuses on gender discrimination in terms of education and work participation in the Ward Number 122 of Kolkata Municipal

Corporation. Kolkata is one of the metropolitan cities in India as well as the capital of the state of West Bengal. The city is situated between 22°37' to 22°30' North latitude and 88°23' to 88°18' East longitude. Elevation ranges from 1.5 meters to 9.0 meters above the mean sea level. Hooghly is the main river in Kolkata which has created the western boundary of this city. The KMC area is about 185 square kilometres having 44, 96,694 populations with 23, 56,766 males and 21, 39,928 females. The population density in this city is 24,306 persons per square kilometre. The population growth rate during the last decade is -1.67 per cent. This rate of growth among males are -5.73 percent and 3.24 percent among

Figure 1: Location of (Ward 122 Kolkata Municipal Corporation, West Bengal)



Source: Kolkata Municipal Corporation office

females. The sex ratio of this city is 908. The total number of households in this city is 10, 07,365. Kolkata is divided into 16 boroughs and 144 electoral wards. Among 144 wards, ward number 122 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation has been selected for this study(Fig.1), located at the southern part of Kolkata. This ward is under the borough number 13 having 9,977 households, 39,198 populations (Census - 2011) with 19,906 males and 19,292 females, 3.16 sq. km. area, the density of 12404.43 persons per sq. km and 12.13 percent of population growth (2001 – 2011) rate.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To identify the age-sex structure of population in the Ward Number 122.
- To make a comparative analysis of literacy status between men and women in this ward.
- To examine the rate of work participation among women compared to men in this ward.

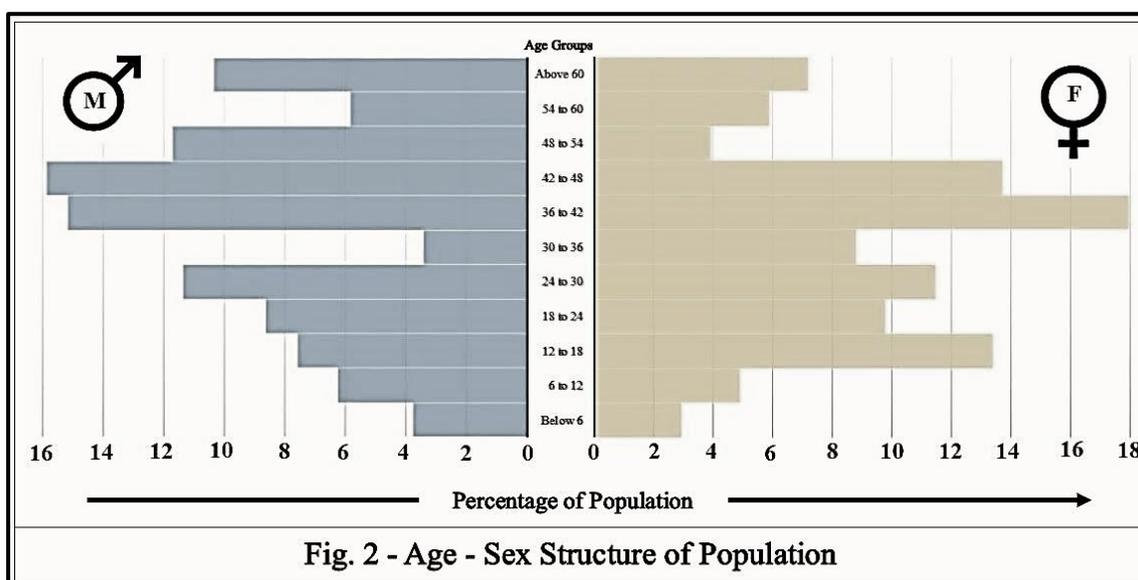
Database and Methodologies

This study is based on primary as well as secondary sources of data. Secondary information has been taken from the District Census Handbook, Kolkata, 2011. Primary information has been collected from 150 households of the Ward Number 122. These households are selected by dividing them into high, middle and low-income groups. So that 50 households are taken from every single income group. Above 50,000 rupees monthly income is taken as high-income groups, the income ranges between 20,000 to 50,000 rupees as middle-income groups and below 20,000 rupees as low-income groups respectively. The indicators of this study are age-sex structure of population, literacy and work participation.

ANALYSIS AND MAJOR FINDINGS

Age-Sex Composition of Population

First of all, some important statistics are given. The Ward Number 122 has 39,198 populations. The total number of males and females in this ward are 19,906 and 19,292 respectively. The sex ratio of this ward is 969 which is greater than the same for Kolkata i.e. 908. 2,797 children are under below 6 years age group with 1,461 males and 1,336 females. The sex ratio for below 6 years age is 914. Another very important thing is that there are total 1,128 Scheduled Caste Population with 576 males and 552 females in this ward. Again 85 persons belong to Scheduled Tribes and among them, 43 are males whereas rest are females. Next, a simple age-sex pyramid has been drawn on the basis of collected samples showing the composition of the population. The pyramid shows that the percentage of the



dependent population is lower than the working population. But in the case of the male population, the percentage of the population in above 60 years of age group is greater than the female population. Maximum male population belongs to 42 to 54 years of age group and minimum belongs to 30 to 36 years of age group. On the other hand, the maximum female population in this ward is under 36 to 42 years of age whereas the minimum comes under below 6 years of age group. It can be said that the sample population pyramid is showing its characteristics like a pyramid of a developed country. Because here the percentage of the working population is higher than the dependent population(Fig.2).

Levels of Education

At the beginning, some essential statistics should be discussed. The percentage of Literacy is quite satisfactory in this ward. 86.25 percent of people are literate in this ward. The percentage of literacy is 88.16 percent among males whereas 84.28 percent among females. Another important observation is that the percentage of male literates is 2 percent higher than the ward percentage. On the other hand, the percentage of female literates is almost 2 percent lower than ward (Fig.3)

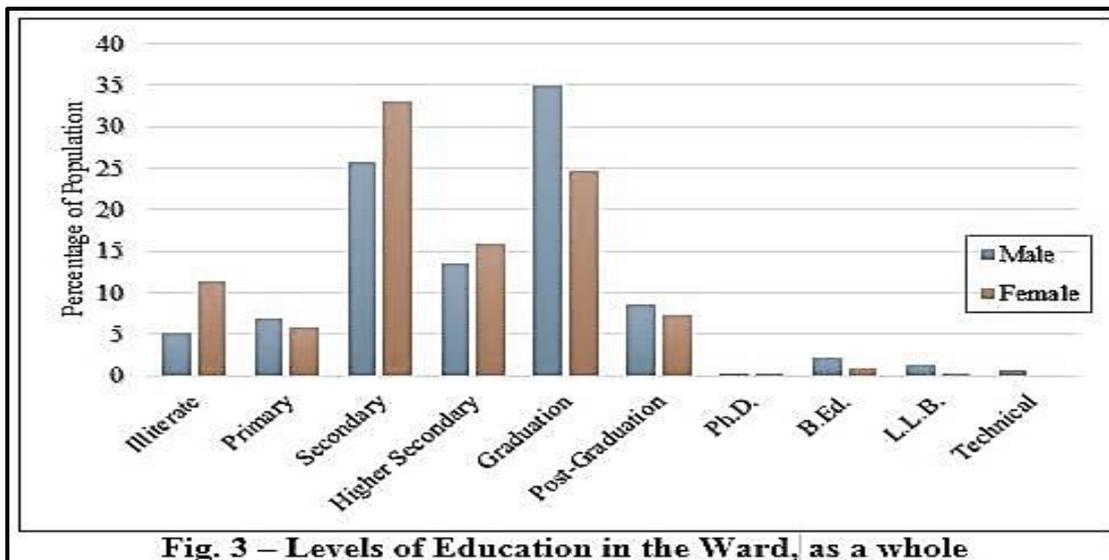


Fig. 3 – Levels of Education in the Ward, as a whole

percentage and 8 percent from male literates. The following diagram is showing that the number of illiterates among females is more than the number of illiterates among males. 11.53 percent of the female has been found as illiterate in this ward whereas this number is almost half among males compared to females i.e. 5.29 percent only. Except for 10th and 12th standard, the percentage of female literacy is lower than male literacy in all other levels such as primary, graduation, post-graduation, Ph.D., B.Ed., L.L.B. and technical.

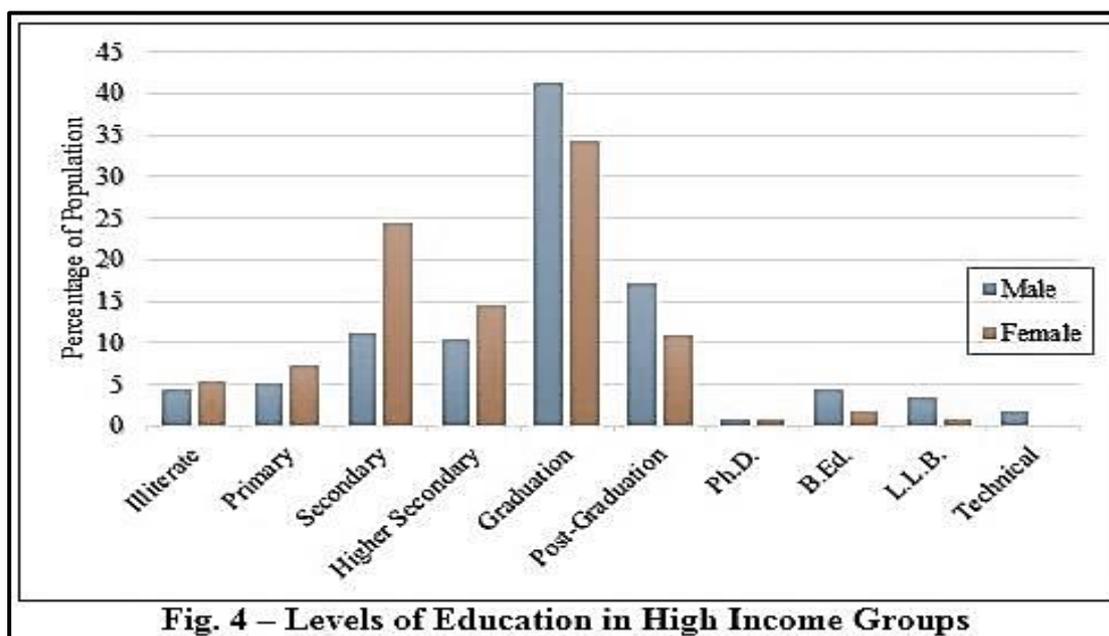
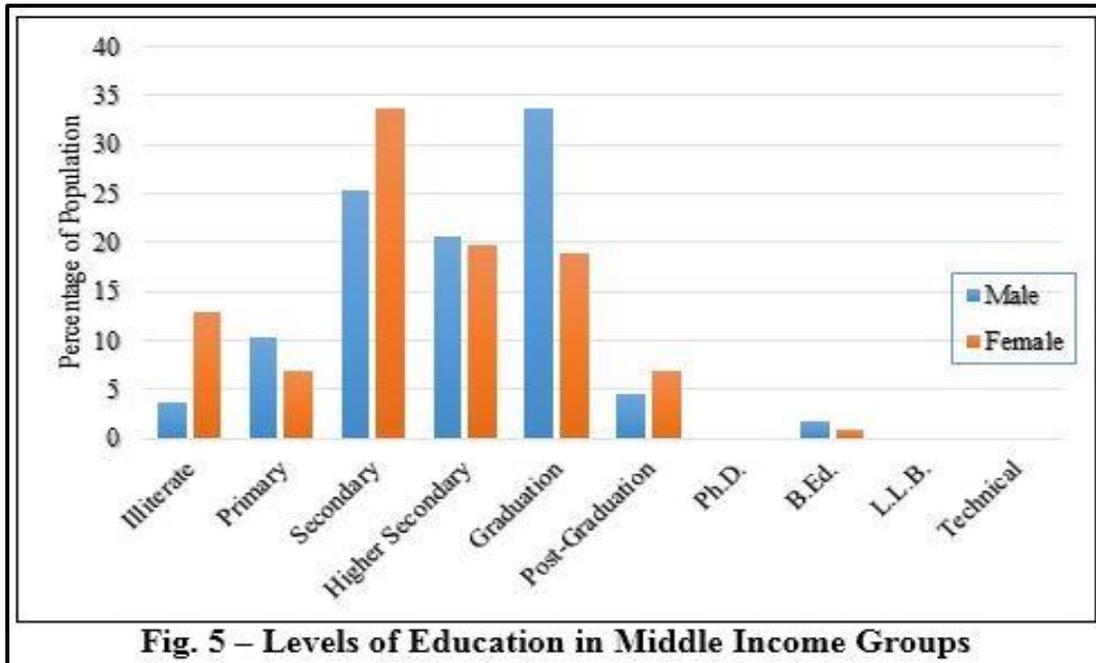
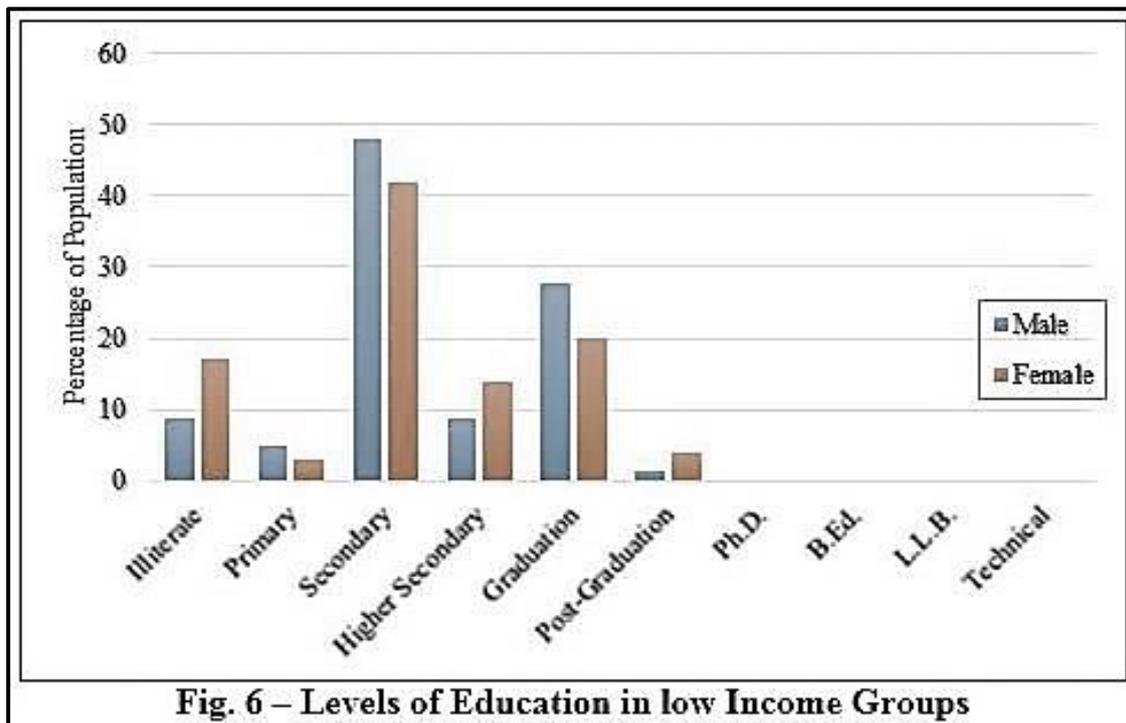


Fig. 4 – Levels of Education in High Income Groups

As it was previously stated, that all indicators i.e. education and work participation has been checked not only on the ward as a whole but also on different income groups. In the next segment, the percentage of literates and illiterates in various level of education has been analyzed among various income groups. The comparative study between males and females has also been done here. The following diagram(Fig.4) is showing that the percentage of illiterates among females are also high compared to males in high-income groups. But this difference is not as high as much as the ward total. There is almost 1 percent difference has only been found. From primary to higher secondary level the percentage of female engagements is higher than male but on other levels, females are lesser than males. The following bar graphs are showing that the difference between male and female regarding levels of education is increasing with decreasing levels of income(Fig.5). There are almost 9 percent difference has been

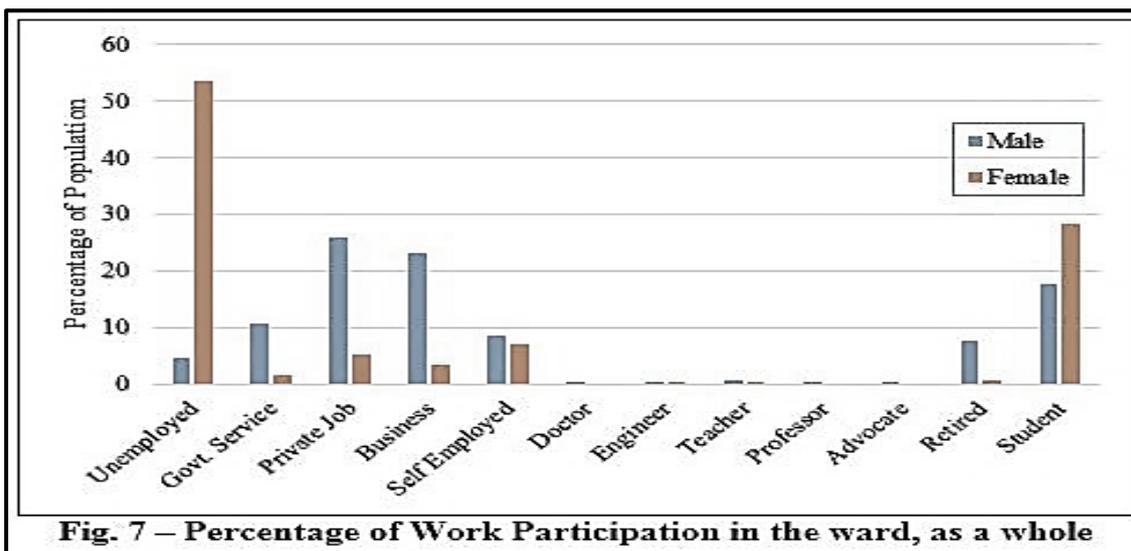


found in the percentage of illiterates between males and females. Females have high engagement in higher secondary level only. Otherwise, in all other categories, they are behind from the males. In the case of graduate-level studies, almost 15 percent of males have engaged more compared to females. Some common features (Fig.6) have been found from the study of the levels of education of low-income groups. There is almost 9 percent difference seen regarding the percentage of illiterates between males and females. No one in this group has any educational degree after post-graduation. Not only that, the percentage of enrollment in post-graduation is very low compared to its levels before. That means the lower level of income influences the education level of people. In most of the cases, children from low-income group families are forced to stop their education at early due to engaging in working sectors for supporting their family. So not only females but also males didn't get the chance of higher education in this group.

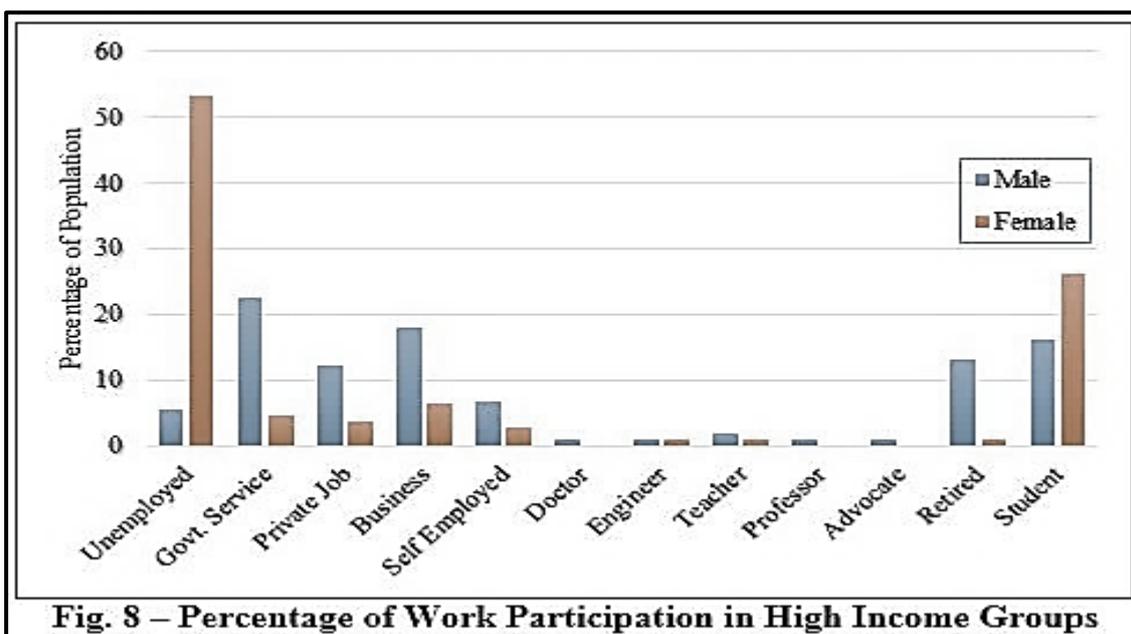


Rate of Work participation

The most important factor just after literacy by which the status of women can be measured i.e. female work participation rate(Fig.7). In a similar way, this indicator has also been carried out on the ward as a whole and thereafter among high, medium and low-income groups

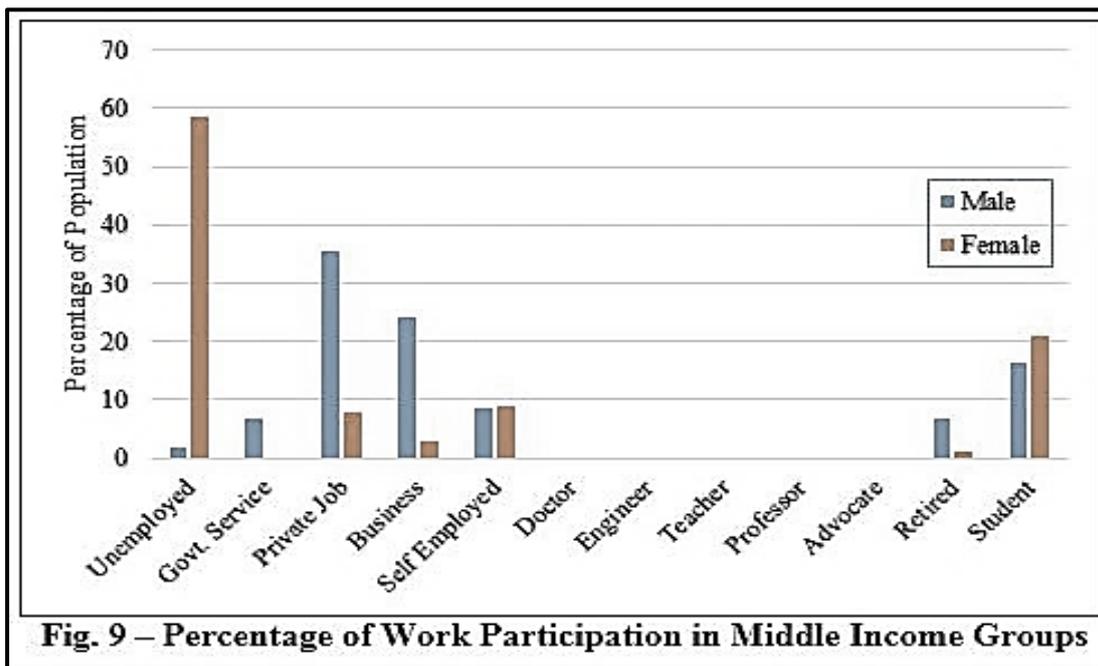


respectively. Some important outcomes have also been found by this study which has discussed in the next section of the study. It is very unfortunate to say that 53.44 percent of female in this ward are unemployed or they are performing only the role of housewives in their respective families. It is known by all of us that contribution as housewives is not granted as to an economic activity because any sort of income is not generated by this. Mention should be made that the percentage of students are not taken to calculate the percentage of unemployment. The similar trend is also found from the sectors, where the females have joined into works. These sectors are showing a huge difference in percentage

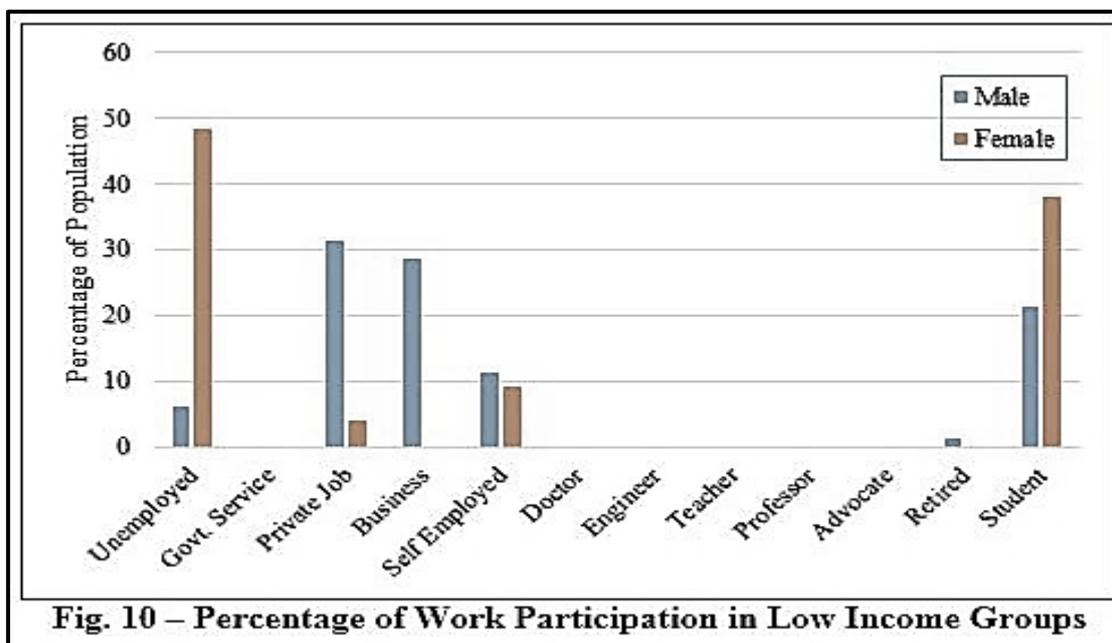


regarding work participation between males and females. Some professions such as doctor, professor and advocate – no female work participation have been found. Next, the same analysis has been carried out on the high(Fig.8), middle(Fig.9) and low-income groups respectively. Here also almost the same results have been found. A large number of unemployed females has been observed there also. Apart from that, in all other groups, they have lower participation in work compared to males. The minimum rate of employment among females confines only into the private job, business, self-employment and very few among government services. But merely the difference is that any work participation is not found among females as a government employee, doctor, engineer, teacher, professor and

advocate in middle-income groups compared to high. The following back to back diagrams is showing the status of employment among high and middle-income groups respectively.



Last but not least, the rate of work participation among females compared to males has been analyzed in the low-income group of people. The sectors in this group where female work participation has been found i.e. only private job and self-employment. No difference is observed in female unemployment in case of low-income(Fig.10) groups just like as other two income groups.



Suggestions and Conclusion

The study exhibits that in Ward number 122, the status of girls schooling, as well as education in addition to the work participation rate, is not well enough. So local government need to take good initiative for improvement of the social and educational status of the selected ward. The enrolment of females in particular in higher studies could be very low over there. A massive number of unemployed women have also been determined in all income groups of people. Especially women from low-income groups are very much deprived of schooling as well as employment. It should be remembered that education and employment are related positively. So, an educated woman can get a job as per her desire.

To start with, encouragement, as well as economic backup, may be very much needed for women education. After that, the effectiveness of work participation is to be taught to them. These type of steps are had to be taken from the family, society and government. It must usually be remembered that men and women are just like the wings of a bird. Further, if women are pressured confine within the partitions then the overall up gradation of any society can't be possible.

References

1. Chakravarty S., Kumar A., Jha A. N., (2013) "*Women's Empowerment in India: Issues, Challenges and Future Directions*", International Review of Social Sciences and Humanities (IRSSH), Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 154-163.
2. Jha P., Nagar N., (2015) "*A Study of Gender Inequality in India*", The International Journal of Indian Psychology (IJIP), Vol. 2, Issue 3, pp. 46-53.
3. Ranganath N. S., Rao K. A., Srinivas N., (2011) "*Gender Inequality in Education*", Zenith International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, Vol. 1, Issue 6, pp. 325-332.
4. Sharma R., Afroz Z., (2014) "*Women Empowerment through Higher Education*", International Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (IJIMS), Vol. 1, No. 5, pp. 18-22.
5. Shettar M. R., (2015) "*A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India*", IOSR Journal of Business and Management, Vol. 17, Issue 4, pp. 13-19.
6. Thomas R. E., (2013) "*Gender Inequality in Modern India – Scenario and Solutions*", IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS), Vol. 3, Issue 3, pp. 48-50.
7. Waris A., Viraktamath B. C., (2013) "*Gender Gaps and Women's Empowerment in India – Issues and Strategies*", Vol. 3, Issue 9, pp. 1-9.