

Assessing the Economic Conditions of Minority Women in Garbeta Blocks I, II, and III, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal

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Abstract: *This study aims to comprehensively assess the economic conditions of minority women residing in Garbeta Blocks I, II, and III in Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal. Minority women often face multiple socio-economic disadvantages that restrict their financial independence and overall empowerment. The research focuses on key indicators such as income levels, employment status, access to financial resources, participation in government welfare schemes, and overall economic empowerment. A mixed-methods approach was adopted, involving the collection of primary data through structured surveys and in-depth interviews with 150 minority women from the study area. Secondary data from government reports and previous literature were also reviewed to contextualize the findings. The analysis highlights that the majority of minority women in these blocks are engaged in informal and low-paying jobs, with limited opportunities for skill development and financial growth. Additionally, social norms, lack of education, and restricted access to credit and welfare schemes are significant barriers to their economic progress. Awareness and utilization of government programs designed to support minority women remain low. The study concludes by emphasizing the need for targeted interventions including education, vocational training, microfinance access, and enhanced awareness campaigns to improve their economic status and autonomy. This research contributes to the understanding of the economic vulnerabilities faced by minority women in rural West Bengal and offers policy recommendations to foster inclusive growth.*

Keywords: Economic conditions, minority women, Garbeta, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, financial empowerment, employment status, social barriers, microfinance, government schemes

