

Disparities in Data of West Bengal Student Credit Card

Tushar Kanti Ghara

*Joint Director of Public Instruction,
Education Directorate, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700091*

ABSTRACT: West Bengal Government has launched West Bengal Student Credit Card scheme from 30.06.2021. The students of West Bengal can apply for loan upto 10 lakhs towards completing study from class 10 onwards upto the attainment of age 40 years within India and abroad. The rate of interest is simple **interest at 4%** annually only. A study has been made to have idea for disparities among districts of the students after 5 months. There are differences in attitude among students and co-applicants. More poor families are interested and mostly for male students.

KEYWORDS: Student Credit Card, Loan, Approval, pending at bank

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INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the West Bengal Student Credit Card is to provide loans to students for higher education. Through this scheme loans up to Rs, 10 lakh will be provided to students which will help them to pursue their higher education without thinking about the financial burden. Now each and every student of West Bengal will be able to get higher education.

Almost every student wants to pursue higher education but due to poor financial conditions, there are many students who are not able to fulfill their dream of getting higher education. In order to ensure the availability of higher education among all the students, the government are trying to launch various kinds of schemes. On 30.06.2021, West Bengal government launched a scheme called the West Bengal Student Credit Card Scheme. Through this scheme, students will be provided loans for higher education. Its objective, benefits, features, eligibility criteria, required documents, application procedure, etc are to be discussed in this communication.

Whereas, in order to enhance the quality of higher education and to facilitate meritorious poor students, the State Government has already started Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-means scholarship Scheme and Kanyashree Prakalpa (K3) for college/ University going students and every year about 1,40,000 students avail the benefits under these Schemes, and whereas, in order to further encourage the students to pursue higher studies and to facilitate them with necessary funds for pursuing the same, the State Government proposes to support the students by providing a Credit Card, having a maximum limit of Rs. 10 lakhs available at nominal rate of 4% simple interest rate per annum, so that the students can avail necessary fund as and when needed for their studies. The Student Credit Card Scheme outlined herein aims at providing financial support/ assistance by the State Government at a nominal interest rate (with suitable guarantees to the bank) to the students residing in West Bengal for at least 10 years and pursuing education from class 10 onwards, or studying in various coaching institutes for appearing in different competitive examinations like Engineering/ Medical/ Law, IAS, IPS, WBCS, SSC etc., UPSC, PSC, SSC etc., and pursuing Undergraduate, Postgraduate courses including professional degree, Diploma courses and research at doctoral/ post-doctoral level or other similar courses in schools, Madrasahs, colleges, Universities and other institutes like IITs, IIMs, IESTs ISIs, NLUs, AIIMSs, NITs, XLRI, BITS, SPA, NID, IISc, IIETs, ICFAI Business School etc., within or outside the country, who are unable to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. The main emphasis is that students are provided with an opportunity to pursue higher education, with the financial support from the banking system with reasonable and affordable terms and conditions. Under this Scheme the aspiring students may upon fulfilling the terms and **conditions** detailed herein, obtain maximum loan of Rs. 10.00 lakhs at the rate of 4% simple interest from State **Co-operative** Banks and its affiliated Central Cooperative Banks and District Central Cooperative Banks and Public Sector/ Private Sector Banks operating in the State of West Bengal.

Under this scheme the Credit Card may be used to avail loan to meet up the following expenses: –

(a) Fees required for accommodation in School/ Madrasah/ College/ University/ Institution hostel or rent/

license fees payable for living outside the hostel or fees required for living as a Paying Guest.

- (b) Fees payable for caution deposit/ building fund / refundable deposit/ examination/ library/ laboratory fees to be supported by Institution's bills/ receipts.
- (c) Cost of purchasing of books/ Computer/ Lap-top/ Tablet/ equipments etc.
- (d) Any other expense required to complete the course such as study tours, project works, thesis, etc.
- (e) The student can incur expenditure up to 30% of the total loan sanctioned for non-institutional expenses for the whole course of study.

The department of Higher Education was **been** selected as nodal department to implement the West Bengal student credit card scheme. The maximum limit of this loan is Rs 10 lakh. This loan can be used for pursuing studies in India and abroad. Under this scheme nationalized and cooperative banks will provide loans for higher studies and diploma courses at an simple interest rate of 4% per annum. Students can apply for this loan considering the course fee he is currently studying and for future courses. Under this scheme, loans are also provided for cracking various competitive exams like NEET, JEE, and civil services.

Students can use the loan amount for institutional as well as non-institutional expenses like rent, hostel fees, study tours, projects, etc. Students can take the benefit from this scheme up to 40 years of age.

Eligibility Criteria Of West Bengal Student Credit Card is that the applicant must be permanent resident of West Bengal for a period of at least 10 years and the upper age limit to apply for this scheme is 40 years. Required Documents to Apply are Aadhar card, PAN card, bank account details, mobile number, passport color size photograph, signature of the student & co-applicant/co-borrower, admission and course fee documents. The institutes like universities of all types, colleges of all types, nursing of all types, polytechnics, paramedicals, teacher-training colleges, etc situated in West Bengal and other states of India are taken as master. All schools of Government, Government-aided and private are covered under the scheme. Few schools where students of West Bengal are studying mainly in Delhi, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat are also covered. Coaching Centre with registration documents are also covered. The numbers of all such institutes are more than 1.25 lakhs. All programmes including CA & allied, UG, PG, PhD, MPhil, Class 10 to 12, ITI, Diploma and coaching courses numbered around 300 are taken into master. The institutes should upload **DISE/ AISHE/ REGISTRATION** certificate, accreditation document, ranking documents and affiliation document/s along with bank details of them.

In case of Bihar, there is a system for allowing students to take education loan as Student Credit Card for higher education after passing class 12. It is only upto 4 lakhs. The banks are allowing as per IBA guidelines and for courses under IBA guidelines and only from recognized and good institutes. It is also requiring to upload and authenticate 10th & 12th standard mark sheets and residential certificate. The selection based on entrance and academic excellence.

In case of Madhya Pradesh, the similar scheme is called Model Educational Loan for studying all IBA authorized programmes after 12th standard from recognized excellent institutes within India and abroad. The limit is 10 lakhs for within India and 20 lakhs for abroad. There are margin money of 5% (for less than 4 lakhs) or 15% (for more than 4 lakhs) and security deposits as per IBA guidelines. **In this communication, it is being intended to have idea for disparities among districts of the students after 5 months.**

DATA

The West Bengal Student Credit Card is implemented on real time online portal. The portal is <https://wbacc.wb.gov.in>. It is developed by NIC of West Bengal. The back-end master of institutions – universities, colleges, other institutions (called standalones) have been taken from AISHE portal. The school database has been taken from UDISE. The other institutions like ITIs from ET & T directorate and rests based on case-to-case basis with certain conditions as decided by Higher Education Department. The number of institutions taken as master is 69170. The number of programmes taken as master is more than 315. All the bank branches of the banks – covering co-operative banks, non-commercial and commercial banks with different IFSC codes have been taken as bank master. The registration of students, applications, institutions registration are fully online and transactions from student to head of institutions, from institutions to department and from department to bank are on real time basis. The users added to the number of applicants, number of institutions, number of bank branches, all sorts of officials, etc. The data has been taken from the portal on 07.01.2022 for academic analysis. The number of data points or the number of applications considered here is 108465.

ANALYSIS

The numbers of applications are coming from different strata of the population with different diversities. The data is distributed in different districts as in Table-1.

Table-1 showing distribution of applicants over districts of West Bengal as permanent residence

| STUDENT'S DISTRICT | Female Application % | % of Application |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|

Disparities In Data Of West Bengal Student Credit Card

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------|
| Alipurduar | 52.9 | 1.13 |
| Bankura | 42.1 | 4.25 |
| Birbhum | 43.8 | 3.28 |
| Coochbehar | 41.9 | 2.69 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 47.3 | 2.19 |
| Darjiling | 54.3 | 1.43 |
| Hooghly | 43.6 | 6.51 |
| Howrah | 44.7 | 4.83 |
| Jalpaiguri | 50.5 | 1.77 |
| Jhargram | 45.6 | 1.05 |
| Kalimpong | 67.4 | 0.29 |
| Kolkata | 46.1 | 4.51 |
| Maldah | 40.1 | 3.83 |
| Murshidabad | 42.6 | 5.79 |
| Nadia | 43.6 | 4.14 |
| North Twenty Four Parganas | 44.6 | 10.69 |
| Paschim Bardhaman | 42.2 | 3.70 |
| Paschim Medinipur | 41.2 | 7.28 |
| Purba Bardhaman | 39.0 | 4.91 |
| Purba Medinipur | 45.9 | 9.34 |
| Puruliya | 39.3 | 1.88 |
| South Twenty Four Parganas | 45.5 | 10.79 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 45.9 | 3.71 |
| Total | 44.1 | |

Observation: Female % in enrolment to higher education is 50.5 (AISHE 201920) at West Bengal. The percentage of total female participation in student credit card is below 50% in all districts except in Alipurduar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong districts. The maximum female participation % is in Kalimpong district and minimum is in Purulia district. The share of participation is maximum for North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. The least share out of total applications is from Kalimpong district.

Figure – 1 showing district-wise distribution of applicants

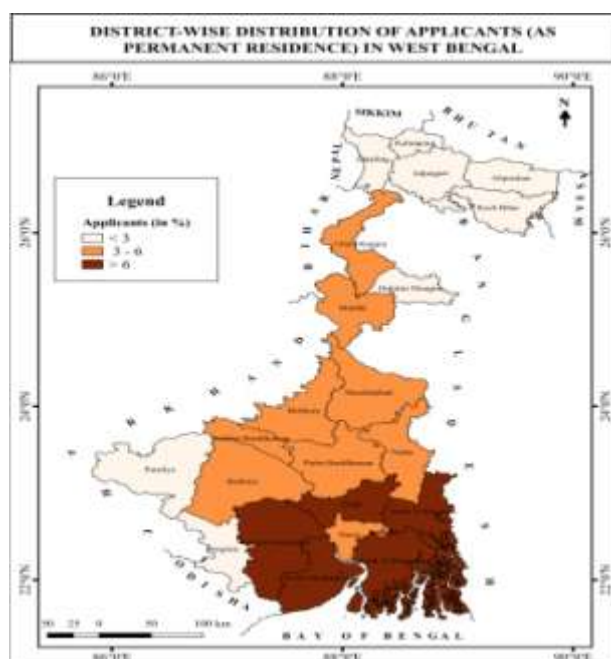


Table-2 showing distribution of applicants forwarded to banks over districts of West Bengal

| STUDENT'S DISTRICT | Female Application % | % of Application |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Alipurduar | 55.07 | 1.56 |
| Bankura | 42.08 | 5.08 |
| Birbhum | 44.81 | 2.66 |
| Coochbehar | 44.05 | 3.03 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 45.07 | 1.73 |
| Darjiling | 57.87 | 1.05 |
| Hooghly | 42.90 | 4.46 |
| Howrah | 47.65 | 5.66 |
| Jalpaiguri | 50.16 | 1.51 |
| Jhargram | 43.90 | 0.70 |
| Kalimpong | 64.18 | 0.16 |
| Kolkata | 51.92 | 4.44 |
| Maldah | 42.24 | 2.96 |
| Murshidabad | 42.01 | 6.03 |
| Nadia | 43.80 | 5.59 |
| North Twenty Four Parganas | 44.72 | 12.97 |
| Paschim Bardhaman | 41.35 | 2.93 |
| Paschim Medinipur | 38.67 | 5.35 |
| Purba Bardhaman | 39.80 | 5.83 |
| Purba Medinipur | 45.17 | 9.76 |
| Puruliya | 36.36 | 1.64 |
| South Twenty Four Parganas | 46.61 | 11.03 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 45.68 | 3.87 |

Observation: The percentage of total applications forwarded to banks, the female participation in student credit card is above 50% in Alipurduar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata and Kalimpong districts. The maximum female participation % is in Kalimpong district and minimum is in Purulia district. The share of participation is

maximum for North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. The minimum share out of total applications is from Kalimpong district.

Table-3 showing distribution of applicants whose loan sanctioned by banks over districts of West Bengal

| STUDENT'S DISTRICT | Female Application % | % of Application |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alipurduar | 45.57 | 1.99 |
| Bankura | 44.12 | 3.43 |
| Birbhum | 36.79 | 1.62 |
| Coochbehar | 35.96 | 2.87 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 42.42 | 1.11 |
| Darjiling | 46.58 | 1.35 |
| Hooghly | 41.87 | 6.10 |
| Howrah | 35.92 | 4.12 |
| Jalpaiguri | 42.68 | 2.01 |
| Jhargram | 55.47 | 1.15 |
| Kalimpong | 50.00 | 0.24 |
| Kolkata | 40.54 | 6.17 |
| Maldah | 43.40 | 3.56 |
| Murshidabad | 37.84 | 3.35 |
| Nadia | 41.74 | 4.07 |
| North Twenty Four Parganas | 41.47 | 10.74 |
| Paschim Bardhaman | 41.33 | 5.43 |
| Paschim Medinipur | 44.82 | 8.27 |
| Purba Bardhaman | 36.63 | 5.09 |
| Purba Medinipur | 49.42 | 6.51 |
| Puruliya | 36.55 | 2.00 |
| South Twenty Four Parganas | 39.98 | 16.73 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 44.62 | 2.11 |

Observation: The percentage of applications whose student credit card loan have been sanctioned by Banks, the female participation in student credit card is above 50% in Jhargram and Kalimpong districts. The maximum female participation % is in Kalimpong district and minimum is in Coochbehar district. The share of participation is maximum for North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. The minimum share out of total applications is from Kalimpong district. It is 6.17% in Kolkata out of total.

Figure -2 showing distribution of female applicants whose loan got sanctioned

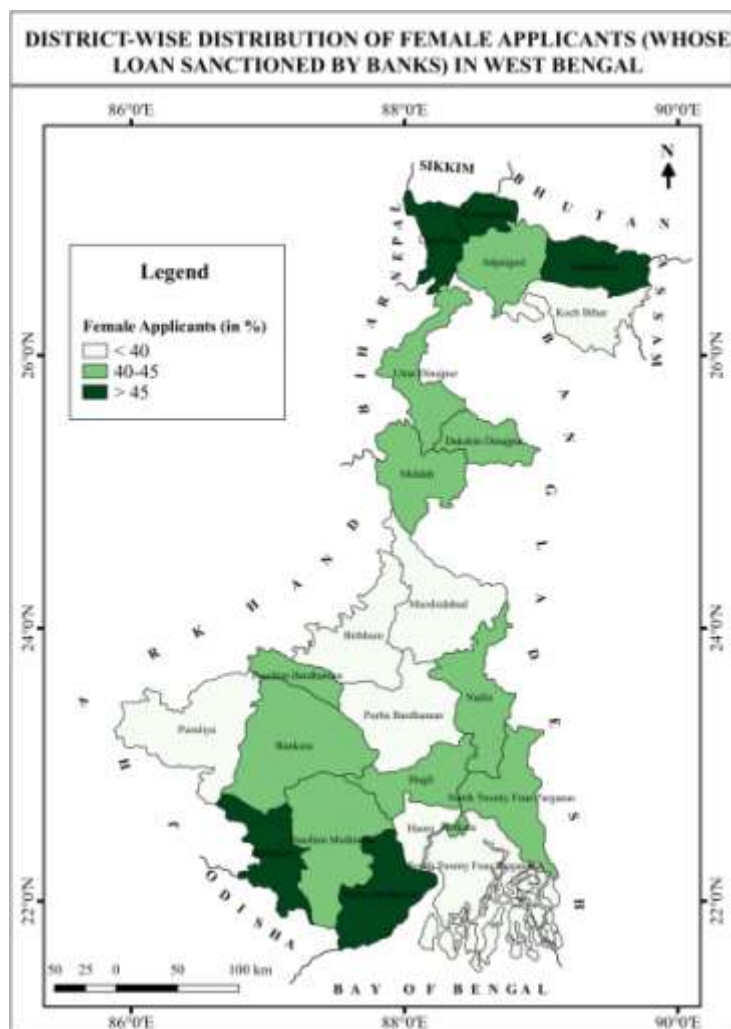


Table-4 showing distribution of applicants whose loan provisionally sanctioned by banks over districts of West Bengal

| STUDENT'S DISTRICT | Female Application % | % of Application |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Alipurduar | 53.65 | 0.73 |
| Bankura | 39.27 | 5.20 |
| Birbhum | 41.37 | 2.61 |
| Coochbehar | 42.47 | 1.14 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 51.78 | 1.82 |
| Darjiling | 49.72 | 1.38 |
| Hooghly | 43.17 | 7.86 |
| Howrah | 42.34 | 5.72 |
| Jalpaiguri | 47.87 | 1.52 |
| Jhargram | 42.24 | 1.15 |
| Kalimpong | 70.89 | 0.30 |
| Kolkata | 41.23 | 4.58 |
| Maldah | 38.50 | 2.33 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Murshidabad | 43.18 | 6.37 |
| Nadia | 43.42 | 3.30 |
| North Twenty Four Parganas | 42.39 | 10.03 |
| Paschim Bardhaman | 40.95 | 5.72 |
| Paschim Medinipur | 42.86 | 7.15 |
| Purba Bardhaman | 38.60 | 5.33 |
| Purba Medinipur | 46.57 | 11.43 |
| Puruliya | 45.34 | 1.80 |
| South Twenty Four Parganas | 44.16 | 9.45 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 45.81 | 3.09 |

Observation: The applications when forwarded to banks, the applications reached to the loan hub of the banks or the head office of the banks. The respective designated banks first provisionally approved based on primary documents as available with digital/online copy of loan applications and the next/rest sanctioned are expected to be under the jurisdiction of the banks. The percentage of applications whose student credit card loan have been provisionally approved by Banks, the female participation in student credit card is above 50% in Alipurduar, Dakshin Dinajpur and Kalimpong districts. The maximum female participation % is in Kalimpong district and least is in Purba Bardhaman district. The share of participation is maximum for North 24 Parganas, Purba Midnapore and South 24 Parganas. The minimum share out of total applications is from Kalimpong district.

Table-5 showing distribution of applicants pending at banks over districts of West Bengal

| STUDENT'S DISTRICT | Female Application % | % of Application |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Alipurduar | 55.14 | 1.18 |
| Bankura | 41.38 | 5.01 |
| Birbhum | 43.34 | 2.40 |
| Coochbehar | 42.56 | 2.42 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 47.54 | 1.72 |
| Darjiling | 55.51 | 1.29 |
| Hooghly | 43.30 | 6.01 |
| Howrah | 45.64 | 5.32 |
| Jalpaiguri | 52.48 | 1.82 |
| Jhargram | 44.93 | 1.01 |
| Kalimpong | 69.12 | 0.28 |
| Kolkata | 47.30 | 4.61 |
| Maldah | 40.78 | 2.87 |
| Murshidabad | 41.91 | 5.67 |
| Nadia | 44.45 | 4.60 |
| North Twenty Four Parganas | 44.56 | 11.63 |
| Paschim Bardhaman | 41.36 | 3.80 |
| Paschim Medinipur | 41.70 | 6.24 |
| Purba Bardhaman | 39.69 | 5.45 |
| Purba Medinipur | 45.78 | 10.23 |
| Puruliya | 40.92 | 1.60 |
| South Twenty Four Parganas | 46.51 | 11.04 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 45.41 | 3.78 |

Observation: The percentage of applications whose student credit card loan applications are pending at Banks, the female participation in student credit card is above 50% in Alipurduar, Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.

The maximum female participation % is in Kalimpong district and minimum is in Purba Midnapur district. The share of participation is maximum for North 24 parganas and Purba Midnapore districts. The minimum share out of total applications is from Paschim Midnapur district.

The typical pattern of the data are (1) about 56.4% are from general category of students, 16.4% are SC and only 1.4% are ST; (2) more than 90% applicants having neither any scholarship or not mentioned in their applications; (3) more than 91% are in the domain of higher education; (4) out of 91% applications – 907 MBBS students, 28731 Nursing students (26%), 10.4% from professional programmes, 2.2% from management programmes, 15.7% from engineering programmes and more than 39% from general programmes; (5) 53.7% applications for under-graduate programmes, 8.3% for post-graduate programmes and 26.8% for diploma programmes; (6) 67.7% for institutes within West Bengal, 21.5% for Karnataka and 2.1% for Odisha; (7) 79.5% applicants mentioned father as co-applicants. Also, according to co-applicants income about 20% applications with co-applicants annual income stated as less than 50000, 43% with co-applicants annual income stated between one lakh and 5 lakhs. Further, according to loan amount required there are 26% requested for loan amount less than 2 lakhs, 33% between 2 lakhs and 4 lakhs and 22% between 4lakhs and 6 lakhs.

REMARKS

The data reveals many incites. The aggressiveness of the scheme is concentrated only around Kolkata like North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Purba Midnapur and Paschim Midnapur. The aggressiveness among female students are **not** very significant over the districts of the state. It is prominent only in Darjeeling and Paschim Midnapur. Mostly poor families have applied for loan and the most loan amount is between 2 to 4 lakhs. The statistical significance has not been tested in details but the independence study has been done with not very significant results.

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