# PROFILE OF SOUTH 24 PARGANAS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LIBRARY RESOURCES

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**Abstract:**

South 24 Parganas, is a district in the West Bengal state, India. It is West Bengal's largest district by area and the second largest by population.Libraries are indispensable part for any higher educational institutions. In colleges, libraries are the qualifying element for university approval and affiliation. In this article, profile of South 24 Parganas with special reference to library resources has been highlighted.

**Keywords:** South 24 Parganas, Library, Resources , Information , complex

**Introduction:**

South 24 Parganas is, indeed, a complex district, stretching from the metropolitan Kolkata to the remote riverine villages up to the mouth of Bay of Bengal.It is India's sixth most populous city (out of 640).

**Topographics:**

South 24 Parganas occupies nearly 9% of the state of West Bengal's overall landmass. Located between latitudes 20 ° 20' N and 20 ° 06' N and longitudes 88 ° 20' E and 88° 60' E, the district is bounded to its south by the Bay of Bengal, to its east by Bangladesh across the Raimangal and Kalindi rivers, to its northwest and north-east respectively by the Kolkata and North 24 Parganas

districts, and to its west by the Howrah and East Medinipur districts across the Bhagirathi river [1].

**Administrative Subdivisions:**

The district comprises five subdivisions: Alipore Sadar, Baruipur, Diamond Harbour, Canning and Kakdwip.

**Population:**

According to India's 2011 census, the South 24 Parganas district had a total population of 8,161,961 (Male-4,173,778 & Female-3,988,183). There was a population density of 819 people per square kilometre (2,120/sq mi) in the district [2].

For the decade 2001-2011, the population growth rate was 18.05 percent. For every 1000 males, South 24 Parganas had a sex ratio of 949 females, and a 78.57% literacy rate.

For all districts, like South Twenty-Four Parganas, data on children under 0-6 years of age was also collected in the census enumeration. Compared to 1,050,120 in the 2001 census, there were a total of 1,025,679 children under the age of 0-6. Of the 1,025,679 overall, 522,552 and 503,127 were male and female, respectively. As per the 2011 census, the child sex ratio was 963 as opposed to 964 in the 2001 census. Children under 0-6 constituted 12.57% of the South Twenty Four Parganas District in 2011, compared to 15.20% in 2001. This was a net improvement of -2.63 percent relative to the previous Indian census [3].

The populated region of Sundarban is home to three major forms of tribal people, namely Munda, Oraon and Santhal. According to the census of 2001, the tribal populations registered in the South were 24 Parganas, Santhal, Draon and Munda in the Kakdwip Division around 1922; 574 Oraon and Santhal in the Namkhana Block; 1922 Santhal, Munda and Oraon in the Patharpratima Division; 4406 Santhal and Munda in the Kultali Division; 850 Santhal and Munda in the Joynagar II Division; just 22 Santhal in the Joynagar I Division; 850 Santhal and Munda in the Joynagar II Division; The last one is the largest population of indigenous people. In North 24-Parganas 9245 Munda, Santhal and Draon population inhabit in Minakhan, Haroa,

Hingalgunge and Hasnabad Blocks. About 81,000 tribal communities occupy the urban areas of the Sundarbans [4].

**Economy:**

Agriculture, Industry and Pisciculture are all at their peak in the district. On the west side of the district is the Falta Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which houses various types of industry.In 2006, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named South 24 Parganas one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640).

**Education:**

South 24 Parganas district had a literacy rate of 77.51% as per the provisional figures of the census of India 2011. Alipore Sadar subdivision had a literacy rate of 81.14%, Baruipur subdivision 77.45%, Canning subdivision 70.98%, Diamond Harbour subdivision 76.26% and Kakdwip subdivision 82.04%.

**Libraries in Arts and Science Colleges:**

There are norms for book collection and appointment of qualified librarians for the maintenance and use. The collection includes the books and other materials of fundamental science to relevant syllabus materials for the course requirements, including books of general interest to develop the students and other users [5].

**Library Collections:**

Colleges have rich collections of printed books. Printed books includes; text books, reference books, dictionaries, thesaurus, current yearbooks, directories, gazetteer, handbooks and modern subject like environmental/science / studies, social value education, human rights, computer science, sports, yoga, siddha medicine and value based education, social education etc. Newspapers of Bengali and English, popular magazines with few journals in arts and science are procured. A few colleges provide book bank facility to the needy students. Aided colleges run a separate library for self-financing courses [6].

**Electronic Resource Collections:**

Accessing internet is available in many colleges, but the accessibility of NLIST facility is available in a few colleges, in those colleges who offer research and postgraduate courses. As per the University Grants Commission (UGC), it is an essential criterion to provide e - resources through NLIST in arts and science colleges.

NLIST is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) under NME-ICT now funded by UGC as college component under UGC INFONET digital library consortium. NLIST provides selected e-resources of e-books and e-journals through passwords for accessibility and it monitors the access. From 2014NLIST programme subsumed under UGC INFONET Digital Library consortium as N-LIST. Colleges under 12B of UGC Act can access by annual membership of Rs.5750. Non-aided colleges may join with the membership fee of Rs.34500. At present five colleges provide the NLIST access by continuous renewal of membership and three colleges had the chance once and not renewed the membership fee subsequent years [7].

**Library Websites:**

Due to the information and communication technology all the service and business sector has their presence through websites. It is also mandated by NAAC to the educational institutions to host their details of departments, staff and facilities including details about library in websites. But in South 24 Parganas, there are no colleges that have separate library websites and dynamic blogs for getting library information. However 18 colleges have websites out of 24 colleges in this district and three colleges provides library staff details in websites and 10 colleges provide library rules and regulation in their websites. For others, library details and other details on library rules and regulations the user can browse fairly from the college diary, notice boards, consulting with friends, teachers and through library experience only they gain knowledge [8,9].

Out of 24 colleges 18 aided colleges and 3self financing colleges have websites. Only six aided colleges and four self-financing colleges provide library details including rules and regulations. Out of three colleges, only one aided college and two self-financing colleges provide library staff details.

*Table 1 depicts the Status of college website presence:*

**Table 1: Status of college Website and presence of Library details**

| Sl. No. | Details | Aided colleges | Self - finance colleges | Constituent College | Govt. college | Total |
|---------|---------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Website presence | 18 | 3 | - | - | 21 |
| 2 | Library details only | 6 | 4 | - | - | 10 |
| 3 | Library staff details included | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |

Source: Primary Data

**Working Hours:**

In order to optimize the utilization of library facilities by the academics, students, researchers the college library is kept open and in all the working days, a few colleges provide services on weekend Saturday.

**User Members:**

All Academics including guest faculties, students of undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers in college. Libraries provide two library tickets in manual circulation system following libraries and bar-coded identity cards for automated system following libraries.

**Conclusion:**

All arts and science colleges have a reading hall for library users and served by at least one full time professional librarian and one library assistant or one library attendant is serving in the library [10]. The library services include basic information literacy through either formal or informal, circulation, reference services, reprographic, referral services etc.

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