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Changing Pattern of Games in Rural Bengal Over The Past Five Decades: A Case Study of Benabendi Village in Bankura District

Suvasree Dutta (Dasgupta)¹ and Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan²

Abstract : Presently, our society is standing at the cross-roads where the penetration of social media and internet via smart phones and eagerness to win the rat-race is ruling over the life of the present generation, bypassing all traditional and favorite pastime recreations including games. This empirical study thus aims to analyse how far the mass media and telecommunication revolution have been able to influence the rural gaming pattern in West Bengal over the long fifty years i.e., from 1970's when televisions and radios were considered to be as mere luxuries to the era of 2020's when the use of mobiles, iPods, tablets are considered to be as sheer necessities of our day-to-day life. This paper is primarily based on the empirical study designed for a micro level investigation in one of the villages of rural Bengal by interviewing the target participants mainly through a structured questionnaire. Besides, information regarding the journey of traditional game to modern games in rural Bengal is also collected through Focused Group Discussion (FGD) with the target participants in the study area. The research work reveals that the institutionalized games of global importance along with mobile and video games have gained preferences over the traditional games of rural Bengal over the past five decades. The telecommunication facilities and mass-media have played the pivotal role for the transformation of the gaming pattern in the study area. However, the study reveals that certain factors like frequent power failures coupled with weak mobile network and poor net connectivity amidst the dense forest, as well as the inability to buy regular data pack have acted as major hindrances against the popularity of the modern games in the study area.

Key Words: Traditional Games, Cultural Heritage, Rural Bengal, Mass Media and Telecommunication Revolution.

Introduction

Throughout the world, games are not only considered as an important source of providing amusement, entertainment and recreation during the leisure time, but also as a means of developing a person's skills of creativity, concentration, logical thinking, improving memory power, mathematical skills, apart from keeping him physically and mentally active and sound. It also helps to influence

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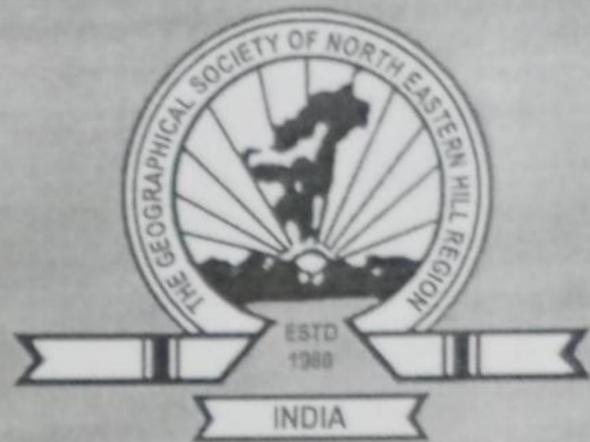
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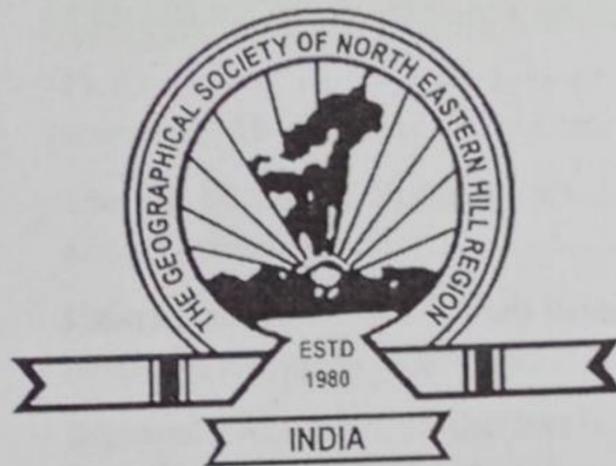
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Research Paper

Utilization of Health Care Services and Gender Differences in Urban West Bengal: A case study of Kamarhati Municipality

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Abstract

By nature's grace, women are generally more robust than men and have a natural edge in the expected life span. But, in many South Asian societies, this biological advantage is completely cancelled out by women's social disadvantage to date. Thus, gender discrimination in allocating resources or the elementary fields of education, nutrition, health, and survival is debatable even in this 21st century. In the rural areas being entangled in the patriarchal family dynamics and several social stigmas, women of the rural areas, across different socio-economic categories, get worse for their health issues. But the urban areas are expected to be free from such social constrictions. As a result, this research paper aims to ascertain whether gender discrimination in the utilization of health care services happens to exist in the urban areas or not, especially when our nation has promised to achieve "Health for all by the Year 2000". A case study of Kamarhati Municipality has been studied to examine the extent of gender discrimination regarding the utilization of health care facilities in the urban areas of West Bengal. The siting factors and the locational situation of this industrial town along the Hugli River, coupled with its good connectivity with the city of Kolkata, have been the primary reasons behind the choice of this study area. The study is purely based on the survey conducted through a structured questionnaire. Finally, the test of significance and the degree of dependence between the exogenous factors and the utilization pattern of the health care facilities have been analyzed by the chi-square method. The outcome of the research work confirms that the levels of development play a vital role in determining the practice of gender discrimination, even within the urban areas. Moreover, the study ensures that some of the exogenous factors play a dominant role in determining the pattern of gender discrimination regarding access to health care services in the selected study area.

Keywords: Gender Discrimination, Health, Health Care Services, Levels of Development, Determinants.

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