



HIGHER EDUCATION IN HOOGHLY DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL: AN OVERVIEW

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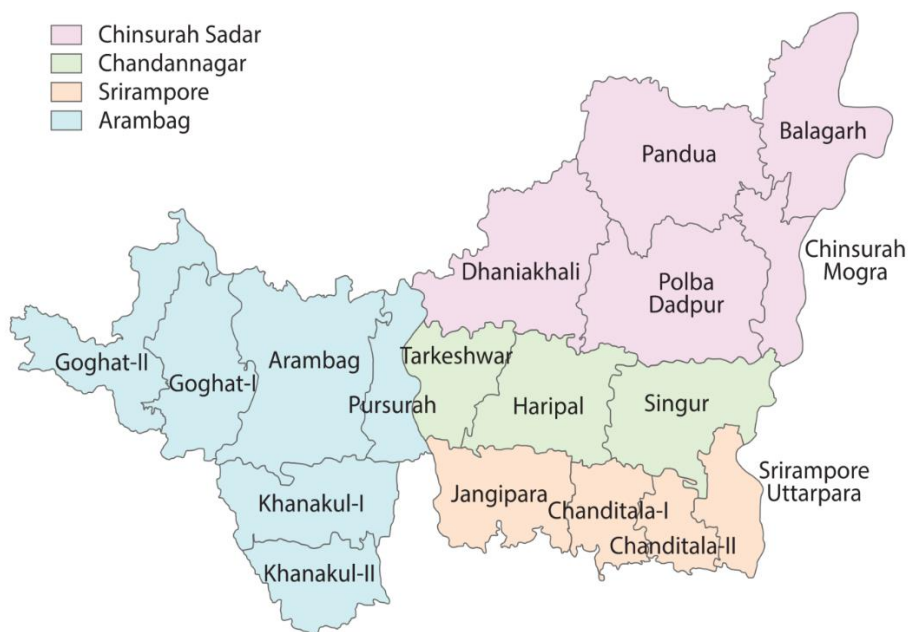
ABSTRACT

Higher education plays an important role in the social, political, economic and scientific development of any nation. India has one of the largest education system especially higher education in the world. Higher education in West Bengal has witnessed a tremendous increase in institutions in recent years. The society's expectations from higher education have not remained the same always; it's kept changing with different social corners, economic conditions, and political situations. The Hooghly district has had a great legacy of higher education in the state of West Bengal and the country as well. The Present study is directed to investigate the existing status of higher education in Hooghly district in terms of institutions, quality, access, diversification of subjects, etc.

KEYWORDS: Higher Education, Higher Education Institutions, Hooghly, Diversification.

1. INTRODUCTION

Hooghly is one of the districts in the state of West Bengal, India. Hooghly can alternatively be spelt Hoogli or Hugli. The Hooghly district is named after the Hooghly River. So far history goes, the name "Hooghly" is derived probably from the 'HOGLA', a tall reed, which grows in plenty on the riverbanks and in the boggy low lands below them. The district headquarter is located at Chinsurah town; it is within the Burdwan Division of the State of West Bengal. There are four sub-divisions in this district, namely; Chinsurah-Sadar, Shirampore, Chandannagar, and Arambagh. The district is bordered by Bardhaman district to the north, Howrah district to the south, Hooghly River to the east and Bankura district lies to the north-west, with Medinipur District to the south-west. There are approximately above ninety (90) higher education institutions in Hooghly district, among them twenty eight (28) general degree colleges, twelve (12) technical institutes, one (1) Medical college, one (1) University and so many others higher education institutions are situated in this district. Hooghly district had a literacy rate of 81.80% as per the provisional figures of the last census of India i.e. 2011. Chinsurah sub-division had a literacy rate of 79.17%, Arambagh sub-division 79.05%, Chandannagar sub-division 83.01%, and Shirampore sub-division 86.13%.



Hooghly District Map



Table 1: A comprehensive picture of Hooghly District

HOOGHLY DISTRICT								
Sl. No.	Sub-Division	No. of Blocks	No. of Municipality	Total Population (2011)	Area (Sq. Km.)	Population%		No. of degree colleges & University(s)
						Rural	Urban	
1.	Chinsurah	05	02	16,57,518	1148.15	68.63	31.37	07
2.	Serampore	04	06	14,69,849	422.45	26.88	73.12	08
3.	Chandannagar	03	03 + *01 (*Municipal Corporation)	11,27,176	508.08	58.52	41.48	08
4.	Arambagh	06	01	12,64,602	1058.87	94.77	5.23	06
Total		18	12	55,19,145	3137.55	62.20	37.8	29

Source: Hooghly District, Govt. of West Bengal.

Table 2: Number of University(s) in Hooghly District & West Bengal

Sl. No.	University type	Hooghly	West Bengal
1.	Central University	0	1
2.	State University	1	37
3.	Deemed University	0	2
4.	Private University	0	10

Source: UGC consolidated list of all Universities.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the present status of higher education in the district of Hooghly.
- To analyse and compare among the higher education institutions in Hooghly district.

3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study is qualitative in nature. The study has been involved in documentary analysis. Documents have been collected from various research journal-articles, books, and various websites related to Hooghly district. In this article analytical approach was employed for data analysis and interpretation.

4. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has been delimited to find out the overall state and status of higher education in Hooghly district.

5. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HOOGHLY DISTRICT

At present, there are around ninety (90) higher education institutions in Hooghly district. Twenty eight (28) general degrees colleges and one (1) University are there in this district, among them three (3) are government colleges and twenty four (24) are government aided and one (1) is private grant-in-aid minority college (Serampore College) and the University is Rani Rashmoni Green University, which is situated in Tarakeswar. Twelve (12) technical institutes, one (1) Medical college (Prafulla Chandra Sen Government Medical College and Hospital, Arambagh), are situated in this district. Among the technical institutes there are eight (8) engineering colleges, Four(4) polytechnic colleges. Four (4) pharmacy colleges are also situated in this district. There are a lots of teacher training colleges are performing to train our student-teachers in primary and secondary level by eminent teacher educators among them twenty four (24) B.Ed. colleges and six (6) D.Ed. colleges. One (1) Law College (George School Law) and seventeen (17) nursing colleges are in this district among them six (6) are B.Sc. nursing colleges, ten (10) GNM and one (1) ANM nursing college. A total of seven (7) girl's higher education institutions are there in the district of Hooghly, among them four (4) are general degree colleges; one (1) B.Ed. (Institute of Education for Women, Chandannagar), one (1) government Physical Education College for women, Hooghly and one (1) polytechnic college (Women's Polytechnic College, Chandannagar).

Numbers of higher education institutions in the district of Hooghly, West Bengal are as follows:



Table: 3 Number of Higher Education Institutions in Hooghly District

Institutions	No. of Inst.	Govt. /Govt. Aided/Private			Inst. type		Affiliating University/Board	
		Govt.	Govt./State Aided	Private	Co-Ed.	Girls	BU	CU
General Degree College	27	03	24	00	23	04	20	07
	01	Private Grant-in-Aid Minority College			01	0	0	01
University	01	0	State Aided	0	01	0	UGC	
Physical Education College	01	01	0	0	0	01	BU	
Medical College	01	01	0	0	01	0	WBUHS	
Engineering College	08	01	0	07	08	0	MAKAUT	
Polytechnic College	04	03	0	01	03	01	WBSCTE	
Pharmacy College	04	0	0	04	04	0	MAKAUT	
Law College	01	0	0	01	01	0	CU	
B.Ed. College	24	02	04 (public-private)	18	23	01	BSAEU	
D.Ed. College	06	01	02 (public-private)	03	06	0	WBBPE	
Nursing College	17	02	0	15	-		WBNC	
Total:	95	14	32	49	71	07	-	

Source: Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.

*CU: Calcutta University, *BU: Burdwan University, *RRGU: Rani Rashmoni Green University, *WBUHS: West Bengal University of Health Sciences *MAKAUT: MaulanaAbulKalam Azad University of Technology,*WBSCTE: West Bengal State Council of Technical Education, * BSAEU: Baba SahebAmbedkar EducationUniversity, *West Bengal Board of Primary Education,*WBNC: West Bengal Nursing Council.

6. BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITY(S) IN HOOGHLY DISTRICT

Hooghly district has twenty eight (28) general degree colleges and one (1) University spread across the four Sub-Divisions. Most of the colleges conduct UG courses in various subjects, among them six (6) colleges conduct UG courses along with PG courses. The Only University in this district i.e. Rani Rashmoni Green University which was established in 2020 offers PG courses in six (6) subjects. A brief description of twenty eight (28) general degree colleges and the University is given below:



Table: 4 Descriptions of general degree Colleges and the University(s) in Hooghly district.

Sl. No	Name of the Inst.	Year of Estd.	Affiliation board/Univ	Inst. type	Location	Course offered (Hons./ Departments)
1.	Rani Rashmoni Green University	2020	UGC	State Aided, Co-Ed.	Tarakeswar Chandannagar Sub-Division	PG Courses M.A in Bengali, English. M.Sc. in Environmental Sc., Chemistry, Comp. Sc., Nutrition & Public Health.
2.	AKPC Mahavidyalaya,	1959	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Bengai Arambagh Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Sc., Nutrition. Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Physical Education, Economics, Mass Communication & Journalism, Sociology, Santali, Music, Accountancy.
3.	Arambagh Girls' College	1995	BU	Govt. Aided, Girls College	Arambagh Arambagh Sub-Division	Arts Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology, Education.
4.	Balagarh Bijoy Krishna Mahavidyalaya	1985	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Jirat Chinsurah Sub-Division	Science Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science (Only General Stream) Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Commerce.
5.	Bejoy Narayan Mahavidyalaya	1950	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Itachuna Chinsurah Sub-Division	Science Botany, Zoology, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Nutrition, Economics, Statistics. Arts Bengali, English, History, Sanskrit, Political Science, Philosophy, Santhali.
6.	Bidhan Chandra College	1957	CU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Rishra Serampore Sub-Division	Science Electronics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, Economics, Geography. Arts Bengali, English, History, Sanskrit, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Hindi. Commerce Accounting & Finance
7.	Chandernagore Government College	1862	BU	Govt., Co-Ed.	Chandannagar Chandannagar Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science, Economics. Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, French, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy,



						Education, Sociology, Commerce (Accountancy). PG Courses (2 years) M.A in Bengali, Geography, French.
8.	Hooghly Mohsin College	1836	BU	Govt., Co-Ed.	Chinsurah Chinsurah Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, Geology, Economics. Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, History, Political Science, Philosophy, Commerce(Accountancy), Economics. PG Courses (2 years) M.Sc. in Botany, Zoology, Geology, Physiology, M.A in English, Pol. Sc., Urdu. M.Com. Law Section
9.	Hooghly Women's College	1949	BU	Govt. Aided, Women's College	Pipulpati, Hooghly Chinsurah Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany (General course) Economics, Microbiology, Nutrition, Geography. Arts Bengali, English, History, Sanskrit, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Music, Geography.
10.	KabiSukantaMahavidyalaya	1986	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Bhadreswar Chandannagar Sub-Division	Arts Bengali, English, Mathematics, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Journalism & Mass Communication, Political Science, Economics, Education, Sociology, Philosophy, Urdu. Commerce Accountancy
11.	KabikankanMukundaramMahavidyalaya	2007	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Keshabpur Arambagh Sub-Division	Arts Bengali, English, History, Geography, Sanskrit, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Physical Education, Environmental Studies.
12.	KhalisaniMahavidyalaya	1970	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Khalisani Chandannagar Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology. Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Economics, Education, Commerce
13.	MahitoshNandyMahavidyalaya	2007	CU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Jangipara Srirampore Sub-Division	Arts Arabic, Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Education, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy.



14	NabagramHiralal Paul College	1957	CU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Konnagar Srirampore Sub-Division	<p>Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Economics.</p> <p>Arts & Humanities Bengali, English, Psychology, Sanskrit, History, Pol. Sc., Philosophy, Hindi, Sociology, Education.</p> <p>Commerce Accountancy</p> <p>B. Voc. Retail Management, Hospitality & Tourism.</p> <p><u>PG Courses (2 years)</u> M.A in Bengali</p>
15.	NetajiMahavidyalaya	1948	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Kalipur, Arambagh Arambagh Sub-Division	<p>Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science & Application, Botany, Zoology, Plant Protection, Environmental Science, and Economics.</p> <p>Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, Santali, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Music, Physical Education, Education, Commerce, and Business Administration.</p> <p><u>PG Courses (2 years)</u> M.A in Bengali.</p>
16.	PolbaMahavidyalaya	2005	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Polba Chinsurah Sub-Division	<p>Arts Bengali, English, History, Sanskrit, Philosophy, Political Science, Education, Geography, Economic (General)</p> <p>Science Geography (Hons.), B.Sc (Gen) - Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Zoology, Botany.</p>
17.	RabindraMahavidyalaya	1971	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Champadanga Chandannagar Sub-Division	<p>Science Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Statistics, Mathematics, Geography, Economics.</p> <p>Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Economics, Physical Education, Defence Studies and Commerce.</p>
18.	Raja Peary Mohan College	1887	CU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Uttarpara Srirampore Sub-Division	<p>Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science & Application, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, and Economics.</p> <p>Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, and Commerce.</p>
19.	Raja Rammohan Roy Mahavidyalaya	1964	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Radhanagar Arambagh Sub-Division	<p>Science Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Botany, Zoology.</p> <p>Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Education, Sanskrit, History, Pol. Sc., Philosophy, Geography, Economics, Physical Education.</p> <p><u>PG Courses (2 years)</u> M.A in Bengali</p>



20.	Sarat Centenary College	1978	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Dhaniakhal i Chinsurah Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology. Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Commerce (Accountancy Honours), Santhali(General), Education (General), Physical Education (General).
21.	Serampore College	1818	Senate of Serampore College (University) & CU Religious affiliation: Baptist	Private Grant-in-Aid Minority Co-Ed. College	Srirampore Srirampore Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, and Economics. Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Communicative English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, and Commerce (Finance & Accounting). PG Courses (2 years) M.Sc. in Zoology, Botany, Physiology. 1. Diploma Courses: Journalism & Mass Communication, Social Work (DSW), Youth Development, English for Effective Communication, Applied Sociology. Certificate Course in: Medicinal Plants: Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Approaches.
22.	Serampore Girls' College	1981	CU	Govt. Aided, Girls College.	Srirampore Srirampore Sub-Division	Science Computer Science, Physics, Electronics, Mathematics, Geography, Economics, Botany, Chemistry, Zoology. Arts Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political science, Philosophy, Education, Urdu, Hindi, Sociology, Physical Education, Music.
23.	Government General Degree College, Singur.	2013	BU	Govt., Co-Ed.	Singur Chandannagar Sub-Division	Science Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Anthropology, Botany, Zoology. Arts Bengali, English, History, Philosophy, Sanskrit, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Santhali.
24.	Sreegopal Banerjee College	1958	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Bagati, Mogra Chinsurah Sub-Division	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Plant Protection. Arts & Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Political Science, Philosophy, Economics, Physical Education, Accountancy, Business Studies.
25.	Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidyamahapith	1959	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed	Kamarpukur Arambagh	Science Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science & Application, Nutrition, and Economics.



					Sub-Division	Arts Bengali, English, Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Physical Education, and Education.
26.	Swami Niswambalananda Girls' College	1978	CU	Govt. Aided, Girls College.	Bhadrakali, Uttarpara Srirampore Sub-Division	Science Economics, Geography, Mathematics. Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, Education, Sanskrit, History, Hindi, Political Science, Philosophy, Commerce.
27.	Tarakeswar Degree College	1986	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Tarakeswar Chandannagar Sub-Division	Science Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology. Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, History, Sanskrit, Geography, Philosophy, Political Science, Music, Sociology, Education, Physical Education, Business Administration, Accountancy, Economics, Auditing.
28.	VidyasagarMahavidyalaya	1998	CU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Masat Srirampore Sub-Division	Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, History, Political Science, Education, Sanskrit, Commerce.
29.	Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya	1966	BU	Govt. Aided, Co-Ed.	Haripal Chandannagar Sub-Division	Science Mathematics, Physics & Electronics, Computer Science, Nutrition, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology. Arts and Commerce Bengali, English, Sanskrit, Santali, History, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Commerce. BCA

Source: Websites of specific Institutions.

From the above description it is clear that the twenty eight (28) general degree colleges and one (1) university is located in the district of Hooghly, among them twenty (20) colleges are affiliated by the University of Burdwan and eight (8) colleges are affiliated by the University of Calcutta. There are six (6) colleges in Arambagh Sub-Division, seven (7) colleges are located in Chinsurah Sub-Division, seven (7) colleges along with one (1) University are in Chandannagar Sub-Division, and eight (8) colleges are located in Serampore Sub-Division. In this district, there are four (4) general degree girls's colleges, among them Arambagh sub-Division has one (1) girl's college, Chinsurah Sub-Division has one (1) girl's college and Serampore Sub-Division has two (2) girl's Colleges and no girls college is found in Chandannagar Sub-Division, but a women's B.Ed. college is found in Chandannagar Sub-Division. The historic and third oldest college (Serampore College, Estd.:1818) in India after CMS College and Presidency College is located in this district. Government Centre of Legal Education was founded on 29th November, 2021 at Hooghly Mohsin's College Campus. The only Government Law College in West Bengal was erstwhile known as Law Section, Hooghly Mohsin College. The College is till date situated in the campus of the famous Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsurah, Hooghly.

7. CONCLUSION

Disparity in higher education is observed among different Sub-Divisions of Hooghly district. General degree colleges are now under-enrolled; the number of students is starting to decrease in general degree colleges after the Covid-19 Pandemic in Hooghly district. Arambagh Sub-Division is ahead of the Serampore and Chandannagar Sub-Division in terms of area and population but it is relatively behind in terms of number of higher education institutions. There is variation among various colleges in terms of offered courses. Very few colleges conduct PG courses on few subjects. There are around fifty (50) universities in West Bengal, but only one (1) university is located in Hooghly District. The entire country is being transformed into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy; education will be a crucial part to this shift, technology itself will be crucial to improving educational outcomes procedures and results. It needs to be emphasized that this sector is plagued by various problems – viz. quality and number of teachers, infrastructure etc. While increasing private sector participation in higher education promotes educational opportunities, it



has been the same time concern for the quality of higher education sector and raises question about equity. West Bengal should try to develop its own form of integration between higher education sectors and business world.

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