

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54404

Date: 18/10/2025

Title: *Regional Disparities, Demographic Trends, and Educational Backwardness among Muslims in West Bengal: A Critical Analysis*

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

✓Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: **Dr. Anam Zehra**

Date: 18/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This paper presents a comprehensive socio-demographic and educational analysis of Muslims in West Bengal using Census data (2001–2011), the Sachar Committee Report (2006), and field-based evidence. It offers an in-depth critique of educational inequality, gender disparity, and regional backwardness through a mixed-method framework. The work demonstrates academic rigor and policy relevance, though it requires minor refinement in statistical presentation and citation formatting.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS

1. Adopts a robust mixed-methods design integrating quantitative (Census) and qualitative (FGD/interviews) data.
2. Provides strong spatial and demographic analysis highlighting Muslim-concentration districts (Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur).
3. Engages meaningfully with the Sachar Committee (2006) findings and subsequent policy responses.
4. Incorporates intersectional analysis, gender, class, and geography, using recent research (Dasgupta, 2021; Chakraborty & Mukherjee, 2019).
5. Offers actionable recommendations for infrastructure, bilingual education, and girls' empowerment.

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WEAKNESSES

1. The paper is lengthy and may benefit from condensing some descriptive historical data.
2. Graphs and figures need consistent labeling and APA 7 style captions.
3. Discussion section should include comparative references to Muslim education in other Indian states (e.g., Kerala, UP).
4. References should standardize hyperlinks and DOI formatting.
5. Conclusion could emphasize implications for future longitudinal research.