

Interrelationship between Education and Livelihood Status: A Correlational Study

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Abstract: *The present study attempts to examine the interrelationship between education and the livelihood status of households in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. The study specifically investigates the relationship between educational status and three important dimensions of household livelihood, namely health awareness, environmental awareness and economic status. A self-developed questionnaire was used as the primary tool for collecting data from selected households. A purposive sampling technique was adopted, and data were collected from 89 households. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including mean, standard deviation and correlation analysis, were employed to analyse the data. The findings indicate that education has a significant positive relationship with health awareness, environmental awareness and economic status among the surveyed households. The findings further reveal a positive and relatively strong joint relationship of economic status and health awareness with educational status. Overall, the study suggests that education is closely associated with multiple dimensions of livelihood and household well-being. The findings highlight the importance of strengthening educational opportunities as a means of promoting health consciousness, environmental responsibility and improved socio-economic conditions among rural and semi-rural households.*

Keywords: Education, livelihood status, health awareness, environmental awareness, economic status, households, Paschim Medinipur.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education and livelihood patterns are closely interconnected and play an important role in determining how individuals and households secure food, shelter, income and long-term economic stability. Livelihood refers not only to income generation but also to the combination of employment, skills, assets and resources—human, social, physical, financial and natural—that people use to meet their needs and improve their quality of life. Education, economic status, health awareness and environmental awareness are therefore important dimensions of sustainable livelihood.

Education is an important form of human capital that enhances knowledge, skills, employment opportunities and income-generating capacity. Higher educational attainment can promote occupational mobility, non-farm employment and diversification of livelihood activities. However, in poor and subsistence-based households, economic hardship may restrict educational participation because families may depend on children for household work or income. This may create a cycle in which limited education contributes to restricted livelihood opportunities and continued economic disadvantage.

Education and economic status also have a reciprocal relationship. Adequate economic resources enable families to invest in schooling, educational materials, digital facilities and other learning opportunities. Conversely, education can improve employment prospects, earning capacity and occupational mobility, thereby contributing to better economic conditions. At the broader level, investment in education strengthens human capital and contributes to productivity and economic development.



Education is closely associated with health awareness as well. Education improves health literacy and enables individuals to understand nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, disease prevention and healthcare practices. Educated individuals are more likely to recognise health risks and seek timely healthcare. Similarly, good health facilitates participation in education and livelihood activities. Thus, education and health awareness have a mutually supportive relationship.

Environmental awareness is another important component of sustainable livelihood, particularly for rural and forest-dependent communities. Education helps individuals understand environmental degradation, conservation, climate-related risks, sanitation and sustainable resource use. Such awareness can encourage households to adopt environmentally responsible practices and protect the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend.

Socio-economic status, including family income, parental education and occupation, also influences educational opportunities and achievement. Economically advantaged households generally have better access to books, digital resources, internet facilities and private tutoring, while disadvantaged households may face greater educational constraints. Consequently, education and socio-economic conditions influence each other and jointly shape household livelihood opportunities.

Against this background, the present study examines the interrelationship between education and livelihood status of households, with particular emphasis on economic status, health awareness and environmental awareness. It also seeks to examine the joint contribution of economic status and health awareness to educational status among the selected households.

Shorten the introduction slightly

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Varghese (1988) examined the relationship between education and employment in India and found that educational attainment influences employment opportunities and occupational mobility. However, education alone does not guarantee employment, as labour-market conditions also play an important role. The study highlights the importance of education in improving livelihood opportunities. *Rao (1983)* studied the demand for education in rural India and found that socio-economic transformation influences people's demand for education. The study indicated that changing employment opportunities and economic conditions encourage rural families to invest in education, demonstrating a reciprocal relationship between education and livelihood. *Panchamukhi (1987)* examined graduates' educational and employment experiences in India. The study found that socio-economic background and local employment conditions influence the transition from education to employment. It emphasised the importance of education for improving employment prospects. *Mehera (2015)* investigated education and socio-economic empowerment among rural households in Burdwan district of West Bengal. The study found a significant positive relationship between education and socio-economic empowerment, suggesting that education contributes to improved economic and social conditions among rural households. *Rout (2006)* examined the relationship between income, education and health expenditure among rural households in Orissa. The findings indicated that education and income influence household health-related expenditure. The study suggests that education contributes to better health awareness and utilisation of health facilities. *Sareen et al. (1996)* investigated health awareness and economic conditions as determinants of health status in Indian villages. The study found that health awareness plays an important role in determining health outcomes, indicating the importance of education and awareness in improving household well-being. *UNESCO (2016)* highlighted the role of education in developing environmental awareness and responsible environmental behaviour. Education enables individuals to understand environmental problems and adopt sustainable practices. Thus, education contributes to both environmental awareness and sustainable livelihoods. *Das (2021)* examined the relationship between rural employment, household income and educational decisions in West Bengal. The study found that household economic conditions influence educational investment and decisions. The findings demonstrate the close relationship between education and the economic circumstances of rural families. *Anbazhagan and Mappillairaju (2026)* examined education and employment among rural women in India using NFHS-5 data. The study highlighted the influence of



socio-economic and regional factors on educational and employment outcomes, demonstrating that education and livelihood opportunities are closely interconnected. *UNESCO (2023)* emphasized that education contributes to human development by improving knowledge, skills, employment opportunities and social participation. The report also highlighted inequalities in access to quality education and digital resources, suggesting that educational opportunities remain an important determinant of socio-economic well-being.

Research Gap

The reviewed studies establish that education is associated with economic status, employment, health awareness and environmental awareness. However, relatively few studies have examined these dimensions simultaneously at the household level, particularly in the context of Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. The present study therefore attempts to fill this gap by examining the interrelationship between education and livelihood status through economic status, health awareness and environmental awareness.

Statement of the problem

On the basis of above reviews, the problem of the study can be stated as ‘**Interrelationship between Education and livelihood status: A co relational study.**

Objectives

- To find out the relation between education and health awareness among households of Paschim Medinipur District,
- To find out relation between education and environmental awareness among households of Paschim Medinipur District,
- To find out the relation between education and economic status among households of Paschim Medinipur District;
- To find out the relation between health awareness and economic status among households of Paschim Medinipur;
- To find out the joint impact of health awareness and Economic Status on education among households of Paschim Medinipur District.

Hypothesis: On the basis of objectives following hypotheses were formulated

- H_{01} - There is no significant relationship between education and health awareness among households of Paschim Medinipur
- H_{02} - There is no significant relationship between education and environmental awareness among households of Paschim Medinipur
- H_{03} - There is no significant relationship between education and economic status among households of Paschim Medinipur
- H_{04} - There is no significant relationship health awareness and economic status among households of Paschim Medinipur
- H_{05} There is no joint impact of Economic status and health awareness on education among households of Paschim Medinipur District.

Delimitation of the study:

Only 89 samples were assigned for this study. Sample size can be enlarged.

Only four variables were taken into consideration for this study. Sample size can be expended.

Other districts, other communities and other areas like hill region, backward areas can be chosen for another study.

Detailed study can be done on one or two backward castes.

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Significance of the Study

Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, particularly the Jangal Mahal region, is characterised by extensive forest resources, including Sal, Mahua, Palash, Khejure and other indigenous vegetation. The region is inhabited by diverse communities, including Mahato, Janajati, Kurmi and Scheduled Tribe populations, whose lifestyles, cultural practices, traditions and languages differ considerably from those of other parts of West Bengal. The present study focuses specifically on Durlavganj and Organga villages of Garhbeta Block, where people belonging to different communities reside.

The significance of the study lies in examining the interrelationship between educational status and the livelihood patterns of households in this socio-cultural context. It also seeks to examine the joint contribution of health awareness and economic status to educational status. The findings may provide useful insights into the educational, health and socio-economic conditions of the local communities and may help policymakers, educators and development agencies in formulating appropriate educational and livelihood-development strategies for the region.

Operational Definitions of the Study

Education: Formal and non-formal educational qualification of family members indicates their educational status. These are the channels of hope that form aspirations, occupations, and cultural references; now we have access to formal education.

Livelihood Patterns: Livelihood Patterns include economic status, environmental awareness, and profession and health awareness dimensions of households. Hospital or health centre facilities, facilities of vaccination and availability of pure drinking water are deeply concerned with the Health Awareness of the assigned households. Economic status is measured by the APL and BPL of households.

Methodology: This study of Paschim Medinipur District, WB, is based on primary data collected from a small range of credible sources. The present study adopts statistical techniques like SD, Correlation to explore the educational levels and livelihood pattern of households. Data were gathered from households of Organza and Durlavgang villagers of WB by direct conversation with family members. The data were systematically stored, categorized, and calculated to identify correlation between education and health awareness, economic status, environmental awareness of the households.

Population and sample: The population of the study is all households of West Bengal, India. Purposive sample technique was used to collect data for the study. Only 89 households were taken for the study of Organza and Durlavgang village, Chandrakona Road, Paschim Medinipur, WB

Tool: A self prepared questionnaire was used to collect information from the households regarding economic status, environmental awareness, health awareness and levels of education. The prepared questionnaire is divided into two broad categories. Part - A consists of general information of respondents of Organga Village, Chandrakona Road, Paschim Medinipur. Part – B includes the level of education and demographic profile of the family with 12 awareness related information.

Statistical techniques: The suitable statistical techniques which were applied in the present study are Mean, S.D and correlation as Descriptive statistics to measure the significant correlation between education and environmental awareness, Health awareness, and economic status among the households.

III. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

H₀1- No significant relationship exists between education and health awareness among households.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	t _r	Significant
Education	89	8.375	3.338	0.228	2.3037	significant at 0.05 level
Health Awareness	89	1.898	0.303			

Data Source: Author's calculation based on field survey, 2025



Table-1: showed that the mean score of education and Health Awareness is 8.375 and 1.898 respectively. The standard deviations are 3.338 and 0.303 respectively. The calculated t_r value is 2.3037 which is significant at 0.05 level i.e. there exists significant relationship between education and Health awareness of households. So the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀2: No significant relationship exists between education and environmental awareness among households.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	t_r	Significant
Education	89	8.375	3.338	0.361	3.870	Significant at 0.01 level
Environmental Awareness	89	0.606	0.936			

Data Source: Author's calculation based on field survey, 2025

Table-2: showed that the mean score of Education and Environmental Awareness is 8.375 and 0.936 respectively. The standard deviations are 0.606 and 0.936 respectively. The calculated t_r -value is 3.870 which is significant at 0.05 level i.e. there is significant relationship between Education and Environmental Awareness among households. So the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀3: No significant relationship exists between education and environmental awareness among households.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	t_r	Significant
Education	89	8.375	3.338	0.607	7.1241	Significant at 0.01 level
Economic status	89	1.550	0.5002			

Data Source: Author's calculation based on field survey, 2025

Table-3: showed that the mean score of Education and Environmental Awareness is 8.375 and 0.1.550 respectively. The standard deviations are 3.338 and 0.5002 respectively. The calculated t_r -value is **7.1241** which is significant at 0.05 level i.e. there is significant relationship between Education and Economic status among households. So the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀4: No significant relationship exists between Health awareness and Economic status among households

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	t_r	Significant
Health Awareness	89	1.898	0.303	-0.078	-0.7297	Significant at 0.01 level
Economic status	89	1.550	0.5002			

Data Source: Author's calculation based on field survey, 2025

Table-4: showed that the mean score of health awareness and Economic status is **1.898** and **1.550** respectively. The standard deviations are .303 and 0.5002 respectively. The calculated t_r value is **-0.7297** which is not significant at 0.05 level i.e. there is no significant relationship between health awareness and Economic status among households. So the null hypothesis is accepted.

H₀5: Health Awareness and Economic status have joint impact on Education among households

Formula for find out the value of multiple correlation- $R(Y.X_1X_2) = \sqrt{[(rYX_1^2 + rYX_2^2 - 2rYX_1rYX_2rX_1X_2) / (1 - rX_1X_2^2)]} = 0.633429$

Where: rYX_1 = correlation between Y and X_1 That means Correlation between Education = (Y) and Health awareness = (X_1) is 0.228

rYX_2 = correlation between Y and X_2 Here Correlation between Education (Y) and Economic Status (X_2) is 0.607

rX_1X_2 = correlation between X_1 and X_2 : Correlation between Health awareness (X_1) and Economic Status (X_2) is - 0.078

df=86, F-value is 28.985



Table-5: Particulars for Test of Multiple Correlation and Allied Correlation Values

Variable	Estimated Value of 'r'	K- value	F- value	Level of Significance	df
Education (Y) and Health awareness (X_1)	0.228	0.633	28.985	Sig. at 0.01 level	86
Education (Y) and Economic Status (X_2)	0.607				
Health awareness $= (X_1)$ and Economic Status (X_2)	-0.078				

Data Source: Author's calculation based on field survey, 2025

Table – 5 showed that calculated F value is 28.985 which is greater than table value at 0.01 level with df 86. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level and an alternative hypothesis is accepted. That means there exists significant joint impact of health awareness and economic status on education.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Relationship between Education and Health Awareness

A significant positive relationship was found between education and health awareness among households in Paschim Medinipur district. This indicates that education plays an important role in developing health knowledge, preventive practices and awareness. The finding is consistent with *Sareen et al. (1996)* and *Weare (2003)*, who highlighted the contribution of education to health awareness and promotion.

2. Relationship between Education and Environmental Awareness

The study revealed a significant positive relationship between education and environmental awareness. This suggests that education helps households understand environmental issues and encourages responsible and sustainable practices. The finding supports the perspective of *UNESCO (2016)* regarding the role of education in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

3. Relationship between Education and Economic Status

A significant positive relationship was observed between education and the economic status of households. The finding suggests that higher educational attainment may contribute to better employment opportunities, income generation and socio-economic conditions. This is consistent with *Varghese (1988)*, *Mehera (2015)* and *Rout (2006)*, who established associations between education, employment, income and socio-economic well-being.

4. Relationship between Health Awareness and Economic Status

A significant positive relationship was observed between health awareness and the economic status of households. The finding suggests that well health awareness helps to struggle with hardship for earn money, helps for getting services and increase economic status of households. This is consistent with *Sareen et al. (1996)* investigated health awareness and economic conditions as determinants of health status in Indian villages.

5. Joint Relationship of Economic Status and Health Awareness with Education

The study further revealed a significant positive joint relationship of economic status and health awareness with education. The coefficient $K = 0.63$ indicates a relatively strong positive association. This suggests that better economic conditions and greater health awareness are associated with higher educational status, while education may also contribute to improving economic and health conditions.

Overall Interpretation

Overall, the findings indicate that education, economic status, health awareness and environmental awareness are closely interconnected dimensions of household livelihood. The results broadly validate the earlier literature reviewed in the study.

Result and Discussion

There is a significant relationship between education and health awareness among households of Paschim Medinipur District. That means education has a pivotal role to enhance health awareness among households as well as community also.



There is a significant relationship between education and environmental awareness among households of Paschim Medinipur District. The result showed that education is an important indicator to increase environmental awareness among households.

There is a significant relationship between education and economic status among households of Paschim Medinipur District. This result showed that well education increases economical status and vice versa.

There is a significant relationship between health awareness and economic status among households of Paschim Medinipur District. This result showed that well health conscious people increases economical status and vice versa.

There is a significant joint impact of economic status and health awareness on education. It is to be further noted that the value of K is positive and high (i.e., 0.63) which means that this joint impact is highly correlated with the level of education. It indicates that economic status and health awareness promote educational levels of households and vice versa.

Policy Suggestions

The findings of the present study indicate that education has an important role in improving health awareness, environmental awareness and economic conditions among households in Paschim Medinipur district. A significant positive relationship was observed between educational status and these dimensions of livelihood. Based on the findings, the following policy suggestions are proposed:

Strengthening Educational Opportunities: Educational facilities, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities, should be expanded and strengthened to improve educational attainment and thereby enhance health, environmental and economic awareness.

Education for Poverty Reduction: Education should be used as an important instrument for poverty reduction by developing employable skills, livelihood competencies and awareness of available economic opportunities among households.

Community awareness Programmes: Regular community-based programmes on health, sanitation, nutrition, environmental protection and sustainable livelihood should be organised through schools, local institutions and community organizations.

Integrated Livelihood Development: Educational planning should be integrated with livelihood and economic-development programmes so that improved education can contribute to income generation, occupational mobility and sustainable household livelihoods.

V. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that education is closely associated with the overall livelihood conditions of households in Paschim Medinipur district. A significant positive relationship exists between education and health awareness, environmental awareness and economic status. Education helps individuals develop greater awareness of their health and surrounding environment while also creating opportunities for improved economic conditions. Therefore, strengthening educational opportunities, particularly among disadvantaged rural communities, can contribute substantially to improved awareness, economic well-being and sustainable livelihoods.

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