

# Examining the Household Quality of Life in West Bengal, India, With an Emphasis on Scheduled Caste Individuals

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## Abstract

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*This article causes to notice a far and wide issue in country West Bengal, India: a uniqueness in the degree of monetary development between regions. Differences between non-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Clans (non-SCs/STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Clans (STs) have additionally been investigated. The HQLI estimates the quality of lodging, local area conveniences, and outside space for individual households. This study involves information from the 2011 Enumeration with an end goal to dive deeper into HQLI local variety across West Bengal's legal regions. The crucial target of this study is to reveal insight into why the by and large and scheduled caste populaces of West Bengal are so different as far as space and household level of residing. Seventeen painstakingly picked factors are utilized to make three separate records, from which a composite file and Z-score are determined for use in deciding HQLI.*

**Keywords:** Household Quality, Life, West Bengal, India, Emphasis, Scheduled Caste, Individuals

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## 1. Introduction

West Bengal, a state in eastern India, is notable for its enhanced individuals, flourishing traditions, and broad history of creative articulation. Scheduled Castes (SCs), normally known as Dalits, make up a sizable piece of this multiethnic culture. These gatherings have forever been outwardly, confronting bias and segregation from standard society. To more readily get it and address the social and financial issues experienced by these networks, it is vital for take a gander at the quality of life in West Bengal's households, with an emphasis on people from Scheduled Castes.

Household quality of life envelops many variables, including monetary security, admittance to great schools and clinical consideration, the wellbeing of one's area, and the straightforwardness with which one can take part in local area exercises. By looking at these variables corresponding to Scheduled Caste people group, we might check the degree of the current holes and focus in on the areas that need centered mediations to increase their expectation of living.

The Matua, Namasudra, Rajbanshi, Pasi, and Bauri are just a portion of the subgroups that make up West Bengal's Scheduled Castes. Established securities and governmental policy regarding minorities in society guidelines have been executed to help these networks, however they actually face numerous obstructions that keep them from progressing financially and socially. Their ability to break the pattern of destitution and work on their quality of life has been hampered by snags like an absence of instructive choices, business obstructions, medical services assets, and separation.

The motivation behind this exploration is to examine the boundaries of household quality of life for West Bengal's Scheduled Caste populace. By ordering and examining data from reviews, official reports, and scholastic exploration, we desire to illustrate the social and financial conditions, variations, and holes here. Furthermore, the discoveries of this study feature the meaning of executing explicit arrangements, projects, and mediations to work on the existences of individuals from Scheduled Castes in West Bengal and assurance their full and equivalent support in the state's social, monetary, and political life.

This examination looks to address the imbalances experienced by the Scheduled Caste populace in West Bengal by breaking down the quality of life at home from different points to all the more likely comprehend the remarkable obstructions this populace faces. Thusly, it plans to include to the state's discussion civil rights, equality, and comprehensive turn of events, and at last add to the foundation of conditions in which all individuals, no matter what their financial status, can flourish.

Following this presentation, we will dig into a few parts of household quality of life, zeroing in on the special encounters and difficulties looked by Scheduled Caste individuals in West Bengal, including pay and vocation potential open doors, admittance to training and medical services, lodging conditions, and social consideration.

### **1.1. Objectives of the study**

This study has two objectives, i.e.

- The study aims to find out spatial pattern of inter district household quality of living in West Bengal.
- This study aims to do comparative assessment of household quality of living between Overall and Schedule Caste population in West Bengal.

## **2. Literature Review**

The quality of life for Scheduled Castes in provincial West Bengal was the focal point of an exact concentrate by Datta and Ghosh (2019). The reason for the examination was to assess how pay, training, medical care, lodging, and social commitment all added to by and large quality of life. Measurable strategies were utilized to break down the overview results assembled by the specialists. The outcomes uncovered immense contrasts in Scheduled Caste country households' admittance to an open door and framework. These towns defy critical challenges because of an absence of financial conceivable outcomes, low quality instructive establishments, and insufficient medical care. The examination featured the significance of explicit drives to better the existences of Scheduled Castes in rustic West Bengal.

Bandyopadhyay and Roy (2020) analyzed the situation with Scheduled Caste ladies in West Bengal's households. Specialists took a gander at Scheduled Caste ladies' life according to

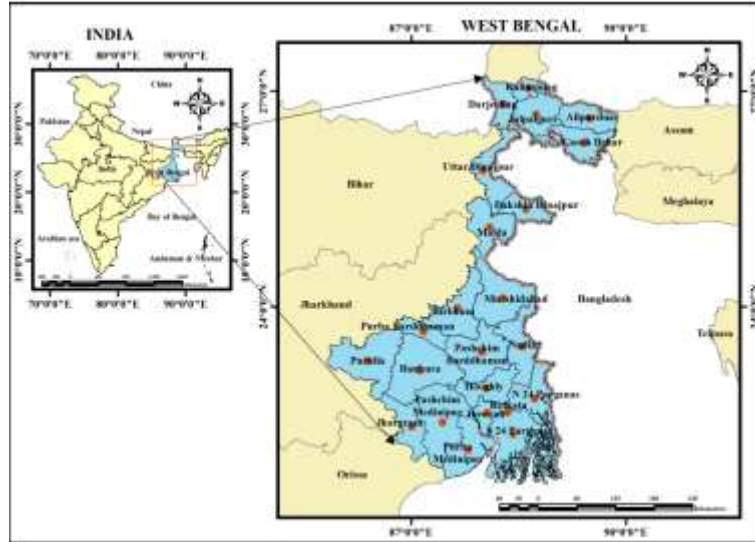
various viewpoints, utilizing both quantitative and subjective procedures. The consequences of the study showed that ladies from the Scheduled Castes experienced many types of segregation and social rejection that restricted their chances in life. The outcomes featured the requirement for orientation delicate approaches and drives to better the existences of Scheduled Caste ladies in West Bengal by tending to their particular difficulties.

Utilizing a contextual analysis of Scheduled Caste households in West Bengal, Das (2021) broke down the elements that add to their prosperity. Specialists utilized various methods, including surveys, interviews, and on-the-ground perceptions, to incorporate their discoveries. The outcomes showed that individuals from Scheduled Caste foundations stand up to numerous obstructions, like low pay, lacking schooling, lodging, and social segregation. The examination accentuated the relationship of these variables and supported for comprehensive answers for work on the way of life of Scheduled Caste families in West Bengal.

In 2018, specialists Chatterjee and Dey analyzed the advancement and prosperity of Scheduled Caste households in West Bengal. The specialists set off to realize what goes into compelling a decent life for individuals who distinguish as Scheduled Caste in the state. Scientists utilized various procedures, including surveys, meets, and direct perception, to aggregate their discoveries. Pay, training, admittance to medical services, and social commitment were completely observed to be critical determinants of quality of life in the review. The discoveries featured the requirement for comprehensive improvement approaches and explicit mediations to lift Scheduled Caste people group in West Bengal, where they go up against significant obstacles.

Mukherjee and Dutta's (2022) study looked to assess the components that influence the quality of life for Scheduled Caste families in West Bengal. The review utilized quantitative strategies, like studies and factual examination, to explore the associations among factors and the results estimated concerning quality of life. The outcomes showed that the quality of life experienced by Scheduled Caste individuals was profoundly impacted by attributes like instruction, cash, admittance to essential utilities, and social encouraging groups of people. The review inferred that working on the existences of West Bengal's Scheduled Caste populace could profit from strategy intercessions and local area based exercises pointed toward settling these issues.

### 3. Study Area



**Map 1 Location Map of the Study Area**

West Bengal is a state in eastern India that borders the Narrows of Bengal. With a populace of roughly 91 million, it positions as India's fourth most crowded state and its thirteenth biggest via land region. Its directions are  $21^{\circ}25'N$  and  $27^{\circ}13'N$ , with a longitude of  $85^{\circ}50'E$  and a scope of  $89^{\circ}50'E$ . It's the seventh-most crowded public region on the planet and it covers an area of 88,752 square kilometers. The Bengal district of India imparts lines to Bangladesh toward the east and Nepal and Bhutan toward the north. Odissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, and Assam are undeniably remembered for this as they are crossed en route. Kolkata, the state capital, is India's third-biggest city and the seventh-biggest city in the country. Darjeeling in the Himalayas, the Ganges delta, the Rarh locale, and the Sundar boycott coast are all important for West Bengal.

### 4. Data Source and Methodology

This exploration utilizes the lodging unit count and abiding table from the 2011 Statistics of India. Condition, accessibility of fundamental administrations, and resource possessions of households are completely tended to in the house posting and lodging table.

#### 4.1. Statistical Technique

The exploration essentially utilized three measurable techniques. The information for the Lodging Quality and Living Record was normalized utilizing the Aspect File, the three files were determined utilizing the Composite score, the information was classified utilizing the z score, and the last guide was made utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) programming.

#### 4.2. Dimension Index

The formula of range equalization method is the following:

$$X_{id} = \frac{OB_{val} - MIN_{val}}{MAX_{val} - MIN_{val}}$$

Where, X<sub>id</sub> is the range equalization method, OB<sub>val</sub> is the actual value, MIN<sub>val</sub> stands for minimum value, and MAX<sub>val</sub> represents the maximum value.

#### 4.3. Composite Score:

A composite record is a created metric that considers more than one bunch of models. A composite record is a comprehensive, multi-layered file that gathers various free factors into a solitary measurement. Considering the Quality Lodging Record (Hello), the Essential Conveniences File (BAI), and the Resource Record (simulated intelligence), this examination decides the Household Quality of Residing List (HQLI), a multi-layered idea.

$$QHI = \frac{(CS_{c1} * SD_{v1}) + (CS_{c2} * SD_{v2}) \dots CS_{nx} + SD_{nx}}{N}$$

$$BAI = \frac{(CS_{c1} * SD_{v1}) + (CS_{c2} * SD_{v2}) \dots CS_{nx} + SD_{nx}}{N}$$

$$AI = \frac{(CS_{c1} * SD_{v1}) + (CS_{c2} * SD_{v2}) \dots CS_{nx} + SD_{nx}}{N}$$

Part score coefficient (CSc1), normalized indicator value (SDv1), and the absolute number of factors (N) utilized in the computation of each list.

The household quality of living Index (HQLI) is calculated using the following equation:

$$HQLI = \frac{(\sum QHI + \sum BAI + \sum AI)}{N_{ind}}$$

To work on things, consider HQLI the mean of every individual record. Each file (QHI, BAI, artificial intelligence) and the all-out number of records (Nind) are meant here.

#### 4.4. Z-Score

The place of a crude score, communicated as various standard deviations from the mean, is known as a z-score. Assuming the value is more than the mean, the z-score will be more prominent than less one, as well as the other way around. It is likewise called a standard score since it standardizes the circulation of scores with the goal that they might be looked at across changed kinds of elements. A typical conveyance with a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 is known as a standard normal distribution (SND).

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

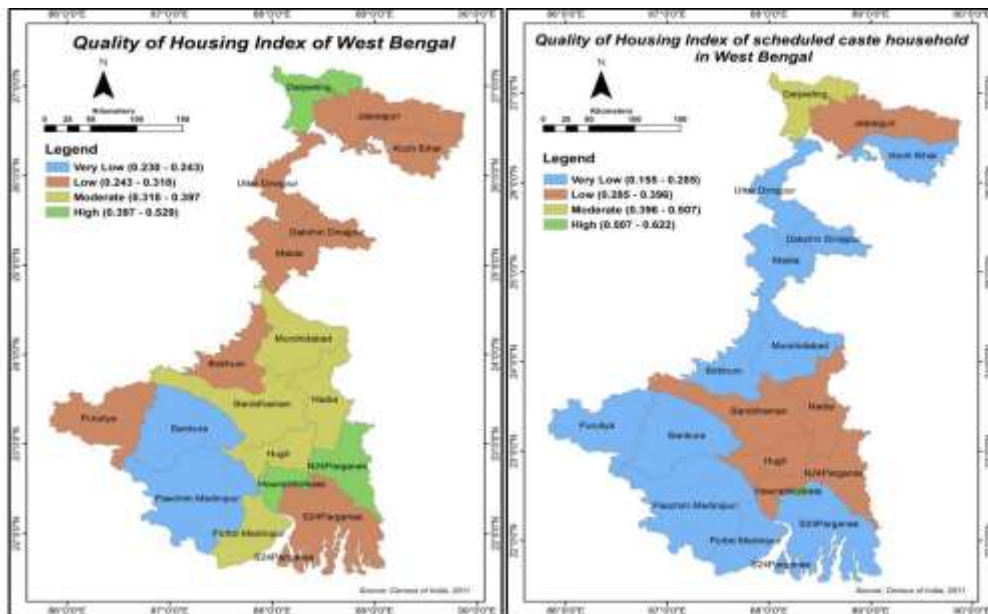
The formula for calculating a z-score is  $z = (x - \mu) / \sigma$ , where x is the raw score,  $\mu$  is the population mean, and  $\sigma$  is the population standard deviation.

## 5. Result and Discussion

### 5.1. Quality of Housing Index (QHI)

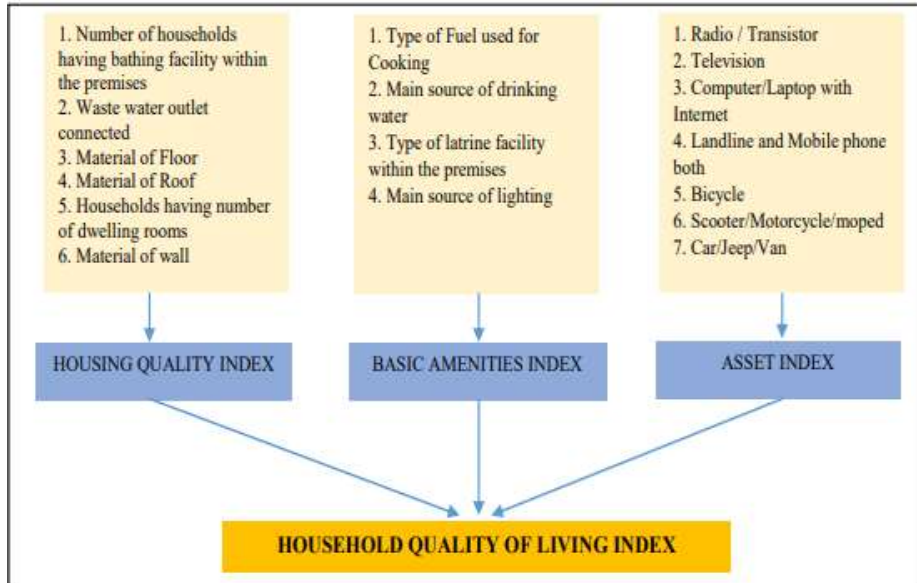
Quality of lodging can be depicted as the state of both the inside and outside of a residence. Lodging is vital for addressing the requirements and needs of current culture. A family's joy and feeling of prosperity are both attached to the norm of staying they live in. The way of life of a local area improves when its inhabitants approach better lodging. Quality of residing can be estimated dispassionately by taking a gander at a home's actual elements, conveniences, and neighborhood. As per a nations Bank research from 1993, a tremendous level individuals residing in the emerging nations has confined admittance to brilliant lodging because of the bad quality of houses in these countries. India's lodging deficiency and rising lodging requests were recognized as a top issue not long before the country's twelfth five-year plan was divulged. Quantitatively assessing and spreading the example of the lodging shortage would

be the most vital phase in facilitating the lodging emergency. Every town and villa in West Bengal's evaluation lodging table and home posting subtleties the level of households that approach lodging, essential conveniences, and resources. Figure 1 shows the six attributes or indicators used to assess the quality of lodging for both the by and large and Scheduled Caste populaces in West Bengal. The expected quality of lodging record in light of the typical file value of these 6 factors. The examination shows that there are huge varieties in the home quality file even inside the West Bengal region. Information and score values were utilized to characterize each region in the state into one of four gatherings, and two guides portraying the state's QHI values were drawn. Both the overall people and those having a place with the purported "scheduled castes" are addressed on discrete guides. The regions of Darjeeling, North 24 Pargana, Howrah, and Kolkata have a preferred household quality record over the remainder of the state all in all, however Kolkata is the main locale with a higher household quality file among its scheduled caste populace. Murshidabad, Bardhaman, Hugli, Nadia, and Purba Medinipur all have a moderate QHI, yet just Darjeeling accomplishes for the scheduled caste populace.



<p><b>Map 2 Quality of Housing Index for the Overall Households.</b></p>	<p><b>Map 3 Quality of Housing Index of SC Households.</b></p>
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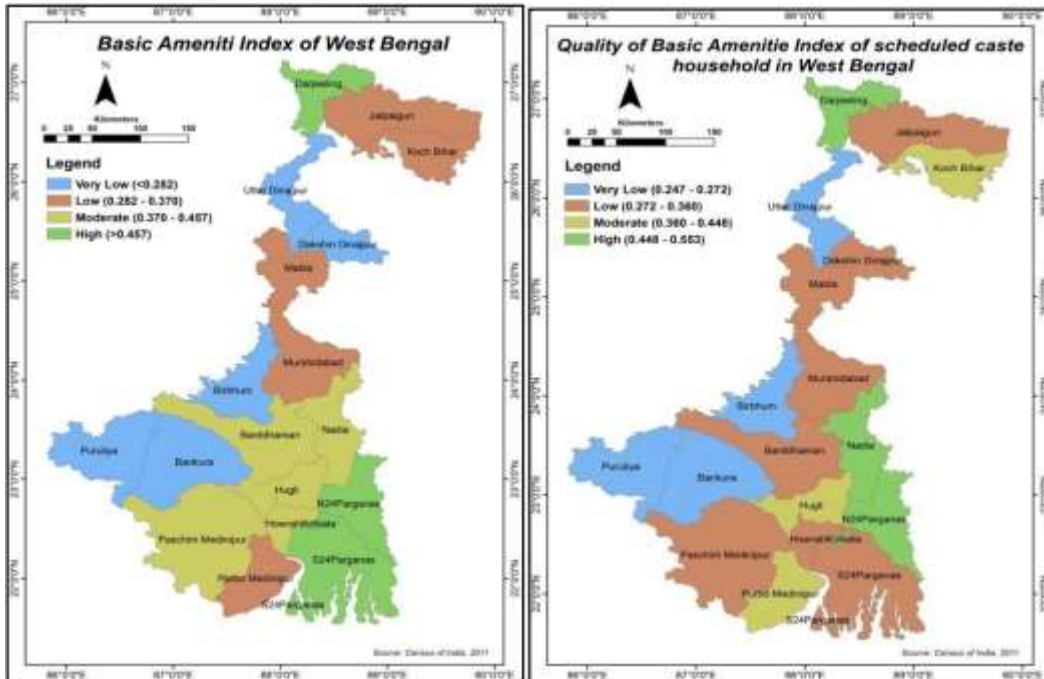
**Figure 1:** The components of the Household Quality of Life Index are listed below.

Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Birbhum, Purulia, and South 24 Pargana have a low QHI for the whole populace (addressing 42.10 percent of the state), as do six different regions (counting Nadia, Barddhaman, Hugli, Howrah, and North 24 Pargana) that are home to the state's 31.57 percent scheduled caste populace. Thus, we might presume that the lodging quality record differs extraordinarily among the few regions of West Bengal, with an especially huge uniqueness existing between the whole populace and the Scheduled Caste populace. As per the Quality of Lodging File, the place of those from saved castes in the state is very poor. The level of the state's Scheduled Caste populace living in high-or moderate-quality lodging is vanishingly little contrasted with the remainder of the populace, and the rate living in truly or very bad quality lodging is a stunning 57.89 percent, contrasted with simply 10.52 percent of the state's complete populace.

## 5.2. Basic Amenity Index (BAI)

The way of life locally, area, or nation can be generally checked by checking out at the accessibility of specific essential comforts. Every one of the necessities of current living can be summarized in the expression "essential conveniences," which covers a large number of necessities. The absolute most fundamental variables in deciding way of life are the accessibility of essential conveniences like ovens, running water, flush latrines, and power. They gain too due to the better wellbeing, cleaner climate, and additional opportunities opened

dependent upon them. Having simple admittance to these necessities likewise saves time that would some way or another be spent making elective courses of action. There is a ton of concentration from policymakers, organizers, and improvement specialists on the most proficient method to further develop admittance to fundamental conveniences in less evolved societies, particularly for financially and socially distraught networks. The broadening hole between rising interest and stale arrangement of fundamental administrations was referred to as a significant issue in the 10th five-year plan. India's economy has developed quickly throughout recent many years, yet guaranteeing that all residents approach power, running water, and sterile latrines stays a first concern. One of the significant objectives of the twelve-year plan was to guarantee that everybody approaches clean water and sterile offices. Water, sterilization, lodging, waste, and power are probably the main fundamental conveniences that can extraordinarily upgrade the quality of life in both rustic and metropolitan districts. Table 1, Guide 4, and Guide 5 show the spatial circulation of fundamental conveniences, which uncovers that 21.05 percent of the all out populace lives in locale with a high centralization of essential conveniences, including the urban communities of Darjeeling, North and South 24 Pagana, and Kolkata, as well as the urban communities of Nadia, South 24 Pargana, and Kolkata, which have a high convergence of scheduled caste occupants. For everyone, moderate BAI was found in the regions of Bardhaman, Nadia, Hugli, Howrah, and Paschim Medinipur (26.31 percent), while just three areas (Koch Bihar, Hugli, and Purbo Medinipur) fell into this classification for the scheduled caste populace (15.78 percent).



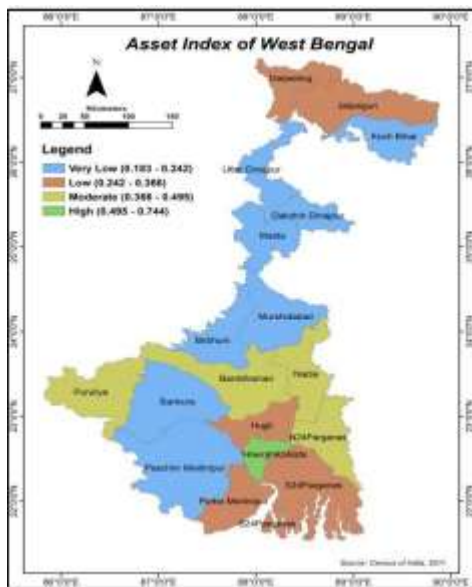
<b>Map 4 Basic Ameniti Index for Overall Households.</b>	<b>Map 5 Basic Ameniti Index for Scheduled Caste Households.</b>
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Three locales in northern West Bengal, including Koch and Darjeeling, are home to the lowest BAI regions. Low BAI is seen in the eight locale that are home to 42.10 percent of the scheduled caste populace, almost twofold the extent of the general populace. These locale are situated in the southern piece of West Bengal and incorporate the urban communities of Murshidabad and Purba Medinipur. The individuals of the scheduled castes are essentially more averse to approach even the most crucial of lodging conveniences. For both everyone and the state's scheduled caste populace, the locale of Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Birbhum, Purulia, and Bankura score inadequately on the convenience record scale. As per the consequences of the Essential Convenience Record, no tremendous contrasts between everybody and the scheduled caste populace have been found.

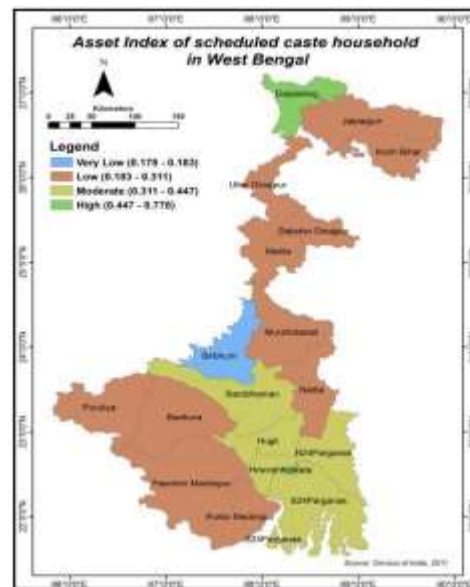
### 5.3. Asset Index (AI)

Without any use or pay information, the Resource Record (or abundance list, as it is brought in the Segment and Wellbeing Studies) is an estimation unit of household government assistance that for the most part works for characterizing families as per monetary status.

Initially called the abundance file, this action was initially carried out by Rutstein in the 1997 Zambia Segment and Wellbeing Overview. In the wake of being refined by Filmer and Pritchett's ideas, it turned out to be generally taken on across the globe. A measurement considers both the qualities of individual homes and the accessibility of different sorts of household resources (consumables, cars, and so forth.). Ownership of resources is an intermediary for monetary prosperity and a proportion of riches. It is likewise conceivable to utilize the amount of these records to get a general way of life. We have separated the information into four zones (maps 6 and 7) in view of the spatial difference of resources across all areas in West Bengal. For all households, Kolkata and Howrah have the most noteworthy grouping of resources (10.53%), yet for Scheduled Caste households it's Kolkata and Darjeeling.



**Map 6 Asset Index for Overall Households.**



**Map 7 Asset Index for Scheduled Caste Households**

Purulia, Bardhaman, Nadia, and North 24 Parganas represent 21.05% of the state's areas with moderate degrees of computerized reasoning regarding absolute households. On account of Timetable Caste families, the moderate computer based intelligence is disseminated all through 26.31 percent of the locale, including Bardhaman, Hugli, North and South 24 Parganas, and Howrah. 68% of West Bengal's areas fall under the "low" or "extremely low" Simulated

intelligence range for all households joined. Plan Caste families have similar issue in 63.16 percent of regions. One element impacting a family's way of life is how much property they own. It very well may be reasoned that scheduled castes in rustic West Bengal passage hardly better than everybody with regards to resource possession. The distance and the need are the key reasons, not the pay of the populace. Most of the scheduled caste individuals is packed in country regions, and the vast majority of them work in farming or fishing; thus, they need admittance to bikes to venture out to downtown areas looking for business sectors or to sell their products. The resource file rises somewhat more than everyone accordingly.

#### **5.4. Household Quality of Living Index (HQLI)**

The expression "quality of life" is utilized to depict a mindset of satisfaction or happiness with one's presence. Desires for a long, sound life, both exclusively and all things considered. These suppositions shape an individual's perspective, objectives, and social and social milieu. It gives a structure to surveying a person across different aspects. presence fulfillment can be characterized as how much a singular's presence meets specific ideal standardizing measures, or, on the other hand, the degree to which these circles fulfill the individual and add to their emotional feeling of prosperity. The expression "quality of life" alludes to the entire condition of an individual's wellbeing, social connections, training, work, monetary security, security, opportunity of articulation, strict convictions, and climate. The expression "quality of life" (QOL) can be applied to a wide range of circumstances, like public and worldwide turn of events, medical care, government, and social government assistance. Standard quality of life estimations incorporate things like material riches, work, an individual's physical and psychological well-being, their admittance to medical services, their degree of training, their admittance to diversion and relaxation, and their feeling of local area. Lodging related water quality, air quality, neighborhood commotion, asbestos, lead, tobacco smoke, and radon are completely tended to in the rules, alongside an outline of past WHO suggestions and rules. The rules underline the advantages of medicines that focus on numerous gamble factors for HQLI without a moment's delay and embrace an all encompassing, intersectoral way to deal with the issue of lodging and wellbeing. Lodging quality of life record designs in West Bengal are profoundly factor. Households' quality of life can be estimated, to some degree, by their admittance to lodging, fundamental conveniences, and riches. A composite record in view of

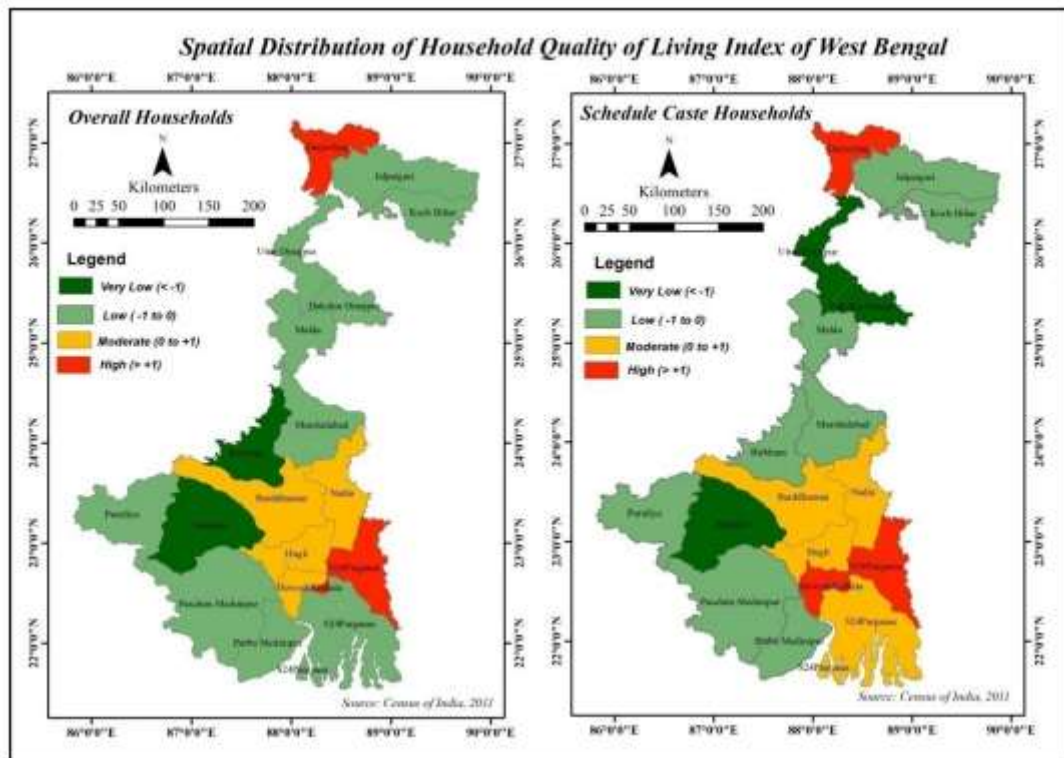
these elements is then determined to show the day to day environments of the typical West Bengali family.

Table 1 and Guide 8 showcase the spatial dispersion of the Z-score of HQLI, which shows that the most elevated grouping of HQLI is in Darjeeling, North 24 Pargana, Kolkata, and Howrah, representing 21.05% of all locale for all households and 15.79% of all areas for Timetable Caste households. Low HQLI applies to a lopsided number of regions; 42% of all households and 52.63 percent of SC households. Just two regions, Birbhum and Bankura, with 10.53 percent, everything being equal, fall into the extremely low HQLI classification for SC households, while three areas, including Bankura, Uttar, and Dakshin Dinajpur, fall into this gathering for all households (15.79 percent). For the excess households, HQLI is moderate in 21.05 percent, everything being equal. The HQLI in provincial West Bengal is obviously in basic condition. These lodging factors are significant determinants of household quality of life.

**Table 1:** District level Quality of Household Living

District	QHI		BAI		AI		HQLI		Z-Score	
	GEN	SC	GEN	SC	GEN	SC	GEN	SC	GEN	SC
Darjeeling	1.331	1.572	1.572	1.567	1.464	1.557	1.527	1.358	2.178	2.552
Jalpaiguri	1.422	1.388	1.463	1.431	1.347	1.363	1.416	1.416	-1.422	-1.236
Cooch Bihar	1.366	1.335	1.242	1.252	1.272	1.312	1.353	1.352	-1.742	-1.437
Uttar Dinajpur	13.55	1.356	1.348	1.356	1.282	1.356	1.328	1.342	-2.256	-1.533
Dakshin Dinajpur	1.352	1.347	1.363	1.383	1.325	1.328	1.341	1.353	-2.133	-1.426
Maldah	1.374	1.344	1.463	1.424	1.311	1.344	1.368	1.363	-1.552	-1.527
Murshidabad	1.442	1.355	1.385	1.388	1.283	1.322	1.362	1.355	-1.627	-1.385
Birbhum	1.347	1.272	1.366	1.362	1.325	1.287	1.368	1.320	-1.827	-2.142
Barddhaman	1.444	1.383	1.536	1.436	1.512	1.415	1.483	1.233	1.872	1.126
Nadia	1.436	1.389	1.538	1.577	1.512	1.417	1.274	1.468	1.567	1.276
North 24 Parganas	1.514	1.264	1.583	1.423	1.532	1.527	1.331	1.558	2.258	2.356
Hugli	1.278	1.426	1.552	1.277	1.376	1.431	1.256	1.431	1.531	1.335
Bankura	1.322	1.244	1.376	1.353	1.327	1.283	1.357	1.314	-2.189	-2.184
Purulia	1.365	1.275	1.327	1.348	1.531	1.357	1.389	1.342	-1.533	-1.723

Howrah	1.289	1.415	1.522	1.258	1.633	1.278	1.427	1.256	3.228	1.367
Kolkata	1.438	1.533	1.425	1.442	1.352	1.887	1.318	1.562	2.335	4.267
South 24 Parganas	1.362	1.334	1.555	1.436	1.377	1.426	1.443	1.398	1.125	-1.366
Paschim Medinipur	1.321	1.263	1.517	1.384	1.335	1.353	1.384	1.326	-1.572	-1.662
Purba Medinipur	1.435	1.354	1.226	1.537	1.352	1.351	1.418	1.422	-1.374	-1.153



**Map 8 Spatial Trends of Household Quality of Living Index with Z-score among all districts of West Bengal for Overall and Scheduled Caste population**

## 6. Conclusion

The consequences of this examination concerning the quality of life in West Bengal, India's Scheduled Caste people group show that there are significant contrasts and obstructions to survive. Various investigations have highlighted the powerlessness of Scheduled Caste families to work on their way of life because of limitations on their acquiring potential, absence

of admittance to excellent training and medical care, unsatisfactory living conditions, and social separation. The outcomes stress the basic significance of social drives, strategy changes, and customized mediations that tackle these mind-boggling issues and cultivate comprehensive development. West Bengal can pursue fostering a more even-handed and flourishing society where each individual might have a noble and improved quality of life by tending to the exceptional necessities of Scheduled Caste individuals and guaranteeing their equivalent support in numerous parts of life.

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