

ILLUSTRATING THE MUSLIMS OF MODERN BENGAL

A Cluster of Interpretations

Edited by
Firoj High Sarwar

Foreword
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Education and Work Participation of Muslim Women in Murshidabad District : An Empirical Study

Rakibul Islam & Mahfuz Alam

Murshidabad has been always very important name in the history of India. The end of medieval age and the beginning of modern age in India was started from the soil of Murshidabad. The present territorial shape of Murshidabad has been sketched out in 1879, on the basis of administrative ground. Geographically, Murshidabad is situated in between the north and south Bengal in the latitude of $23^{\circ}43''$ - $24^{\circ}52''$, and in the longitude of $87^{\circ}49''$ - $88^{\circ}44''$. According to 2011 census, the total area of Murshidabad is about 5324 sq.km, total population is 7103407 and literacy rate is 66.69 percent.¹ On the basis of socio-economic development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has marked Murshidabad as a backward area in 2006. Issues like unemployment, illiteracy has a high impact on the Muslim community in the Murshidabad district. Due to poverty, the students are compelled to leave their study. The customs of child marriage and the illiteracy of girl child are very much common in these areas. The age long negligence of the government, and the subsequent people's apathy towards education made this district backward. Even, after almost seventy years of Independence, people of Murshidabad are still thriving for a fully functional university in their homeland. Though, the Central and State Government have taken many steps to develop the position of this backward community, but there are still many issues which needed to be taken care of. In Murshidabad, Muslims, in general, are more backward than the other communities of the district. Among the Muslims, the women are the most neglected portions of the community. They are lagging behind their men on every aspect like education, health and employment -which is obviously not encouraging factor for total progress of the country.