



LITERACY RATE OF POPULATION IN INDIA

A. S. Kalikar

S. M. Deshmukh

R. M. Deshmukh

Abstract

Literacy is reliable index of socio - economic and cultural development of the region. The population characteristics are also helpful for the development of the region. Sex-wise literacy and its varying disparities of population distribution also have a greater impact on the socio-economic and cultural development of the region.

India is one of the developing countries in the world. In India there occur low literacy rate and greater disparities in literacy rate in some states and regions, and also occur literacy variation in male and female population. This paper is highlighted on variation in the literacy rate of male and female in India.

Key Word : *literacy rate, Disparities in literacy rate, variation in literacy rate*

Introduction : The developed countries have reached the last stage of the literacy there is transition with almost universal literacy.(Human development report 1998) In India there is not only low literacy but also a great disparities in sex wise literacy rate of population. Literacy is a powerful instrument of socio- economic advancement of an area. In India is a sustainable literate on literacy aspects has developed, but most of the studies have been conducted on patterns and trends in literacy either at national and at regional level. (Sangwan R.S & Sangwan Sneh pp79) But, some scholars have given valuable contribution on the literacy in India. The present study has therefore endeavored to describe and interpret the trend and regional aspect of sex wise differentials of literacy in India.

Objective: 1) To explain the state wise literacy rate in India .

2) To study the sex-wise literacy rate population in India .

3) To study the decade variation of sex-wise literacy rate of population in India .

Methodology and Data source: This study is mainly based on the secondary sources of data. This data is obtained from census of India , and also from www.n/m.nic.in/national_literacy_mission literacy scenario in India 1991 and 2001 .

The literacy differentials of sex-wise literacy rate have been calculated by simply subtracting , the literacy rate of different states and union territories in India. And is shown by cartographic method in map .

Differential sex-wise literacy rate of population : In 1991 total population literacy rate is 52.21 % in India.. The male population literacy rate is 64.13 % and that of female literacy rate is 39.29% , The female literacy rate is very low in 1991. According to 1991, the total population literacy rate is in moderate level, But. according to state wise literacy rate is very high, in Kerala (81.78 %), Mizoram (82.27 %) and in Lakshadweep - U.T. is (81.78 %). The low level literacy rate occur in Rajasthan (38.55 %), Arunachal Pradesh (41.59 %), Utter Pradesh (41.60 %) and Dadar and Nagar Haweli - U.T. is (40.71 %). These region have a very low literacy rate because of the low degree of urban influence and physiographical structure of the region.

The male female disparity in literacy sharper among females than males. According to 1991 the male very high literacy rate is in the Union Territories – Lakshadweep (96.18 %) and in state Kerala (93. 62 %), Mizoram (85.61 %) , Goa (83. 64 %) and some others. And low literacy rate occur in Arunachal Pradesh (51.45 %) and Dadar and Nagar Haweli -U.T. is (53.56%). The female literacy rate is very high occur in Union Territories – Lakshadweep (72.89%), Chandigarh (72. 34 %) and in state – Kerala (86. 13 %), Mizoram (78.68 %) and some others. And low literacy rate occur in Rajasthan (20.44 %), Bihar (22.89 %) , Madhya Pradesh (28.85 %) , Utter Pradesh (

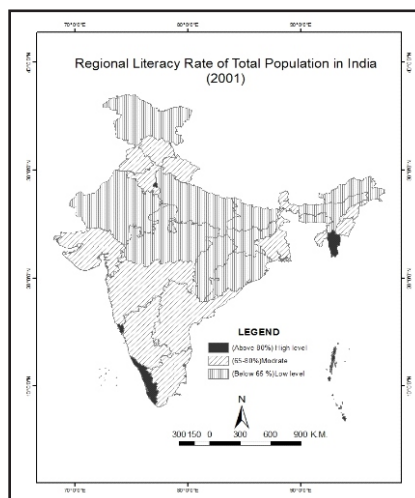
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25.31 %) and Dadar and Nagar Haweli - U.T. is (26.98 %).In all states and in the one Union Territory the literacy rate is very low than others state and Union Territories.

Regional Literacy Pattern in India : According to (2001)the literacy rate (national average) of total population is occur in disparities in the states and Union Territory. In 2001 Nine states a including U.T. occur the high level of literacy rate (above 80 %) for exam. Kerala (90. 92 %), Mizoram (88. 92 %), – Lakshadweep (87.52 %) and some others . The moderate literacy rate (65 to 80 %) occur in thirteen states & U.T. these are Maharashtra (77.27 %), Himachal Pradesh(77.13 %), Tripura (73.66 %),Tamil Nadu (73.17%)etc. The low literacy rate occur to national average (below 65 %) in Rajasthan (61.03 %),Bihar (47.53 %), Jharkhand (54.13 %), Jammu & Kashmir (54.46 %) and Dadar and Nagar Haweli - U.T. is (60.03 %) etc. In all states and in one Union Territory the literacy rate is very low because these regions are highly populated and the maximum population lived in rural areas, most of them are engaged in agricultural as well as primary base activities. There is no more availability of schools, transportations and communication facilities.

In the male – female literacy rate is having a lot of disparities. The male literacy rate occur high in Kerala (94. 20 %), Mizoram (93.15 %) and the very low literacy rate occur in the Meghalaya (66.14 %) , Andhra Pradesh (70.85 %) , Nagaland (71.77 %) , Assam (71.93 %) Union Territory Dadar and Nagar Haweli (73.32 %).

The female literacy rate(2001) occur high in Kerala i.e (87. 86 %), Mizoram (86.13%) lashaksh dweep (81.56%) . Madhya Pradesh (50.28 %) ,Dadar and Nagar Haweli - U.T. is (44. 99%) (Jammu & Kashmir where not available). Rajasthan (44.34 %) and in Bihar the literacy rate found very low i.e (37.46 %)



Trends in Male –Female Differences in Literacy Rate (1961- 2001) : Since the male-female differences in India during 1961 to 2001, the literacy rate increases have been these period (Table no. 1) the literacy rate of total population increases to (1961)10.27 % to 64. 84% (2001) the male literacy rate increases to (1961)19.96 % to 74. 86 % (2001) and also the female literacy rate increases to (1961) 03.29 % to 53. 67 % (2001). The total and male-female literacy rate increases continuously. In the pre- independence periods of India the male – female literacy rate was increasing because of the educational and socio -economic awareness.

Table No. 1
Trends in Male –Female Differences in Literacy Rate (1961- 2001)

Census year	Literacy rate %			Male / Female index of change, ratio
	Total	Male	Female	
1961	10.27	19.96	03.29	06.06
1971	14.67	22.36	06.44	03.47
1981	21.38	31.12	10.93	02.85
1991	37.41	49.91	23.76	02.10
2001	64.84	75.86	53.67	02.06

Source : Census of India 2001

Conclusion :

- 1) The very low literacy rate of total and male – female population of Bihar, Rajasthan , Madhya Pradesh and Dadar and Nagar Haweli , these states are undeveloped due to their physical setting and climate .
- 2) Kerala, Mizoram and Lakshadweep have the highest literacy rate because these region there is awareness in education and socio- economics .
- 3) The literacy rate of female compound to general population is much lower and literacy of male was more than the female in near about all states and U.T.
- 4) Male female difference in literacy rate have been narrowing down largely due to the inerring degree of socio - economics awaleing among the female population and therefore in future the female literacy will increasing more and more.

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* **Dr. Ambarish. S. Kalikar**
P. G.Dept. of Geography,
Bhartiya Mahavidyalaya,
Morshi,Dist. Amravati.

** **Mr. Sawan M. Deshmukh**
Dept. of Geography,
Bhartiya Mahavidyalaya,
Morshi,Dist. Amravati.

*** **Dr. RaJani M. Deshmukh**
P.G.Dept. of Geography,
Bhartiya Mahavidyalaya,
Morshi,Dist. Amravati.