

LITERACY RATE AND GENDER DIVERSITY IN INDIAN STATES

Dr Mala sharma

Director, Shri Chimanbhai Patel institute of business administration

Ahmedabad

ABSTARCT

The literacy rate is one of the prime indicators of human development which ultimately improves economic development too. It should be the prime goal of every nation to improve its literacy without any discrimination on the basis of caste, religion or gender. But it is sad to note that in India though the total literacy rate has shown a noticeable progress in last decade but the same do not reflect in female literacy. Recent studies have proved that education helps people in increasing their capabilities and understanding, availing opportunities, freedom of participation in economic progress and political process, to fight against any kind of exploitation, attain reputed status, and increase family nutrition and wellbeing. Female literacy and education in particular will improve their economic status through increase in their work productivity which ultimately will help in reducing poverty, reduce child and maternal mortality, control birth rate ,help them in decision making ,protect themselves against sexual harassment , seek legal help and to improve wellbeing of family . It is observed that in India there exist disparity in educational status, work participation and health status amongst male and female. Female are deprived of many opportunities as compare to males and the reasons of those lie in our socio-economic culture.

Indian society has preference for male child, great importance for male education and work, social liberty for male is high, right on property and asset on the other side female birth is not welcomed much, less importance of female education and health, unequal work opportunities, unequal rates for work participation, absence of general awareness among women and conventional beliefs of family.

The present paper attempts to understand and analyze the discrimination in literacy rate across states of India. The present study tries to understand the difference in literacy rate between 2001 and 2011 across Indian states.

KEY WORDS: Literacy rate, gender inequality.

INTRODUCTION

The present era of modernization and development needs individual with good knowledge and skill. The economic development and socio-economic culture of country mainly depends on level of education of its citizens. Likewise for India the literacy rate is key for its socio economic progress. Though literacy rate in India has increased to 74.4percent in 2011 (census 2011) from 12 % during British rule but still it is too less than world average of 84percent literacy rate. Indian government is working hard to improve literacy rate and female literacy since independence. But the sluggish growth rate of literacy rate has still left 25 % of illiterate people in country. Government has initiated number of projects and mainly programs me like SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN has improved female literacy rate from 7.9percent in 1951 to 65.46 percent in 2011. The gap in literacy attainment between male and female is also tapering down from 22.1 percent point in 1981 to 20.6 percent points in 1991 to 9.21 percent point in 2011.

It is hypothesized in the study that there exist high discrimination in literacy rate between genders in less developed states. High male literacy and low female literacy indicates skewed economic and social development. Variation in literacy will be worked out for 2001 and 2011 and inequality reduction is calculated.

OBJECTIVES

- 1** To evaluate literacy rate of male and female in India
- 2** To analyze growth in literacy rate for the year2001 and 2011 for both gender.
- 3** To work out variation in literacy rate across state for the year 2001 and 2011.
- 4** To work out inequalities across states for both years
- 5** To categorize states below and above national Average.

METHODOLOGY: Gender inequality is calculated $\{1 - \text{lit rate F} / \text{lit rate M}\}$. Co -efficient of variation, standard deviation and arithmetic mean across states will be worked out in order to evaluate variation in literacy rate.

Literacy rate in India in 2001 and 2011

STATES	literacy rate 2001	Literacy rate 2011	male literacy 2011	female literacy 2011	inequality
Kerala	90.86	93.91	96.02	91.98	0.042075
Lakshadweep	86.66	92.28	96.11	88.25	0.081781
Mizoram	88.8	91.58	93.72	89.4	0.046095
Tripura	73.19	87.75	92.18	83.15	0.097961
Goa	82.01	87.4	92.81	81.84	0.118198
Daman &Diu	78.18	87.07	91.48	79.59	0.129974
Puducherry	81.24	86.55	92.12	81.22	0.118324
Chandigarh	81.94	86.43	90.54	81.38	0.101171
Delhi	81.67	86.34	91.03	80.93	0.110952
Andaman and nicobar	81.3	86.27	90.11	81.84	0.091777
himachal Pradesh	76.48	83.78	90.83	76.6	0.156666
Maharashtra	76.88	82.91	89.82	75.48	0.159653
Sikkim	63.81	82.2	87.29	76.43	0.124413
Tamilnadu	73.45	80.33	86.81	73.86	0.149176
Nagaland	66.59	80.11	83.29	76.89	0.07684
Manipur	69.93	79.85	86.49	73.17	0.154006
Uttrakhand	71.62	79.63	88.33	70.7	0.199592
Gujarat	69.14	79.31	87.23	70.73	0.189155
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	57.63	77.65	86.46	65.93	0.237451
West Bengal	68.64	77.08	82.67	71.16	0.139228
Punjab	69.65	76.68	81.48	71.34	0.124448
Haryana	67.91	76.64	85.38	66.77	0.217967
Karnataka	66.64	82.85	82.85	68.13	0.17767
Meghalaya	62.56	77.17	77.17	73.78	0.043929
Odisha	63.08	73.45	82.4	64.36	0.218932
Assam	63.25	73.18	78.81	67.27	0.146428
Chhattisgarh	64.66	71.04	81.45	60.59	0.256108
Madhya Pradesh	63.74	70.63	80.53	60.02	0.254688
Uttar Pradesh	56.27	69.72	79.24	59.26	0.252145
Jammu and Kashmir	55.52	68.74	78.26	58.01	0.258753
Jharkhand	53.56	67.63	78.45	56.21	0.283493
Andhra Pradesh	-	67.4	75.56	59.74	0.20937
Rajasthan	60.41	67.06	80.51	52.66	0.34592
Arunachal Pradesh	54.34	66.95	73.69	59.57	0.191614
Telagana	-	66.5	-	-	-
Bihar	47.00	63.82	73.39	53.33	0.273334
India	64.83	74.04	82.14	65.46	0.203068
					Calculated

Source: Census of India

The data reveals that very high inequality is seen in the states like Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Dadra and nagar Haveli, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Bihar. States like Goa, Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamilnadu and Manipur record High inequality. Low inequality is observed in states like Nagaland, Meghalaya. Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram and Tripura

INEQUALITIES ACROSS STATES FOR 2011

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Literacy Inequalities	35	.1651	.07527	.01272

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Literacy Inequalities	12.978	34	.000	.16512	.1393	.1910

Sig value is less than 0.05. Thus there exist statistically significant inequalities between literacy rate of male and female.

CONCLUSION

It has been observed that overall there is significant inequality between male and female literacy rate. But cat gorily the BIMARU states records very high inequality. Eastern states like Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram are performing better in attaining high literacy among Females. Government of India has taken lot of initiatives to improve female education in last few years. This will certainly narrow down the gender gap in literacy.

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