

Literacy and Human Development in Jammu Region

Abstract

Education universally recognized central component of human development. Educational attainments can be assessed by variety of indicators like number of years in school, total enrollment, and proportion of population having higher technical qualification etc. Literacy a reliable index of socio-economic and cultural development has been evaluated in the present paper. Present investigation seeks to analyse the literacy trends, male-female differentials and rural-urban differentials in female literacy. The study revealed and established that major alarming situation is of female literacy rate which is still low than their counter parts in lesser and outer Himalayas thus creating male-female gender-gap in literacy. Besides this there was an improvement in educational institutions and socio-economic transformation. Despite that in 2001 the overall literacy of females was not up to the mark. The percentage of literate females is 43 percent which is less than national average literacy rate of females. The chief objective of this study is also to examine the disparity in both space and time.

Keywords: Literacy, Disparities, Inaccessibility, Topography, Human Development, Literacy Index.

Introduction

Literacy is essential for eradicating deprivation and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic processes (Chandna and Sidhu, 1980). Illiteracy, on the other hand, takes away from man his dignity, perpetuates ignorance poverty and mental isolation, deters peaceful and friendly relations, deters social advancement, economic growth and political maturity above all literacy influences mortality, fertility etc. The trends in literacy are considered as an index of the pace at which the socio-economic transformation of a society is taking place.

Literacy is measured as the percentage of those aged 7 years and above who are literates. Here literate is used for a person who can read and write his / her name and a simple sentence as per 2001 census definition.

Study Area

The physical Environmental landscape Jammu region lies between 32° 17' North to 34° 18' North latitude and 73° 36' E to 76° 48' East longitude constitutes 26689.4 sq. km of area and occupied a strategic location since it lies in the south western part of the state sharing its border with Pakistan in the west and south west. On the north it touches the beautiful valley of Kashmir. On the south-east the study area touches the Himachal Pradesh and to the south lies the state of Panjab. Altitudinally the region extends from 300 mts above mean sea level in the outer plains to over 5000 mts in Middle Himalayas. Administratively Jammu region is broadly divided into six districts viz Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch.

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the disparities among male female literacy rate.
2. To examine spatio-temporal variations in literacy index.
3. To assess the socio-economic transformation and human development.
4. To depict the rural-urban differentials in female literacy.

Methodology

Present study is based upon the data and information collected from secondary sources. The required data has been gathered from census publications population census of India 1981, 2001 J & K On the basis of the data available on literacy rate of Jammu region according to 1981 and 2001 census.



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Literacy Index has been obtained by same methodology used by UNDP in Human development reports. The individual indices have been computed according to general formula

$$\text{Index} = \frac{\text{Actual } x_1 \text{ value} - \text{minimum } x_1 \text{ value}}{\text{Maximum } x_1 \text{ value} - \text{minimum } x_1 \text{ value}}$$

Where Actual x1 value = the obtained value of literacy as per tehsils.

Minimum x1 value = 0 percent - Fixed by UNDP

Maximum x1 value = 100 percent - Fixed by UNDP

Findings

According to 2001 census the general literacy of the region was 63.07 percent of which male and female constitute 74 and 51 percent respectively which was higher than state as a whole. Tehsil-wise literacy rate of Jammu region is tabulated in Table (1.1) illustrated positive and dynamic change in the percentage of total literacy. In 1981, very high percentage > 50 literates were not available in any tehsil of the region where as twenty one tehsils followed this category such teshils which belonged to rural areas like Thathri, Mendhar, Kalakote . On the other end reverse position was witnessed as per 1981 census, thirteen tehsils followed the category below 20 percent literate population. Table 1.1 indicated over all male literacy in the region, highest male literacy was observed in Sunderbani tehsil (86 percent) and Gool Gulab Garh had the lowest literacy (51 percent). Educational infrastructure, urbanization and work force engaged in non- agricultural activities, living standard and approach towards modernization all these factors are responsible for high male literacy in Jammu region where as high agrarian culture, inaccessibility, restrictive topography were responsible for lowest literacy in Gool Gulab Garh.

Male-Female Differentials

Major alarming situation is of female literacy rate which is still low as compared to national rate

54.4 percent as per 1981 census. Very high sub-group i.e. above 30 percent literate females were not present in any of the tehsil whereas in the lowest category twenty one tehsils recorded <20 percent literacy. There was an improvement in educational institutions and socio-economic transformation in 2001 despite that the overall female literacy was not upto the mark it was below national average and had only 43.0 percent literate females. To depict the picture of disparities among the male and female literacy

Table (1.1) illustrated the Gender gap which still prevailed in Jammu region which directly emphasized the deprived position of females particularly in rural areas. Highest Gap in literacy rate prevailed in Bhalessa with 40 percent which depicts females of tehsil are still illiterate. Whereas the picture is declining towards the outer plains Ranbirsinghpura with lowest percentage of gap in male-female literacy depicted the better position in female literacy as per 2001 census which was followed by Jammu (19.1 percent), Bishna (17.5 percent) and (Kathua 17.8). Whereas the tehsils of lesser and outer Himalayas have >20 percent of male-female literacy gender gap. Education especially women's education has an important role to play in economic growth and development. It has been experienced that progressive and greater exposure of women to education has resulted in increased productivity; developmental skills, more continuous employment in professional and technical occupations, increased awareness about and participation in social, political and development processes, better perceptions of their own potentialities and aspirations, more rationale demographic behaviour in terms of age at marriage, spacing between children and number of children, better health outcome for family, reduced infant mortality, reduced gender inequality, and declined rate of population growth (Sharma,2008)

Table 1.1: Male-Female Literacy Gap Jammu Region 2001

S. No.	Tehsils	Male	Female	Gap in Male-Female Literacy
01.	Banihal	59.2	20.89	38.3
02.	Ramban	55.5	20.5	35.0
03.	Doda	64.1	26.4	37.7
04.	Kishtwar	53.9	24.4	29.5
05.	Thathri	70.7	35.6	35.1
06.	Bhalessa	67.4	27.5	39.9
07.	Bhaderwah	82.1	49.7	32.4
08.	Gool Gulab Garh	50.6	21.8	28.8
09.	Reasi	65.6	23.3	22.3
10.	Udhampur	68.5	43.7	24.8
11.	Chenani	56.4	25.8	30.6
12.	Ramnagar	63.4	35.7	27.7
13.	Haveli	61.5	31.2	30.3
14.	Mendhar	69.5	38.5	31.0
15.	Surankote	56.5	29.2	27.3
16.	Thanamandi	67.9	40.1	27.8
17.	Rajouri	70.5	42.9	27.6

18.	Budhal	50.5	20.2	30.3
19.	Kalakote	61.8	40.0	21.8
20.	Nowshehra	80.2	59.7	20.5
21.	Sunderbani	85.2	63.6	21.6
22.	Akhnoor	81.4	58.2	23.2
23.	Jammu	79.2	60.1	19.1
24.	R.S. Pora	83.6	67.3	16.2
25.	Bishna	82.3	64.8	17.5
26.	Samba	79.7	61.1	18.6
27.	Billawar	68.8	41.3	26.7
28.	Bashohli	64.3	33.9	30.4
29.	Kathua	75.8	58.0	17.8
30.	Hiranagar	82.0	72.9	18.2

Source: Population Census 2001, J & K.

The tehsils are ranked according to literacy index. Jammu tehsil ranked 1st among thirty tehsils in cases of literacy Index viz. (0.496) in 1981 and 0.799 in 2001 census respectively. Various factors like availability of educational institutions, plain terrain, easy connectivity etc. are responsible factors for overall increase in literacy. Gool Gulab Garh, remained in the same rank in both the years, literacy Index in 1981 was 0.115 which slightly increased 0.373, but its rank remained constant because of other tehsils progressive growth. Sunderbani with 0.360 literacy index was at ninth position in 1981

which showed an improving trend as per 2001 and reflected second rank among rest of the tehsils which is good sign and improvement in educational institutions. Rajour tehsil with(0.073) ranked last 1981. Its position improved in 2001 and shoot up to 12th rank with(0.621) literacy Index. On the whole spatial as well temporal variations in literacy Index reflected that the outer plains with good percentage of literacy Index outnumber the other physiographic zones i.e. lesser Himalayas and outer Himalayas. Table (1.2)

Table 1.2: Literacy Index 1981-2001

S. No.	Tehsils	1981		2001	
		Literacy Index	Rank	Literacy Index	Rank
01.	Jammu	0.496	1	0.79	1
02.	Sunderbani	0.360	9	0.76	2
03.	R. S. Pora	0.440	4	0.76	3
04.	Bishna	0.374	6	0.74	4
05.	Hiranagar	0.361	8	0.73	5
06.	Samba	0.373	7	0.73	6
07.	Akhnoor	0.318	1	0.72	7
08.	Nowshehra	0.355	1	0.71	8
09.	Kathua	0.381	5	0.71	9
10.	Bhaderwah	0.140	2	0.69	10
11.	Udhampur	0.326	1	0.67	11
12.	Rajauri	0.073	3	0.62	12
13.	Reasi	0.306	1	0.59	13
14.	Billawar	0.239	1	0.55	14
15.	Thanamandi	0.238	1	0.55	15
16.	Mendhar	0.31	1	0.54	16
17.	Thathri	0.203	1	0.53	17
18.	Haveli	0.261	1	0.53	18
19.	Bashohli	0.227	1	0.52	19
20.	Ramnagar	0.188	2	0.51	20
21.	Kalakote	0.494	2	0.51	20
22.	Doda	0.488	3	0.48	22
23.	Balessa	0.139	2	0.48	23
24.	Chenani	0.173	2	0.44	24
25.	Ramban	0.153	2	0.43	25
26.	Surankote	0.192	2	0.43	25

27.	Kishtwar	0.167	2	0.43	27
28.	Banihal	0.165	2	0.42	28
29.	Gool Gulab	0.115	2	0.37	29
30.	Buhal	0.122	2	0.36	30

Source: Population Census, 1981 and 2001

Rural-Urban Differentials - Female Literacy

The diffusion of literary and education among all sections of the population of a country is a basic requirement for pulling out the people from ignorance, backwardness and for the regions socio-economic advancement (Gosal, 1988). Female population which accounted for above 40 percent of the total population are still deprived in terms of education. In this attempt change in rural and urban female literacy has been analysed at tehsil level for 1981 and 2001.

Table (1.3) illustrated that according to 1981 only 12.41 percent females were literate which improved in 2001 and figure roused upto 42 percent. So far as the inter tehsil change in case of literacy are concerned tehsils located in outer plains registered a remarkable improvement in last two decades. In Akhnoor rural literacy of females 17.86 percent which increased upto 58 percent in 2001 with a highest percent change in literacy which is more than 40 percent. It is further documented here that Akhnoor being nearest to Jammu got the better opportunities of educational facilities, public and private institutes, both are available to reduce the changing attitude towards female education, the Contributing factor, but the general level of literacy of females depicts considerably low level than males. It is further illustrated here after visualizing the scenario of whole area (table 1.3) that the female literacy in urban areas has been attributed to women's freedom from traditional roles and modes of behavior in urban areas thus more urban females attend school and surpass the literacy levels of their rural counterparts. Another revealing fact which has appeared after depicting the literacy is higher in urban areas, but sexual equivalency for literacy is not approached even in highly urban areas, still there is a long way to go to get good results in rural areas also. After comparing the change in rural and urban female literacy the whole area is divided into five categories. Areas with very high change in female literacy which is above 50 percent can be witnessed in urban areas of Rajouri whereas, According to 1981 no tehsil has been seen in very high category. Areas of high percent change (40-50) in rural and urban areas had also revealed the fact that more than 40 percent change in female literacy has been analysed in only three tehsils in rural areas so far as change of female literacy in urban areas in this category no change has been witnessed in any of the tehsils. Areas of moderate change in female literacy (30-40) percent found in Ranbirsinghpura, Kathua, Sunderbani, Samba and Bishna in urban areas where as in rural areas change in female literacy has been witnessed in Bhandarwah, Kalakote, Nowshehra, Sunderbani, Jammu, Ranbirsinghpura, Bishna and

Samba. This can be attributed to the space configuration and accessibility to educational facilities. The Areas of low change (20-30) percent in literacy in rural as well as in urban areas had been found in fifteen tehsils of urban areas out of twenty three tehsils whereas fourteen tehsils belong to the same category in rural areas. Less than 20 percent change in female literacy in both rural and urban areas has been witnessed in tehsils of lesser Himalayas. Rigid topography harsh climate and inaccessibility of educational institutions are dominating factors. (Fig. 1 & 2)

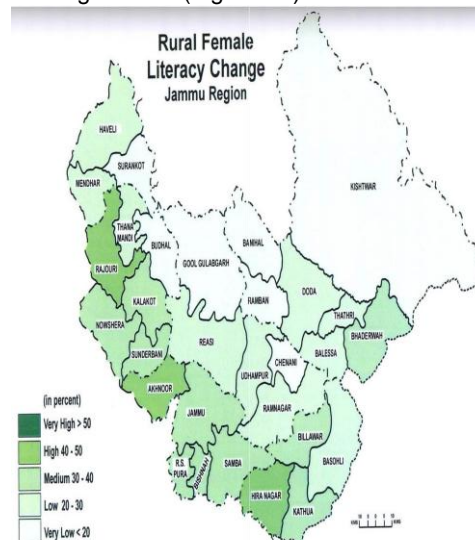


Fig 1

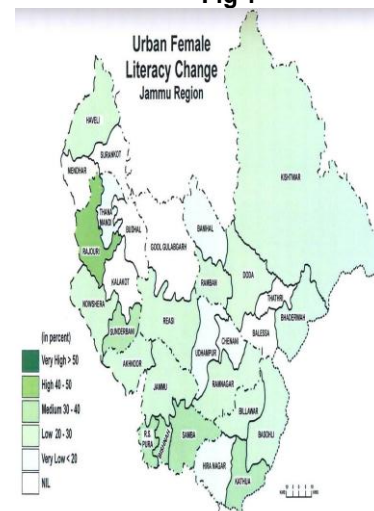


Fig 2

Table 1.3: Rural-Urban Differentials Female Literacy

S. No.	Tehsil	Female Rural Literacy			Female Urban Literacy		
		Year			Year		
		1981	2001	Change	1981	2001	Change
01.	Banihal	2.73	20.90	18.17	37.37	58.00	20.63
02.	Ramban	2.33	20.50	18.17	46.51	69.30	22.76
03.	Doda	4.27	26.40	22.13	42.02	69.40	27.38
04.	Kishtwar	4.79	24.40	19.61	46.28	71.10	24.82
05.	Thathri	7.62	36.60	27.92	-	-	-
06.	Bhalesa	2.57	27.50	24.93	-	-	-
07.	Bhaderwah	15.04	49.70	34.66	45.75	72.80	27.05
08.	Gool GulabGarh	2.37	21.80	19.43	-	-	-
09.	Reasi	14.80	43.30	28.50	49.75	71.60	21.85
10.	Udhampur	13.98	43.70	29.72	58.08	78.50	20.42
11.	Chenani	5.76	25.80	20.04	54.28	70.50	16.22
12.	Ramnagar	7.43	35.70	28.27	48.32	70.0	21.78
13.	Haveli	8.18	31.20	23.02	53.00	80.60	27.60
14.	Mendhar	8.95	38.50	29.55	-	-	-
15.	Surankote	8.26	29.20	20.94	-	-	-
16.	Thanamandi	11.15	40.10	28.95	34.30	54.50	20.20
17.	Rajouri	2.83	42.90	40.07	25.95	77.20	51.25
18.	Budhal	4.13	20.20	16.07	-	-	-
19.	Kalakote	10.23	40.40	30.17	-	-	-
20.	Nowshehra	22.03	59.70	37.67	58.85	84.40	25.55
21.	Sunderbani	23.76	63.60	39.84	52.97	85.50	32.53
22.	Akhnoor	17.86	58.20	40.34	49.78	74.70	24.92
23.	Jammu	23.44	60.10	36.66	56.54	78.70	22.16
24.	R.S. Pora	31.07	67.30	36.23	40.97	71.50	30.53
25.	Bishna	25.92	64.70	38.75	28.78	66.90	38.12
26.	Samba	23.03	61.10	38.07	32.78	70.30	37.52
27.	Billawar	11.26	41.30	30.04	39.73	64.60	24.87
28.	Bashohli	10.72	33.90	23.18	57.29	79.00	21.71
29.	Kathua	23.18	58.00	34.82	41.10	72.80	31.70
30.	Hiranagar	23.66	63.70	40.04	54.23	72.80	18.57
Jammu Province		12.45	41.65	29.20	45.85	72.38	26.53

Source: Population Census of India, 2001, J&K

Conclusion

Education has scored universal recognition as a central component of human development. Literacy is reliable index so far as socio-economic and cultural development. The study had shown drastic change in raising the literacy in all tehsils particularly in total and male literacy. The literacy of the study area was 63 percent, male and female literacy reported 74 percent and 51 percent respectively higher than state as a whole. Among thirty tehsils 81 percent Jammu, accounts for the highest literacy whereas Gool Gulab Garh tehsil had the lowest literacy 33 percent. The growth and impact of literacy, male-female literacy Gap, change in rural and urban female in particular had established the fact that gap still persists in male female education.

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P: ISSN NO.: 2394-0344

E: ISSN NO.: 2455-0817

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Remarking

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