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"A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SEX DISPARITY OF LITERACY IN SCHEDULED TRIBE COMMUNITY OF NANDURBAR DISTRICT".





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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT: Education is

Education is a key factor for the rapid development of a country. It is not only the fruit of contemplation but an instrument of change also. In the present study attempt has been made to study the decadal variation in sex disparity in literacy of scheduled Tribe population and change in male-female literacy rate in Nandurbar district for the period 1991 to 2001. The present study based on the secondary data has been collected form district census hand book of Dhule and Nandurbar district. The study of literacy focused wide sex disparities among the scheduled Tribe. It is found that female literacy rate is lower than that of male population, among the scheduled Tribe due to the majority of woman engaged in primary activities, agricultural labour, lack of

awareness of education and socio-economic backwardness.

KEYWORDS

Geographical Analysis, Sex Disparity Of Literacy, agricultural labour.

1.1.INTRODUCTION

As a matter of convenience, literacy is defined as the ability to read and write one's name in one's mother—language.

In India all those persons who can both read and write a simple message with understanding in any language are classified as literate. (UNPC) The person who is engaged in secondary and tertiary activities proportion is high literate. (Ghosh, 1985) According to census of India (1991), `A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate`. A literate person is one who is able both to read and write.

The Study Region:

Nandurbar is one of the tribal districts of Maharashtra. The study area is situated on northwestern tip of Maharashtra state. The district came into existence on July 1st 1998 by dividing the erstwhile district of Dhule. The ancient name of the region was Rasika. The extent of study area is 21 0 o` to 22 o 0`N latitude and 73 o 31` to 74 o to 32` E longitudes. The study area has a circular shape. The geographical area of this district is 5034.23 sq. km. The entire district forms the part of Tapi valley border by Satpura on the north, boundary of Gujarat state on the west, District of Dhule on south, Madhya Pradesh and Dhule on the east. The study forms a geographical unit as it is occupied by Satpura ranges in north, off shores of Sahyadri hill in the south. It is part of Daccan plateau. The study region contributes 1.63 percent of total geographical area of Maharashtra state as per 2001 census. As of 2001 census Nandurbar district had population of 1309135 consisting of 50.62% male and 49.38% female. The average literacy rate is 46.63%, male literacy is 55.11% and female literacy is 37.93%. The climate of Nandurbar district is generally hot and dry. The temperature can be high as 45 0 c during the peak of summer. The average rainfall is 767mm through district. Physiographically, the study region falls under Tapi-Purna valley. Considerable variation in relief and drainage is one of the characteristics within the study region.

As per 2001 census, it is seen that 41.9 percent of scheduled tribe in rural area of Nandurbar district. While among the male literates constitute 52.3%, the rate among the female is substantially lower i.e. 31.7 percent.

OBJECTIVES:

The main object of the present study is investigation of sex disparity in literacy of scheduled tribe population in Nandurbar district, by using David Sophers formula of disparity Index.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:-

The present work is based on secondary data. The secondary data is obtained from district census handbook of Dhule and Nandurbar district of 1991 and census of 2001. To calculate the literacy rate formula will be used as given below. Literacy rate = L/PX100

Where, L= literate population
P= Total population

To measure the disparity index in male –female literacy, the Sopher's "Disparity Index "formula

will be used as given below.

If X 1 and X2 represent the respective percentage of value of variables of group 1 & 2 then the disparity Index (D) can be calculated by the formula.

D=Log (X2/X1) + Log [(Q-X1)/(Q-X2)]Where, - X2 > or = X1 & Q = 100Where as, X2 = Male population rate. X1 = Female population rate.

Tahsilswise literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe by sex 1991-2001

1991						2001			
Sr.	Name of	Person	Male	Female	Disparity	Person	Male	Female	Disparity
No	tehasils				Index				Index
					M F				M F
1	Akkalkuwa	20.24	27.93	12.64	0.428	37.5	46.7	28.5	0.342
2	Akrani	12.79	18.88	6.68	0.498	40.0	46.0	34.0	0.218
3	Taloda	27.73	39.38	15.78	0.550	44.8	56.0	33.7	0.399
4	Shahada	20.81	32.44	9.04	0.685	37.1	49.6	24.5	0.492
5	Nandurbar	28.58	40.62	16.65	0.535	43.8	56.5	31.5	0.451
6	Navapur	26.64	36.72	16.61	0.463	47.4	57.7	37.2	0.242

Source:- Census of India, District Census Handbook of Dhule District (1991) & Nandurbar District-2001

In this method of measuring disparities group 2 is taken for variable having comparatively higher value and group 1 for having relatively lower value. In case of perfect equality i.e. - no disparity at all the value of D will be zero. The measured value of D is interpreted as higher the value of D higher the extent of disparity and lower of the value D shows lower the disparity.

The scheduled Tribe is perceived to be socially and economically backward as compare to the total population of the district. The disparity in male –female literacy may be grouped into four categories. i.e. - Very high, High, Moderate and Low disparity Index.

1) Very High Disparity Index (above -0.601)-

Very high disparity index is found in the whole Nandurbar district. It is found in Shahada Tehsil particularly. As per the information provided in table No- 1, it is observed that the literacy rate of scheduled Tribe female is (9.04) very less than Male (32.44) as per the 1991 census. As the female literacy rate is found lower which ultimately results in higher disparity index. The reason behind the rising of disparity index lies in the social aspect. In Shahada tehsil, deep black in colour and very fertile soil is found so this area is considered as agriculture developed area. So there is a great need of agricultural labours which is fulfilled by these illiterate schedule tribe women. Another reason is that the schedule tribe community is less aware about the importance of education. This community is backward in socio- economical aspects. Majority of female population is engaged in primitive activities

such as gathering of forest and fishery etc. Due to these reasons, less literacy is observed in female population.

2) High Disparity Index - (0.501 - 0.600)

According to the table no-1, it is observed that as per the 1991 census, Taloda and Nandurbar have the disparity rate 0.550 and 0.535 respectively which comes under the category of high disparity index. Both, Taloda and Nandurbar considered as urban centers. The literacy rate is of male-39.98% and female- 15.78% of Taloda tehsil and in Nandurbar it is 40.62% and 16.65 respectively of male and female. As compare to Shahada, the female literacy rate of Taloda and Nandurbar is observed higher which ultimately result in decreasing disparity index. Taloda and Nandurbar both are urban center place, so the facility of education is available as well as community resides in both centre's is much aware about the importance of education so the female literacy rate is observed better than Shahada. As Nandurbar is a district place where there are opportunities of employment. For the employment, education is a must so this opportunity factor becomes the impetus behind the higher of female literacy rate in Nandurbar.

3) Moderate Disparity Index – (0.401 – 0.500)

On the basis of information provided in above table taken from census 1991 three tehsils are included under this category that area Akkalkuwa (0.428), Akrani (0.498), and Navapur (0.463) under this category but according to census 2001, two tehsils i.e. Shahada (0.492) and Nandurbar (0.451) are included in this category. According to 1991 census, the female literacy rate of S.T.community of Akrani is 6.68% which is the lowest proportion in the district. There are certain reasons like Akrani lies on total hilly area, lack of educational facilities, socio-economic backwardness, poverty, low standard of living, availability of low fertile land, primary occupations like wood cutting and fishing etc. are behind this lowest proportion.

4)Low Disparity Index – (below 0.400)

There are four tehsils i.e. Akkalkuwa (0.342), Akrani (0.218), Taloda (0.399) and Navapur (0.242) categorized under this title on the basis of information taken from 2001 census. But at the same time it is observed that the female literacy rate is increased as compare to the information of 1991 census i.e. In Akrani, it is 34% and in Nandurbar it is 37.21%. So the disparity index seen lower of these two tehsils than others. Miraculously, it is observed that, the male literacy rate of S.T. community is found 57.7% and female literacy rate is found 37.2% which is higher than any other tehsil in Nanurbar district. The reasons behind this improvement is due to the availability of educational facility, the means of transportation, beginning of urbanization, availability of tertiary occupations, awareness of education so the rate of literacy rate of Navapur is found higher.

CONCLUSION:-

In the present paper, the researcher has found the disparity rate of Schedule Tribe community based on literacy rate provided by the information of census 1991 and 2001, from the above discussion, it is seen that if the female literacy rate is increased then disparity index is observed decreased. It is observed from information provided in the table no 1, in 1991, the female literacy rate of S.T.

community of Shahada and Akrani is found 9.04% and 6.68% respectively. The difference between male literacy rate and female literacy rate in these tehsils is found 23.4% in 1991. Due to this, the disparity index i.e. 0.685 is highest in the district. So it means that if the male literacy rate is found higher which ultimately turns in to higher disparity rate.

According 2001 census, the female literacy rate of Akrani tehsil is 34%. So the difference of female literacy rate of the decade (1991-2001) of Akarani is miraculously higher i.e. 27.32%. It means that if the female literacy rate is found higher which ultimately shows the lesser disparity rate.

According to 2001 census, the male literacy rate of Navapur tehsil is 57.7% and female literacy rate is 37.2%. So the disparity index is observed decreased. The difference of sex literacy rate is seen higher in this decade. The reasons behind these increasing factors are as follows –Awareness about importance of education, Migration from rural to urban center, Improvement of socio-economic background, Upliftment of standard of living.

The ultimate effect of above mentioned reasons is shown in the improvement of sex literacy rate of S.T. community of Nandurbar district. In fact, the female literacy rate is observed lower because the female psyche is not occupied by modern day progress in terms of education.

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