

Research Paper

**SPATIAL PATTERN OF LITERACY IN SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION OF
KOLHAPUR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA**

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K.B.P. College, Pandharpur.**Y. S. Mote**Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Shivaji
University, Kolhapur.**ABSTRACT**

Present investigation intends to study the spatial pattern in literacy of scheduled caste population in the Kolhapur district and their male-female disparity also, mainly based on secondary source such as District Census Hand Book Kolhapur District. Literacy rate has been computed for the population above 6 year and Sopher's Disparity Index (1974) modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been employed for the measurement of male-female disparity in literacy. It is observed that, in all tahsils of Kolhapur district, the scheduled caste male literacy was much higher than the female literacy in 2001 and the male-female disparity has declined. However, the scheduled caste female literacy level as a whole needs to be increased.

INTRODUCTION

Literacy is an important indicator of development of scheduled caste population. Literacy reflects the socio-economic and cultural set-up of a nation, ethnic group or community. It influences and determines qualitatively and quantitatively not only the human resources, but also other population attributes like fertility, mortality, age of marriage and economic participation of a population ultimately, aiming towards welfare of the society (Sawant and Lewis, 2004). According to the census of India 2001, a person who can both read and write with understanding in any language is to be taken as literate. The study of educational status of scheduled caste population is quite interesting aspect (Dhanawade, 2008). At the national level the literacy rate of scheduled caste population is 54.70 per cent which is very low as compared to the literacy rate the total population 64.36 per cent in 2001. The overall literacy rate as well as scheduled caste and scheduled tribe of India have been sharply increasing due to various government policy programs.

OBJECTIVE

Present paper aims to study the spatial pattern in literacy of scheduled caste population in the Kolhapur district and their male-female disparity also.

STUDY AREA

Extremely southern part of Maharashtra state located Kolhapur district lies between 150 43' north to 170 17' north latitude and 730 40' east to 740 42' east longitude (Fig. 1). The Kolhapur district comprises 7685 sq. km area and administratively divided into 12 tahsils supports 35, 23,162 population (2001). In general the physiography of the district have Sahyadri hills in a north-south direction, plateau area situated to the east of the Sahyadri hills and eastern plain area. The climate of Kolhapur is generally temperate. The average annual rainfall varies widely from about 600 mm in Shirol tahsil in the east to 6000 mm in Bavada tahsil in the west. The temperature ranges between 14o c to 38o c. The decadal growth rate (1991-2001) of population is 17.85 per cent. About 70.19 per cent of total population lives in rural area.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present paper intends to analysis the literacy of scheduled caste population in Kolhapur district based on

secondary sources of data collected from the Census of India district handbooks. Literacy rate has been computed for the population above 6 year. For the measurement of male-female disparity in literacy, Sopher's Disparity Index (1974) modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been employed:

$$Ds = \log (X2 / X1) + \log (100 - X1) / (100 - X2) \dots$$

(I)

Kundu and Rao's modified disparity index formula, as follows:

$$Ds = \log (X2 / X1) + \log (200 - X1) / (200 - X2) \dots$$

(II)
X2 is considered for male and X1 for female literacy rates.

SPATIAL PATTERN OF LITERACY IN SCHEDULED CASTE, 2001

Literacy not only helps to enhance human resources but also to control of population growth and ultimately projecting towards welfare of the society (Pore and Mote, 2010). The position of scheduled castes in the attainment of literacy rate in the state of Maharashtra is comparatively better than for the same section at the national level (Ramotra, 2008). The scheduled caste literacy varied from a minimum of 57.12 per cent in Chandgad tahsil to a maximum of 74.91 per cent in Karvir tahsil. There were as many as four tahsils for instance, Panhala, Hatkanangle, Shirol and Karvir which were having literacy rate above the average (70.90%) and remaining eight tahsils viz. Chandgad, Bavda, Ajra, Gadhinglaj, Shahuwadi, Radhanagari, Bhudargad and Kagal are identified with below the average literacy rate in the study area (Table 1 and Fig. 1).

Male-Female Literacy, 2001

Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic processes (Chandna and Sidhu, 1980). In Indian society it is the male literacy rate, which is generally higher than the female literacy rate both in rural and urban areas. The minimum male literacy was in 72.86 per cent in Chandgad tahsil and maximum in 85.71 per cent in Karvir tahsil in the study area. It is interesting to note that here in all tahsils of study area, the male literacy was much higher than the female. It is very surprising to note that the female literacy rate varies from a minimum of 42.29 per cent in Chandgad tahsil to a maximum of 63.78 in Karvir tahsil. Even at district

level the female scheduled caste literacy in 1991 was as low as 39.64 per cent in the study area against 68.23 per cent of male literacy. It is observed that, there are very sharp disparities between male and female literacy attainment both at tahsil and district levels (Table 1 and Fig. 1).

Table 1
Scheduled Caste Literacy Rate and Male Female Disparity in Kolhapur District, 2001

Sr. No.	Tahsils	SC Literacy Rate			Male- Female Disparity Index
		Total	Male	Female	
1.	Shahuwadi	66.15	81.08	51.89	0.289
2.	Panhala	70.92	84.43	57.02	0.263
3.	Hatkanangle	73.24	84.82	61.02	0.225
4.	Shirol	73.69	85.71	61.18	0.231
5.	Karvir	74.91	85.97	63.48	0.210
6.	Bavda	59.06	73.40	44.61	0.305
7.	Radhanagari	66.76	82.37	50.77	0.313
8.	Kagal	68.43	82.41	54.19	0.275
9.	Bhudargad	67.16	81.77	52.71	0.286
10.	Ajra	60.66	75.24	47.02	0.293
11.	Gadhinglaj	63.15	78.13	48.79	0.298
12.	Chandgad	57.12	72.86	42.29	0.330
Kolhapur District		70.90	83.60	57.93	0.246
Maharashtra		71.90	83.30	60.00	0.222
India		54.70	66.60	41.90	0.275

Source: Based on District Census Handbook, Kolhapur District, 2001.

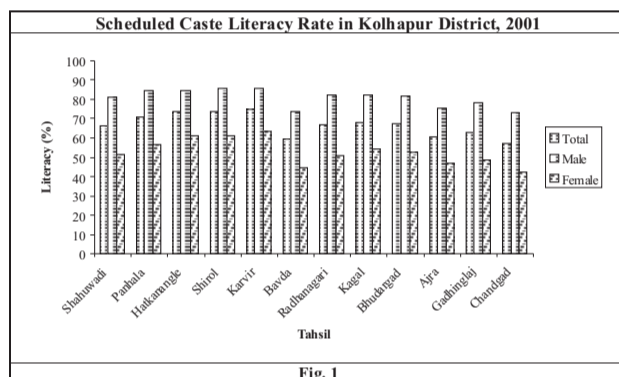


Fig. 1

Male-Female Disparity, 2001

The traditional view point regarding the importance of female literacy as it seems has not got much importance even at the end of the 20th century especially among backward communities, because there has been still a very large disparity between male and female literacy rates (Ramotra, 2003). It observed that the male-female disparity in the study area is very high as the disparity index is as high as 0.246. It is found that maximum male-female disparity was 0.330 in Chandgad and minimum male-female disparity identified with 0.210 in Karvir tahsil of study area in 2001. It is observed that there were nine tahsils such as Panhala, Kagal, Bhudargad, Shahuwadi, Ajra, Gadhinglaj, Bavda, Radhanagari and Chandgad are identified with the male-female disparity was above the average (0.246) and remaining three tahsils viz. Karvir, Hatkanangle and Shirol are below the average. Disparity in literacy generates a number of social, economic and political problems which may threaten the very foundation of development (Singh and Chauhan, 2010). Hence, the male-female disparity found in the study area is cause of concern and should prime priority in the development planning (Table 1 and Fig. 2).

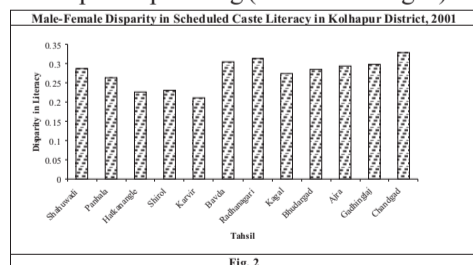


Fig. 2

CONCLUSION

It is found that, the scheduled caste literacy in the study area has increased from 54.34 in 1991 to 70.90 per cent in 2001. The literacy ranges from a minimum of 57.12 per cent in Chandgad tahsil to a maximum of 70.90 per cent in Karvir tahsil in 2001. It is observed that, in all tahsils of study area, the scheduled caste male literacy was much higher than the female literacy in 2001. The male-female disparity has declined from 0.317 in 1991 to 0.246 in 2001. The scheduled caste female literacy level as a whole needs to be increased as to bring them at par for their overall development. In general scheduled caste population as a whole in particular SC female population is excluded in educational development which needs to inclusion with great attention.

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