

A Geographical Analysis Of Literacy In Pune Administrative Division Of Maharashtra, India

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Abstract:

Literacy is an important factor in studying the demographic, socio-cultural and economic status of any region. Literacy is a key of human development, quality of human life and basic human rights. The purpose of this paper is to check literacy in Pune administrative division of Maharashtra. The study is based on secondary sources of information assembled from the censuses of 2001 and 2011. According to the present study, an attempt has been made to examine the changed phenomenon of literacy of the total population of Pune administrative divisions' districts in the state of Maharashtra. Demographic parameters are considered for the study of human resource development. Literacy has given importance to the study of human resource development in any part of the world. The literacy rate in Pune administrative division 74.94 percent is found to be lower than the state (75.87 percent). It is observed that the female rate was 74.94 per cent and male was 88.41 percent (2011). In every district of Pune administrative division, it is seen that male literacy is higher than female literacy. The study shows that the literacy rate in Pune administrative division was only 76.69 percent in 2001 and has reached 85.24 percent in 2011. The last decade has seen positive growth in educational facilities, transportation, agriculture and economic development Compared to other districts in Maharashtra, the literacy rate of all the districts except Solapur in Pune administrative division is satisfactory.

Keywords: Population, Literacy, Male-Female Literacy, Development

Introduction

Education is widely recognized as one of the major contributors to the national and individual development process. Literacy is the quality of human development and human life. A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language is to be taken as literate by the Indian census. Considers the basis of length of schooling not a valid measurement of educational accomplishments, he also disapproves of the ability to read and write one's name in

the language of his country as the criterion for defining a literate (Trewartha, 1969). Anyone over the age of seven who can read or write in any language is considered literate (Hussein, 2011). Literacy rate of the population is defined as the percentage of literates in the age group seven years and above (Census, 2011). It plays an important role in helping one against exploitation, injustice and judgment and in providing better employment opportunities and in socio-economic welfare. It is essential for poverty reduction, mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy. It enhances one's knowledge and understanding of helping against exploitation, injustice and judgment, and providing better employment opportunities, and plays an important role in socio-economic well-being. Literacy is the most important indicator of social development. Literacy is the heart of basic education for all and reduces poverty, reduces mortality, prevents population growth, achieves gender equality and ensures sustainable development, peace and democracy (Singh and Kaur, 2013). Literacy is one of the qualitative characteristics. The level of literacy indicates the development of that particular area. In study area, we observed the difference in total literacy, rural literacy and urban literacy. In case of total literacy, the percentage of literacy is calculated by taking into consideration the total population and literate population whereas in case of rural and urban population it is calculated by considering the rural and urban population respectively.

The literacy rate in the country has increased from 18.33 percent in 1951 to 73.0 percent in 2011. Male literacy has increased from 27.16 per cent in 1951 to 80.90 percent in 2011. The female literacy increased from 8.86 percent in 1951 to 64.70 percent in 2011. The role of education in facilitating social and economic progress is well recognized. Access to education is important to access the opportunities that arise with economic growth. There has been a great emphasis on education since independence. But as long as ensuring quality of education in rural areas has always been the biggest challenge for the government (Hazra, 2011).

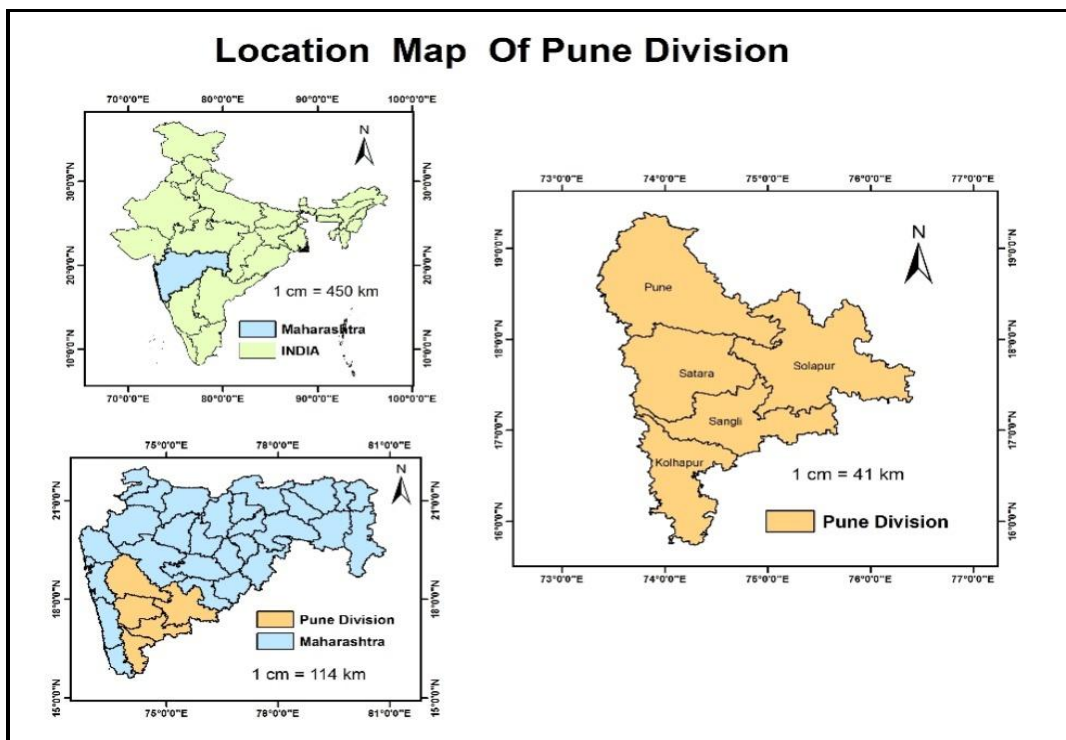
Study Area

The present research work on Pune division has been selected as a study area. It is located in the south central of the Maharashtra State. It lies between 15° 45' N to 19° 24' N latitudes and 73° 19' E to 76° 15' E longitudes and comprises 57,235 square kilometer area which including Pune, Satara, Solapur, Sangali and Kolhapur district, which includes 58 tehsils. The study area is surrounded by Karnataka State in the south, Konkan division in the west,

Nashik division in the north and the north eastern boundary is surrounded by Aurangabad division.

As per 2011 census, the total population was 2,34,49,049. The sex ratio of the region was 941. Out of total population 58.77 percent population was rural population on the other hand only 41.23 percent population was urban area. The rate of literacy was 81.80 percent.

Map No. 1: Location map of Pune Administrative Division



Objectives

The present study has been undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To assess district wise literacy of Pune Administrative Division of Maharashtra from the year 2001 to 2011.
2. To examine the Spatio-temporal changes in effective literacy pattern of Pune District.

Database and Methodology:

This research work is based on secondary data sources. To realize this objectives data regarding literacy rate of Pune administrative divisions district is obtained from census of India, Pune administrative division and Socio-economic abstract of Pune administrative division. The data concerning climate and physiography is collected from the Socio-economic abstract and Gazetteer of Pune, Satara, Sangali, Solapur, and Kolhapur district. The collected data are processed. The district is taken as the component unit of analysis. The study and interpretation of data has been done from the geographical approach. MS-Excel was applied to process, examine and signify this data. High, moderate and low literacy patterns were analyzed in detail. ArcGIS software was applied to prepare the base maps and thematic maps.

Result and Discussion:

Literacy of India

Literacy rate in India is 74.04 in 2011. All over India male literacy has 82.14 and female literacy has 65.46. Literacy in rural areas is inferior to urban areas. Out of ten districts of India Kerala has first 7 district as per census data of 2011. Kerala state having 93.91 percent literacy and Bihar having lowest 63.82 percent literacy ratio. In terms of literacy in India, there is a huge diversity between men and women, rural and urban.

Literacy of Maharashtra

Total population of Maharashtra state has 11,23,74,333 as per census data of 2011. Literacy rate in Maharashtra is 82.34 percent in 2011. All over India male literacy has 88.38 percent and female literacy has 75.87 percent. There is a difference between literacy in rural areas and literacy in urban areas. Maharashtra first five district in literacy having Mumbai suburban 89.91 percent, Mumbai city 89.21 percent, Nagpur 88.39 percent, Akola 88.05 percent and Amravati 87.38 percent. Pune district mounted 7 rank, Satara 12 rank, Solapur 26 rank, Kolhapur 14 rank and Sangli 15 rank in Maharashtra. Literacy is lowest in Nandurbar 64.38 percent, Jalana 71.52 percent, Dhule 72.80 percent.

Distribution of population and literacy in Pune administrative division

As per 2011 census, the total population was 2,34,49,049. Out of total population 58.77 percent population was rural population on the other hand only 41.23 percent population was

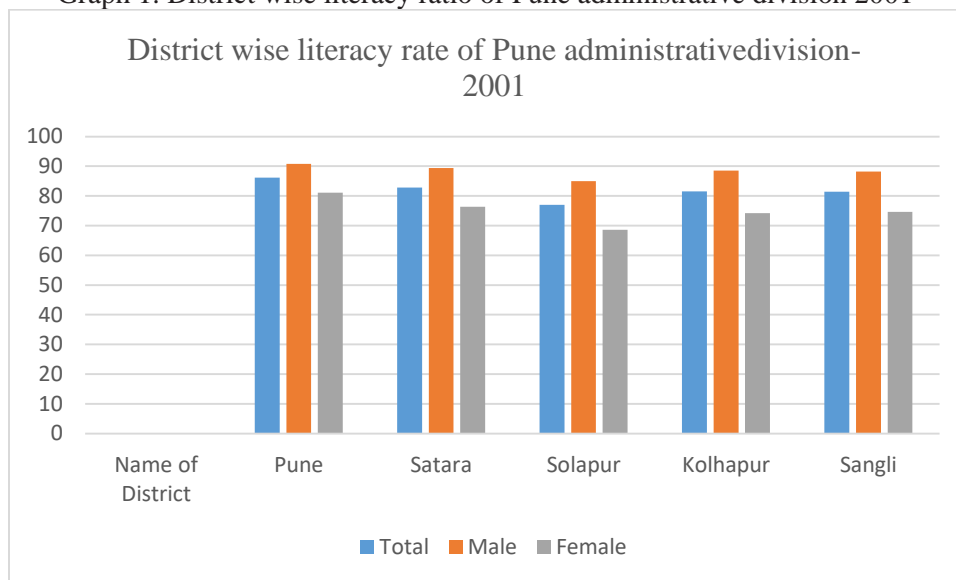
urban area. The rate of literacy was 81.80 percent (2011).

Table No.1 -Literacy Rate of Pune administrative division, 2001 and 2011

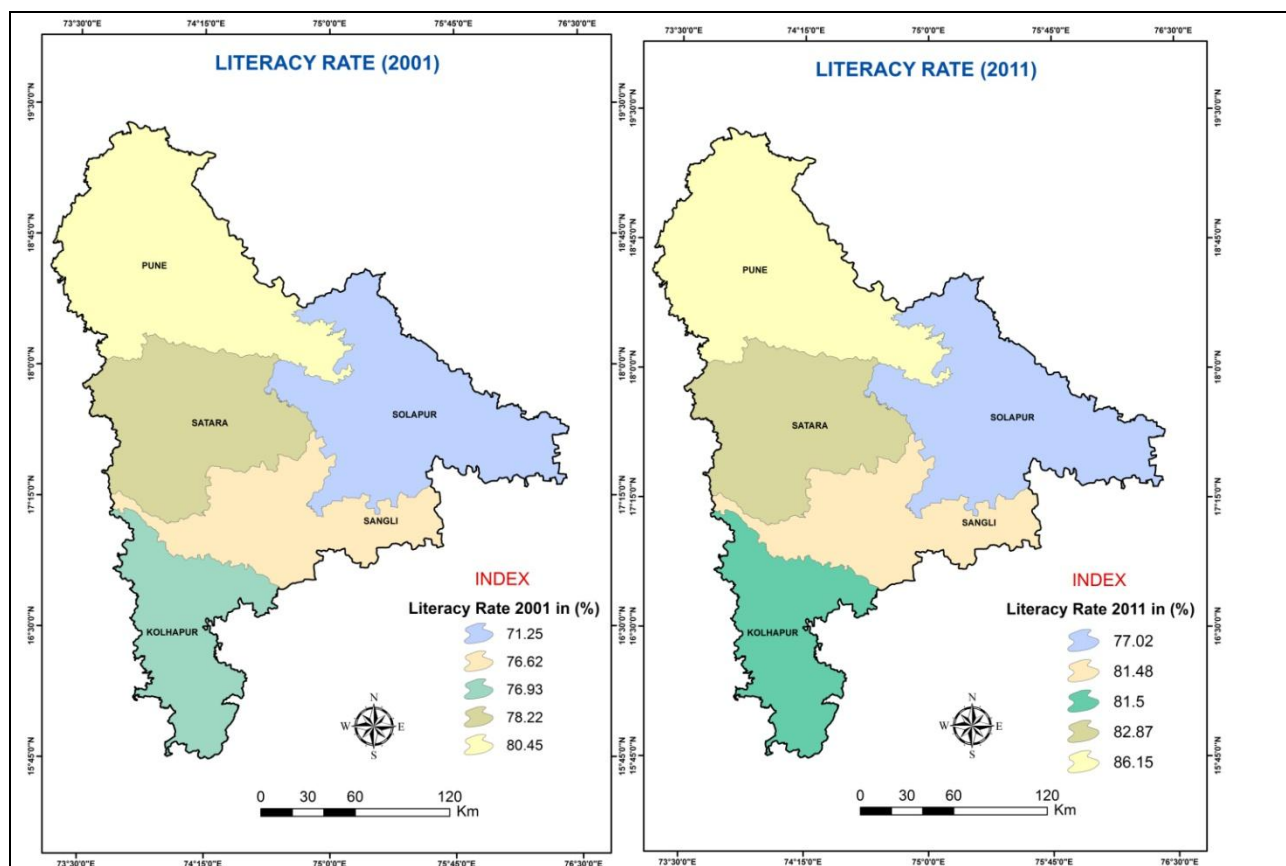
Sr. No	Name of District	Literacy Rate 2001			Literacy Rate 2011			Change in 2001 & 2011		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Pune	80.45	88.34	71.89	86.15	90.84	81.05	6.38	2.50	9.61
2	Satara	78.22	88.20	68.38	82.87	89.42	76.31	4.65	1.22	7.93
3	Solapur	71.25	81.99	59.84	77.02	85.03	68.55	5.77	3.04	8.71
4	Kolhapur	76.93	87.47	66.02	81.50	88.57	74.22	4.57	1.10	8.20
5	Sangli	76.62	86.26	66.73	81.48	88.22	74.59	4.86	1.96	7.86
Pune Adm. Division		76.69	86.45	66.57	81.80	88.41	74.94	5.24	1.96	8.46
Maharashtra		76.88	85.97	67.03	82.34	88.38	75.87	5.46	2.41	8.84
India		64.84	75.56	53.67	73.00	80.90	64.70	8.16	5.34	11.03

Source – Compiled by researcher on the basis of district census handbook of Pune divisions district, 2001 to 2011

Graph 1. District wise literacy ratio of Pune administrative division 2001



Map No. 2: District wise literacy Ratio of Pune administrative division, 2001 - 2011

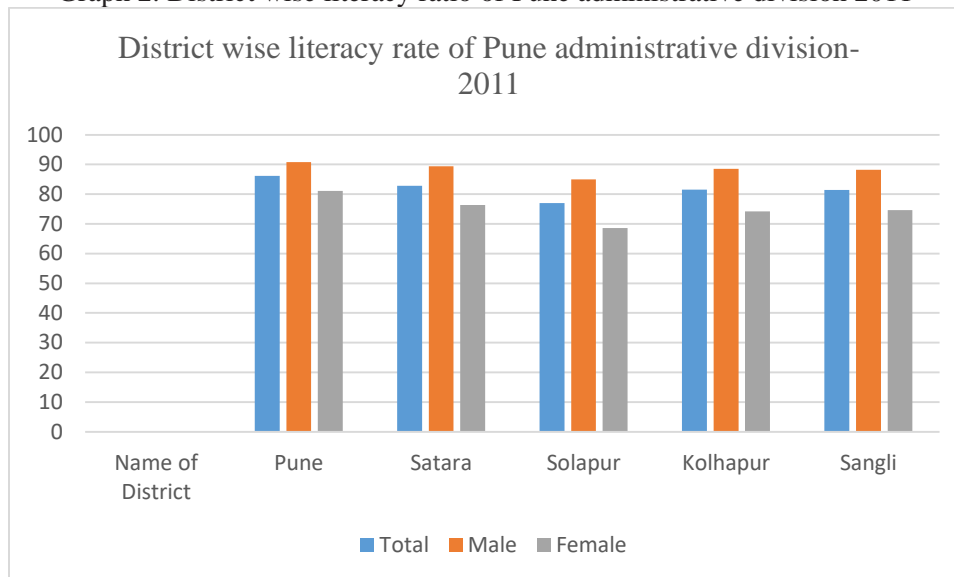


Literacy Rate 2001

According to the 2001 census, the overall literacy rate in the Pune administrative division was 76.69 percent. It is 0.19 percent less than the total literacy rate of Maharashtra. Pune district has the highest literacy rate of 80.45 percent and the lowest literacy rate of the district is 71.25 percent. The literacy rate of Pune, Satara and Kolhapur districts is less than that of Maharashtra, which has affected the overall literacy rate. In terms of male literacy, Pune district is leading in the division while Solapur district is the least literate district in the division. In Indian society it is the male literacy rate, which is generally higher than the female literacy both in rural and urban areas (Ramotra, Vadiyar and Mote, 2009). Female literacy in Pune division is 66.57 percent. Pune and Satara districts have higher literacy rate than other districts. Solapur district has the lowest female literacy rate at 59.84 percent. If we look at the literacy statistics of the entire country, the literacy of the districts in the division is higher in all respects.

Literacy Rate 2011

Graph 2. District wise literacy ratio of Pune administrative division 2011



The literacy rate in Pune administrative division was 76.69 percent in 2001 and increased to 88.41 percent in 2011. This rate is definitely higher than the overall literacy rate of the state of Maharashtra. Pune and Satara districts have higher literacy rates than other districts and higher than Maharashtra, other districts appear to be less than Maharashtra state. The rural areas of Solapur district have not yet witnessed satisfactory development of agriculture, irrigation and industry, which has affected the literacy rate. Solapur district has the lowest literacy rate of 77.02 percent and Pune district has the highest literacy rate of 86.15 percent. From 2001 to 2011, in this decade women's literacy has increased satisfactorily. Special efforts need to be made to ensure that Solapur, Kolhapur and Sangli districts have less literacy than the state of Maharashtra.

Conclusion:

It was found that the average literacy rate of each district in the study area was 81.80 per cent which is lower than the literacy rate of Maharashtra State, the average literacy rate of the state is 82.34%. The male literacy rate in Pune administrative division is higher than the male literacy rate of Maharashtra. The female literacy rate in Kolhapur, Sangli and Solapur districts is lower than other districts as well as in Maharashtra. There is a big difference between female

literacy and male literacy in the division. Especially in the urban areas of Pune, Satara and Solapur, the male literacy rate is high. Therefore, it has an indirect effect on the overall literacy rate. Due to industrialization and urbanization, a large number of male migration has been found in this area. The literacy is low within the rural and hilly areas of the Sahyadri. Poverty, unemployment, lack of school space, lack of roads and transportation facilities, absence of teachers, lack of the adequate number of students due to distance of schools in remote areas are the main reasons for this low literacy in this areas. Therefore, to improve the living standards of the people through implementing an action plan to improve literacy, it is important to provide employment, medical and other necessary services to the people. The government is implementing many programs for illiterate and child education. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made great strides in child education. This program should be implemented in all areas in a good manner.

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