

Educational Status of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Caste Population in Sangli District (Maharashtra): A Comparative Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

Education is the most crucial resource, which explains the changes that take place in individuals in their various stages of development. Improvement in quality of human resources is essential for the development. Education is the key investment for achieving this. Education is a great instrumental value in the process of economic growth and development. The role of education in the all-round development of a community, economically, socially, hardly needs to be emphasized. Education is being increasingly regarded as an important instrument of social and economic change (Jadhav, 2008). The educational and economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has gained national priority and though education is mainly the concern of the State Governments, the Government of India has not only made liberal allocation of funds but also for the education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Rao, 1981). Literacy and educational attainment is the most potent weapon of social change without which no society can break the shackles of backwardness. It is also reliable index of socio-economic development and an important precondition for rural development (Ramotra, 2008).

Education is one of the important needs of life. A low degree of literacy is an obstacle to economic growth. Investment in education is a measure of the future development of a country. Formal schooling is a good index of a population's educational attainment. The most of basic minimum measurement of educational status is the degree of literacy. But it is very difficult to measure the degree of literacy in accurate terms (Ghosh, 1985). A person age 7 years and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is taken as literate (Census of India, 1991). In simple terms education means the process of receiving and giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university. Education is the most important discovery of mankind. Education is the basic factor which counts for the development of our civilization. Education is the process of acquisition of knowledge, skill, beliefs, values and habits (J.J. Rousseau).

STUDY AREA

The present study is focused on Scheduled Caste population in Sangli district. The Sangli district is located at the extreme south of the state and bordering between the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The district is surrounded by Satara and Solapur district in the north, Ratnagiri district in the North West and Kolhapur district in the west Belgaum and Bijapur district of Karnataka. Therefore the district is having the culture of two states. The Sangli district lies between 16.45' and 70.33' north longitudes and 73.42' and 75.40' east latitudes. The district is divided into 10 tehsils with an area of 8591.3 kilometers and a population of 28,22,143. Geographically the district is divided into three zones, viz. western zone, central zone and

eastern zone. The district lies in the Sothern part of Maharashtra state.

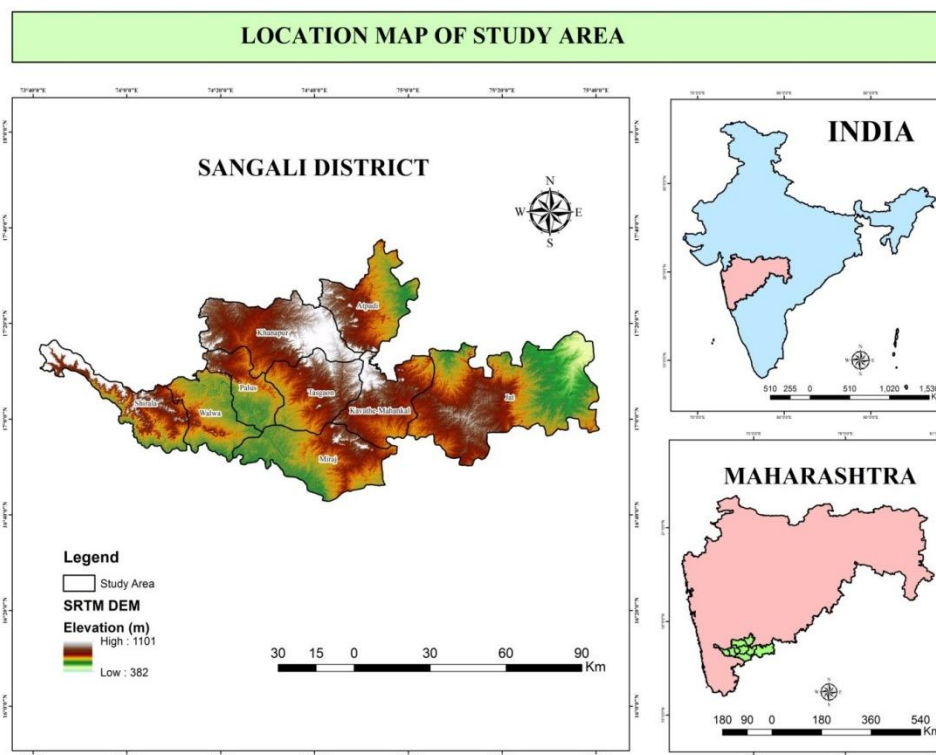


Fig. 1 Location map of study area.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the literacy rate of Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Caste population in the Sangli district.
- 2) To study the causes of educational backwardness of Scheduled Caste population in study area.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

PRIMARY DATA

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data was collected through field survey, questionnaire and personal interview method for the 9 sample villages of Sangli district.

SECONDARY DATA

The secondary data was collected from the Census reports published by the Government of India for 2001 and 2011, Primary Census Abstract of Maharashtra state 2001-2011, Socio-economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Sangli district, Dissertations, Books, Journals, and Articles etc.

METHODOLOGY

Total 358 households were surveyed, out of which 179 households were of Scheduled Castes and 179 households from of non-Scheduled Castes segments of population from these

sample villages. Systematic sampling technique was applied for the collection of primary data, every third house was considered for data collection so as to avoid the biasness. The selection of the villages was based on the proportion of the Scheduled Caste population above 20 per cent in the selected villages. Another criterion for selecting the villages, nearness to urban center, some villages selected which are near or on the road highway, some from the hilly area, some from the countryside or the rural

background and some villages from the drought prone part of the Sangli district so as to investigate the impact of socio-physical and historical aspects on the population both weaker as well as the privileged one.

Literacy Rate

Literacy rate has been obtained by using following formula,

$$\text{Literacy Rate} = \frac{\text{Literate Population}}{\text{Total Population above 6 years old}} \times 100$$

David Sopher's Disparity Index

In this study to measure SC-Non-SC disparity in literacy, David Sopher's disparity index modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been employed,

$$Ds = \log (X_2/X_1) + \log (100-X_1) / (100-X_2).....(\text{David Sopher's formula, 1974})$$

Kundu and Rao modified disparity formula as follows,

$$Ds = \log (X_2/X_1) + \log (200-X_1) / (200-X_2).....(\text{Kundu and Rao formula, 1983})$$

Where,

X₂ is considered as Scheduled Caste literacy rate.

X₁ is considered as Non-Scheduled Caste literacy rate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1) SC AND NON-SC LITERACY IN 2001

Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality and lays a foundation for sustained economic growth. Literacy rate plays an important role in any development. Dr Ambedkar said, "Education is what makes a person fearless, teaches him the lesson of unity, makes him aware of his rights and inspires him to struggle for his rights." He believed that education is a movement.

Average 71.19 per cent Scheduled Caste population are literate as per the 2001 census it

compare to the Non-Scheduled Caste literacy (82.01%) was 10.82 per cent behind. Highest SC literacy was observed in Walwa tehsil (73.34%) because of in this tehsil maximum number of villages are very near to the tehsil headquarter and Islampur city are well known for educational hub therefore the literacy in SC and Non-SC are very high. Lowest SC literacy was found in Jat tehsil (62.22%) of Sangli district, this number indicates very low literacy compare to the other tehsils of Sangli district. The reason behind that is this tehsil is one of the broadest and longest tehsil in Maharashtra state, severe drought condition, maximum peoples are engaged in primary sector and most of the SC population are migrated towards the district headquarter or Miraj tehsil therefore this tehsil was very educationally poor tehsil in both SC and Non-SC literacy category.

Scheduled Caste literacy compares to the Non-Scheduled Caste literacy it was very less in all the tehsil except Atpadi tehsil. Not a single tehsil of SC literacy was more than 80 per cent category but Non-SC literacy there are 5 tehsils was comes in above 80 per cent literacy category. In Non-SC literacy category Miraj tehsil (92.04%) having highest literate tehsil in Sangli district there are many reasons behind that i.e. nearness of the district headquarter, biggest Maharashtra industrial development corporation (MIDC), railway junction, highly urbanized tehsil therefore Miraj tehsil comes in high literacy category. SC-Non-SC literacy disparity of Sangli and Maharashtra state more or less same.

Table 1
Sangli District, SC & Non-SC Literacy Rate, 2001

Sr. No.	Name Of Tehsil	SC Literacy Rate (%)	Non-SC Literacy Rate (%)	SC-Non-SC Disparity
1	Shirala	69.80	76.79	0.065
2	Walwa	73.34	85.45	0.110
3	Palus	71.67	87.72	0.146
4	Khanapur	68.26	85.53	0.141
5	Atpadi	66.87	65.93	-0.009
6	Tasgaon	68.68	86.91	0.167
7	Miraj	72.15	92.04	0.179
8	Kavathe- Mahankal	70.32	75.67	0.050
9	Jat	62.22	63.77	0.016
Sangli		71.19	82.01	0.100
Maharashtra		71.91	81.85	0.091
India		54.69	74.99	0.202

Source: Census of India, 2001.

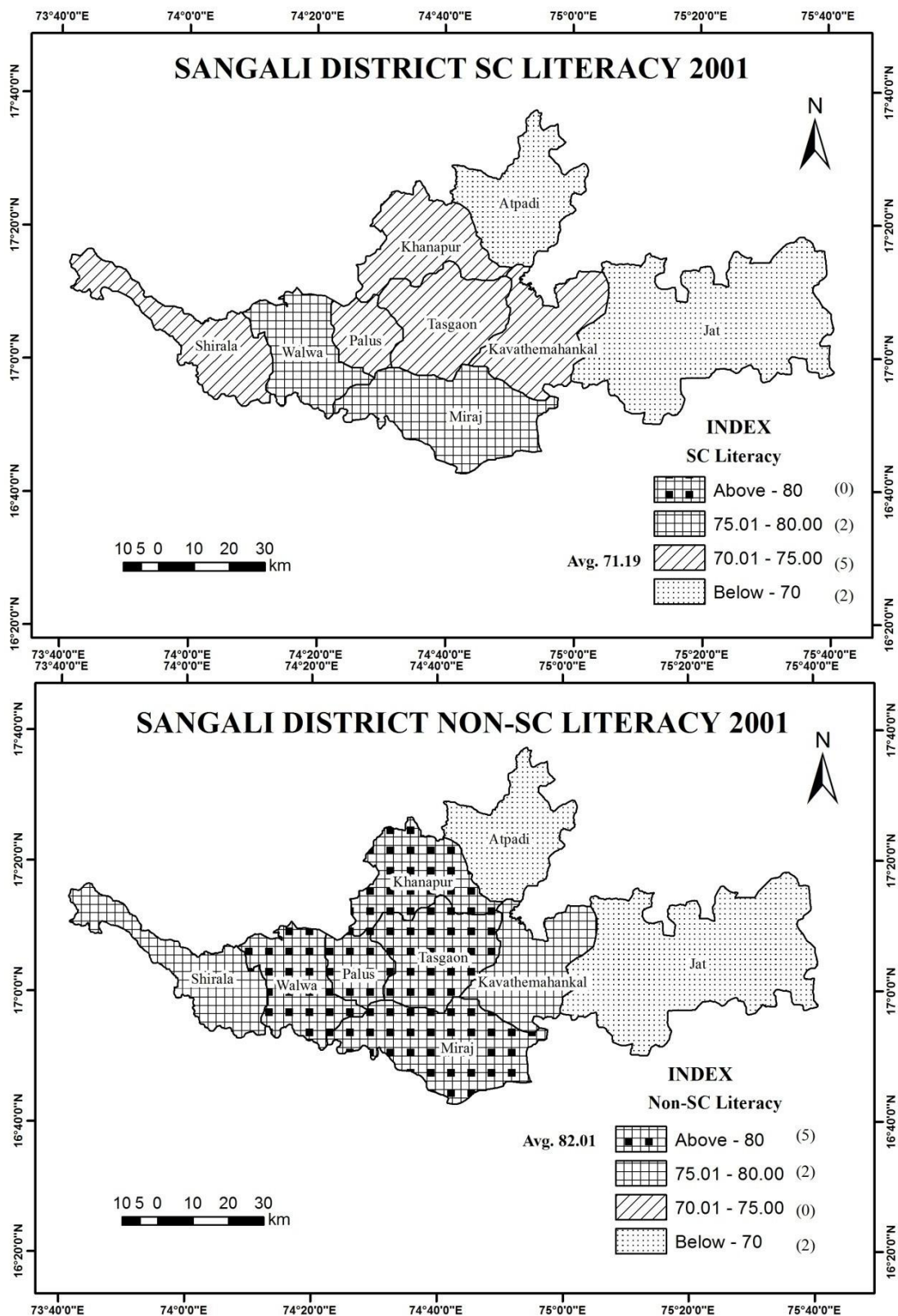


Fig. 2 Sangli District, SC & Non-SC Literacy Rate, 2001

2) SC AND NON-SC LITERACY IN 2011

Article 46 of the Constitution states that, "The State shall promote, with special care, the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of social exploitation". Articles 330, 332, 335, 338 to 342 and the entire Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution deal with special provisions for implementation of the objectives set forth in Article 46. These provisions need to be fully utilized for the benefit of these weaker sections in our society (Government of India Report, 2012).

Table 2
Sangli District, SC & Non-SC Literacy Rate, 2011

Sr. No.	Name Of Tehsil	SC Literacy Rate (%)	Non-SC Literacy Rate (%)	SC-Non-SC Disparity
1	Shirala	76.90	80.86	0.036
2	Walwa	82.91	90.43	0.089
3	Palus	80.65	91.57	0.097
4	Khanapur* Kadegaon	79.58	88.73	0.106
5	Atpadi	73.80	71.68	-0.020
6	Tasgaon	80.83	92.26	0.125
7	Miraj	81.91	90.99	0.115
8	Kavathe- Mahankal	77.08	80.06	0.027
9	Jat	69.46	71.28	0.017
Sangli		78.09	84.21	0.044
Maharashtra		79.70	84.98	0.047
India		66.10	81.98	0.148

Source: Census of India, 2011.

* Before 2001 Kadegaon was the part of Khanapur tehsil and after 2001 they split into Khanapur and Kadegaon tehsils.

As per the census of India 2011 about 78.08 per cent Scheduled Caste population in Sangli district was literate and the other side Non-Scheduled Caste population literacy was 84.21 per cent it means about 6.13 per cent gap between SC and Non-SC has been observed. In all the tehsils of Sangli district remaining Atpadi tehsil Non-SC literacy was higher than SC literacy. Highest Scheduled Caste literacy was observed in Walwa tehsil (82.91%) followed that Miraj (81.91%) and Tasgaon (80.83%) tehsil are comes. Walwa, Miraj and Tasgaon tehsils maximum Scheduled Caste population was comes under the urban region they benefited well compared to the other remaining tehsils.

In Non-Scheduled Caste category Tasgaon tehsil leading front with 92.26 per cent literacy rate followed that Palus tehsil 91.57 per cent and Miraj tehsil 90.99 per cent Non-SC literacy was found. Lowest Scheduled Caste Literacy was observed in Jat tehsil (69.46%) followed that Atpadi tehsil 73.80 per cent literacy rate and Kavathe-

Mahankal tehsil having 77.08 per cent SC literacy observed. As per the 2011 census highest SC-non-SC disparity was observed in Tasgaon tehsil which is 0.125 and lowest was in Jat tehsil 0.017, but in Atpadi tehsil were having negative disparity - 0.020 observed because of SC literacy 73.80 per cent and non-SC literacy was 71.68 per cent it means SC literacy was slightly higher than the non- SC literacy therefore, in Atpadi tehsil negative disparity was observed.

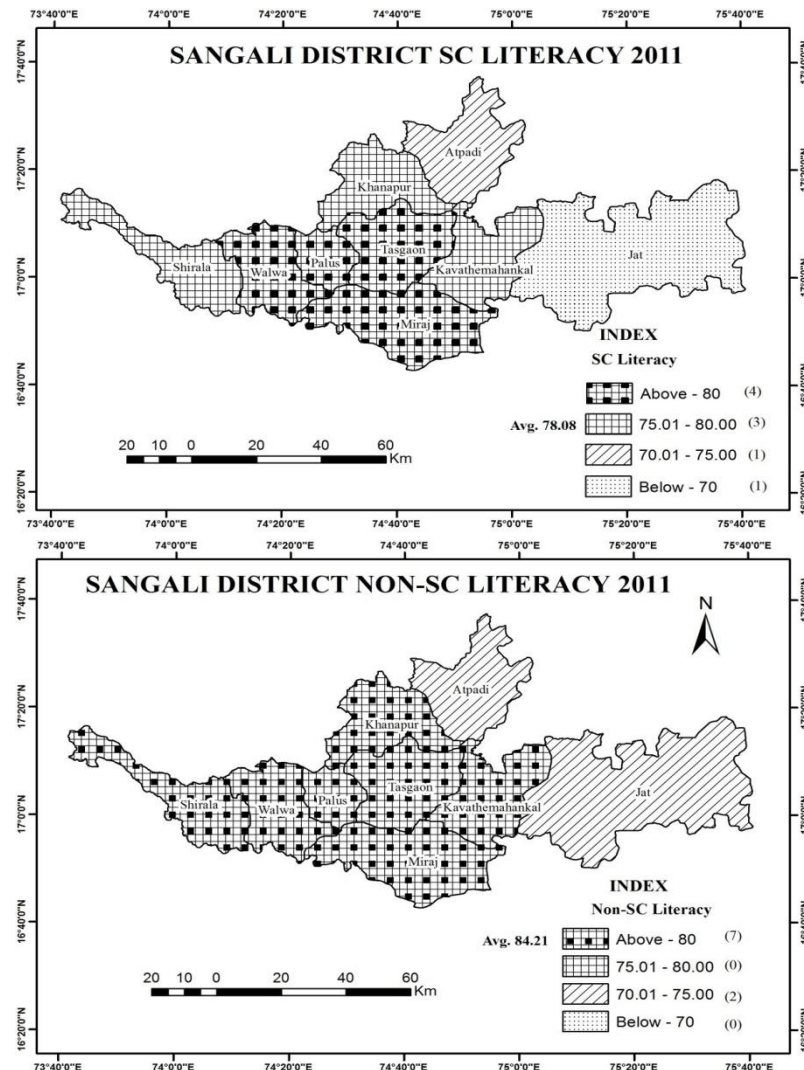


Fig. 2 Sangli District, SC & Non-SC Literacy Rate, 2011

3) SC AND NON-SC LITERACY IN SAMPLE VILLAGES 2016-17

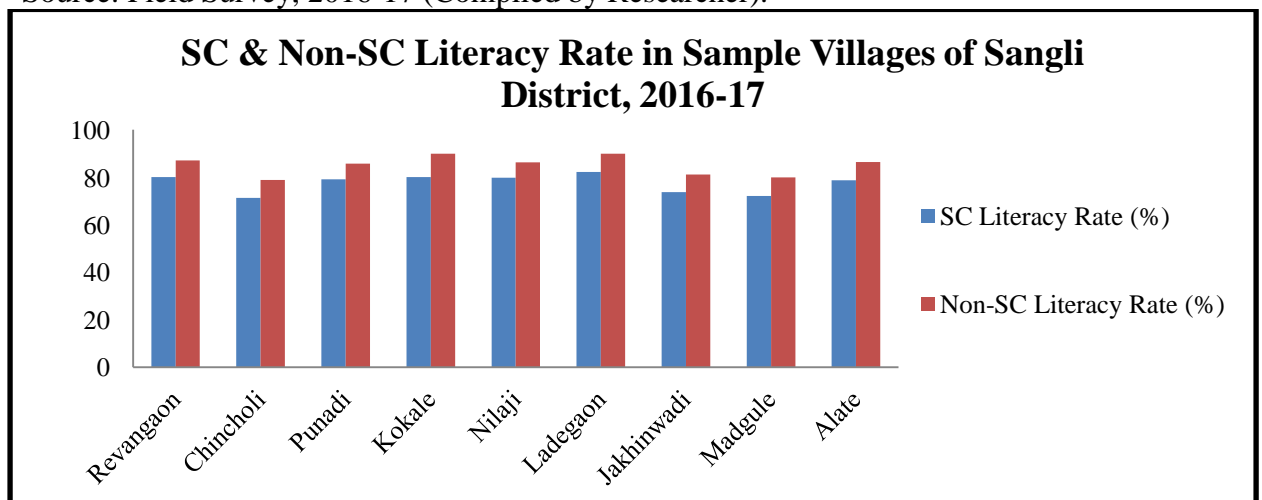
This part of study is based on the primary data collected by conducting the interviews with the help of detailed households schedule mainly during 2017-17 from 9 villages in Sangli district. Overall Scheduled Caste literacy in sample villages was 77.47% observed. Highest percentage of Scheduled Caste literacy was observed in the village of Ladegaon 82.20% of Walwa tehsil and lowest in Madgule 69.89% of Atpadi tehsil. Literacy among non-Scheduled Caste population overall 85.06% literacy rates

was observed in sample villages. Scheduled Caste literacy comparing to non-Scheduled Caste literacy difference between both castes was near about 7 per cent literacy rate so SC literacy was much behind to non-SC literacy. Highest literacy is observed in the village of Ladegaon of Walwa tehsil 88.99% because of in this village educational facilities are largely available. Lowest SC literacy was indicated in Madgule village of Atpadi tehsil because of this village is comes under the drought prone region most of the SC population was migrated towards the tehsil or district headquarter therefore, illiterate and dependant population was living in this village results lowest literacy observed.

Table 3
SC & Non-SC Literacy Rate in Sample Villages of Sangli District, 2016-17

Sr. No.	Village	Tehsil	SC Literacy Rate (%)	Non-SC Literacy Rate (%)	SC-Non-SC Disparity
1	Revangaon	Khanapur	80.11	87.12	0.062
2	Chincholi	Shirala	71.30	78.90	0.070
3	Punadi	Tasgaon	79.18	85.77	0.059
4	Kokale	Kavathe-Mahankal	80.12	89.88	0.086
5	Nilaji	Miraj	79.77	86.34	0.058
6	Ladegaon	Walwa	82.20	89.99	0.069
7	Jakhinwadi	Khanapur	73.70	81.13	0.068
8	Madgule	Atpadi	72.08	79.92	0.072
9	Alate	Tasgaon	78.71	86.49	0.069
Average			77.47	85.06	0.068

Source: Field Survey, 2016-17 (Compiled by Researcher).



CONCLUSION

Literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population in Sangli district as per 2001 was

71.19 per cent this literacy rate was increased in 2011 and it goes to 78.08 per cent it means near about 7 per cent (6.89 per cent) Scheduled Caste population literacy in Sangli district was improved. In the other side Non-Scheduled Caste literacy in 2001 was 82.04 percent and 84.21 in 2011 census was observed. Educational attainment and literacy rate was improved both SC and Non-SC sector comparing 2001 census to 2011 census. Disparity among the SC-Non-SC as per the 2001 it was 0.099 was observed because of SC literacy 71.19 and Non-SC literacy 82.01 per cent it means about 10.82 per cent gap between SC and Non-SC population was observed. As per the 2011 census SC-Non-SC disparity was minimized and goes down to 0.044 the reason behind that was SC literacy 78.08 and Non-SC literacy 84.21 per cent only 6.13 per cent gap was observed therefore, disparity was decreased compares to the 2001 literacy disparity.

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