

“Geographical Analysis of Female Literacy Pattern: A case study of Ahmednagar District”

Dr.S.Y. Narke

JamkhedMahavidyalaya, Jamkhed

Dist- Ahmednagar (MS) 413201.

Affiliated to SPP University, Pune

Email- drsunilnarke@gmail.com

ABTRACT:

Literacy has become an important development strategy today. Literacy has been considered one of the most important attributes for social development. But female literacy is important social indicator for social, agricultural and economic development in agrarian countries like India. This study is based on acceptance of important of education. The study aims to trace the spatial pattern of female literacy for different tahsil in the district. The study finds out changes in literacy in the district. Similarly gender still appears to major issue, female does show their critical condition in literacy during the past than present in the study area not only in the rural area but also in the urban area. Last decade growth of female literacy also satisfied due to changing social attitude about education of girls and government policy are responsible for increase the literacy in the Ahmednagar district.

KEY WORDS:Tahsil wise observation female literacy pattern.

INTRODUCTION:

Population study is one of the major fields of human geography and scientific study of population with its quantitative and qualitative nature. Literacy has been considered one of the most important attributes for social development. It is seen as a prerequisite for economic growth, social mobility and political stability. Illiteracy, by contrast, has frequently been related to increased poverty in general. In terms of literacy there is marked regional variation as well as different level of literacy between rural and urban area.

Literacy has been defined differently by different sources. According to definition given by dictionary, literacy referred to capacity to read and write with certain level of education. Literacy is normally considered in terms of both reading

and writing with understanding. In India right from the beginning census, literates were enumerated and literacy rates were calculated. It is not necessary that a person who is literate should have received any formal education or should have addition to this for 1991 census, all children of age 6 years or less are treated as illiterate even they may be going to school and can read and write a few odd words. In earlier census, this limitation was up to the age of 4.

The trends in female literacy are indicative of the pace at which the life and economy of a particular society are getting transformed. Female literacy levels display differentials in region to region. Large number of socio-economic factors such as nature of economy, levels of urbanization, standard of living, freedom and status of females influence literacy patterns. Therefore Ahmednagar district has choose for the study of female literacy pattern. Female literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relation and for permitting the free play of demographic process (Chandana and Sidhu).

OBJECTIVE:

The main aim of the present paper is to understand female literacy character of population in Ahmednagar district. This is viewed in the light of following specific objectives.

1. To study the spatial pattern of female literacy rate in the study area.
2. To understand the female literacy rate in study area

METHODOLOGY:

The entire work is based on secondary data sources. In the present study, tahsil has been considered as a basic unit of investigation. Study of temporal changes of population character like female literacy rate for the Ahmednagar district. It has been carried out for the year of 1971 to 2011. With the help of simple statistical technique the values are computed in relation to percentage. The levels of female literacy patterns are based on district average literacy rate and taluka wise female literacy rate.

STUDY AREA:

Ahmednagar district is generally central position in Maharashtra lying between 18° 10' and 20° 00' North latitudes and 73° 30' and 75 ° 37' East longitudes. The district is irregular in shape and resembles a slanting cross with a length of 200kms and a breadth of 210kms. While the area of the district accounts for 5.5 percent of the total area of the state, the district population constitutes 4.2 percent of the total

population of the state (2011). Among the 35 districts of the state, the district rank first in terms of area, sixth in terms of population. The district is a part of western plateau with protruded hills, the micro level division of Deccan plateau. The district as a whole is an elevated tableland which has denuded by the Godavari and Bhima rivers basin. According to Census 2011, Ahmednagar district has a total population of 4543159. The Ahmednagar district reported female literacy in 2011 census, they constitute 71.28 percent as literate's of female population (Excusing 0-6 age group) of the district. It is predominantly an agricultural district with about 70 percent of its population living in rural area and depends upon agriculture and allied activities.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Tahsil wise Female Literacy Rate of Population (1971-2011):

Table: Tahsil wise Female Literacy Rate of Ahmednagar District in Percentage (1971 to 2011):

Sr. No	Name of tahsils	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Akole	10.12	16.20	33.94	57.60	65.61
2	Sangamner	19.27	27.47	46.49	64.70	72.38
3	Kopargaon	21.73	32.75	49.80	63.30	72.10
4	Rahata	-	-	-	68.50	75.44
5	Shrirampur	28.70	35.50	53.78	67.80	74.97
6	Newasa	18.56	26.76	41.22	65.30	70.49
7	Shevgaon	15.08	22.61	36.37	56.50	63.41
8	Pathardi	14.72	22.22	36.29	57.10	63.62
9	Nagar	31.54	43.25	61.13	76.80	81.22
10	Rahuri	25.56	32.11	48.52	65.10	72.06
11	Parner	15.52	23.83	40.71	59.20	67.05
12	Shrigonda	18.41	26.83	43.47	62.80	68.41
13	Karjat	18.41	23.96	37.25	61.45	65.65
14	Jamkhed	16.67	21.15	34.69	54.30	62.93
15	District total	19.27	29.24	45.99	64.40	71.28

Source: Census of India, District Census Handbook of Ahmednagar District

Graph:Tahsil wise Female Literacy Rate of Ahmednagar District in Percentage (197771 to 2011):

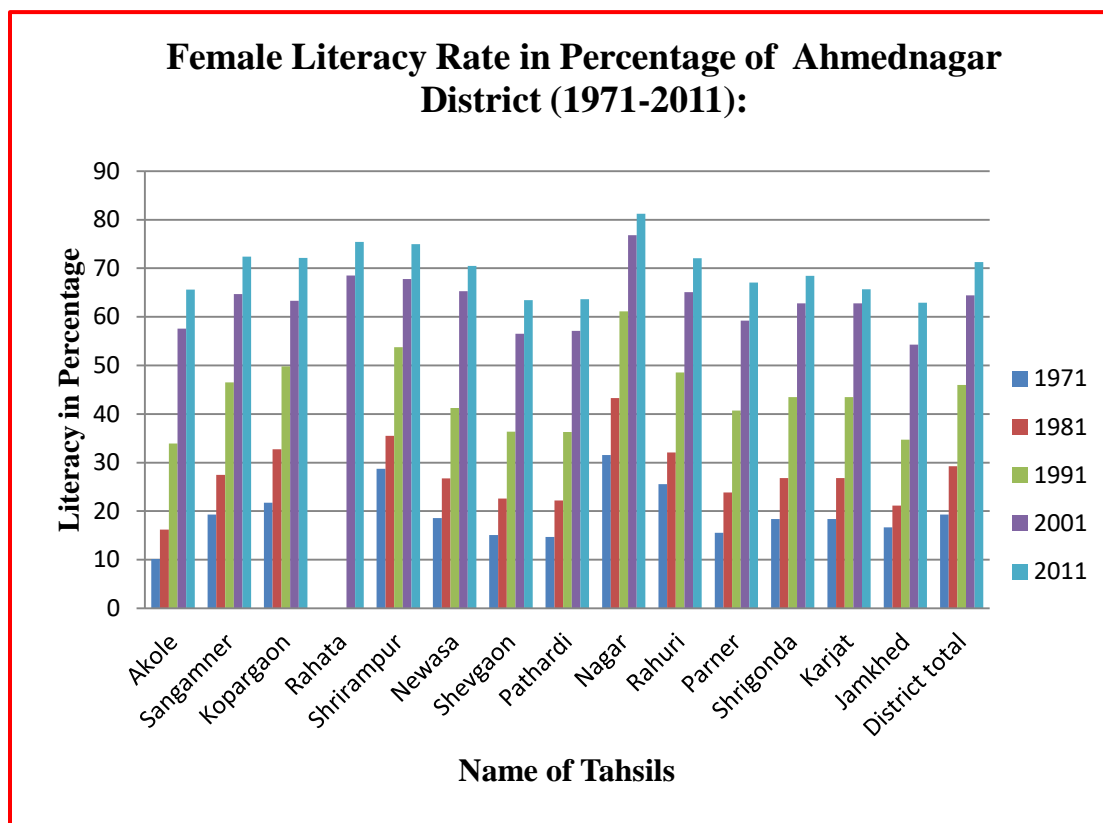


Table shows female literacy rate is comparatively lower than male population. The low literacy rates among the females in the study region are the product of variety of socio-economic factors. Female literacy is one of the most important indicators of socioeconomic and infrastructural development. The females, in general, are not allowed much mobility; they remain confined to four walls of the house only. Also it is very rare that a girl is sent to a school in the adjacent village, if there is no school in the home village. In general, females are comparatively less free and do not have the opportunities for formal education. The females there have granted low status, lower mobility, lower freedom, early marriage and large amount of domestic work. Such type of work does not require education. (Ghosh 1985) The discussion reveals that female literacy always was lower than that of male in less developed region. Besides this lack of separate schools for females, paucity of female teacher and poverty are other responsible factors for low literacy level among the females of population. This resulted in

social disapproval of education in rural area. A female literacy rate fluctuates over the study region and differs from tahsil to tahsils. The study region grouped into four categories, based on the literacy rates. i. e. low female literacy rate, moderate female literacy rate, high female literacy rate and very high female literacy rate of population.

LOW FEMALE LITERACY RATE OF POPULATION (Below 30 Percent):

Table shows low literacy rate among the female. This category covers all thirteen tahsils of the district during 1971. After 1971, Kopergaon, Shrirampur, Nagar and Rahuri tahsils moved up into moderate literacy of population and other tahsils of Akole (16.20%), Sangamner (27.47 %), Newasa (26.76 %), Shevgaon (22.61 %), Pathardi (22.22 %), Parner (23.83%), Shrigonda (26.83%), Karjat (23.96%), and Jamkhed (21.15%) included into low literacy rate category during 1981. After 1981, all these tahsils moved up into moderate literacy category and displayed increasing trend in literacy rate. Spread of education facilities in rural areas had created great opportunities to give education for females. The priority of female education and reservation in services attributed significantly to increase in female literacy. Thus, such conditions increased status of female, resultantly study region demonstrated increase in the level of female literacy.

MODERATE FEMALE LITERACY RATE OF POPULATION (30.01-45 Percent):

Table was show moderate female literacy of the population. This category was reported by tahsils of Kopergaon (32.75%), Shrirampur (35.50%), Nagar (43.25%) and Rahuri (32.11%) during 1981. After 1981, except Akole and Jamkhed tahsil, other tahsils moved up into high literacy rate. During 1991, Akole (33.94%), and Jamkhed (34.69%) was included in moderate literacy category. The proportion of female participation in economic activity was low, due to females were working as traditionally agricultural labour and they did not require literacy. The education of males gets a priority. As a result of this female literacy displayed moderate. After 1991 all said situation changed due to availability of education, need of female literacy in various sectors, increased work participation of females, especially in secondary and tertiary activities. Thus the study region witnessed improvement in female literacy level.

HIGH FEMALE LITERACY RATE OF POPULATION (45.01-60 Percent):

Table show the high literacy of female population. During 1991, there were four tahsils included in this category, these tahsil were of Sangamner (46.49 %), Kopergaon (49.80%), Shrirampur (53.78%), Newasa (41.22 %) included moderate

literacy category. During 2001, tahsils of Akole (57.60%), Shevgaon (56.50 %), Pathardi (57.10 %), Parner (59.20%) and Jamkhed (54.30%) included in high literacy category and other tahsils moved up into very high literacy category. After 2001, all 14 tahsils moved up into very high literacy category.

VERY HIGH FEMALE LITERACY RATE OF POPULATION (Above 60.01 Percent):

Table show the very high literacy rate among the female. During 1991, only Nagar (61.13%) included in this category. During 2001, there were nine tahsils included in this category; these tahsils were of Sangamner (64.70 %), Kopergaon (63.30%), Rahata (68.50%), Shrirampur (67.80%), Newasa (65.30 %) Nagar (76.80%), Rahuri (65.10 %), Shrigonda (62.80 %) and Karjat (61.45%) included moderate literacy category. During 2011, all tahsils were included in the very high literacy category. The study region has witnessed a change in the context of female literacy level. The female literacy rates have increased rapidly after 1991, to open up a large number of schools. Recent years, the need of female literacy in modern society brought rise in literacy level of female. Government policies are favorable for female education. The reservation, for female in education and employment, had increased status and granted education to woman by society. This has resulted into increase in female literacy level during 2011.

CONCLUSION:

Important factor influencing variations in spatial pattern of proportion of female literates rate to population in different parts of the district. A peculiar social set up found in the district, where female education get low priority, results in relatively low proportion of literates among females. So, their impact on the literacy rate of female in the district. In the study area lowest literacy rate was continuously lower in Jamkhed, Pathardi, Shevgaon and Akole tahsil because such tahsils are located in non-irrigated area. So, that their impact on female literacy in these tahsils. In every decade Jamkhed tehsil was continuously low female literacy overall in the district. During 1971, Akole taluka was lowest female literacy; it was only 10.12 percent because of such tehsil lies in tribal area in the district but after 2001 it was increasingly faster than other tahsils in dry land area. Jamkhed was only 16.67 percent and district average was 19.27 percent as well as during 2011 it was 62.93 percent and district average was 71028. All above tahsils female literacy was below the average of the district. On the other hand rate of female literacy was higher in irrigated tehsil in the district, such tahsils are Sangamner, Rahata, Kopergaon, Rahuri, Shrirampur and Newasa. But the rate of Nagar tahsil literacy

is higher due to Ahmednagar city include in this tehsil. These tahsils female literacy was above the average. This is important observation of tahsil wise female literacy in Ahmednagar district.

REFERENCES

Census Of India (1971 to 2011): Ahmednagar district.

Chandana R. C. (2001): "Geography of Population Concept Determinants and Pattern", Kalyani Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

Ghosh B.N (1998): "Geography of Population", Sterling Publisher Pvt. Ltd. New Dehli.

Krishna Gopal (1977): "Literacy in India" Geographic Review of India, Vol. 39, pp.117-125.

Hassan M.I. (2005): "Population Geography", Rawat Publisher Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur.

Srivastava S.C.(2004): "Studies in Demography" Amol Publications Pvt. Ltd. New Dehli.