

MALE-FEMALE DIFFERENTIAL IN LITERACY: A CASE STUDY OF DHULE DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT:

The present study is an attempt to analyze the male-female differentials in literacy in Dhule District of Maharashtra. The research work is based on secondary sources of data collected from the District Census Hand Book, Dhule district. Sopher's Disparity index modified by Kundu and Rao has been employed for the measurement of male-female and rural-urban disparity in literacy. It is observed that the male and female literacy rates are higher in urban area than rural one. The male female disparity in rural area is higher than urban area and the male rural-urban disparity in literacy is lower than female.

Key Words: *Differential, Literacy, Rural, Urban.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Literacy is an important indicator of development. It reflects the socio-economic and cultural setup 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). 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, (1980). Literacy is a cultural attribute of population. It acts as an index to judge the socio-economic development of an area, Kumari, S, (1987). Literacy refers ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts.

According to the Census department of India literacy means nothing but an ability to read, write and understanding in any language. Its proportion has differed from region to region in a country and Dhule district is not exception for this. Hence

in this paper an attempt has been made to find out the spatial pattern and differential in literacy.

2. STUDY AREA:

Dhule district is located in the north-western corner of the Maharashtra State. It extends between $20^{\circ} 38'$ to $21^{\circ} 38'$ north latitude and $74^{\circ} 52'$ to $75^{\circ} 11'$ east longitudes. The population of the district is unevenly distributed in four tehsils namely, Shirpur, Shindkheda, Sakri and Dhule.

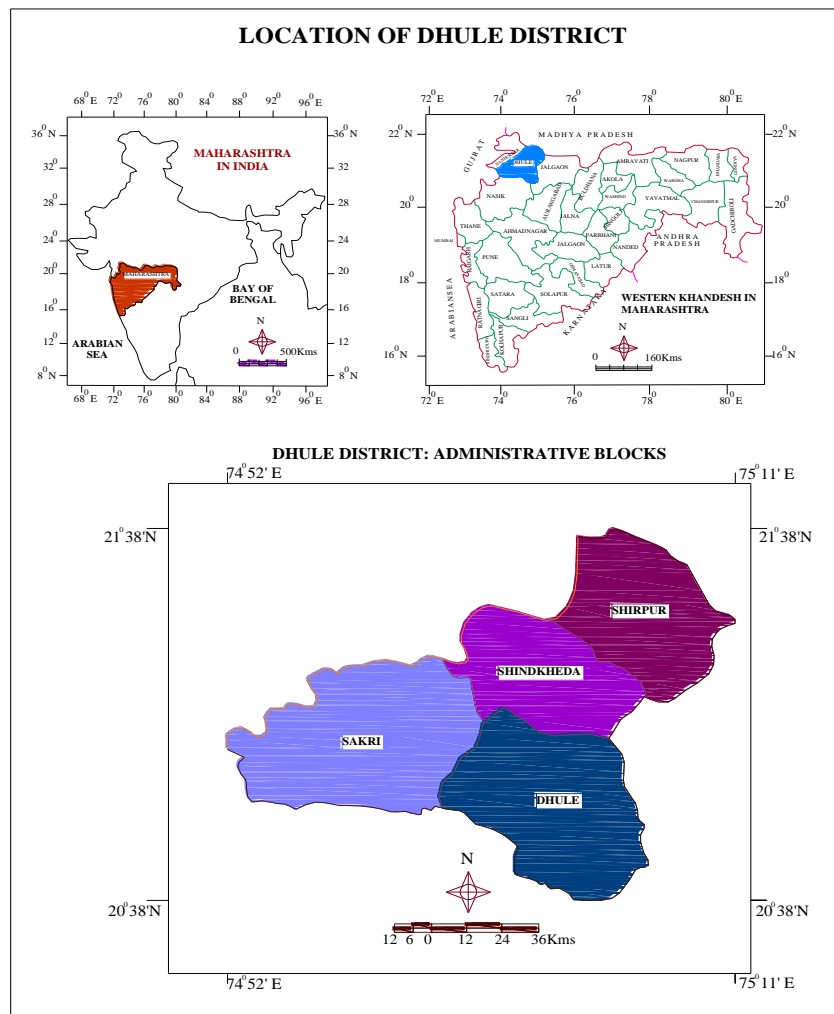


Figure: 1.1

3. OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the present research work are as follows:

- (i) To study the spatial pattern of male –female literacy.

- (ii) To study male-female literacy in rural and urban area.
- (iii) To analyze rural-urban disparity in literacy.
- (iv) To find out the responsible factors for male-female differential in literacy.

4. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present paper intends to analyze the rural-urban composition of literacy in Dhule district of Maharashtra entirely based on secondary sources of data, collected from District Census Hand Book, Dhule (2011). 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)^[9] has been employed –

$$Ds = \log (x_2/x_1) + \log [(100 - x_1) / (100 - x_2)] \dots \dots \dots (I)$$

Kundu and Rao's disparity index:-

$$Ds = \log (x_2/x_1) + \log [(200 - x_1) / (200 - x_2)] \dots \dots \dots (II)$$

Where, x_2 = Male literacy rate and x_1 = Female literacy rate.

5. SUBJECT EXPLANATION:

5.1 Pattern of Male –Female Literacy and Differentials in Literacy:

As per 2011 Census total population of Dhule district was 2,050,862. It district covers 2.62 % geographical area and 1.8% population of Maharashtra State. In which the proportion of rural and urban population is 72.16 and 27.84 per cents respectively. (Table 1.1) The literacy rate in Dhule district is much lower (72.80 %) than our state (64.36%). The total literacy in rural area is 47.80% whereas in urban area, it is 79.30%. Spatial pattern of literacy indicates that it varies 63.67 per cent in Sakri tehsil to 80.63 per cent in Dhule tehsil. As far as male literacy is concerned same picture is occurred Dule has highest proportion of literate males while the lowest male literacy is recorded in Sakri tehsil. The proportion of female literates is less as compare to male literacy. The highest proportion of female literates is recorded in Dhule tehsil (74.77 per cent) whtl its lowest proportion is observed in Sakri9 tehsil where this proportion is only 55.79 per cent. It may be due to availability of educational institution in Dhule tehsil and Dhule is aso a headquarter of the district.

Table 1.1 explicitly shows that the general male-female disparity in the region. The highest male-female disparity in literacy is recorded in Sakri tehsil. It is 1.30

followed by Shindkheda tehsil. It is inconsiderable in Dhule tehsil which is less than the regional average of male-female disparity in literacy.

Table-1.1: Dhule District: Male-female Disparity in Literacy, 2011

Sr. No.	Tahsils	Literacy Rate			Male – Female Disparity Index
		Persons	Males	Females	
1	Shirpur	64.95	72.04	57.56	1.16
2	Sindkhede	75.41	83.04	67.40	1.28
3	Sakri	63.67	71.35	55.79	1.30
4	Dhule	80.63	86.13	74.77	1.12
	District	72.80	79.50	65.77	1.22

Source: District census handbook, 2011

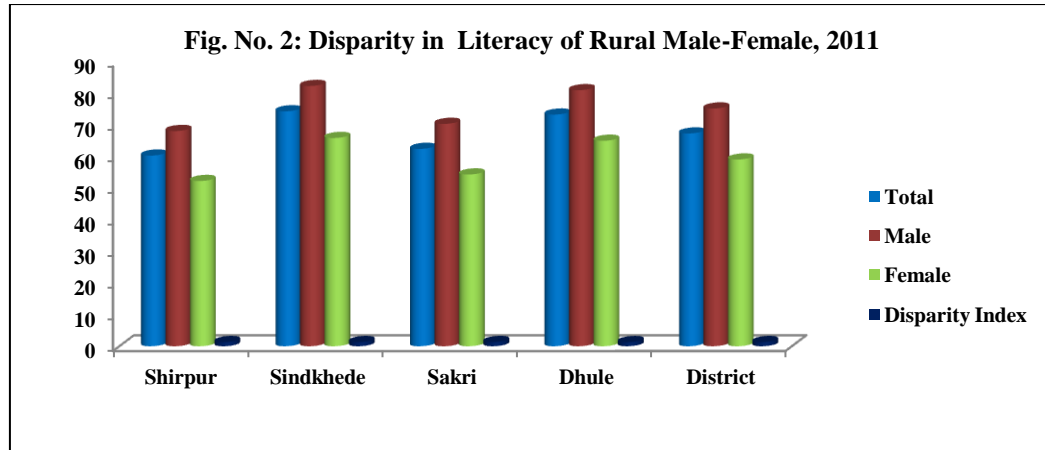
5.2 Rural Males and Females Disparity in Literacy:

Table 1.2 and Fig. no. 2 indicate the rural male-female literacy and disparity. The average proportion of literate population in rural area is 67.31 per cent. In rural population the proportion of male literates is more than the female literate population. The average male and female literacy in the region is 75.21 and 59.07 per cents respectively. The average disparity in male – female literate population is 1.31. The same proportion is recorded in Shirpur and Shindkheda tehsil.

Table-1.2: Dhule District: Disparity in Literacy of Rural Males and Females, 2011

Sr. No.	Tahsils	Rural Literacy Rate			Rural Male-Female Disparity Index
		Total	Male	Female	
1	Shirpur	60.31	68.09	52.27	1.31
2	Sindkhede	74.31	82.34	65.88	1.31
3	Sakri	62.43	70.34	54.33	1.32
4	Dhule	73.28	80.99	65.00	1.30
	District	67.31	75.21	59.07	1.31

Source: District census handbook, 2011



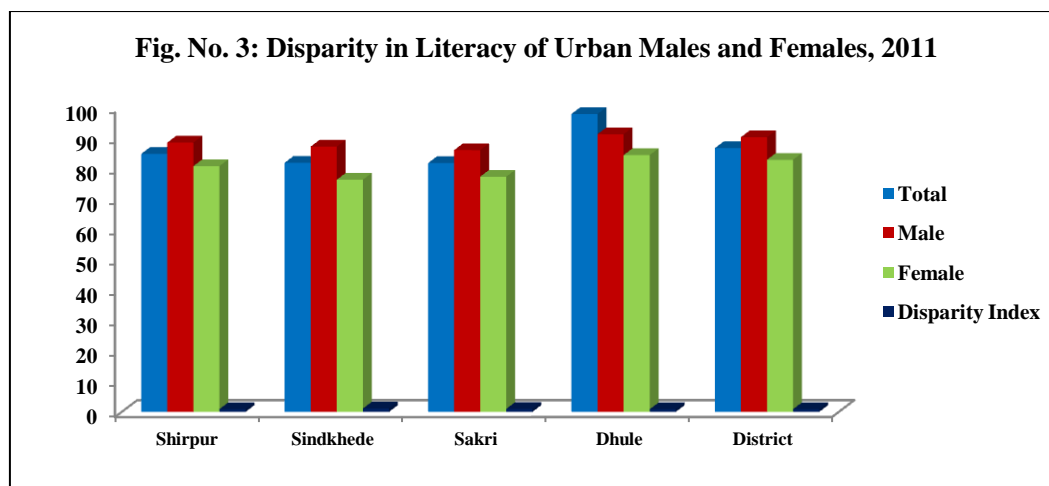
5.3 Urban Males and Females Disparity in Literacy:

Literacy pattern in urban area is different than rural area. Urban literacy rate is quite higher than the rural area. The average urban literacy is 86.68 percent. It is similar in respect of both male and female literates. According to 2011 census more than 90 percent male and 82 per cent females are literates in the district. This proportion is quite higher than the average literacy rate of state and the country also. Dhule tehsil has the highest proportion of both male and female literates while Sakri tehsil has the least urban male and female literates in the region. Table 1.3 and fig. no. 3 reveals that the average disparity in urban literacy of male and female is 0.91. It varies from 0.87 in Dhule tehsil to 1.10 in Shindkheda. It is seen that the male – female disparity in literacy is more in rural areas than the urban area.

Table- 1.3: Dhule District: Disparity in Literacy of Urban Males and Females, 2011

Sr. No.	Tahsils	Urban Literacy Rate			Urban Male-Female Disparity Index
		Total	Male	Female	
1	Shirpur	84.80	88.51	80.76	0.93
2	Sindkhede	81.87	87.20	76.29	1.10
3	Sakri	81.76	86.03	77.30	0.99
4	Dhule	97.91	91.26	84.37	0.87
	District	86.68	90.29	82.85	0.91

Source: District census handbook Dhule, 2011



6. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

- The overall analysis of the present research work reveals that literacy rate in the district; total as well as male and female are much lower than our national level.
- The total as well as male-female literacy rate is much higher in urban areas than rural areas. The rural male-female disparity in literacy is higher than the urban.
- The male rural-urban disparity is lower than the female. The male-female, rural-urban and regional disparity reflect the disparity in socio-economic and cultural set-up. It should be replaced by the equality in literacy.
- That the average disparity in urban literacy of male and female is 0.91. It varies from 0.87 in Dhule tehsil to 1.10 in Shindkheda. It is seen that the male – female disparity in literacy is more in rural areas than the urban area.
- Therefore, it may be recommended that planners should make the policy to improve the female literacy rate in rural area which can be minimize the male – female disparity in rural area which is persisting at present.

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