

Regional Analysis of Literacy in Jammu and Kashmir

Aashiq Hussain Parray¹, Shameem Ahmed², Waqar Younus³, Toiba Gulnaz⁴

¹Jamia Milia Islamia University, Okhla, New Delhi, Delhi, India

^{2,3,4}Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

Regional disparities in literacy levels were rightly emphasised in the recent Jammu and Kashmir Finance Commission report, with Jammu having achieved a literacy rate of 73% and Kashmir only 65%. However, this note argues that differences between districts and education zones, and more importantly, between different socio-economic groups are more real and sizeable. These can be traced to high dropout rates among school children, owing to the numerous direct and indirect effects of over two decades of conflict. In 2011 census, the number of districts has increased from 15 to 22 districts. The percentage of female literacy also increased almost in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir as compared to the previous census of 1981 and 2001. It is usually believed that once the critical mark of 50% is crossed in case of literacy, literacy, and education becomes a self-expanding process. It is largely so because more than half of the population becomes socially and economically more awakened and starts having demonstration impact upon the rest which tries to follow. In the case of female literacy, this critical barrier of 50% has happily been crossed in some districts of Jammu and Kashmir. These are 15 districts including Jammu, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Samba, Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kargil, Kupwara, Leh, Pulwama, Shopian. Majority of the population is dependent on agriculture and allied activities.

KEYWORDS: Literacy, Region, Education, Districts

INTRODUCTION

Literacy is one of the important indicators of social development and considered to be a significant factor in the process of modernization and globalization.

Literacy is the quality of education which reigns in our thoughts. It cannot be from our thinking and since we live with our thoughts, it is the way we live. We can be called literate with the manifestation of our daily life. Our perception of the world around us, our understanding of ourselves and most importantly the reason for our existence, if these thoughts are being given birth to and processed in our minds then we are literate. It is not the years of schooling that makes us literate; it just lays the foundation for the eternal journey called knowledge.

LITERATURE REVIEW

True literacy comes into being when we utilize the facts we have learned in our thoughts and then live a life based on the concrete beliefs cemented from our thoughts. Literacy and education are the two inalienable entities for setting off the sail of life. We

dream of the future we are going to receive but what is out there is the world of harsh reality. Someone has rightly said that life is not a bed of roses. How true and sometimes painful it is. True because we face the harsh realities of life and painful because the energy with which we venture out, soon sinks down due to the trammels in the path. That is where the companionship of education and literacy comes into the picture. If education is our shield then literacy is an unbeatable sword. It is the rationalism generated by the two unconquerable arms that help us trudge through this magnificent journey called "life"

"There is no hope of rising for that family or country where there is no esteem of women, where they live in sadness. For this reason, they have to be raised first"

OBJECTIVES

To show the trends and patterns of literacy in Jammu and Kashmir

How to cite this paper: Aashiq Hussain Parray | Shameem Ahmed | Waqar Younus | Toiba Gulnaz "Regional Analysis of Literacy in Jammu and Kashmir" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-9 | Issue-1, February 2025, pp.320-323, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd73864.pdf



Copyright © 2025 by author (s) and International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development Journal. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)



To compare the literacy trends in Jammu and Kashmir with the literacy trend of the total population of the country.

To analyze the general patterns of literacy at district level (total, male, female, rural, urban)

Data Base

The entire study is based on secondary data, collected from different published and unpublished sources at the district level.

Demographic data available from census of India, New Delhi.

Relevant non-demographic data obtained from the publications of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

STUDY AREA

On the map of India, the State of Jammu and Kashmir looks like a crown. The state is 640 km. in length from north to south and 480 km. from east to west. To its north lie Chinese and Russian Turkistan. On its east is Chinese Tibet. On the South and South-West lie the states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. On the west is the North West Frontier Provinces of Pakistan, China, and Russia. Afghanistan and Pakistan now have come close to the boundaries of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, The nearness to the boundaries of foreign countries has made the position of the State most important from the military point of view. The entire State lies between 32.17" and 36.58" North latitude and East to West, the State lies between 73.26" and 80.30" longitude. The standard time is 5.30 hours ahead of Greenwich time as in the rest of India and has a difference of half an hour with the local time

ANALYSIS OF LITERACY IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

In 1981, there were only 15 districts in Jammu and Kashmir. During this period, female literacy was in average condition with 56.5% points. The lowest female literacy was recorded in Kargil district (3.14%) and the highest female literacy district was Jammu (32.24%). Six districts in Jammu and Kashmir had a literacy level below 10% which include Doda (7.34%), Budgam (8.05%), Baramula (9.57%), Kargil (3.14%), Kupwara (4.88%), Pulwama (9.21%). Only three districts recorded a female literacy rate above 20% which include Jammu (32.24%), Kathua (21.25%) and Srinagar (24.66%), these were generally urban areas the two main universities of the state are in Jammu and Srinagar. The districts which had the female literacy rate between 10%-20% are Rajouri (14.32%), Poonch (11.24%), Udhampur

(13.55%), Anantnag (10.94%), Leh (12.09%), Rajouri (14.32%).

Census data of 1991 is not available for J&K State, because the census was not conducted due to disturbed conditions. The census data of 2001 show a decline in total female literacy which was about (42.22%). But the female literacy in each district Increases as compares to 1981. The highest female literacy was in Jammu district (68.75%) and the lowest female literacy district was Kupwara (26.83%) and the gap between these two districts comes out around 41.92% points. There were seven districts which were having a female literacy level of more than 40% and about eight districts which were having female literacy below 40%. Although the 2001 census shows a decline in total literacy, there was progress in the female literacy in each district and the female literacy in Kargil was 3.14% in 1981 which increases to about 40.96% in 2001. This shows that the area where female literacy was comparatively low in 1981 show a positive sign of the improvement of female education in 2001.

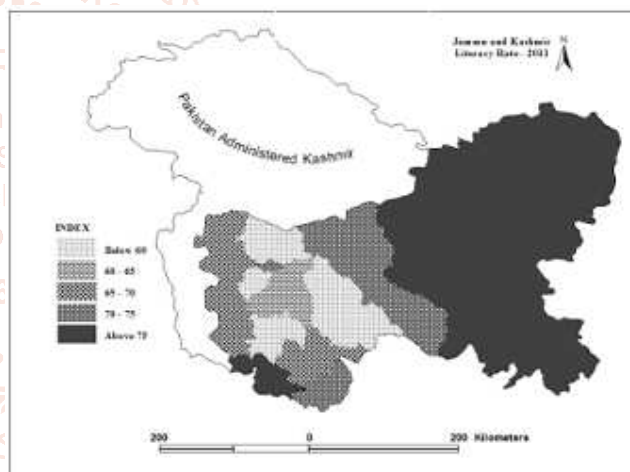


Fig 1: Literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir (2011)

Acc to 2011 census, there has been an increase in the level of the female literacy. There was the establishment of the seven new districts in J&K, out of the which four was formed in Jammu division and three in Kashmir division. There were six districts which were having female literacy rate above 40% which include Kishtwar (44.13%), Ramban (40.04%), Reasi (47.55%), Bandipora (46.24%), Ganderbal (47.62%), Budgam (46.60%). Majority of these are newly formed districts, only Budgam is the old district. There were only 2 districts which were having literacy above 70% which include Jammu (77.41%) and Samba (74.39%)

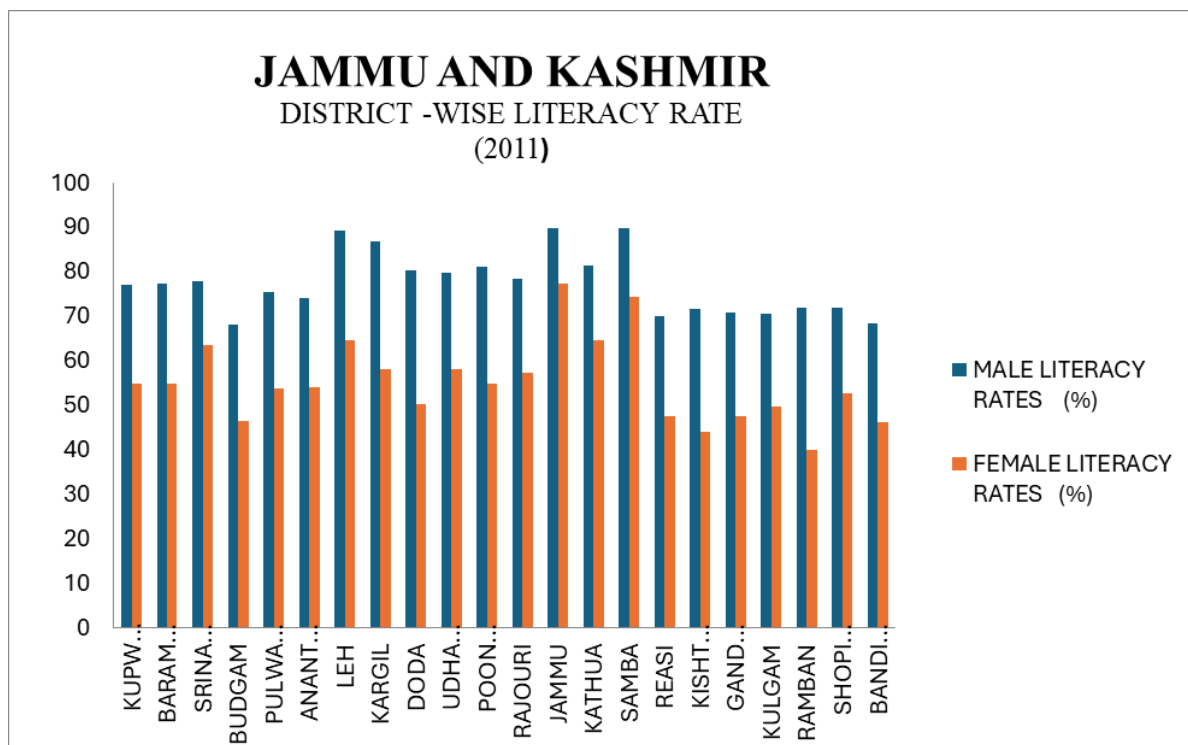


Fig 2: District wise male and female literacy in J&K

CONCLUSION

The study of the trends and patterns of the female literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir shows that there is still a great need to pay serious attention to the education of females. although there has been a great change in the levels of female literacy in 2011. It is indicated by the average literacy rate of the females which has been raised from 13.11% in 1981 to 40.45 % in 2001 and finally 55.5% in 2011

There are eight districts with high urban female literacy rate above 74.86% .these districts are Jammu samba Doda, Kathua, Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar. The districts having low urban female literacy are Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Budgam Kulgam, Pulwama. These districts have a female literacy rate between 52.96% to 62.46 %. The districts having moderate urban female literacy are reasi, Ramban, Baramulla, Leh, Kargil having literacy rate between 62.42% to 72.86%

Districts with the high rural female literacy are Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Ladakh, Kargil with the range of 54.98% to 72.00 %. There is moderate rural female literacy in Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch Anantnag, shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Baramulla, and Kargil with a range of 43.98% to 54.98 %. The districts with low rural female literacy are kishtwar, reasi, Ramban, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam with less than 43.98% points.

REFERENCES

- [1] Agarwal, S.N. (1965), *India's Population Problem*, Asia Publishing House,
- [2] Alexanderson, J.W. (1963), *Economic Geography*, Tata McGraw Hill publishing.
- [3] Basu, A.N. (1957), *Education in Modern India*, Orient book co. Calcutta.
- [4] Chand, M. and Puri, V.K. (1990), *Regional Planning in India*, Allied Publishers
- [5] Chandna, R.C. (1994), *A Geography of population*, Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi
- [6] Garnier, J.B. (1976), *Geography of population*, Longman press. London
- [7] Chandana R.C. (2006), *"Geography of Population"*, Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi, pp. 1.
- [8] Clarke John I, (1965), *"Population Geography"*, Pergamon Press, Oxford.
- [9] Clarke, J. I. (1972), *"Population Geography and Developing Countries"*, Pergamon Press, Oxford
- [10] Hussain, Majid (2002), *"Systematic Geography of Jammu and Kashmir"*, Rawat Publication, New Delhi, pp. 4-5.
- [11] Trewartha G. T. (1969), *"A Geography of Population, World Pattern"*, John Willey, New York, pp 131.

- [12] Bamzai, P. N. K. 1962, "A history of Kashmir" Delhi Metropolitan Publications
- [13] Bhat, M. S. 2008, "Urban system in Himalayas" Arina publishers and distributors, New Delhi
- [14] Chandna, R. C. 1992, "A geography of the population" Kalyani Publications, Ludhiana.
- Diener, K. 1912, "Trails of the Himalayas. Mem. Geological Survey of India, 36:1-5 Digest of Statistics 2008-2009, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu and Kashmir
- [15] Economic Survey, 2008-2009, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

