



Sex and Residence-wise Analysis of Literacy in Rajasthan

Dr. Deva Ram*

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Government College, Nimbahera (Raj.)-312601

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ABSTRACT: Population is a resource like other resources for every country but it required investment made in the form of education, training and medical care to become 'human capital'. In fact, human capital is the stock of skill and productive knowledge embodied in them. Thus, human capital formation is one of the most important steps taking to get overall development of the nation. Raising literacy rate is preparing base for the human capital formation. To raise the level of literacy and education among the people and especially disadvantaged or marginalized groups of people those who are lagged behind still, government has made many efforts in the way of provide constitutional provisions, implemented plans & policies, and investing huge amount from time to time. Due launched various Schemes & programmes, level of literacy in all spheres, has improved over the period of time but not as desired level, where rural-urban as well as male-female literacy gap exists at wide level. On the basis of secondary data, this paper is aims to analyze the growth of literacy rate by residence, gender and region in Rajasthan. The data are mainly gained from the Census of India-2011. The paper is basically analytical and descriptive in nature.

Keywords:- Human capital, literacy, male-female, Rajasthan, rural-urban.

I. INTRODUCTION

Population is a resource like other resources for every country but it required investment made in the form of education, training and medical care to become 'human capital'. In fact, human capital is the stock of skill and productive knowledge embodied in them. Thus, human capital formation is one of the most important steps taking to get overall development of the nation. Raising literacy rate is preparing base for the human capital formation. To raise the level of literacy and education among the people and especially disadvantaged groups of people those who are lagged behind still, government has made many efforts in the way of provide constitutional provisions, implemented plans & policies, and investing huge amount from time to time. We can see the result as growth in rate of literacy and educational attainment. Though, in spite of several programmes of elementary education and literacy enhancement such as National Literacy Mission (NLM), Total Literacy Campaign (TLC), *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA), Operation Blackboard and so many others launched by the government, overall literacy rate has improved but not raised to the desired level, whereas regional disparities, inter-state as well as intra-state can be widely seen. Gap in literacy rates by residence and by gender are also exists.

India is known as country of villages where more than seventy per cent population has been living in rural areas. The rural areas characterised by low level of per capita income, low level of literacy & education, high population pressure on agriculture, traditional production methods and socially divided in several cast cleavages, bounded by irrelevant traditions, male dominant families as well as societies etc. By and large, these characteristics are due to lack of literacy and education. Rural areas, marginalized or backward groups of the society and females have been isolated from literacy, education, knowledge and awareness. Hence, rural-urban as well as male-female literacy gap is still exists after more than half of a decade of independence. The present paper is trying to evaluate these fractions in the Rajasthan state.

II. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The paper is mainly based on the secondary data, which gained from the various documents of the Census of India – 2001 and 2011. For deeply discussion data also obtained from the Provisional Population Totals - Rajasthan. Data received from various sources first and then combined it in different groups and tables according to the requirements of the study. The district-wise literacy rates for total population, male-female

*Corresponding Author: Dr. Deva Ram

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Government College, Nimbahera (Raj.)-312601

population and rural-urban population are further segregated into several groups. This comparative study is mainly descriptive and analytical in nature.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this paper are as follows:

- 1- To overall evaluation of the literacy rates of Rajasthan and compare it with national average.
- 2- To examine growth in literacy, by residence as well as by sex, of Rajasthan.
- 3- To discuss the disparities exists by residence as well as by gender.
- 4- To find out variations in rate of literacy within the state by analyzing district-wise condition of male-female as well as rural-urban literacy rates.

IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Literacy in Rajasthan: An Overview - After independence from colonial rule in 1947, government began reconstruction of India (that was almost destroyed during the colonial rules) by several manners. Raising literacy and education was also one of the crucial challenge (though it was not prime object due to exists vast poverty, demolished economy & small-cottage industries, low level of productivity and employability etc.) that time, so, increasing level of literacy and education, especially among those who were segregated from the gain knowledge & education, many provisions made in the constitution of India. And thereafter, so many efforts have been made by the government in the way of formulated & implemented various schemes/programmes as earlier mentioned. As a result, the Indian literacy rate grew with more than six-fold from at the end of British rule in 1947 by 12 per cent to 74.04 per cent in 2011, though it is not so much and not as desired level, the target 85 per cent set by the Planning Commission of India to be achieved by 2011-12. If we compare the data, as showing in Table 1, we find that the Rajasthan still more than 7 per cent below than the nation's average level of literacy (as well as near about 27 per cent less than the highest literate state – Kerala). The picture clearly shows the backwardness of the state in literacy point of view. Notwithstanding, literacy rate has been increased from 8.50 per cent in 1951 to 67.06 per cent in 2011. However, the highest growth in literacy rate of Rajasthan is recorded in the decade of 1991-2001 at every level likewise with total by residence as well as by gender also. The decadal change in literacy rates as total was 21.9 per cent where by residence, it was 25 per cent in rural areas & 10.9 per cent in urban areas, and by gender it was 20.7 per cent in among males & 23.4 per cent among females.

By Residence and By Gender Literacy Growth in Rajasthan: If we take closer look at the data on growth in literacy rate in Rajasthan by residence (see Table 2), we find that the urban-rural gap in literacy rate has overall narrowed from 31.60 per cent in 1961 to 18.38 in 2011, though it was spread over to 35.58 per cent in 1981 but thereafter reduced slightly up to 1991 and then rapidly declined in last two decades perhaps due to implementation of government schemes and spread awareness among people towards education. The data clearly shows that rural literacy rate has almost five-times increased in last five decades (from 12.9 per cent in 1961 to 62.3 per cent in 2011) while in urban areas, it has increased with little less than two-times in this period (from 44.5 per cent in 1961 to 80.7 per cent in 2011). Moreover, rural-urban literacy gap is still existed at wide level.

Table 1: Growth in Literacy rates in Rajasthan and in India from 1951 to 2011 (in per cent)

State/Nation	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Rajasthan	8.50	18.12	22.57	30.11	38.55	60.41	67.06
India	18.33	28.30	34.45	43.57	52.21	64.84	74.04
Decadal change in Literacy rates from 1951-2011							
	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011	
Rajasthan	9.62	4.45	7.54	8.44	21.86	6.65	
India	9.97	6.15	9.12	8.64	12.63	9.20	

Sources: Census of India – various documents.

Table 2: Literacy rates by Residence and Urban-Rural gap in Rajasthan from 1961 to 2011

Literacy	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Rural	12.9	16.4	22.5	30.4	55.3	62.3
Urban	44.5	50.8	58.0	65.3	76.2	80.7
Urban-Rural gap	31.60	34.38	35.58	34.95	20.86	18.38
Decadal change in Literacy rates by Residence						
	1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011	
Rural	3.5	6.0	7.9	25.0	7.0	
Urban	6.3	7.2	7.3	10.9	4.5	

Sources: Census of India and Provisional Population Totals- Rajasthan.

Table 3: Literacy rates by Gender and Male-Female gap in Rajasthan from 1961 to 2011

Literacy	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Female	7.0	10.1	14.1	20.4	43.9	52.7
Male	28.1	33.9	44.8	55.0	75.7	80.5
Male-Female gap	21.1	23.8	30.7	34.6	31.8	27.8
Decadal change in Literacy rates by Residence						
	1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011	
Female	3.0	3.9	6.4	23.4	8.8	
Male	5.8	10.9	10.2	20.7	4.8	

Sources: Census of India and Provisional Population Totals- Rajasthan.

At the same time, if we throw light on the growth in literacy by gender in Rajasthan, we can see from Table 3 that the literacy rate among females has rose 7.53 times in last five decades, it was only 7 per cent in 1961 which grows up to 52.7 per cent in 2011 whereas literacy of males' increased only 2.86 times in this period but it is very high than the females, it was 28.1 per cent in 1961 and has raised to 80.5 per cent in 2011. Furthermore, it has come in the front of, the gap in literacy rates among males-females has overall widen over the period of time (from 21.1 per cent in 1961 to 27.8 per cent in 2011) in spite of shrinking. Though it has been decreasing from the year 1991 by 34.6 per cent but before that, it was continuously increased. However, the data shows optimistic picture after the 1991, but male-female as such as urban-rural literacy gap is the big and crucial challenge for the state as the nation also.

District-wise Literacy: Now, let us discuss the data present in Table 4, which show district-wise literacy rates in Rajasthan. Kota is the most literate district in the state, with 77.48 per cent literate persons (it was also top ranked in 2001), followed closely by Jaipur district with 76.44 per cent literacy rate (from fourth to second from last decade), while Jhunjhunun district slightly sliding down after the decade, from second position in 2001 to third in 2011, with 74.72 per cent literate persons. Jalore is in the bottom in Rajasthan with lowest 55.58 per cent literacy rate where its neighbouring district Sirohi is just close to it in literacy point of view also with second smallest per cent of literacy, only 56.02 per cent.

Table 4: District-wise Literacy rates and change in last decade in Rajasthan

Sr. No.	Name of the District	2001	2011	Change (%)	Sr. No.	Name of the District	2001	2011	Change (%)
01	Ganganagar	64.74	70.25	5.51	18	Jalore	46.49	55.58	9.09
02	Hanumangarh	63.05	68.37	5.32	19	Sirohi	53.94	56.02	2.08
03	Bikaner	57.36	65.92	8.56	20	Pali	54.39	63.23	8.84
04	Churu	67.59	67.46	0.13 (-)	21	Ajmer	64.68	70.46	5.78
05	Jhunjhunun	73.04	74.72	1.68	22	Tonk	51.97	62.46	10.49
06	Alwar	61.74	71.68	9.94	23	Bundi	55.57	62.31	6.74
07	Bharatpur	63.58	71.16	7.58	24	Bhilwara	50.71	62.71	12.0
08	Dhaulpur	60.13	70.14	10.01	25	Rajsamand	55.73	63.93	8.2
09	Karauli	63.40	67.34	3.94	26	Dungarpur	48.57	60.78	12.21
10	Sawai Madhopur	56.67	66.19	9.52	27	Banswara	45.54	57.20	11.66
11	Dausa	61.81	69.17	7.36	28	Chittaurgarh	53.99	62.51	8.52
12	Jaipur	69.90	76.44	6.54	29	Kota	73.52	77.48	3.96
13	Sikar	70.47	72.98	2.51	30	Baran	59.50	67.38	7.88
14	Nagaur	57.28	64.08	6.8	31	Jhalawar	57.32	62.13	4.81
15	Jodhpur	56.67	67.09	10.42	32	Udapur	59.77	62.74	2.97
16	Jaisalmer	50.97	58.04	7.07	33	Pratapgarh*	48.25	56.30	8.05
17	Barmer	58.99	57.49	1.5 (-)		Rajasthan	60.41	67.06	6.65

Sources: Census of India and Provisional Population Totals- Rajasthan.

Though, 9.09 per cent change has occurred in Jalore district. At the same time, the highest growth in literacy is recorded in Dungarpur district at 12.21 per cent while lowest is in Jhunjhunun at 1.68 per cent excepting two districts (Barmer & Churu) which have negative change (1.5 & 0.13 respectively). Although 6 districts – Dungarpur (12.21), Bhilwara (12.0), Banswara (11.66), Tonk (10.49), Jodhpur (10.42) and Dhaulpur (10.01) of literacy has been raised by more than 10 per cent in last decade (means at least 1 per cent average growth annually). Besides, 15 districts crossed the state average level whereas national average level of literacy crossed only top 3 districts but not a single district has touched the target (85 per cent) set by the Planning Commission of India to be achieved by 2011-12.

District-wise Male-female as well as Rural-urban Literacy Rates: By residence, district wise picture of literacy shows that the rural areas of the state are far behind than the urban areas. None of the urban area of the any district is below than 70 per cent literacy rate while in rural areas, only two districts – Jhunjhunun and Sikar have more than 70 per cent literate persons, and most of the districts, almost half of the total (17 districts), are concentrated between 55 to 65 per cent literacy rates. Sirohi is the only district where rural literacy rate is less than 50 per cent, though it is very close to 50 per cent (49.77 per cent). At the same time, in urban areas of Rajasthan, most of the districts (22) are concentrated between 75 to 85 per cent in literacy point of view. As data provided by the Provisional Population Totals – Rajasthan (Census of India - 2011) available in separated form in Table 5, shows that Udaipur has highest literate persons while Jalore is lowest one in literacy rate in urban areas. Only 4 districts in rural areas and 5 districts in urban areas crossed the national average level of corresponding literacy rate as such as these five districts have also touched the national target of literacy rate in urban area.

Table 5: District-wise Literacy rates by Residence as well as by Gender in Rajasthan (2011)

Sr.No	Name of the District	Rural	Urban	Male			Female		
				Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
01	Ganganagar	66.76	79.43	76.70	86.19	79.33	55.65	71.78	60.07
02	Hanumangarh	65.79	78.78	77.02	86.06	78.82	53.48	70.76	56.91
03	Bikaner	58.95	78.65	71.72	86.39	76.90	44.81	70.12	53.77
04	Churu	64.98	73.63	78.06	84.66	79.95	51.13	62.00	54.25
05	Jhunjhunun	73.95	77.33	87.71	88.46	87.88	59.86	65.54	61.15
06	Alwar	68.83	84.25	83.46	92.16	85.08	52.69	75.22	56.78
07	Bharatpur	68.87	80.19	84.68	89.75	85.70	50.85	69.43	54.63
08	Dhaulpur	69.20	73.64	82.55	82.42	82.53	53.23	63.51	55.45
09	Karauli	66.15	73.93	82.50	85.60	82.96	47.05	60.79	49.18
10	Sawai Madhopur	62.68	79.96	80.62	91.06	82.72	42.65	67.80	47.80
11	Dausa	67.43	81.04	83.46	91.98	84.54	49.85	69.14	52.33
12	Jaipur	68.43	83.48	83.63	90.43	87.27	52.07	75.82	64.63
13	Sikar	71.83	76.64	86.44	87.38	86.66	56.75	65.26	58.76
14	Nagaur	62.16	72.11	77.78	83.56	78.90	45.92	60.03	48.63
15	Jodhpur	59.79	80.23	76.32	87.81	80.46	41.99	71.85	52.57
16	Jaisalmer	54.61	78.91	70.47	88.43	73.09	36.06	66.81	40.23
17	Barmer	55.72	79.52	70.87	90.28	72.32	38.92	67.45	41.03
18	Jalore	54.05	71.97	70.52	85.54	71.83	37.03	57.32	38.73
19	Sirohi	49.77	79.24	65.86	89.91	71.09	33.02	67.41	40.12
20	Pali	59.21	76.78	75.02	88.30	78.16	43.74	64.55	48.35
21	Ajmer	60.22	85.05	78.05	92.17	83.93	41.87	77.48	56.42
22	Tonk	58.86	74.78	76.63	84.03	78.27	40.14	65.54	46.01
23	Bundi	58.13	78.67	73.47	88.51	76.52	41.56	68.16	47.00
24	Bhilwara	57.17	82.63	73.12	91.20	77.16	41.08	73.40	47.93
25	Rajsamand	60.23	82.71	76.98	92.01	79.52	43.77	72.95	48.44
26	Dungarpur	58.95	85.79	73.28	93.00	74.66	44.75	78.29	46.98
27	Banswara	54.78	86.58	68.98	92.68	70.80	40.47	80.28	43.47
28	Chittaurgarh	57.63	83.60	74.39	91.96	77.74	40.68	74.80	46.98
29	Kota	69.54	82.61	83.79	90.06	87.63	54.23	74.28	66.32
30	Baran	64.29	78.86	79.21	88.74	81.23	48.24	68.25	52.48
31	Jhalawar	58.24	81.82	73.73	90.23	76.47	42.01	72.84	47.02
32	Udapur	55.85	88.45	70.84	94.45	75.91	40.46	82.02	49.10
33	Pratapgarh*	53.50	85.46	67.90	93.10	70.13	39.05	77.61	42.40
	Rajasthan	62.34	80.73	77.49	89.16	80.51	46.25	71.53	52.66
	India	68.91	84.98	78.57	89.67	82.14	58.75	79.92	65.46

Sources: Census of India and Provisional Population Totals- Rajasthan.

Now we take sex-wise literacy rates in Rajasthan as total and as rural-urban. By gender, Jhunjhunun district has most literate males as total as in rural areas while Udaipur has highest male literates (94.45 per cent) in urban areas. All 33 districts have more than 70 per cent literate males as total while in urban areas more than

80 per cent males are literates in all over Rajasthan but in rural areas situation is poor than the urban areas and Sirohi has smallest percentage (65.86 per cent) of literacy among males.

Similarly, most literates females (66.32 per cent) found in Kota, where Udaipur again top in urban female literacy with 82.02 per cent literacy rate at the same time Jhunjhunun has 59.86 per cent highest literacy among females in rural areas. Sirohi again ranked lowest in females' literacy in rural areas (33.02 per cent), and this is the lowest level of literacy rate in Rajasthan at every point of view, while Jalore is worst in females' literacy in as total as urban areas. In general, there is very poor condition of literacy among females in rural area of Rajasthan, a lot 19 districts are below than 45 per cent, of which 5 districts are far below and have even less than 40 per cent literacy rate. Although, average level of literacy among females as total as rural areas' are very low, 52.66 per cent and 46.25 per cent respectively.

Table 6: Residence and Sex-wise Distribution of Districts according to Literacy rates in Rajasthan

Level of Literacy (%)	No. of Districts		By Residence in 2011		By Gender in 2011	
	2001	2011	Rural	Urban	Male	Female
Up to 45	--	--	--	--	--	06
45 – 50	04	--	01	--	--	12
50 – 55	06	--	04	--	--	06
55 – 60	10	06	11	--	--	05
60 – 65	08	10	06	--	--	03
65 – 70	02	08	09	--	--	01
70 – 75	03	07	02	06	07	--
75 – 80	--	02	--	12	13	--
80 – 85	--	--	--	10	07	--
85 – 90	--	--	--	05	06	--
90 -95	--	--	--	--	--	--

Sources: Census of India and Provisional Population Totals- Rajasthan.

Table 6 depicts the data on residence and sex-wise distribution of districts according to the level of literacy in Rajasthan which show that 10 districts were ranging between 45 to 55 per cent literacy rates in 2001, whereas, none of the district is below than 55 per cent after 10 years in 2011. At the same time, 16 districts (almost half of the total) are still ranging under 60 per cent literacy in rural areas while a large number, 29 districts have less than 60 per cent female literacy rates. On an average, urban areas by residence as well as male by sex have performed well in literacy point of view, both these have more than 70 per cent literacy rates while rural areas by residence as well as female by sex are still vulnerable in the front of level of literacy.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions drawn from the study are as follows:

- 1- Level of literacy has been increased over the period of time in Rajasthan but still below than the nation's average level. The highest growth in literacy rates at every level has seen in the decade 1991-2001.
- 3- Urban-rural gap in literacy has been narrowed overall while male-female literacy gap has widen over the period of time, though after 1991 it has shrinking but before that, it was spread over. Moreover, literacy gap, by residence as well as by gender, has still exists in all over state and districts also.
- 4- Kota is ranked top in total literacy while Jalore is worst in the literacy, though Dungarpur has the highest growth in last decade.
- 5- All the districts have literacy between 50 to 80 per cent. In urban areas, most of the districts (22) are concentrated between 75 to 85 per cent while in rural areas 17 districts are found between 55 to 65 per cent literacy rates.
- 6- Udaipur is at the top in male-female literacy rates in urban areas with 94.45 and 82.02 per cent respectively, while Jhunjhunun is first in male-female literacy rates in rural areas with 87.71 and 59.86 per cent respectively. At the same time, Sirohi is lowest one in level of literacy in rural areas as total, males' and females' also with respectively 49.77, 65.86 & 33.02 per cent.
- 7- Rural areas by residence as well as females by gender are still vulnerable in the front of literacy. Especially, literacy among rural-females is very low and 33.02 per cent figure is lowest one in all respect that is found in rural Sirohi among females.

Notwithstanding, so many schemes launched by the government level of literacy has improved but not as desired level. The state Rajasthan has performed very poor in front of literacy while literacy gap in rural-urban as well as male-female is widely seen. Therefore, government should take appropriate action to improve

the literacy among those who are lagged behind, and ought to be targeted the rural people, especially women to get hopefully results.

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