



“Pattern and Differential of Literacy in Jammu and Kashmir”

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Abstract

Literacy is a human right and the foundation of all developmental processes. It has an intrinsic importance because it increases a person's freedom and sense of security. Education inculcates new ideas for betterment of the society and is the most important instrument for changing the socio economic status of an individual and society as a whole. Indian census considers a person as literate if he/ she can both read and write in any language. That the why, literacy rates in India is calculated as the number of literates among population aged 7 years and above or excluding 0-6 age group of population. The present study is an attempt to study the trends and pattern and their differential (Male-female and urban- rural) of literacy at district level in Jammu and Kashmir. The study uses the Census data of 2011 to fulfill the objectives. It has been found from the study that the literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir is 67.16 percent, literacy rate among males is 76.75 percent and 56.43 percent among females which means that among males the literacy rate is 9.59 percentage points higher than total literacy rate whereas among females the literacy rate is 10.73 lower than total literacy rate. Gender disparity in literacy is much higher in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as compared to urban areas as it is evident from obtained results that the gender disparity in rural areas is 0.225, which is higher than the state level and the gender disparity in urban areas is 0.137, which is lower than the state level. Rural-urban differential in literacy is much higher in case of males as compared to females as it is evident from the table that the rural-urban differential in case of males is 0.132, which is higher than the state level and the rural-urban differential in case of females is 0.308, which is lower than the state level.



Keywords: *Difference, Gender Disparity index, Literacy Rate, Regional Variation and Rural-Urban Differential.*

I. Introduction

Literacy is a human right and the foundation of all developmental processes. It has an intrinsic importance because it increases a person's freedom and sense of security. It also has an instrumental significance as it strengthens the capabilities of individuals, families and communities to access health, educational, political, economic and cultural opportunities and services (UNESCO, 2005)¹. Literacy and education are important indicators in a society and play a central role in human development that impacts overall social-economic development milieu. Higher levels of literacy and education lead to better attainment of health and nutritional status, economic growth, population control, empowerment of the weaker sections and community as a whole. Also, higher literacy rates improve development indicators consistently. Literacy is an important demographic element and it is a good measure of human progress. It is essential for social reconstruction, improvement in quality of life and preparation of manpower for rapid development. Education inculcates new ideas for betterment of the society and is the most important instrument for changing the socio economic status of an individual and society as a whole (Som and Mishra, 2014)².

In international usages, literacy is defined as the ability to read, write and least a simple message in any language (Hassan, 2009)³. Indian census considers a person as literate if he/ she can both read and write in any language (Chandna, 2009)⁴. That the why, literacy rates in India is calculated as the number of literates among population aged 7 years and above or excluding 0-6 age group of population. A common thread in India is the wide gender disparity in terms of literacy status. There exists a gender gap in male and female literacy rates, with a favourable trend observed in regard to the former. Highlighting the importance of female literacy, Mahatma Gandhi known as "Father of the Nation" has rightly quoted as "Educate one man, you educate one person, but educate a woman and you educate a whole civilization" (Banerjee, 1975)⁵.



As per the provisional figures of Census 2011, in India among the population aged seven years and above 77,84,54,120 persons have been counted as literates. Among all literates, 44,42,03,762 are males, whereas 33,42,50,358 are females. The literacy rate of India in 2011 was 74.0 percent as compared to 64.8 percent in 2001 and 52.2 percent in 1991. Literacy rate among males in 2011 was 82.1 percent as compared to 75.3 percent in 2001 and 64.1 percent in 1991 whereas the literacy rate among females in 2011 was 65.5 percent as compared to 53.7 percent in 2001 and 39.3 percent in 1991 which means that during the last two decades the rise in literacy rate of India is 21.8 percentage points. The rise in male literacy is 18 percentage points whereas female literacy rate has increased by 26.2 percentage points during the past two decades. The gender gap in literacy rate in India during 2011 was 16.6 percent as compared to 21.6 percent in 2001 and 24.8 percent in 1991, which means that gender disparity in literacy has decreased between 2001 and 2011 (Govt. of India, 2011)⁶.

II. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the present study are as under:

- To analysis the spatial pattern of literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir at district level.
- To analysis the gender disparity in total literacy rate, rural literacy rate and urban literacy rate at district level.
- To find out the rural-urban differential in total literacy rate, male literacy rate and female literacy rate at district level in the state.

III. Database and Methodology

The data for the present study have been obtained from Census of India 2001 and 2011. The present study examines the spatial and differential pattern of literacy at district level, two levels: state and district. The data have been analyzed with the help of statistical tables. The statistical techniques used in this study are Gender Disparity Index and Rural-Urban Differential Index.

1. Gender Disparity Index

To show the gender disparity in literacy we have used a disparity index proposed by Sopher (1974)⁷. The index measures disparity between two groups in their possession of a particular property (in this case the literacy rate between males and females). According to Sopher, the disparity index (DI) can be calculated by the following formula:

$$DI = \text{Log}(X_2/X_1) + \text{Log} [(Q-X_1) / (Q-X_2)]$$

Where, $X_2 > X_1$ and $Q = 100$

As male literacy is higher than female, female literacy rate should be taken as X_1 and male literacy rate as X_2 . In case of perfect equality, the value of DI will be zero. Also, higher the value of DI, greater is the extent of disparity.

Later Kundu and Rao (1983)⁸ have proposed a modification to this Index as given below.

$$DI = \text{Log}(X_2/X_1) + \text{Log} [(Q-X_1) / (Q-X_2)]$$

Where, $X_2 > X_1$ and $Q = 200$

We have used the above modified Sopher's technique to compute gender disparity index.

2. Rural- Urban Differential

To measure the rural-urban differential in literacy rate, we have used rural-urban differential index as given below.

$$ID = \frac{U-R}{T}$$

Where, ID= index of rural-urban differential in literacy

U= percentage of literates in urban population

R= percentage of literates in rural population

T= percentage of literates to total population

The justification for using this index has been discussed elaborately by Krishnan and Shyam (1978)⁹. However, rural-urban differential in literacy could have also been shown using Sopher's index.

IV. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The overall picture of literacy rate of different districts of Jammu and Kashmir during the census 2011 among rural, urban and total population is presented in table 1.1. The district wise spatial pattern of literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir is not uniform. There are wide fluctuations in literacy rate between different districts. It is apparent from the table that the literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir is 67.16 percent, literacy rate among males is 76.75 percent and 56.43 percent among females which means that among males the literacy rate is 9.59 percentage points higher than total literacy rate whereas among females the literacy rate is 10.73 lower than total literacy rate.

Table 1.1: District-Wise Literacy Rate and differential in Jammu and Kashmir, 2011

S.NO.	Name of the District	Total			Rural			Urban		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Jammu and Kashmir		67.16	76.75	56.43	63.18	73.76	51.64	77.12	83.92	69.01
1	Anantnag	62.69	72.66	52.19	59.25	69.59	48.49	71.97	80.71	62.42
2	Pulwama	63.48	74.36	51.80	61.85	72.79	50.46	73.15	82.79	60.71
3	Shopiyan	60.76	70.27	50.90	59.54	69.00	49.90	78.65	86.74	67.85
4	Srinagar	69.41	76.25	61.85	53.51	63.17	43.29	69.63	76.43	62.11
5	Kulgam	59.23	69.59	84.49	57.41	67.59	46.97	66.75	77.62	54.96
6	Budgam	56.08	66.30	44.85	54.01	64.00	43.29	68.87	79.46	55.38
7	Baramulla	64.63	75.53	52.38	61.96	73.28	49.63	76.01	84.38	65.21
8	Kupwara	64.51	75.68	50.95	62.92	74.20	49.67	75.60	84.81	61.38



9	Ganderbal	58.04	68.85	45.71	56.47	67.38	43.95	66.49	76.87	54.95
10	Bandipora	56.28	66.88	44.34	54.33	64.90	42.58	65.45	75.94	52.96
11	Leh	77.20	86.31	63.56	72.10	82.47	59.16	86.59	92.09	74.86
12	Kargil	71.34	83.15	56.30	69.64	81.62	54.98	83.55	92.82	67.82
13	Jammu	83.45	89.08	77.13	78.24	85.56	70.33	88.51	92.39	83.99
14	Samba	81.41	88.41	73.64	79.93	87.24	72.00	88.62	93.75	82.24
15	Udhampur	68.49	78.36	57.10	63.42	74.14	51.80	87.96	92.56	81.21
16	Reasi	58.15	68.38	46.59	55.85	66.46	43.98	81.06	86.35	74.35
17	Ramban	54.27	68.82	38.04	52.82	67.62	36.49	84.21	91.33	74.35
18	Doda	64.68	78.41	49.69	62.75	77.02	47.38	85.81	92.46	76.94
19	Kathua	73.09	81.53	63.72	70.83	79.93	60.76	85.86	90.41	80.67
20	Kishtwar	56.20	68.92	42.36	53.98	67.04	39.98	86.07	92.58	78.04
21	Rajouri	68.17	78.13	56.57	66.00	76.02	54.94	90.38	94.99	80.87
22	Poonch	66.74	78.84	53.11	64.68	77.23	50.90	88.26	94.16	80.18

Source: Census of India, 2011

Among the different districts of the state, the highest level of total literacy rate (83.45 percent) is found in Jammu district, 16.29 percentage points higher than total literacy rate and the lowest level of literacy (54.27 percent) is found in Ramban district, 12.89 percentage points lower than total literacy rate. Among males, the highest level of literacy rate (89.08 percent) is found in Jammu district, 12.33 percentage points higher than total male literacy rate and the lowest level of literacy rate (66.88 percent) is found in Bandipora district, 9.87 percentage points lower than total male literacy rate. Among females, the highest level of literacy rate (84.49 percent) is found in Kulgam district, 28.06 percentage points higher than total female literacy rate and the lowest level of literacy rate (42.36 percent) is found in Kishtwar district, 14.07 percentage points lower than total female literacy rate.

The table further depicts that the literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir in rural areas is 63.18 percent, literacy rate among males in rural areas is 73.76 percent and 51.64 percent among



females which means that among males the literacy rate in rural areas is 10.58 percentage points higher than total literacy rate in rural areas whereas among females the literacy rate in rural areas is 11.54 lower than total literacy rate in rural areas. Among the different districts of the state, the highest level of total literacy rate in rural areas (79.93 percent) is found in Samba district, 16.75 percentage points higher than total literacy rate in rural areas and the lowest level of literacy in rural areas (53.51 percent) is found in Srinagar district, 9.67 percentage points lower than total literacy rate in rural areas. Among males, the highest level of literacy rate in rural areas (87.24 percent) is found in Samba district, 13.48 percentage points higher than total male literacy rate in rural areas and the lowest level of literacy rate (63.17 percent) is found in Srinagar district, 10.59 percentage points lower than total male literacy rate in rural areas. Among females, the highest level of literacy rate in rural areas (72.00 percent) is found in Samba district, 20.36 percentage points higher than total female literacy rate in rural areas and the lowest level of literacy rate (36.49 percent) is found in Ramban district, 15.15 percentage points lower than total female literacy rate in rural areas.

Furthermore, it is obvious from the table that the literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir in urban areas is 77.12 percent, literacy rate among males in urban areas is 83.92 percent and 69.01 percent among females which means that among males the literacy rate in urban areas is 6.8 percentage points higher than total literacy rate in urban areas whereas among females the literacy rate in rural areas is 8.11 lower than total literacy rate in urban areas. Among the different districts of the state, the highest level of total literacy rate in urban areas (90.38 percent) is found in Samba district, 13.26 percentage points higher than total literacy rate in urban areas and the lowest level of literacy in urban areas (65.45 percent) is found in Bandipora district, 11.67 percentage points lower than total literacy rate in urban areas. Among males, the highest level of literacy rate in urban areas (94.99 percent) is found in Rajouri district, 11.07 percentage points higher than total male literacy rate in urban areas and the lowest level of literacy rate (75.94 percent) is found in Bandipora district, 7.98 percentage points lower than total male literacy rate in urban areas. Among females, the highest level of literacy rate in urban areas

(83.99 percent) is found in Jammu district, 14.98 percentage points higher than total female literacy rate in urban areas and the lowest level of literacy rate (52.96 percent) is found in Bandipora district, 16.01 percentage points lower than total female literacy rate in urban areas.

Table 1.2: Gender Disparity in Literacy in Jammu and Kashmir, 2011

S. No.	District	*GDI Total	GDI Rural	GDI Urban
Jammu and Kashmir		0.200	0.225	0.137
1	Anantnag	0.208	0.222	0.174
2	Pulwama	0.229	0.229	0.210
3	Shopiyan	0.200	0.200	0.174
4	Srinagar	0.139	0.223	0.138
5	Kulgam	0.137	0.221	0.224
6	Budgam	0.234	0.231	0.236
7	Baramulla	0.233	0.244	0.179
8	Kupwara	0.251	0.252	0.221
9	Ganderbal	0.248	0.256	0.217
10	Bandipora	0.246	0.249	0.230
11	Leh	0.212	0.223	0.154
12	Kargil	0.259	0.260	0.227
13	Jammu	0.107	0.139	0.074
14	Samba	0.133	0.138	0.102
15	Udhampur	0.207	0.227	0.100
16	Reasi	0.233	0.247	0.109
17	Ramban	0.349	0.360	0.152
18	Doda	0.290	0.306	0.138
19	Kathua	0.168	0.183	0.086



20	Kishtwar	0.292	0.305	0.129
21	Rajouri	0.211	0.209	0.125
22	Poonch	0.255	0.265	0.124

Source: Computed by Researcher from table 1.1

*GDI = Gender Disparity Index

Women are less privileged than men in most of the societies in the world. The feminist interpretation of gender discrimination argues that the gendered division of labour and the control over women's sexuality reinforce the subordination of women in society and influence women's educational participation and their educational aspirations (Patel, 2003). We have already got a picture of gender disparity in literacy in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir from table 1.1. The district-wise gender disparity in literacy in Jammu and Kashmir, 2011 is presented in table 1.2. It is evident from the analysis table that the gender disparity in literacy in Jammu and Kashmir is 0.200 which is higher than the national level (0.156). Gender disparity in literacy is much higher in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as compared to urban areas as it is evident from the table that the gender disparity in rural areas is 0.225, which is higher than the state level and the gender disparity in urban areas is 0.137, which is lower than the state level.

Among the different districts of the state, the gender disparity is highest (0.349) in Ramban district followed by Kishtwar (0.292), Doda (0.290) and Kargil district (0.259) whereas the gender disparity is lowest in Jammu district (0.107). It is also low in Samba (0.133) Kulgam (0.137) and Srinagar district (0.139). In rural areas, the highest gender difference in literacy is found in Ramban district (0.360) followed by Doda (0.306), Kishtwar (0.305) and Poonch district (0.265) whereas the gender disparity is lowest in Samba district (0.138). It is also low in Jammu (0.139) Kathua (0.183) and Shopiyan district (0.200). In urban areas, the highest gender difference in literacy is found in Budgam district (0.236) followed by Kargil (0.227), Kulgam (0.224) and Kupwara district (0.221) whereas the gender disparity is lowest in Jammu district (0.074). It is also low in Kathua (0.086) Udampur (0.100) and Samba district (0.102).



High gender disparity in literacy in above mentioned districts may be attributed to very low female literacy, low status of woman, low level of urbanization and economic backwardness and low gender disparity in literacy in above mentioned districts may be attributed due to high level of female literacy, easy accessibility and availability of educational institutions, high level of socio economic development and highly developed infrastructural facilities.

Table 1.3: Rural Urban Differential Index in Literacy in Jammu and Kashmir, 2011

S. No.	District	*RUDI Total	RUDI Male	RUDI Female
Jammu and Kashmir		0.208	0.132	0.308
1	Anantnag	0.203	0.153	0.267
2	Pulwama	0.178	0.134	0.198
3	Shopiyan	0.315	0.252	0.353
4	Srinagar	0.232	0.174	0.304
5	Kulgam	0.158	0.144	0.095
6	Budgam	0.265	0.233	0.270
7	Baramulla	0.217	0.147	0.297
8	Kupwara	0.197	0.140	0.230
9	Ganderbal	0.173	0.138	0.241
10	Bandipora	0.198	0.165	0.234
11	Leh	0.188	0.111	0.247
12	Kargil	0.195	0.135	0.228
13	Jammu	0.123	0.077	0.177
14	Samba	0.107	0.074	0.139
15	Udhampur	0.358	0.235	0.515
16	Reasi	0.434	0.291	0.652
17	Ramban	0.578	0.345	0.995



18	Doda	0.357	0.197	0.595
19	Kathua	0.206	0.129	0.312
20	Kishtwar	0.571	0.371	0.898
21	Rajouri	0.358	0.243	0.458
22	Poonch	0.353	0.215	0.551

Source: Computed by Researcher from table 1.1

*RUDI = Rural- Urban Differential Index

The rural-urban differential in literacy in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir is presented in table 1.3. It is apparent from the obtained results that the rural-urban differential in literacy in the state is 0.208. Rural-urban differential in literacy is much higher in case of males as compared to females as it is evident from the table that the rural-urban differential in case of males is 0.132, which is higher than the state level and the rural-urban differential in case of females is 0.308, which is lower than the state level.

Among the different districts of the state, the rural-urban differential is highly pronounced in Ramban district (0.578) followed by Kishtwar (0.571), Reasi (0.434) and Rajouri district (0.358) whereas the rural-urban differential is lowest in Samba district (0.107). It is also low in Jammu (0.123) Ganderbal (0.173) and Pulwama district (0.178). In case of males, the highest rural-urban differential in literacy is found in Kishtwar district (0.371) followed by Ramban (0.345), Reasi (0.291) and Shopiyan district (0.252) whereas the rural-urban differential is lowest in Samba district (0.074). It is also low in Jammu (0.077) Leh (0.111) and Kathua district (0.129). In case of females, the highest rural-urban differential in literacy is found in Ramban district (0.995) followed by Kishtwar (0.898), Reasi (0.652) and Doda district (0.595) whereas the rural-urban differential is lowest in Kulgam district (0.095). It is also low in Samba district (0.139) Jammu (0.177) and Pulwama district (0.198).

It can be concluded from the above analysis that literacy rate is higher in urban areas than in rural areas in Jammu and Kashmir especially in case of females the rural urban differential is



higher than males and the reason is that educational opportunities in rural areas are very poor compared to urban areas and females in rural areas are less privileged than males.

V. Conclusion

It may be concluded that there is an increase in literacy rate in the state since independence but there are wide gaps in literacy rates between male and female and between urban and rural areas. In conclusion, we will just highlight the major findings of this study. The literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir is 67.16 percent; literacy rate among males is 76.75 percent and 56.43 percent among females which means that among males the literacy rate is 9.59 percentage points higher than total literacy rate whereas among females the literacy rate is 10.73 lower than total literacy rate. Among the different districts of the state, the highest level of total literacy rate (83.45 percent) is found in Jammu district and the lowest level of literacy (54.27 percent) is found in Ramban district. The literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir in rural areas is 63.18 percent, literacy rate among males in rural areas is 73.76 percent and 51.64 percent among females which means that among males the literacy rate in rural areas is 10.58 percentage points higher than total literacy rate in rural areas whereas among females the literacy rate in rural areas is 11.54 lower than total literacy rate in rural areas. Furthermore, the literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir in urban areas is 77.12 percent, literacy rate among males in urban areas is 83.92 percent and 69.01 percent among females which means that among males the literacy rate in urban areas is 6.8 percentage points higher than total literacy rate in urban areas whereas among females the literacy rate in rural areas is 8.11 lower than total literacy rate in urban areas. Gender disparity in literacy is much higher in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as compared to urban areas as it is evident from the table that the gender disparity in rural areas is 0.225, which is higher than the state level and the gender disparity in urban areas is 0.137, which is lower than the state level. Rural-urban differential in literacy is much higher in case of males as compared to females as it is evident from the table that the rural-urban differential in case of males is 0.132, which is higher than the state level and the rural-urban differential in case of females is 0.308, which is lower than the state level. There are wide variations in literacy rate between males and



females and between rural and urban areas. In this respect, there is urgent need for women empowerment and village empowerment to narrow down the male-female and urban-rural differential. It should not be the task of government only but the local bodies, NGOs and voluntary organizations have to be invited in this regard.

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