GROWTH OF LITERACY: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY OF NAWADA DISTRICT, BIHAR

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ABSTRACT:

The Present study attempts to examine the level of education of Nawada district, Bihar. It also highlights the extent of educational inequality existing among different sections of society. Education is integral parts of the Indian society. Education is a continuous process of growth and development of human being. Education develops an inner-spirit of the child which was more ethical than mere rules and methods. The education always portrays whatever is the best for him for fullness of personality. A cross sectional study has been made to complete this research. Various parameters have been used to identify the main objectives of this research. Verious techniques have been calculated and results have been discussed through qualitatively and quantitatively also.

KEYWORDS: *Level of Education, Distribution and Variation of literacy*

INTRODUCTION

The study of distribution and growth of literacy is fundamental to the understanding of an area. It is manifest of the interplay of physical environments. It also furnishes a base for analyzing the attributes of population, such a basic study must, therefore, precede the discussion on changes in other characteristics of the population. The main indicators of development of any region are highly affected by literacy. Nawada district is also one of them. Literacy is a mirror in which it reflects the social, economic progress and political maturity of a society. Percentage of literacy and educational level of people have been used as indicators of regional disparity at State, district or block level (Dirk Bronger, 1986). Education is one of the important necessities of life, which develops human skills and knowledge which is related to literacy and formal

education systems. Degree of literacy is the basic parameter for measuring the educational status. Low level of literacy is a great obstacle to economic and cultural growth of a region (Ghosh, 1985). Any investment in education is for future development of a country or a region. Literacy, therefore, is an important socio-economic and cultural attribute to be studied in the field of population geography.

Literacy influence other demographic attributes like fertility, mortality, economic patterns, social consciousness and per capita income of an area (Kumari, 1987). Literacy has been defined for census purposes merely "the ability to read and write with understanding any language (Census of India, 1981). A literate person is one who is able both to read and write with understanding, while a person who can neither read nor write is known as illiterate. Persons who can only read or write may be considered as semi-literates. All those who can both read and write a simple message with understanding in any language are classified as literate in a definition proposed by the United Nations Population Commission (Chandana and Sidhu, 1980). This definition slightly differs from country to country. Some countries consider ability to communicate orally, to write legibly and to make and check a variety of arithmetical computations, essential for classifying an individual as literate. Others define literacy on the basis of length of schooling. The people of Finland have to pass a difficult test for being declared as literates, otherwise they are semi-literates, if they can just read and write or illiterate if they can neither read nor write (Trewartha, 1969). The author, however, will follow the census of India, which provides literacy data at village, block, district and state level. Therefore the level and growth of literacy, population and its determinants in any region is important to be discussed. Now Nawada district is one of the backward districts of Bihar as well as India in perspective of any kind of development specially education.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF RESEARCH:

The purpose of present research work is the analysis of the pattern of growth of literacy in relation to socio economic development of Nawada district, Bihar. Education is one of the important paradigms of the changing socio economic condition of any region .Education affects socio economic composition. In this research an attempt has been made to examine the pattern of growth of literacy and to understand how it influences the socio economic condition of Nawada district, Bihar.

The present study has the following objectives:

1. To examine the spatio-temporal trends in literacy across Nawada district.
2. To identify the significant of level of literacy throughout the district.
3. To Compare pre and post liberalization of literacy of the district
4. To critically examine the government policy and various legislation and their effectiveness to develop the level of education.

LOCATION AND EXTENT OF THE STUDY AREA: Nawada district is located between $24^0 31$'N and $25^0 08$'N latitudes and $85^0 00$'East to $86^0 03$'East longitudes and falls on Survey of India Topographical sheet No. 72 H & 72 G (Fig.1). Nawada district boundary towards Nalanda and Sheikhpura district in north, Jamui district in the east, Gaya district in the west and southern half is bounded by Jharkhand State. A total geographical area of the district is 2494 Km^2 which occupies only 1.43% of the total geographical area of the Bihar State. As per the count of the district, it has a total population of 22.16 lakh (census 2011) while density of population has been worked out 726 per Sq. Km. The headquarter of the district is Nawada and it has 14 development blocks and 1075 villages.

SOURCE OF DATA AND METHOLOGY:

For proposed research the source materials has based on secondary sources. The major secondary sources are District Census Handbook (Nawada, 1991-2011), District Gazetteers (Nawada), Round of NSSO data, International Organization (ILO, UNICEF, etc.), Topographical maps (Survey of India), District Planning Series Maps (NATMO), Google Earth Imageries, Govt. of Bihar and various government departmental documents, books, journals, conference papers; official websites etc.

The data have been proposed to be analyzed both in *qualitatively* and *quantitatively*. Various socio-economic parameters correlates to analyze critically with suitable statistical techniques (Pearsonian co-efficient of correlation, Gini Index, t test, z score, garret score, goodness of fit, etc.). The above quantitative analysis has been pictured to solve with the help of various software like SPSS, MapInfo, ArcGIS, Erdas Imagine, and Google Earth Pro.

CHANGING PATTERN OF LITERACY: Changing pattern of literacy is highly apparent in Nawada district. It is noticed that the percentage of literacy during 1981 to 2011 is very remarkable. In 1981, literacy rate was only 26.30 percent where male percentage was 40.31 and

female was only 12.77 percent. It indicates that the female are so poor in the field of education which bear the social, economic and political development. It means Nawada district was very backward during 1981. The negligence of women in our society is the main cause of poor literacy of the district. In 1991, literacy rate of the district was 31.18 percent which is higher than 1981. Male literacy of the district during 1991 was 45.12 percent which is also higher than 1981 and female literacy was 17.24 percent. It indicates the slow growth of literacy during 1981 to 1991.

Table No-1

Changing Pattern of Literacy in Nawada District, 1981-2011

Years	% of Total Literacy	% of Male Literacy	% of Female Literacy
1981	26.3	40.31	12.77
1991	31.18	45.12	17.24
2001	47.36	61.22	32.64
2011	59.76	69.98	48.86
Variation (1981-2011)	33.46	29.67	36.09

Source: Census of India, 1981-2011

During 2001, total literacy of the district was 47.36 percent which was far different than 1991 and male literacy rate was remarkable noticed. It was 61.22 percent and female percentage was 32.64 percent which was much higher than 1991. In 2011, total rate of literacy of the district was 59.76 percent which was also higher than 2001 and male percentage was 69.98 percent and female was 48.86 percent. All the data reveal the continuous growth of literacy in the district. But in 2001, the growth of literacy was very faster than other years.

VARIATION IN LITERACY: Variation in literacy is a common demographic feature of any region. In Nawada district variation of literacy is found when we study if as block level. In 2001, literacy of Nawada district was 38.29 percent which changed to 59.76 percent in 2011. In 2001, literacy rate was lowest in Kawakol (30.16%) followed by Sirdala (32.50%) and Roh (34.65%) and highest was in Narhat (42.94%) followed by Kashi Chak (41.64%). Other blocks indicate the low percentage of literacy in 2001 due to obstacles of determinants of literacy.

Table No-2

Variation of Literacy in Nawada District, 2001-2011

Name	Total Literacy	Total Population (0-6 Population)	% of Literacy (2011)	% of Literacy (2001)	Variation in %
Nardiganj	56336	102196	55.13	35.63	19.50
Nawada	178818	267645	66.81	46.87	19.94
Warisaliganj	94227	154798	60.87	40.32	20.55
Kashi Chak	37770	59377	63.61	41.64	21.97
Pakribarawan	80822	149350	54.12	35.05	19.07
Kawakol	54714	116125	47.12	30.16	16.96
Roh	78844	133597	59.02	34.65	24.37
Gobindpur	45395	78171	58.07	36.93	21.14
Akbarpur	119298	195812	60.92	37.19	23.73
Hisua	73205	115865	63.18	39.49	23.69
Narhat	57641	92131	62.56	42.94	19.62
Meskaur	45813	77283	59.28	37.07	22.21
Sirdala	87094	145876	59.70	32.5	27.20
Rajauli	81035	137373	58.99	36.64	22.35
Nawada District	**1091012**	**1825599**	**59.76**	**38.29**	**21.47**

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

In 2011, highest literacy was found in Nawada (66.81%) due to favourable determinants of literacy particularly high growth of urbanization. Now, Nawada is the main town in Nawada district. Second highest literacy in 2011 was found in Kashi Chak (63.61%) and Hisua (63.18%) and lowest literacy was found in 2011 in Kawakol (47.12%) followed by Pakribarawan (54.12%). It is noticed that Nardiganj, Pakribarawan, Kawakol, Roh, Gobindpur, Meskaur, Sirdala and Rajauli block has below the literacy rate of Nawada district average and other block has above the district average.

Distribution of Literacy in Nawada District, 2001

In 2001, total literacy of the district was 38.29 percent. Nawada block has recorded highest literacy rate (46.87%) followed by Narhat (42.94%) and lowest is found in Kawakol block (30.16%) followed by Sirdala block (32.50%). Census of India calculate the literacy rate as the number of total literacy by total number of population excluding 0-6 aged people into hundred. Now, in our present study, we calculate the literacy as directed by Census of India.

Table No-3

Distribution of Literacy in Nawada District, 2001

Name	% of Literacy (2001)	Total Male (Excluding 0-6)	Total Male Literate	% of Male Literacy	Total Female (Excluding 0-6)	Total Female Literate	% of Female Literacy
Nardiganj	35.63	40294	22995	57.07	37457	10605	28.31
Nawada	46.87	109340	74663	68.29	97813	43208	44.17
Warisaliganj	40.32	65244	40221	61.65	59957	20958	34.96
Kashi Chak	41.64	27808	17823	64.09	25155	9074	36.07
Pakribarawan	35.05	61670	34957	56.68	56712	16475	29.05
Kawakol	30.16	53365	27749	52.00	49242	11446	23.24
Roh	34.65	53071	29655	55.88	49628	13617	27.44
Gobindpur	36.93	30504	18943	62.10	30414	9210	30.28
Akbarpur	37.19	75428	44669	59.22	70810	22438	31.69
Hisua	39.49	47434	29449	62.08	44679	15443	34.56
Narhat	42.94	34613	23360	67.49	34033	12628	37.11
Meskaur	37.07	37811	22862	60.46	36189	10418	28.79
Sirdala	32.50	55332	32795	59.27	52829	14136	26.76
Rajauli	36.64	56310	33159	58.89	53082	16179	30.48
Nawada District	38.29	748224	453300	60.58	698000	225835	32.35

Source: Census of India, 2001

It is noticed that in 2001, total male literacy in the district was 60.58 percent and female literacy was only 32.35. Nawada block (68.29%) has the highest literacy followed by Narhat (67.49%) and Kashi Chak (64.09%) and lowest was in Kawakol (52.00%) followed by Roh (55.88%) in male literacy in 2001. Female literacy was highest in Nawada block (44.17%) followed by Kashi Chak (36.07%) in 2001.

Distribution of Literacy in Nawada District, 2011

The total literacy of the district was 59.76 percent which changed to 69.98 percent among male and 46.44 percent among female in 2011. It shows the indicative growth rate of literacy in the district from 2001. Block wise distribution of literacy in Nawada district among male and female shows that males are improve literates than females. In 2011, Nawada block has recorded highest percentage of literacy (74.80%) followed by Narhat (73.88) and Hisua (73.27%) and lowest was found in Kawakol (58.34%) because of absence of determinants of literacy.
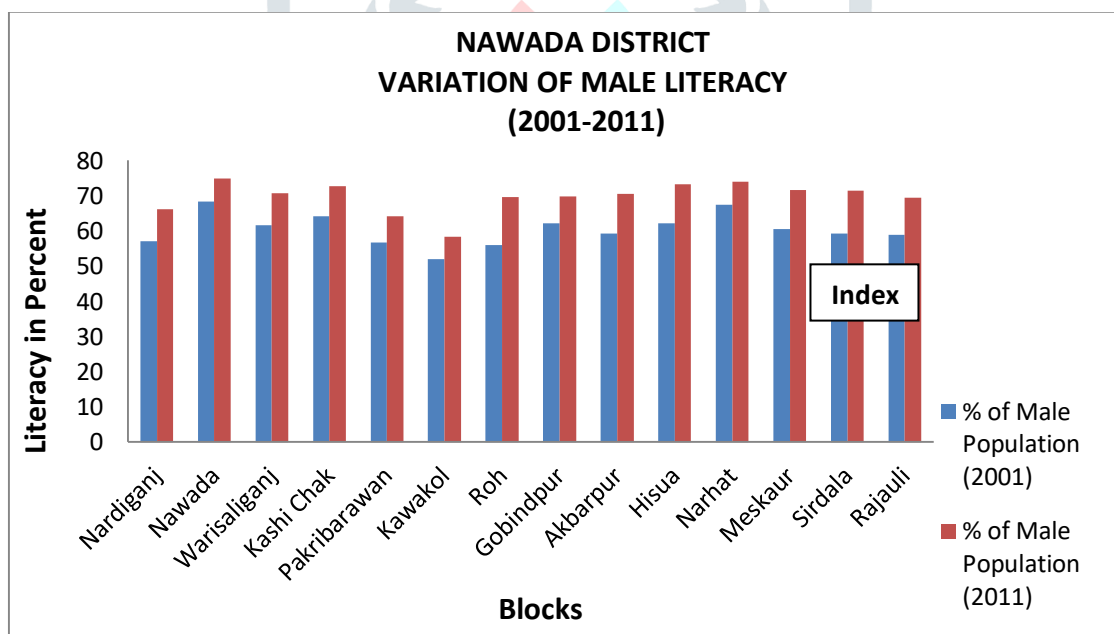
Table No-4

Distribution of Literacy in Nawada District, 2011

Name	% of Literacy (2011)	Total Male (Excluding 0-6)	Total Male Literate	% of Male Population	Total Female (Excluding 0-6)	Total Female Literate	% of Female Population
Nardiganj	55.13	52838	34971	66.19	49358	21365	43.29
Nawada	66.81	139440	104301	74.80	128205	74517	58.12
Warisaliganj	60.87	80797	57112	70.69	74001	37115	50.15
Kashi Chak	63.61	31158	22650	72.69	28219	15120	53.58
Pakribarawan	54.12	77506	49685	64.10	71844	31137	43.34
Kawakol	47.12	58250	33985	58.34	57875	20729	35.82
Roh	59.02	69131	48127	69.62	64466	30717	47.65
Gobindpur	58.07	39684	27679	69.75	38487	17716	46.03
Akbarpur	60.92	101524	71530	70.46	94288	47768	50.66
Hisua	63.18	59674	43724	73.27	56191	29481	52.47
Narhat	62.56	47264	34919	73.88	44867	22722	50.64
Meskaur	59.28	39003	27910	71.56	38280	17903	46.77
Sirdala	59.70	75063	53608	71.42	70813	33486	47.29
Rajauli	58.99	71026	49273	69.37	66347	31762	47.87
Nawada District	59.76	942358	659474	69.98	53027	24626	46.44

Source: Census of India, 2011

Female literacy of the district is remarkable below the national average. Nawada block (58.12%) has highest literacy and other blocks like Pakribarawan, Akbarpur, Hisua and Narhat bear above 50 percent literacy but not more than 60 percent. No one block has above 60 percent literacy among females in 2011. It is very unfortunate that till present day Kawakol block has only 35.82 percent female literacy. It indicates very low social, cultural, economic and political development of the district.

VARIATION IN MALE LITERACY: Total male literacy in Nawada district in 2001 was 60.58 percent which has changed to 69.98 percent in 2011. So the district's literacy variation during 2001-2011 was 9.40 percent which are not equally distributed in all blocks of the district. In Sirdala block, male literacy was 59.27 percent in 2001 and 71.42 percent in 2011. It means the variation of male literacy was 12.15 percent which was second highest among the district. Sirdala block is located in southern portion of the district and various educational institutions and other demographic and other factors occurs highest percentage of growth of literacy during 2001 to 2011. First highest variation of literacy was found in Roh block (13.74%). Roh, Akbarpur, Hisua, Meskaur, Sirdala and Rajauli block have more than 10 percent variation of literacy during 2001 to 2011. Other block has below 10 percent variation of male literacy. Nardiganj has (9.12%), Nawada (6.51%), Warisaliganj (9.04%), Kashi Chak (8.60%), Pakribarawan (7.42%), Kawakol (6.34%), Gobindpur (7.65%) and Narhat (6.39%). Lowest male literacy variation is Narhat (6.39%).

Fig. 1

Table No-5

Variation in Male Literacy: Nawada District, 2001-2011

Name	% of Male Population (2001)	% of Male Population (2011)	Variation in % (2001-2011)
Nardiganj	57.07	66.19	9.12
Nawada	68.29	74.80	6.51
Warisaliganj	61.65	70.69	9.04
Kashi Chak	64.09	72.69	8.60
Pakribarawan	56.68	64.10	7.42
Kawakol	52.00	58.34	6.34
Roh	55.88	69.62	13.74
Gobindpur	62.10	69.75	7.65
Akbarpur	59.22	70.46	11.24
Hisua	62.08	73.27	11.19
Narhat	67.49	73.88	6.39
Meskaur	60.46	71.56	11.09
Sirdala	59.27	71.42	12.15
Rajauli	58.89	69.37	10.49
Nawada District	60.58	69.98	9.40

Census of India, 2001 & 2011

VARIATION IN FEMALE LITERACY: Total female literacy of the district was 32.35 percent in 2001 which was changed to 46.44 percent in 2011. It is noticed that a remarkable change has occurred in female literacy. It was 14.09 percent. In 2001, Highest female literacy was found in Nawada block (44.17%) followed by Kashi Chak (36.07%) and lowest was found in Kawakol (23.24%) followed by Sirdala (26.76%) and Nardiganj (28.31%). General literacy rate was also high and low among the blocks. In 2011, highest female literacy was found in Nawada block (58.12%) and lowest was in Kawakol (35.82%).
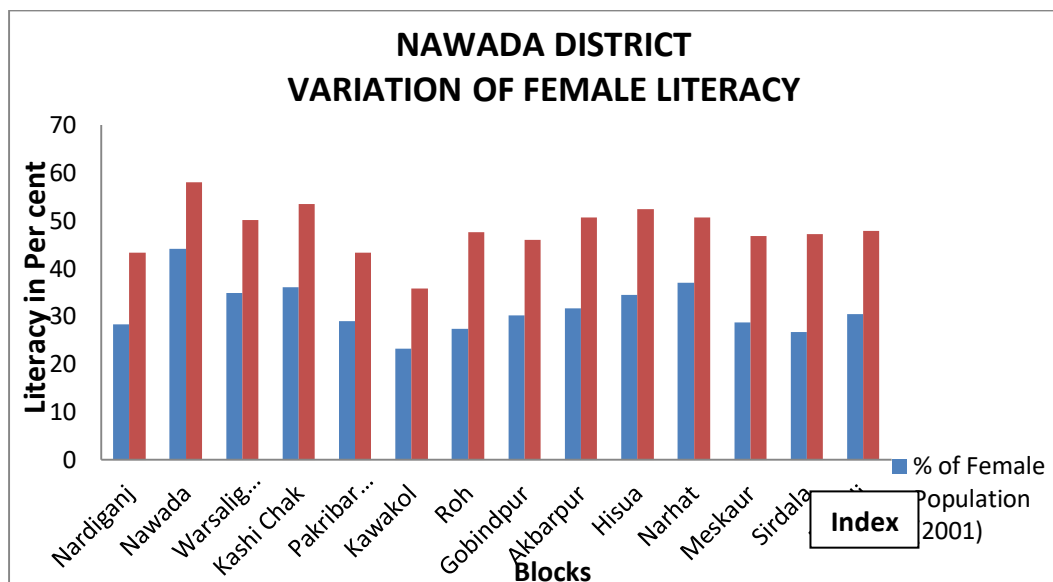
Table No-6

Variation of Female Literacy: Nawada District, 2001-2011

Name	% of Female Population (2001)	% of Female Population (2011)	Variation in % (2001-2011)
Nardiganj	28.31	43.29	14.97
Nawada	44.17	58.12	13.95
Warisaliganj	34.96	50.15	15.20
Kashi Chak	36.07	53.58	17.51
Pakribarawan	29.05	43.34	14.29
Kawakol	23.24	35.82	12.57
Roh	27.44	47.65	20.21
Gobindpur	30.28	46.03	15.75
Akbarpur	31.69	50.66	18.97
Hisua	34.56	52.47	17.90
Narhat	37.11	50.64	13.54
Meskaur	28.79	46.77	17.98
Sirdala	26.76	47.29	20.53
Rajauli	30.48	47.87	17.39
Nawada District	32.35	46.44	14.09

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

The variation of female literacy is remarkable one. The district has highest growth rate in female literacy. During 2001 to 2011, female literacy was highly recorded in Sirdala block (20.53%) and lowest was in Kawakol (12.57%). Only two blocks Roh (20.21%) and Sirdala (20.53%) are above 20 percent female literacy variation. Warisaliganj (15.20%), Kashi Chak (17.51%), Gobindpur (15.75%), Akbarpur (18.97%), Hisua (17.90%), Meskaur (17.98%), and Rajauli (17.39%) have recorded 15 to 20 percent female literacy variation during 2001 to 2011. Nardiganj has 14.97%, Nawada (13.95%), Pakribarawan (14.29%), Kawakol (12.57%) and Narhat (13.54%) recorded 10 to 15 percent female literacy variation during the study period.

Fig. 2

CONCLUSION

Education is the main power of any region. Nawada district has also effects the literacy to develop in social, economic and political background. Here we see that maximum literacy is found in Nawada block because of high urbanization, means of good transport and communication system, good educational infrastructure and so on other demographic and social factors. On the other hand Kawakol has lowest literacy in terms of general, male and female literacy. Female literacy is alarmingly very low throughout the district. Lower literacy indicates the backwardness of the society. Most of the people are engaged in primary activity. Out of them some are landless people. So they are categorized in daily wage labourer. When we see the literacy variation of the district during 2001 to 2011, it is noticed that the growth of literacy rate is growing faster. If the present rate maintains the district, then Nawada district will have higher literacy district in future. So, overall development sustain the district will indicate its pattern of literacy in future.

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