

Scenario of education in Sangrur District in Punjab

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Abstract

Education plays an important role for social and economic development of a region and boosts the cultural and socio-economic development of the area. It helps in reducing ethnic divisions and poverty and improvement in the living standards of the people of that nation. This research paper is concerned with the scenario of education in Sangrur district of Punjab. As far as education is concerned, Sangrur district has been considered as educationally backward district. Through many steps to upgrade this scenario has been made but the literacy figures show the different picture. According to the last census in 2001 the total literacy rate was 59.9% in which 66% is male literacy rate and the female literacy rate is 53% only. The 2011 census records 68% total literacy rate in which male literacy rate increased to 73.2 % and female literacy rate jump to only 62.2% as against the female literacy rate at state level is 70.7%. The present work is an attempt to study the education status of the district.

Introduction

Good education always indicates the better society in comparison to the lesser educated areas that are underdeveloped. Literacy rate is used as the main indicator and measurement of the development. Access to literacy is a basic step towards achieving the general well being of people of that area. Education is necessary for the sustainable development. Hence, literacy is considered as a major tool in building a developed and peaceful society in the 21st Century. Educated society has the capability to bring the social and economic changes in the society. There are equal rights to both men and women in almost all the democratic countries including India. Primary education is now a fundamental right. According to the Census of India, person who can read and write with understanding in any language aged above six year considered as literate (Som & Mishra, 2014). ESCAP, 2010 observed that the Asia-Pacific region has three-quarter illiterate population of the world and it is also the biggest and most difficult issues in developing countries (Shafiqullah, 2011) of which India is a part, second largest populated country are characterized by great disparity between urban-rural, male-female and young-aged (Krishan & Shyam, 1978). India has effective literacy rate of 74.04 percent. It is to be noted that 82.14 percent male and 65.46 percent female are literate meaning thereby a large gender gap in literacy (Census of India, 2011).

The present study is dealing with one of the district in the Punjab state of India i.e. Sangrur. Sangrur is educationally backward district of Punjab. The district has shown some serious concerns related to demographic issues and among these education is one of the important issue. In spite of all the great efforts by the state government and non government organisations the literacy rate of Sangrur is still lag behind many other districts of Punjab. Also the literacy rate in the rural areas especially females and other weaker sections of the society are quite disturbing.

Study Area

Sangrur district is located in the southern part of the Punjab state. It is one of the districts in the Malwa region.

latitudinal extent in 29°44' and 30°42' north

Longitudunal.Extent. 76°.13' east

It is surrounded by Ludhiana district in the north, Patiala in the East and Bathinda in the west and Faridkot in the West. The neighbouring of Haryana lies in the south. The covered area of the district is 3625.0 sq. kms and has a population of 16,55,169 in which 8,78,029 males and 7,77,140 are females. Among all the district of Punjab, Sangrur ranks second in area that is 7.2% and fourth in population i.e. 6% of its population. From the total area of 3625 sq.km, only 159.25 sq km is Urban and rest 3465.75 sq. km is rural area so basically the district is rural in nature.

Population size of Sangrur

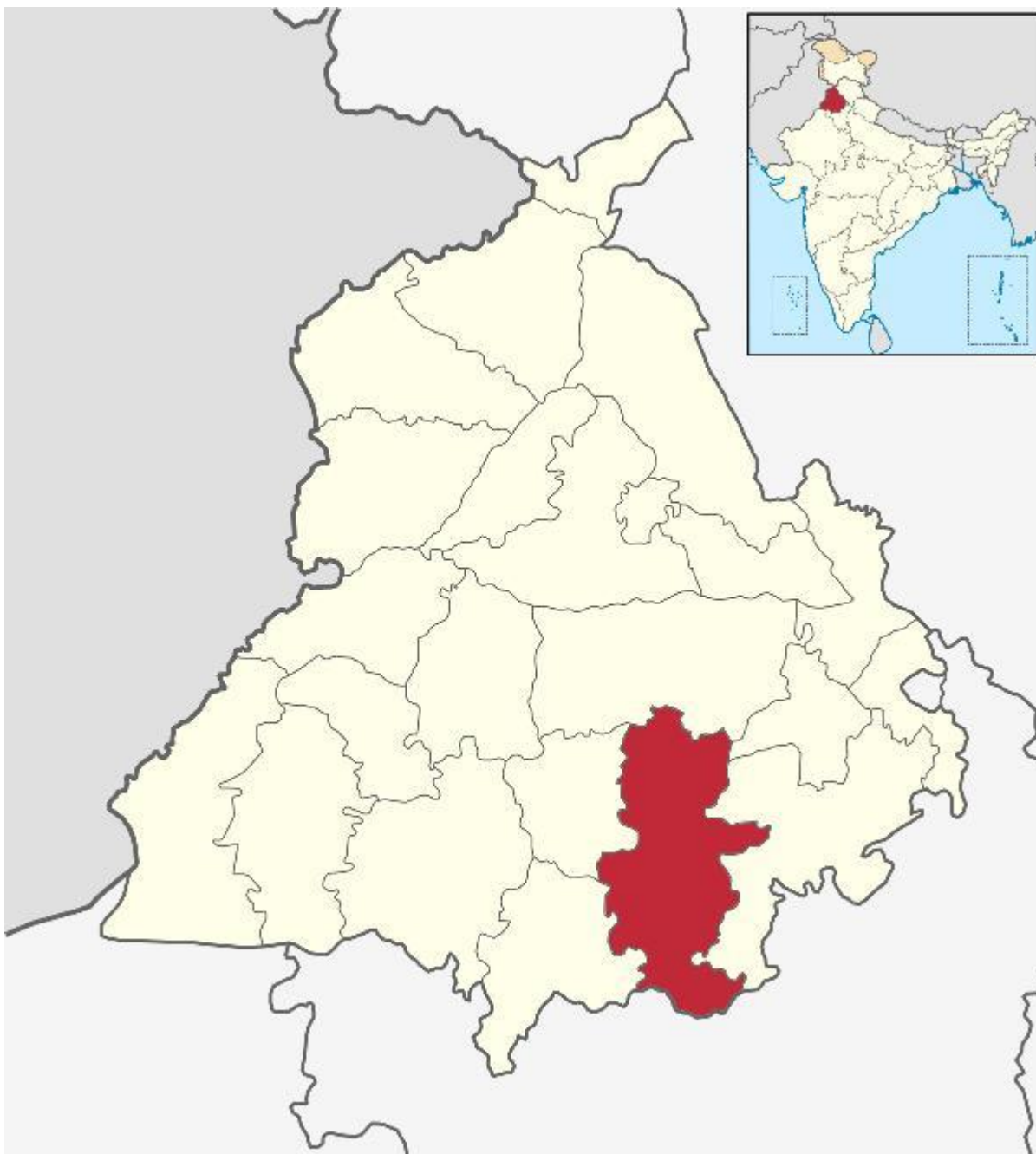
Total population of District Sangrur is 1655,169 including 878029 males and 777140 females. Out of the total population 68.8% is residing in rural and 515,965 i.e. 31.2% in urban area. The rural population spread over 564 inhabited villages and urban population is distributed over 13 towns in the district. An inhabited village in the district on an average has a population of 2020 as against 1425 in the state. It shows that the villages in Sangrur district are much large in size. Towns are comparatively smaller in size with average population of 39690 as compared to for 47922 in the state. Density of district Sangrur is 457 persons per sq. km as compared to state is 551. Sex rates that rein folds the status of women in the society and care of the girl child in particular.

In this district also there is preponderance of males over female i.e. 895 females per thousand males.

District Sangrur has been organised in 2006 as a new district Barnala came out of it. From administrative point of view district Sangrur is divided into six tehsils: Sangrur, Sunam, Dhuri, Malerkotla, Lehra and Moonak.

These tehsils are for the divided into 9 blocks Sangrur, Bhawanigarh, Malerkotla-I, Malerkotla-II ,Dhuri, Sherpur, Sunam, Lehragaga and Andana.

Location of Sangrur district in Punjab



Objectives of the Study-

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To analyse the scenario of education in Sangrur district of Punjab.
2. To analyse the relationship between the number of schools and literacy level in Sangrur district level.

Database and Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary data obtained from the variety of authentic government sources. Some of the data is available in the published form while remaining is downloaded from the official websites of the government offices from the internet. The main sources of data are census publications, various books, research papers in the journals, Statistical Abstract of Punjab and Punjab-at-a-Glance, district wise. This study of district Sangrur is done at block levels

Education Status of the Blocks of District Sangrur:

Number of Literates-2011

| Sr.No. | Block | No. of Literates | | |
|--------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------|
| | | Persons | Males | Females |
| 1 | Malerkotla-I | 90913 | 51450 | 39463 |
| 2 | Malerkotla-II | 91236 | 51963 | 39273 |
| 3 | Sherpur | 61913 | 35018 | 36895 |
| 4 | Dhuri | 51380 | 29356 | 22024 |
| 5 | Bhawanigarh | 61426 | 35350 | 26076 |
| 6 | Sangrur | 71887 | 41039 | 30848 |
| 7 | Sunam | 123990 | 71376 | 52614 |
| 8 | Lehragaga | 62104 | 36084 | 26020 |
| 9 | Andana | 44008 | 25951 | 18057 |
| | Total | 658857 | 377587 | |

Source: www.pbplanning.gov.in/ 2011.

Above Table present the number of Total, male and female literates, in different CD blocks of Sangrur district of Punjab. The table exhibits that the total literates are maximum in Sunam block followed by Malerkotla II and Malerkotla I. The minimum literates are in Dhuri block. The table also reveals that males are more literates than the females in each block in the district. Among males the maximum number of literates are in Sunam and minimum are in Dhuri and same scenario can be seen in case of females.

Literacy Rate + gap in Literacy Rate**2011**

| Sr.No. | Block | TLR | MLR | FLR | GAP |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Malerkotla-I | 72.48 | 78.12 | 66.25 | 11.87 |
| 2 | Malerkotla-II | 73.34 | 79.03 | 66.97 | 12.06 |
| 3 | Sherpur | 68.40 | 73.14 | 63.08 | 10.06 |
| 4 | Dhuri | 69.01 | 74.77 | 62.58 | 12.19 |
| 5 | Bhawanigarh | 65.81 | 71.62 | 59.29 | 12.33 |
| 6 | Sangrur | 64.62 | 69.50 | 59.09 | 10.41 |
| 7 | Sunam | 58.60 | 63.45 | 53.10 | 10.35 |
| 8 | Lehragaga | 55.24 | 60.6 | 49.20 | 11.40 |
| 9 | Andana | 59.90 | 67.43 | 51.60 | 15.83 |
| | Sangrur District | 64.79 | 70.22 | 58.70 | 11.52 |

Source: www.pbplanning.gov.in/ 2011.

Above Table present the total, male and female literacy rate in different CD blocks of Sangrur district of Punjab. The total exhibits the maximum literacy rate in Malerkotla-II and minimum in Lehragaga with 73.34 and 55.24 respectively. The male literacy rate is more than the female literacy rate in all the blocks of Sangrur. The gap between the male and female literacy rate in 11.52 in Sangrur district and the highest gap in observed in Andana block as compare to lowest gap in Sherpur block.

Distribution of % age of population and number of villages having education facilities.

| Block | Total No. of Villages | Total No. of Villages having Educational Facilities (% age) | % age of population (Rural) having Educational Facilities |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Malerkotla-I | 105 | 95 (90.48) | 97.48 % |
| Malerkotla-II | 90 | 88 (97.78) | 99.96 % |
| Sherpur | 38 | 38(100) | 100 % |
| Dhuri | 42 | 42 (100) | 100 % |
| Bhawanigarh | 67 | 65 (97.01) | 99.76 % |
| Sangrur | 56 | 55 (98.21) | 99.9 % |
| Sunam | 82 | 81 (98.78) | 99.9 % |
| Lehragaga | 44 | 44 (100) | 100 % |
| Andana | 40 | 38 (95) | 99.85 % |
| Total | 564 | 546 (96.81) | 99.65 % |

Source: www.pbplanning.gov.in/ 2011.

Table reveals the scenario of education in rural area of district Sangrur. It is quite satisfying that almost the entire region has the access to education facilities. Only in Malerkotla-I, ten villages do not have any education facility otherwise in all other blocks, only one or two village does not have any school. The table also exhibits that more than 97% of the population of each village is having approach to education facility in this district.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the total literacy rate is higher in Malerkotla-I and Malerkotla-II but it is low in Andana, Lehragaga and Sunam. Male literacy rate is higher than the female literacy rate. Male literacy rate is higher than seventy percent in five CD Blocks and in other four other blocks have male literacy rate less than seventy percent. The highest literacy rate is in Malerkotla I and II with more than 66%. The least female literacy rate is in Lehragaga with more than half of the females are illiterate. The highest gap in Male and Female literacy rate is in Andana block of Sangrur. On the other hand nearly more than ninety seven percent of the rural population having educational facilities. In Malerkotla block there are ten villages that do not have any education facility. Sherpur and Dhuri are the two blocks along with Lehragaga where there is at least one school in each village. In spite of having all the facilities the district is still educationally backward so government should be given more attention and special attention should be given to rural areas to narrow down the present literacy gap.

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