

Spatial Pattern of Literacy Rate in Haryana

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Abstract

Literacy is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic change. The present paper tries to assess the spatial pattern of literacy in state of Haryana. The study reveals that there is significant increase in literacy rate in the state, which has increased from 67.91 % to 75.6% between the years 2001 to 2011. This is concluded that literacy rate in Haryana increased 75.6% as per 2011 census, out of which maximum literacy rate has been found in the district of Gurgaon (84.7%) and the lowest in district of Mewat (54.1%). MS Office software and ARC GIS software have been used for statistical analysis and mapping respectively.

Introduction:

Economic development depends upon many factors. Human factor is the most important factor which influences the development of a country. An investment in human beings has been a major source of growth and development in. So an enhancement in quality of the “human factor” is very essential. Advanced knowledge and the diffusion of new ideas are required to get rid of economic backwardness (Meier, 1987). Literacy is an investment in human capital. It is a wide theme which has been pursued by scholars or academicians including educationists, psychologists, political scientists and sociologists etc., each adopting particular approach to the problem. For a population geographer literacy is a quantitative attribute of population and fairly a reliable index of the socio-economic development of an area. But it has qualitative value also. It is the most important indicator to measure quality of population. It gives a thought about the intellectual development of a society. It imparts new skills and knowledge and assists in regionalizing attribute. In short, it is the key that unlocks the door to modernization. In fact, education and literacy are considered as the important nuts and bolts for the all round development of a country. Both education and literacy have helped in the transformation of a society (Chandna, 1980). The acceptances of complicated production practices that influence current development are possible only after the rural population has achieved a relatively high level of literacy and general education. Hence, there is a positive correlation between the level of literacy and the spread of education (Dube, 1965).

Education is the most essential factor to search such human abilities which successfully contribute in economic development of a country. Education is a systematic process through which a child or an adult acquire knowledge, experience, skill and sound attitude. It makes an individual civilized, sophisticated, cultured and educated. The goal of education is to make an individual perfect and every society gives

importance to education because it is panacea for all evils. It is the key to solve the various problems in life (John Parankimalil, 2012).

Education is a powerful tool not only for transforming society but also for the full development of individual personalities (Mathur, 1978). Formal education has become a required condition for obtaining modern jobs in recent time. Literacy includes the persons with and without formal education. The age group 0-4 should be excluded to find out the true literacy rates. All those persons who can both read and write a simple message with understanding in any language” are considered as literates (Census of India, 2011). A minimum level of education is essential for every person if he wants to get out from ignorance and backwardness. It is very important in case of females and scheduled castes that remained the real dreg of society. The female literacy is counted as the ‘best contraceptive’ as the literate and educated women are more responsible to family planning measures. Above all an educated woman can be very helpful in the upliftment of quality of life because she can get different types of jobs and support her family economically. So, the study of literacy is important and becomes all the more so in a country like India which has about one-seventh of the world’s population and which is striving hard to get socio-economic advancement. There are a great deal of variations in the literacy rate in India(Sopher). Variation in the literacy rate also find at district level in states like Haryana. Disparities may also found between rural-urban population, between male-female, between various social groups and different occupational groups.

Study Area

The study area of the present study is Haryana. The state Haryana is established on 1st Nov.1966 and the capital of the state is Chandigarh which is a union territory and it is also the capital of Punjab. The state Haryana lies in the northern corner of the nation (in India). It is bounded by Utter Pradesh in east, Punjab in the west, a portion of Himachal Pradesh in the North and extends to the great expanses of Rajasthan in the south. It located between the 27°39’ to 30°95’ North latitude and from 74°36’ to 77°36’ East longitude. Haryana state has an area of 44212 sq. km covering only 1.34 percent of the total geographical area of India and population is 2,53,53,081 according to census 2011. In Haryana, variation in literacy rates at district level has been found.

Objectives

The present study has the following main objectives.

- To assess the spatial pattern of literacy at districts level in Haryana.
- To find out the possible causes for spatial inequality in literacy rate across districts.

Methodology and Database

The present paper studies the inter-district disparities in literacy rate in the state of Haryana. In the present study the analysis of literacy rate is based on secondary data sources. Data is taken from Census of India (Haryana) 2011, District Census Handbook. ARC GIS 9.3 software has been used to display the data on map. Microsoft word has been used basically for the presentation of the research. An attempt has been made to tabulate process, analyze and interpret the data by applying suitable statistical and cartographic techniques. District wise spatial variation in literacy rates has been shown on maps by using choropleth method

Results and Discussion

Spatial Pattern of Literacy Levels

According to the 2011 Census, only 75.6% population of Haryana is recorded as literates. Trends in rural-urban literacy are also noticeable. Over 79.16% of the urban population was literates in 2001 which has increased 83.1% in 2011. Rural literacy is remarkably poor with only 71.4% in 2011, showing an increase of 8.2% points over the last census.

Table: 1 Percent Literacy, Haryana, 2011

	Persons	Male	Female
Total	75.6	84.1	65.9
Rural	71.4	81.6	60
Urban	83.1	88.6	76.9

Source: Census of India, 2011

Male literacy is higher than females' literacy in both rural-urban areas and urban males and females always show a higher level of literacy than their rural counterparts. Urban male literacy was 88.6% as compared to urban female literacy of 76.9%. Rural male literacy was 81.6% as compared to rural female literacy of about 60%.

Table:-2 Percent Literacy, Haryana 2011

Sr. No.	Districts	Total
1	Ambala	81.7
2	Panchkula	81.9
3	Yamuna Nagar	78
4	Kurukshetra	76.3
5	Kaithal	69.2
6	Karnal	74.7
7	Panipat	75.9
8	Sonipat	79.1

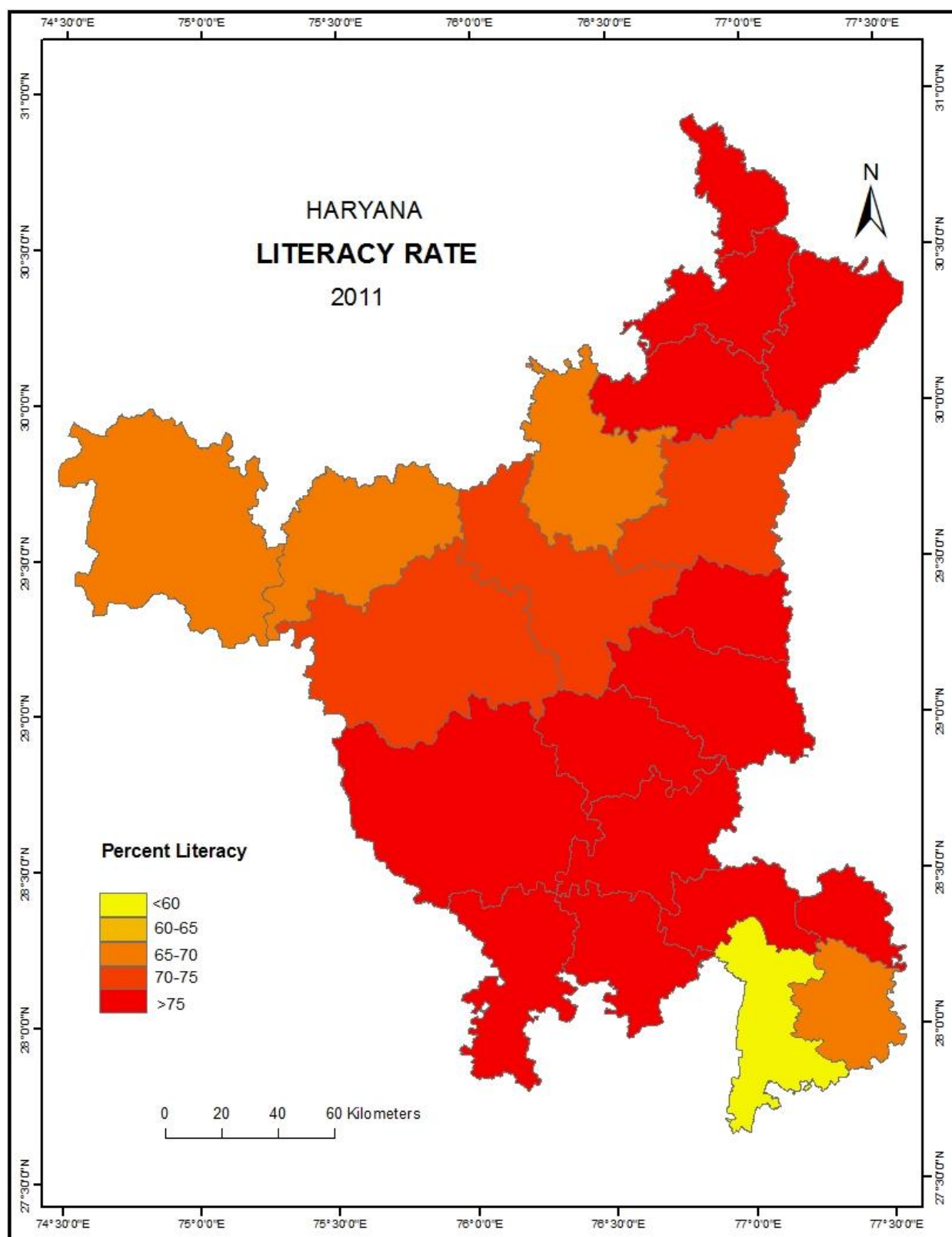
9	Rohtak	80.2
10	Jhajjar	80.6
11	Faridabad	81.7
12	Palwal	69.3
13	Gurgaon	84.7
14	Mewat	54.1
15	Rewari	81
16	Mahendragarh	77.7
17	Bhiwani	75.2
18	Jind	71.4
19	Hisar	72.9
20	Fatehabad	67.9
21	Sirsa	68.8
	HARYANA	75.6

Source:- Census of India, 2011

Table- 3 Haryana: Spatial Pattern of Literacy Rate

Categories (in percent)	No. of Districts	Name of Districts
High Literacy Rate (Above 80)	7	Gurgaon, Panchkula, Faridabad, Ambala, Rewari, Jhajjar, Rohtak
Moderate Literacy Rate (70-80)	9	Sonapat, Yamuna Nagar, Mehendragarh, Panipat, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Karnal, Hisar, Jind
Low Literacy Rate (60-70)	4	Palwal, Kaithal, Sirsa, Fatehabad
Very Low Literacy Rate (Below 60)	1	Mewat

Sourec: Table-2



Source: - Table: 3

A District wise Study

In terms of levels of literacy attainment, Haryana presents a high degree of regional variation. On the basis of literacy rate as shown in the table 2, districts of Haryana can be classified into four categories.

Regions having high level of literacy (Above 80%)

The highest level of literacy (above 80%) was observed in Gurgaon district with a rate of 84.7% followed by

Panchkula (81.9%), Faridabad (81.7%), Ambala (81.7%), Rewari (81%), Jhajjar (80.6%) and Rohtak (80.2%). Here more literacy is found because these districts are industrially developed and economically sound. Panchkula and Ambala are near to state capital Chandigarh and Gurgaon, Faridabad, Rewari, Jhajjar, Rohtak are near to national capital Delhi. Here more educational institutes are found. Urbanization is also high in these districts.

Regions having moderate literacy rate (70-80%)

Moderate level of literacy is found in (70-80%) i.e. Sonapat (79.1%), Yamuna Nagar (78%), Mehendragarh (77.7%), Panipat (75.9%), Kurukshetra (76.3%), Bhiwani (75.2%), Karnal (74.7%), Hisar (72.9%), Jind (71.4%). Kurukshetra and Hisar are big educational centers in Haryana. In Karnal and Mahendragarh districts, high educational facilities are found. These districts lie in moderate category due to awareness of people and impact of many educational policies can be seen here. Many factors are responsible such as strong urban influences, diversification of rural economy and above all, the intense pressure on agriculture land in the densely populated part of the state impelled the parents to go in for education of their children so as to enable them to seek employment in jobs outside agriculture and awareness of education.

Regions having low level of literacy (60-70%)

Low level of literacy is found in Palwal (69.3%), Kaithal (69.2%), Sirsa (68.8%) and Fatehabad (67.9%). These districts lie in this category due to low educational facilities provided by government. Lack of awareness about educational facilities is found in people at this area.

Regions having very low level of literacy (Below 60%)

Mewat (54.1%) shows the very low level of literacy. Low level of literacy is found in overall category as well as in case of both male and female literacy rates in Mewat district. It is the result of social conservation of Meo-Muslim society. Low educational facilities, narrow attitude of people towards, lack awareness and poor economic conditions are other responsible factors for low level of literacy.

Conclusion

The literacy rate of Haryana was 75.6% during 2011, which is slightly higher than the literacy rate of nation (74.04%). The above discussion reveals that overall there is significant increase in literacy rates in the state, which has increased from 67.91% to 75.6% between the years 2001 to 2011. There is a significant difference in literacy rates between males and females in the both rural and urban area of the district. Disparity in literacy generates a number of social, economic and political problems which may threaten the foundation of development. Hence, spatial disparity found in the study area is a cause of concern and should prime priority in the development planning.

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