Urban and Rural Literacy in Haryana: A Geographical Analysis

Kavita
Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana, India

Received: February 06, 2019

Accepted: March 17, 2019

ABSTRACT: The study examines the trend of literacy and gap between urban-rural literacy (1971-2011) in Haryana and India. The study also analyses the spatial pattern of literacy as well as disparity between urban-rural literacy at district level in Haryana and reveals that India has recorded highest gap between urban-rural literacy as well as lowest total and rural literacy after 1971. Haryana was backward in literacy at all levels (total, urban and rural) up to 1971 but after this period, Haryana has recorded much progress. Rural literacy in Haryana is remaining highest during 2011 census. Gap between urban-rural literacy is decreased up to significant level however; it is still high; 11 per cent in Haryana as well as 16 per cent at national level. Mewat district of Haryana is very backward in literacy almost all levels. Palwal, Kaithal, Fatehabad and Sirsa districts of Haryana as well as almost western and southern districts of Punjab, contains low literacy.

Key Words:

1. Introduction
According to Indian census, literacy is defined as the ability of people to read and write a simple message in any language with some understanding. It is not mandatory that to be treated as a literate, a person should have received any formal education or acquired any minimum educational standard. Literacy status can be acquired through adult literacy classes or by attending any non-formal education system. Persons who are unfortunately blind and read in Braille are also treated as literates. From 1991 census, children below seven years are ignored when working out literacy rate in the country and the population aged seven years and above only would be classified as literate or illiterate. The proportion of literate persons in a population is known as literacy level and the process of dissemination of literacy among the people in a society known as literacy transition. Literacy is related to all type of development which prepares the individual for full participation in a rapidly changing social and economic order. Better literate person is more likely to secure qualitative employment, more earnings, long and healthy life, cleaner and sustainable environment. An overall progress in literacy is necessary in a country, equally important is its distributional spread in all its areas – towns and villages, social classes and the two sexes (Gosal, 1979). The status of literacy is varied significantly across different regions and different communities depending on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics as well as on the magnitude and direction of modernization, urbanization and industrialization.

2. Study Area

![Haryana Map](image-url)
Haryana states are located on the north-western side of India. It is extended from 27° 39' north to 30° 55' 5" north latitudes and 74° 27' 8" east to 77° 36' 5" east longitudes. Jammu & Kashmir is located in north of Haryana is situated in the east of Punjab. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh is situated in the east of Haryana while Haryana adjoining with national capital. Geographically, Ghaggar River makes the south-west boundary of Haryana which divides Punjab from Haryana. Siwalik Hills are situated in north Haryana. River Yamuna flows in east of Haryana which separates Uttar Prades from Haryana. Arawali hills are situated in south Haryana.

3. Objectives of the Study
- To examine the trend of literacy (1971-2011) at the levels of urban and rural Haryana.
- To represent the spatial pattern of literacy at district level of Haryana.
- To identify disparity between urban-rural literacy at district level.

4. Data and Methodology
In this study, data have collected from Census of India 1971, Social and Cultural Tables, Series 1, Part II- C (ii), Census of India 1981, Social and Cultural Tables, Series (1), Part IV-A, Census of India 1991, Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. – 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series, Census of India 2001, Social and Cultural Tables, Table C- 8, Census of India 2011, Provisional population Totals, Paper 1 and 2 for showing trend of literacy and gap between urban-rural literacy as well as spatial pattern of literacy and disparity between urban-rural literacy at district level. It is notable that literacy rates for 1971 census are related to population aged five years and above while the literacy rates for the 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 censuses are related to population aged seven years and above. Data have been analyzed keeping state and district as a unit of observation. Requisite maps have been drawn with the help of Arc GIS software. To measure disparity between urban-rural literacy; following formula has been used –

\[ \text{URLDI} = \left( \frac{\text{ULR} - \text{RLR}}{\text{TLR}} \right) \]

Here, URLDI = urban-rural literacy differential index

ULR = urban literacy rate

RLR = rural literacy rate

TLR = total literacy rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India Total</td>
<td>Literacy Rate and Gap in Literacy by Residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
<td>34.45</td>
<td>43.57</td>
<td>52.21</td>
<td>64.84</td>
<td>74.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td></td>
<td>27.89</td>
<td>36.01</td>
<td>44.69</td>
<td>58.74</td>
<td>68.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap between Urban-Rural Literacy Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>32.33</td>
<td>31.22</td>
<td>28.39</td>
<td>21.18</td>
<td>16.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>31.91</td>
<td>43.88</td>
<td>55.85</td>
<td>67.91</td>
<td>76.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
<td>58.89</td>
<td>66.83</td>
<td>73.66</td>
<td>79.16</td>
<td>83.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td></td>
<td>25.92</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>49.85</td>
<td>63.19</td>
<td>72.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap between Urban-Rural Literacy Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>32.97</td>
<td>25.73</td>
<td>23.81</td>
<td>15.97</td>
<td>11.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculated from

- Social and Cultural Tables, Series 1, Part II- C (ii), census of India 1971
- Social and Cultural Tables, Series (1), Part IV-A, census of India 1981
- Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. – 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series, census of India 1991
- Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. – 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series, Census of India 2001
- Provisional population Totals, paper 1 and 2. Census of India 2011

Trend of Literacy
Haryana has recorded highest total literacy during the entire time period (1971 to 2011). After 1971; it is remaining lowest in India. In Haryana; it has increased almost 45 per cent, from 31.91 per cent to 76.64 per
cent while in India; it has increased almost 40 per cent, from 34.45 per cent to 74.04 per cent. Urban literacy in India is remaining almost highest during the entire time period. In India; it has increased almost 25 per cent, from 60.22 per cent to 84.98 per cent. In Haryana; it has increased almost 25 per cent, from 58.89 per cent to 83.83 per cent.

Rural literacy in Haryana is remaining almost highest during the entire time period while after 1971; it is remaining lowest in India. In Haryana; it has increased almost 47 per cent, from 25.92 per cent to 72.74 per cent while in India; it has increased 41 per cent, from 27.89 per cent to 68.91 per cent. Gap between urban-rural literacy is remaining almost lowest in Punjab during the entire time period while it was highest in Haryana during the 1971 census but after this, it is remaining highest in India. In Haryana; it has decreased almost 22 per cent, from 32.97 per cent to 11.09 per cent while in India; it has decreased 16 per cent, from 32.33 per cent to 16.07 per cent.

**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Districts</th>
<th>Total Literacy Rate</th>
<th>Urban Literacy Rate</th>
<th>Rural Literacy Rate</th>
<th>Value of Urban-Rural Literacy Differential Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>76.64</td>
<td>83.83</td>
<td>72.74</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchkula</td>
<td>83.44</td>
<td>88.25</td>
<td>77.45</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambala</td>
<td>82.89</td>
<td>88.15</td>
<td>78.64</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yamunanagar</td>
<td>78.93</td>
<td>85.04</td>
<td>74.96</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurukshetra</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>84.87</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaithal</td>
<td>70.56</td>
<td>78.52</td>
<td>68.29</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnal</td>
<td>76.44</td>
<td>83.94</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panipat</td>
<td>77.46</td>
<td>81.37</td>
<td>74.09</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonipat</td>
<td>80.83</td>
<td>86.02</td>
<td>78.53</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jind</td>
<td>72.73</td>
<td>81.37</td>
<td>70.16</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatehabad</td>
<td>69.13</td>
<td>79.22</td>
<td>66.73</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Literacy and Disparity between Urban-Rural Literacy

Total literacy rate in Haryana varies from 56.14 per cent in Mewat to 84.44 per cent in Gurgaon. Urban literacy in Haryana varies from 71.78 per cent in Mewat to 88.25 per cent in Panchkula. Rural literacy in Haryana varies from 54.01 per cent in Mewat to 81.10 per cent in Gurgaon. Disparity between urban-rural literacy is presented by urban-rural literacy differential index. Value of urban-rural literacy differential index in Punjab is found almost same to Haryana. Mewat district (0.32) of Haryana has recorded highest differential. In Haryana; lowest differential is recorded in Rewari and Gurgaon (0.06).

Spatial Pattern of Total Literacy

Districts of Haryana which are situated near to national capital (include Ambala, Panchkula) have high literacy rate. Due to effect of urbanization and industrialization; these parts are very highly literate. Except Mewat & Fatehabad; and rest part of Haryana have moderate literacy. A clear picture of districts that
contain low literacy; Fatehabad district of Haryana also contains low literacy while Mewat has very low literacy.

**Spatial Pattern of Urban Literacy**

In Haryana; northern districts and almost districts which are situated around to national capital have very high urban literacy. Except Kaithal, Fatehabad, Mewat and Palwal; rest part of Haryana, Fatehabad and Palwal districts of Haryana as well as western and southern districts of Punjab contain moderate literacy while Mewat district of Haryana contains low literacy.

**Spatial Pattern of Rural Literacy**

Rewari and Gurgaon districts of Haryana have recorded very high literacy. North to south-east part (except Patiala) of Haryana (Ambala, Panchkula) and south part of Haryana (except Mewat and Palwal) also contain high literacy. Northern side half part of Haryana (include Palwal) contain moderate literacy. Mewat district of Haryana contains very low literacy.

**Spatial Pattern of Urban-Rural Literacy Differential**

Disparity between urban-rural literacy is presented by Urban-Rural Literacy Differential Index. Mewat district of Haryana have recorded very high differential. Fatehabad, Sirsa, Jind and Kurukshetra districts of Haryana have moderate differential. Almost northern districts of Haryana (include Bhiwani, Hisar, Faridabad and Palwal) contain low differential. Districts of Haryana which are situated around to national capital (include Rewari and Mahendragarh) have very low differential.

---

5. Conclusion

Haryana was backward in literacy at all levels (total, urban and rural) up to 1971 but after this period, Haryana has recorded much progress. Rural literacy in Haryana is remaining highest during 2011 census while total literacy is recorded almost same to Punjab at same time. Gap between urban-rural literacy is decreased up to significant level however; it is still high; 11 per cent in Haryana as well as 16 per cent at
national level. Districts of Haryana which are situated around to national capital (Ambala and Panchkula) have high literacy almost all levels. Mewat district of Haryana is very backward in literacy almost all levels while Palwal, Kaithal, Fatehabad and Sirsa districts of Haryana contain low literacy. Very high disparity between urban-rural literacy is found in Mewat district of Haryana. Almost entire western and southern districts of Haryana contain high differential while central and north-eastern part of Haryana which are situated around to national capital have very low differential.

References

- Social and Cultural Tables, Series (1), Part IV-A, census of India 1981
- Social and Cultural Tables, Series 1, Part II-C (ii), census of India 1971
- Social and Cultural Tables, Table C-8, Census of India 2011
- Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. – 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series, census of India 1991
- Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. – 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series, Census of India 2001