

Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste Population: A Geographical Analysis of Hisar District (1991-2011)

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Abstract

Literacy is an essential attribute of the population of any region. It is one of the most important indicators of change in socio-economic conditions. It impacts other population characteristics, such as fertility, mortality, migration, sex ratio and working force. This paper analyzes the block-wise pattern of scheduled caste literacy rate and the correlation between male, female and total literacy rates of Hisar District of Haryana state from 1991-2011. The growing Literacy rate in the scheduled caste changed the socio-economic status of this caste in many aspects. Hansi II block has the highest (71.2%), and Barwala block has the lowest (67.1 %) literacy rate in the district's total population. Hisar II block (73.2%) has the highest, and Uklana block has the lowest (66.7) literacy rate in the scheduled caste population of the district. Secondary data from the Census of India, MS Office and ARC GIS software have been used for statistical analysis and mapping.

Key Words: Literacy, Population, Blocks, Scheduled Caste, Impact, Development

Introduction:

Human resource is the main resource for the economic development of any region. It affects all aspects of socio-economic development. The use of human beings as resource is the key to the growth and development of the area. Education is a tool that helps human beings be used as a resource in a very fruitful and proper way for development. In sum, literacy is like an investment in human capital. More investment will be in education and literacy; there will be more future development probability. Formal school education is an essential indicator for the educational upliftment of the population. In the modern era, Formal education is necessary for any reputable employment worldwide.

Literacy is one of the popular attributes of the population in, which is most studied in research by scholars of Geography, Demography, Sociology,

Phycology, Political Science, Economics etc., since 19th century to analyze the socio-economic problems from their perspective. Literacy is a crucial quantitative attribute of the population and the most reliable indicator of the socio-economic development of any region. It also has a qualitative value. The level of literacy indicates the intellectual development of society, level of professional and technical knowledge, acceptability of modern techniques, social and economic status, women's status in society and above all, overall development of society.

Literacy is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development. Educational opportunities depend on literacy. It is at the heart of basic education for all, and essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy (UNESCO, 2010)

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 literacy level and the spread of education (Dube, 1965).

Education is a powerful tool not only for transforming society but also for the full development of individual personalities (Mathur, 1978).

The Public Report on Basic Education in India (1999) by a probe team based on Census (1991) and National Family Health Survey (1992-93) found that educational achievements in India are highly uneven. General literacy rates vary significantly by region, class and caste.

Literacy is closely linked to the religion and caste of the population in India. The Muslim population is less literate than the Hindu population. Scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward castes are less literate than General castes in India. The main reason for a lower proportion of literates among the

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes is that they were deprived of educational facilities for generations. (Sawant and Athawale 1994)

Education is an important tool to eradicate society's social and economic backwardness. It is an essential need for females and scheduled castes living at the last edge of society. The literacy level of the female population is a vital indicator that affects the fertility rate, sex ratio and occupational structure of the population directly and other attributes of the population indirectly.

Therefore, the analysis of the literacy rate of any region becomes very important for the measurement of socio-economic development of that region.

The regional variation in literacy rate is the key feature of the population in India. This variation may be between rural and urban populations, male and female populations, between various social groups, religions, and occupational groups.

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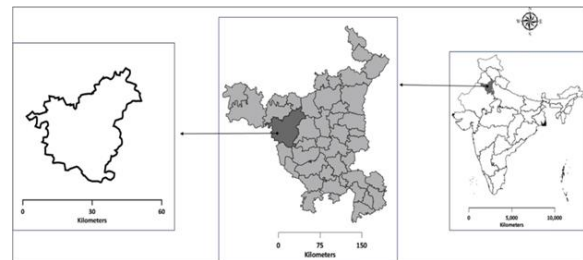
The literacy rate of the scheduled caste population is only 66.1 % but is 74.04 % in case of the total population of India; female literacy among scheduled castes is deficient, i.e., 56.5 %, against the high female literacy rate of the total population, i.e., 64.6 %, according to the Census of India 2011.

In sum, literacy is a necessary attribute of any population, which helps it for its social and economic development. It significantly impacts other population attributes, such as fertility, mortality, sex ratio, occupational structure migration etc. Thus literacy is vastly discussed in the population analysis of any region. It is more significant in analyzing the socially backward group of society, such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward castes.

1. Study Region

The study region of the present study is Hisar District of Haryana state. Hisar district is located between latitudes 28°53'45" N and 29°34'50 "N and longitudes 75°19'44 "E and 76°18'15 "E. It has a total area of 3,983.00* square kilometers, of which 3,835.53 square kilometers is covered by rural area and 147.47 square kilometers is urban area. Hisar district is located in the state's western region and is bounded to the North West by Fatehabad district, to the northeast by Jind district, and the southeast by Rohtak district. Bhiwani district borders the district in the south. Rajasthan State borders it to the south and west.

In Haryana, Hisar comprises about 9% of the total area. 6.88 percent of Haryana's total population resides in Hisar. According to the 2001 and 2011 censuses, the population of Hisar is growing at a rate of 13.45 percent. The district has a population density of 438 persons per square kilometer. Approximately 68.26% of the population lives in rural areas and 31.74% in urban areas. The district contains 269 villages, of which 268 are populated. The district comprises 11 townships. Out of the total population of 1743931, 23.44 % of population belongs to scheduled castes.



Objectives

- The main objectives of the present study are as below:
- To analyze the spatial pattern of literacy among the scheduled caste population at the block level in Hisar district.
- To study the reason for spatial disparities in literacy rate in Hisar district.
- To elaborate on the inequalities between literacy rates of the male and female population of scheduled caste population.

Methodology and Database

The block-wise disparities in literacy rate in Hisar district are studied in this paper. This study is based on the analysis of literacy rates among the scheduled caste population of the study region, which is calculated based on census data, i.e., secondary data. Data is collected from the Census of India (Haryana) from 1991 to 2011 and District Census Handbook, Hisar. ARC GIS 10.8 software prepares maps to represent literacy rate data. Microsoft Office software is used for tabulating the data and presenting the research result. The appropriate statistical and cartographic techniques are used for interpreting and analyzing the data.

Results and Discussion

Spatial Pattern of Literacy

There is much variation between rural and urban scheduled caste population literacy rates. Only 62.70 % scheduled caste population of Hisar district is

recorded as literate in the 2011 census. 67.10% of the urban scheduled caste population of the study region was observed as literate in 2011. In contrast, it is 61.14% in Rural areas. The inequality between the literacy rate of the male and female scheduled caste populations in rural and urban areas is the main feature shown in Table no.1.1. The literacy level of the female scheduled caste population of the rural areas is lower than that of urban areas. The literacy rate indicates an increasing trend, with 26.68 percent among the Scheduled Caste and 22.4 percent noted among the total population.

Many programs and schemes of Govt. of India and States Govt. have increased the level of literacy through compulsory education schemes since independence. The national literacy mission launched in 1988 to literate overaged people, Free and Compulsory Education provisions of the constitution, Sarva Shisha Abhiyan (2001) launched for universalization of education and inclusion of children from all social classes, Midday Meal programs (1995) to eliminate classroom hunger of children and to increase attendance and enrolment of children at schools, Right to Education (RTE) Act to make education a fundamental right for every child between 6 and 14 years aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy, all these collectively have changed the scene and aware the people about the importance of education and literacy and played a vital role in the rapid growth of literacy. All these programs have made a growth in literacy levels throughout the country. It is also seen in the study region.

Table No. 1.1 also reveals rural-urban literacy and differentials among the Scheduled Caste and the study region's total population. There is a wide disparity in rural-urban literacy rates. The urban literacy rates are higher than the rural literacy rates. The rural-urban literacy rates among the Scheduled Caste were low compared to the rural and urban literacy rates of the total population.

Table 1.1 Literacy among the scheduled caste population in Hisar District

Category	Persons	Male	Female
Total	62.7	72.16	51.98
Rural	61.14	70.76	50.13
Urban	67.1	76.19	57.07

Source: Census of India, District Census handbook of HISAR District, 2011

It is due to the higher educational facilities in urban areas as it is literate male selective out-migration from rural areas. A high proportion of females in rural areas are engaged in traditional occupations like agriculture and house works. In this type of work, there is no need

for formal education. Thus this has resulted in a low literacy rate in the rural population compared to the urban population among the Scheduled Caste population and the total population. Inequality in literacy rates of the male and female population is clearly shown in Table 1.1. Literacy among the female Scheduled cast population is an important indicator that indicates the socio-economic status of women among the total population. It is comparatively lower than that of the male population; the factors like Lack of security, confinement to house boundaries, less mobility, longer geographical distance of schools from their residence, conservative thinking about girls' education, Lack of awareness, discouragement of female children for getting education, shortage of separate girls schools, discrimination in family and society, conservative and social backwardness in scheduled caste population widened this gap between literacy rates of males and females in the study region.

In General, females are comparatively less free and do not have the opportunities for formal education. The females there have been granted low status, lower mobility, lower freedom, early marriage and a large amount of domestic work. Such type of work does not require education. (Ghosh 1985)

The analysis of female literacy of the scheduled caste population of Hisar district reveals that it is deficient in less developed and less urbanized blocks. A variation in literacy from one block to another is also noticed during the period.

In fact, the main factors affecting the literacy rate are the socio-economic conditions, Awareness, living standard, cost of education, thinking of society about education, government policies, and urbanization.

Study region may be classified into four categories based on the recorded literacy rate of the female scheduled caste population according to census data from 1991-2011:-

1. VERY HIGH LITERACY OF SCHEDULED CAST POPULATION ABOVE (60%)

Table No. 1.2 indicates the block-wise spatial pattern of literacy in Scheduled Caste and the total population of the study region. In 2011, Block Hisar I reported (65.79 %) very high literacy among the Scheduled Caste population. Blocks Hisar II (64.01%), Hansi I (63.37 %), Adampur (62.62 %), Hansi II (61.97%), Agroha (60.56%), Barwala (60.42%) and Narnaund (60.40%) cover a very high literacy rate. The study region has no block where a very high literacy rate was reported in 1991 and 2001. There was a high increase in the literacy rate of the scheduled caste population after 2001. Implementation of provisions mentioned in the Constitution for Free and Compulsory Education, National literacy mission (1988), Midday Meal

programs (1995), Sarva Shisha Abhiyan (2001), and Right of Children to Free and compulsory education act(2009) have made it easy to every child to take free education. All these programs have helped in the growth of the literacy level of the scheduled caste population, which is reflected in the entire study region. Adampur, Agroha, Barwala, Hansi I, Hansi II, Hisar I, Hisar II and Narnaund are the blocks where more good education facilities are available, recorded above 60% literacy rate among the scheduled caste population except Uklana Block (58.67%)but it comparative lower than that of total population due to its socio-economic status, engagement of population in agriculture labor,

discrimination against women in the family and society, unawareness about the importance of education, shortage of girls schools in rural areas etc.

Migration towards urban areas, increasing awareness, and conversion of economic activities from primary to secondary and tertiary, and more opportunities for employment for the educated population, especially in the non-organized sectors in the study region and outside the study region have rapidly increased literacy in the total population and the scheduled caste population after 2001.

Table No. 1.2

Block Wise Literacy of Scheduled Caste Population in Hisar District (In Percent)

Sr. No.	Blocks	Year		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Adampur.	27.31	48.11	62.62
2	Agroha.	25	45.28	60.56
3	Barwala.	28.96	45.75	60.42
4	Hansi I.	35.63	51.36	63.37
5	Hansi II.	33.47	50.21	61.97
6	Hisar I	37.5	55.18	65.79
7	Hisar II.	31.72	48.83	64.01
8	Narnaund.	28.94	47.81	60.4
9	Uklana.	27.16	46.35	58.67
TOTAL	31.99	49.83	62.7	

Source: Census of India, District Census Handbook of Hisar District (1991-2011)

Table No. 1.3

Block wise Literacy of Total Population in Hisar District (In Percent)

S. No.	Blocks	Year		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Adampur.	46.72	61.91	71.29
2	Agroha.	38.23	56.52	67.42
3	Barwala.	42.02	58.2	68.44
4	Hansi I.	52.94	64.99	72.89
5	Hansi II.	48.48	62.35	71.2
6	Hisar I	62.44	73.72	79.29
7	Hisar II.	45.63	61.12	70.58
8	Narnaund.	44.35	59.48	68.83
9	Uklana.	43.3	59.21	67.89
TOTAL	50.49	64.83	72.89	

Source: Census of India, District Census Handbook of Hisar District (1991-2011)

2.HIGH LITERACY OF THE SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION (50.01-60 %)

No block of the study region is reported in this category in the census data of 1991. A high literacy rate of the Scheduled caste population is reported in only two blocks, Hisar I (55.18 %), Hansi I (51.36 %) and Hansi II (50.21 %) in 2001. These blocks and Hisar II, Adampur, Agroha, Barwala and Narnaund moved into the very high

literacy category in 2011. The growth of literacy among the scheduled caste population was seen after 1991. In changing scenario, the people of scheduled caste felt the need for formal and technical education to get more employment opportunities in urban areas and get government services. Ultimately, the desire for life improvement motivated the population to become literate.

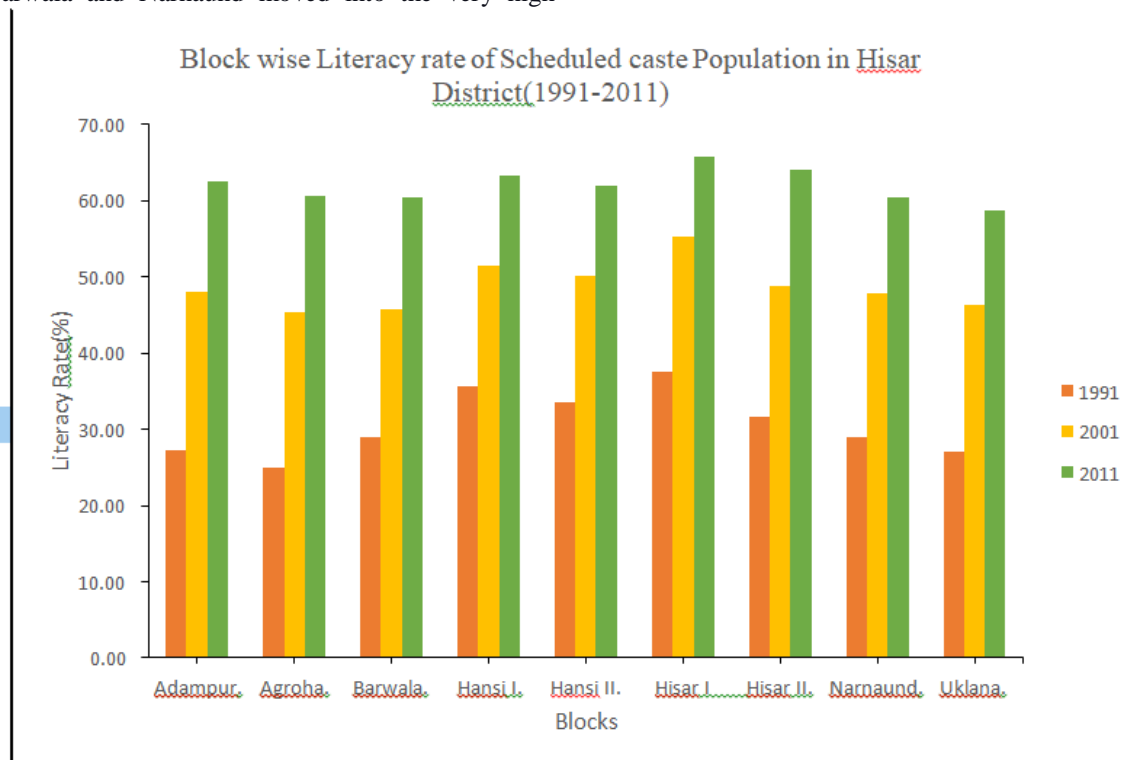
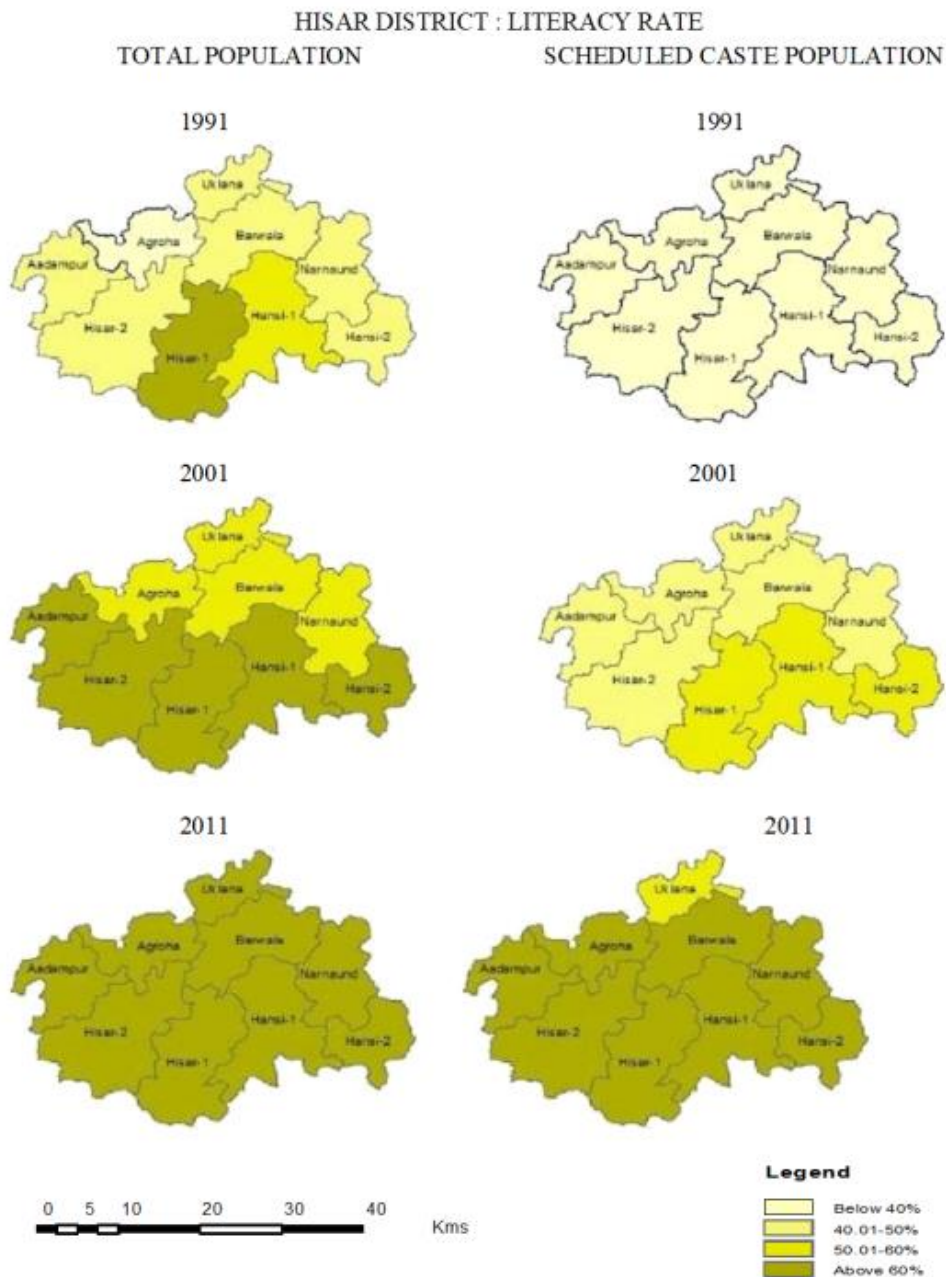


Figure:1

Figure:1 Block wise Literacy rate of Scheduled caste Population in Hisar District(1991-2011)

The establishment of primary schools, even in small villages and hamlets, forced the people to admit their children to adjacent schools. Government schemes to improve literacy rate, shifting of working

scheduled caste population into non-agricultural sectors, and growth of urbanization and outgrowth of Hisar town in nearby villages and other towns in adjacent areas are also the pushing factors for the growth of the literacy rate



3. MODERATE LITERACY OF THE SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION (41.01- 50 %)

Block Hisar II (48.83 %), Narnaund (47.81%), Adampur (46.61 %), Uklana (46.35%), Barwala (45.75 %), and Agroha (45.28 %) have reported moderate literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population during 2001. After 2001 the moderate category of literacy rate is not reported in any block of the study

region. There was no primary school in some villages of the study area (4 in Hansi I block, 2 in Hisar II, 2 in Hansi II block, one each in Adampur, Agroha, Hisar I and Narnaund blocks) in 2001. All these blocks, except the Uklana block, moved into the very high literacy rate category from the moderate and high literacy category in 2011. Uklana block moved from a moderate to a high literacy level after 2001. During 2011 no block was in this category.

Schemes of Government for free education and motivation by the Government by providing mid-day meals, scholarships, school dress, and other facilities to students belonging to scheduled caste population encouraged the people to admit their wards for getting an education. Awareness of the importance of education has also played an essential role in the growth of the literacy rate of the scheduled caste population and the total population. Regional variation in literacy rate is seen in the study region, but in most of the blocks of the study region, a significant change in literacy levels from 2001 to 2011 is reported, i.e., moderate to a very high level.

4. LOW LITERACY OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION (BELOW 40 %)

Fig No. 1.2 indicates that all blocks of the study region reported a low literacy rate (below 40 %) among the Scheduled Caste population in 1991. The literacy rate of the total population of only Agroha block (38.23 %) is reported as low this year. The literacy rate of the total population in the remaining blocks is noted to be above a moderate level in 1991. All these blocks shifted to the moderate and high categories of the literacy level of the scheduled caste population after 1991. Scheme for compulsory education has yet to start during this period.

The adult literacy program was not running correctly, as this program was abolished in 1991. The national literacy mission was started in 1988. However, the result of this program on literacy could have been more effective in the next 2-3 years. Migration of scheduled caste population for agriculture, low rate of urbanization, poor economic status of the population, lack of unawareness about education is the primary reason for this low literacy rate in 1991. The study region had a high percentage of sandy soil. There was no irrigation facility in the sandy soil region, and agriculture in this region was not developed during this period. Therefore, the literacy level was deficient among the Scheduled Caste of the study region.

Conclusion

The literacy rate of the total population of Hisar district is 72.79% which is slightly lower than that of Haryana state but literacy among the scheduled caste population was 62.70% in 2011, which is about 10% lower than the literacy rate of the total population in Hisar district. The block-wise analysis of the literacy rate in the study region reveals that there is a rapid increase in literacy rate during the study period. However, the literacy rate of the scheduled caste may

not be called adequate and satisfactory. There is overall sound growth in the literacy rate of the study region, but there is a significant block-wise disparity in the literacy rate. Some rural blocks, like Agroha, Barwala, Narnaund and Uklana, are lagging behind in literacy rate among the scheduled caste population and the total population.

Many factors discussed above created a gap between the literacy rates of males and females in the study region. The disparity in male and female literacy is the leading cause of backwardness, low living standards, discrimination in family and society, and fewer employment opportunities among the district's scheduled caste female population of rural and urban areas. This is responsible for socio-economic problems, which cause hindrances in the overall development of the scheduled caste population of the study region.

The awareness about the importance of literacy and professional knowledge, improvement in educational facilities, awareness about education, increase in separate girls schools, and proper implementation of government schemes for free and compulsory education, change in social behavior with females in society can play a key role in the growth of literacy rate resulting in a change in the socio-economic status of Scheduled caste population. In sum, the spatial and temporal variation in literacy rate among the scheduled caste population is the primary concern of this paper. The main focus should be on the growth of the literacy rate because only the literacy rate of any region affects all attributes of the population as fertility, mortality, density, sex ratio, occupational structure and socio-economic conditions of the population and help in eradicating many social, economic and other problems.

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