



Gender disparity in the level of literacy in Haryana

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Abstract

Haryana is a State with high gender disparity in literacy. Standard Literacy rate in Haryana for Urban area was 83.14% where male literacy rate was 88.63% whereas female literacy stands at 65.98%. The present study is an attempt to find out the gender disparity in literacy at district level in Haryana. The study is based upon Sopher's method to calculate disparity in literacy. The study confirms the presence of disparities across the districts of the state. Few districts like Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Kurukshetra and Rewari have turned out to be the best performers while some districts like Mewat, Mahendergarh, Palwal and Rewari have been identified to lag behind in the spread of educational facilities/ performance.

Keywords: Literacy, disparity index, urban and rural

Introduction

Literacy makes a significant role in the human development. Literacy is a key component to growth human capital. It eliminates inequalities from the society in almost all admire. It is the vital building block and an important element for the development of a country. It is an instrument for daily life in present society. Literacy is a platform for democratization and a vehicle for the promoting of cultural and national identity. Literacy is the road to human development and the method through which every man, female and child can understand his or her complete ability". Literacy is one of the predominant indicators of development in a society. A certain level of literacy is, therefore, a basic requirement for the people to get out of lack of awareness and backwardness (Gosal, 1979). As a result, literacy is essential for economic improvement and social advancement which degree ordinary improvement of a country.

India is a country with high gender disparity in literacy. As per Census 2011, overall literacy rate of India is 74.04% whereas the male and female literacy rate is 82.14% and 65.46% respectively. As per Census 2011, the male female literacy gap is about 16%. The trouble of illiteracy, especially among women, is a huge area of problem now not handier in India however also across the world and it immediately influences improvement efforts (Katiyar, 2016). Haryana also shows a clear picture of gender disparity in literacy. In Haryana, male literacy rate is 84.06% and female literacy rate is 65.94% respectively. Narender *et.al.* were empirical analysis of gender disparity in literacy among Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. It observes that these states are facing problem of gender disparity in literacy. Husain *et.al.* (2010) examine regional variations in gender differences in the probability of completing school education, 3 and employs econometric tests to examine whether such differences are indeed greater in North India. Vandana examine the growth pattern of education sector and the level of inter district disparities within the education sector Haryana the use of various indicators specifically literacy rate, number of institutions, enrolment of college students, and number of teachers etc. It is obvious from the above discussion that gender disparity in

literacy is main problem for Haryana. Unit level evaluation is essential for policy components and implementation. For this reason, the prevailing study investigates the gender disparity in literacy at district level in rural and urban areas of Haryana. The study supports in find out leading and laggard districts in literacy index in Haryana. The results of the study may be helpful for formulation and implementation of literacy policy programs at district level. Present study is based on secondary sources of data to fulfill the objectives. Data regarding Female literacy in Haryana is obtained from census of India, Statistical abstract of Haryana. Sopher's method (1974) was applied for finding the district level rural-urban gender disparity in literacy index for Haryana.

If X_1 and X_2 represent the respective percentage value of variables of groups 1 and 2, then the disparity index (D) can be calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{Disparity Index (DI)} = \log (X_2/X_1) + \text{Log} [(Q-X_1)/(Q-X_2)]$$

Where $X_2 > \text{or} = X_1$ and $Q = 100$

Where $Z @ > \text{or} = X_1$ and $Q = 100$

In this method of measuring disparities group 2 is taken for the variable having comparatively higher value and group 1 for that having relatively lower value. The objective of taking log is to reduce the leveling effect (states with high levels of attainments may show a lower level of disparity than states with low levels of attainments even though the gender gap is the same for both states) (Sopher, 1980).

Result and discussion

The study conceptualizes regional development in terms of literacy rate of rural and urban vicinity. The economic opportunities promote the growth and social opportunities add the humanistic values to it leading to overall development of the region. Regional disparities in the levels of educational development have been measured based on disparity index of rural - urban literacy. Table 2 explains the pattern of literacy in rural and urban areas during 2001.

Regions of very low disparity index (Below 0.25)

Table 1 represent the overall gender disparity index values of districts of Haryana. The districts Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Gurugram and Karnal are having index low value that is 0.209, 0.210, 0.211, 0.231, 0.233 and 0.236 respectively. But in the rural area

disparity index increased in these districts. Yamunanagar and Ambala having low disparity index (<0.25) of rural literacy disparity index i.e., 0.236 and 0.240 respectively. The low disparity index there is because of increasing educational facilities in these rural - urban areas and the rural population is more aware about the benefit of literacy.

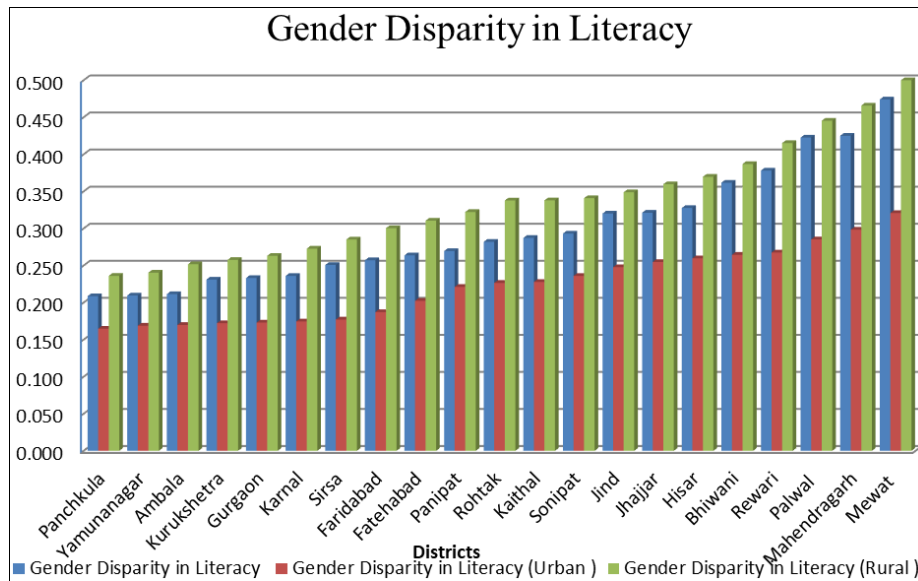


Fig 1

Regions of medium disparity index (0.26 - 0.30)

As per the analysis in 2011, districts under this category are Sirsa (0.251), Faridabad (0.257), Fatehabad (0.264), Panipat (0.270), Rohtak (0.282), Kaithal (0.287) and Sonapat (0.293) (Table 1). There were six districts lies under this category (Table 1) where rural area disparity index increased, are Kurukshetra (0.252), Panchkula (0.258), Karnal (0.263), Sirsa (0.273), Fatehabad (0.285) and Kaithal (0.300).

Region of high disparity index (0.31 - 0.40):

There were five districts having overall disparity index under this category i.e., Jind (0.257), Jhajjar (0.264), Hisar (0.328), Bhiwani (0.362) and Rewari (0.378) (Table 1). There were Nine districts lies under this category (Table 1) where rural area disparity index increased, are Panipat (0.311), Sonapat (0.322), Rohtak (0.338), Jind (0.338), Gurgaon (0.341), Jhajjar (0.349), Hisar (0.360), Faridabad (0.370) and Bhiwani (0.387).

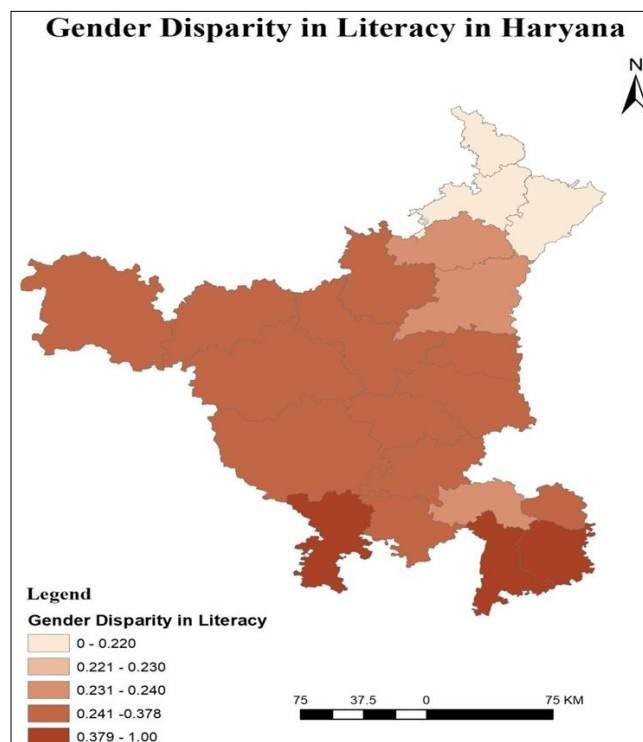


Fig 1

Region of very high disparity index (above 0.41)

Districts Palwal, Mahendragarh and Mewat are in very high disparity index category and showing the gap in literacy, in

addition, districts of Mewat has highest disparity index value amongst all districts.

Table 1

Overall Gender Disparity in Literacy		Gender Disparity in Literacy (Urban)		Gender Disparity in Literacy (Rural)	
District Name	Literacy Index	District Name	Literacy Index	District Name	Literacy Index
Panchkula	0.209	Yamunanagar	0.165	Yamunanagar	0.236
Yamunanagar	0.210	Panchkula	0.169	Ambala	0.240
Ambala	0.211	Ambala	0.170	Kurukshetra	0.252
Kurukshetra	0.231	Kurukshetra	0.172	Panchkula	0.258
Gurgaon	0.233	Karnal	0.173	Karnal	0.263
Karnal	0.236	Fatehabad	0.175	Sirsa	0.273
Sirsa	0.251	Gurgaon	0.177	Fatehabad	0.285
Faridabad	0.257	Sirsa	0.187	Kaithal	0.300
Fatehabad	0.264	Rohtak	0.202	Panipat	0.311
Panipat	0.270	Panipat	0.221	Sonipat	0.322
Rohtak	0.282	Faridabad	0.227	Rohtak	0.338
Kaithal	0.287	Sonipat	0.228	Jind	0.338
Sonipat	0.293	Jhajjar	0.236	Gurgaon	0.341
Jind	0.320	Kaithal	0.248	Jhajjar	0.349
Jhajjar	0.321	Bhiwani	0.255	Hisar	0.360
Hisar	0.328	Hisar	0.260	Faridabad	0.370
Bhiwani	0.362	Rewari	0.264	Bhiwani	0.387
Rewari	0.378	Jind	0.268	Rewari	0.415
Palwal	0.423	Palwal	0.285	Mahendragarh	0.445
Mahendragarh	0.425	Mahendragarh	0.298	Palwal	0.466
Mewat	0.474	Mewat	0.321	Mewat	0.502

Conclusion

The result of this study highlights that, in Haryana, the district Mewat, Mahendergarh and Palwal are on the Top in terms of the gender gap in literacy rate, followed by Rewari, Bhiwani, Hisar and Jhajjar respectively. Hence, the educational policy should take care of the ground reality prior to policy formulation. Special focus on the laggard districts will definitely push up the average performance of the State.

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