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REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF MALE-FEMALE DIFFERENTIALS IN LITERACY IN WESTERN SATPURA REGION, INDIA



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Abs tract:-*The present paper throw light on the regional differentiation in male-female literacy and factors responsible for this differentiation. The secondary data used for this investigation has collected from census hand books of Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Khargone and Barwani districts of the year 2001. Collected data was analysed and Sopher's (1974) disparity index was then used to determined the circles-wise male-female differentials in literacy in Western Satpura Region. Due to physiographic and social homogeneity high level of male-female differentials in literacy is observed in eleven administrative circles in the entire region.*

Keyw ords: literacy , analysis , physiographic , social homogeneity .

INTRODUCTION

Literacy is one of the important demographic elements. According to the definition of the census of India 2001, a person who can read and write with understanding in any language is considered as literate (Census of India, 2001). It influences various attributes of population such as sex-ratio, fertility, mortality and occupation etc Literacy reflects the socio-economic and cultural set-up of a nation and community. It is essential not only for the eradication of poverty but also for mental isolation for cultivating peaceful and friendly relation. (Majid Husain, 2004)

It is vital indicator of development because it has strong relation with social, economic and cultural development, without which no society can progress. It is the real redeeming force and instrument of social transformation. Keeping this importance of literacy in view the father of Indian constitution made provision of universal literacy in the constitution of India, still the proportion of literacy is very low and highly uneven among the different social segments of population and in different parts of the country. This unevenness is not only found in different social groups but also found in the same social groups in the form of rural- urban and male-female etc. The problem of male-female differentiation in literacy is crucial social problem in our country because it indicates the regressive thinking of male dominated society or lack of educational facilities. Though the Western Satpura is socially homogeneous and female dominated region still the differentiation in male-female literacy is observed in this region. That's why in the form of this research an attempt has been made to throw light on the regional differentiation in male-female literacy and factors responsible for this differentiation.

mostly inhabited by tribal. This mountainous region is spread along the border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It stretches from the Ashirgarh hills in the east to the boundary of Gujrath in the West upto Rajpipla hills and between Narmada valley in the north and Tapti valley in the south. It comprises an area of Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra and Barwani and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh. (Figure 1.1) From the point of view of the study of male-female differentials in literacy, the Western Satpura region has still so far been totally neglected and remained untouched by geographers. Therefore, Western Satpura region from central India has been selected as the study region for this investigation.

It lies between 210 16' to 220 05' North latitudes and 730 45' to 760 10' East longitudes. The part of Western Satpura, having an altitude more than 300 meters has been taken into consideration for the present investigation. The total area of the region is 5044.30 Sq. Km. According to 2001 census, the total population of the study region was 12, 38,378. Out of the total population more than 80 percent were tribal.

Location of the study Region.

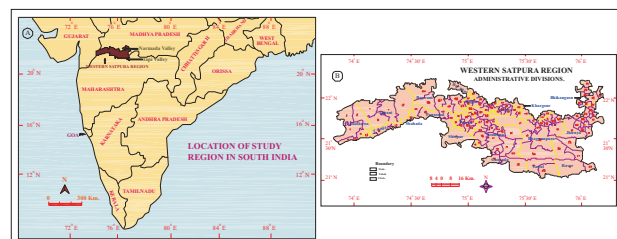


Figure: 1.1

THE STUDY AREA:

Western Satpura Region is a mountainous and

OBJECTIVES:

The present paper aims to find out the sexwise differentiation in literacy of tribal people in Western Satpura Region. To achieve this aim of the study following objectives have been taken into consideration.

1. To identify and evaluate the physical environment of the study region.
2. To identify the level of male – female literacy.
3. To examine regional differentiation in levels of male-female literacy.
4. To find out responsible factors for regional differentiation in male- female literacy.
5. To suggest some measures for minimizing the gap between male-female literacy.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The chosen region for the present study is geographical region. The region which has an altitude more than 300 meters has been taken in to consideration. Due to this situation though the present study is based on intra-circle differentiation in male-female literacy then the data used for this investigation is at village level. This village level secondary data regarding literacy have been collected from the District Census Handbooks of Khargone, Barwani, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nandurbar districts of the year, 2001. In the present paper, suitable statistical and cartographic techniques have been applied. The administrative circle has been considered as the smallest unit of study. For the identification of differentiation between male-female literacy at administrative circles has been calculated by using the Sopher's (1974) disparity index.

$$DS = \log (X_2 / X_1) + (100 - X_1) / \log (100 - X_2)$$

Where = DS = Differential in Male-female Literacy. X_1 = Male literacy. X_2 = Female literacy.

By applying this formula, values of DS for all administrative circles in the region are obtained for the year 2001. The lowest value indicates low differential and high value indicates high differential in male-female literacy.

Proportion of male literates to total male population:

According to 2001 census, the overall proportion of male literates to total male population is 34.37 percent, lower than India, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh (75.93 %, 86.3 % & 76.8 % respectively). Mountainous nature of region could be responsible for low level of male literacy. If one takes into account the distribution of male literacy obtained at circle level data the scenario is quite different. It varies between 11.11 percent in Bamnali circle of Barwani tehsil to 76.28 percent in Unkhurd circle of Khargone tehsil. The high level of (55.0 <) literacy among male is recorded in 10 administrative circles which are lying along the northern and the southern borders adjoining the plain regions. Moderate level of male literacy is found in the north eastern part, including 26 circles and 17.26 percent area of the entire region where 45 – 50 percent male population is literate,

while low and very low level has been attained by 23 and 55 administrative circles respectively, due to inaccessibility and thereby non availability of educational facilities.

Proportion of female literates to total female population:

In a predominantly tribal region like Western Satpura region, female literacy rates provide a sensitive index of socio-economic progress. If any region or country is to move ahead socially, economically and demographically, female literacy must spread extensively and intensively and spatial disparity there in must be narrowed down substantially and in the minimum of time, but before this the identification of that disparity is essential. Female was also a victim of social system like untouchables so the level of female literacy found very less not only in the study region but also at national level.

The situation with regard to female literacy rate is far worst and spatial disparities there in far larger. As per 2001 census, the average female literacy of Western Satpura region is only 20.49 percent, which is not only lagged behind national female literacy (53.67 percent) but also Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh (i.e. 67.03 & 50.29 percent). One remarkable thing is that only Unkhurd circle of Khargone tehsil has the highest female literacy than that of national average but all the circles of this region have least female literacy than national average of female literacy.

The central belt running from west to east and the western part of the region including 92 circles are having less than 30 percent of females literate. while in 16 circles of north eastern edge and southeastern part the rate of female literacy was 30 to 40 percent and only 06 circles namely Khanapur (Raver), Bhatalpura (Bhikangaon), Banher (Bhagwanpura), Golwadi & Panali (Sengwa) and Unkhurd circle of Khargone tehsil have higher (> 40 %) proportion of female literacy. Unkhurd is the circle where the highest proportion of female literacy was recorded i.e.56.50 percent to total female population.

Male-female differentials in literacy:

In developing country like India, the number of literate males is more than the females due to low status of females and orthodox beliefs and backward social standard. Along with above mentioned reasons large size of families, population increase and poverty are also responsible for low female literacy than male.

As per 2001 census, the average sex disparity in the Western Satpura region was 0.308. Figure 1.2 explicitly shows that northwestern part of the study region including 14 circles namely Khaper, Khuntamodi, Chulwad, Roshmal Bk. Toranmal, Borad and Sangvi circles of Maharashtra and Achhalwadi, Kolkheda, Salikalam, Niwali Kh. Vaslyapani, Bamnali and Keli circles of Madhya Pradesh have very low disparity in male female literacy. (< 0.250) Availability of educational facilities and spread of education not only reached upto male but also female are the reasons for low disparity in literacy of these circles. Toranmal is the circle which is having the lowest male-female differential in literacy (0.153) in the entire region. It's important as tourist center might be the cause of low disparity in male female literacy. The over all position of the female of above

mentioned circles is good as it is in other circles of the region. Out of total circles 35 circles lying in western and eastcentral part of the region, have low male-female differential in literacy. (DS value 0.250 – 0.350), while in east and northeastern parts including 54 circles (Table 1.2) have medium male female differential in literacy. (DS value 0.350 – 0.450) High sexwise disparity was observed in 11 circles namely Lasur, Kingaon, Khanapur, Dhupa Bujurg, Bhikangaon, Solwan, Khatti, Wajhar, Golwadi and Vedpuri. Inadequate opportunities for education, poverty and backward social standard may be the reasons for the bad position of female literacy rate in these circles. Considering whole region very low disparity is found in 12.55 % area, while low disparity is observed in 38.20 % area. Medium and High differential is recorded in 42.62 % and 6.64 % area respectively.

Table: 1.2
Western Satpura Region: male-female Differential in literacy.

Sr.No.	Level of male - female differential in literacy.	Percentage shares of area to regions total.	Scale of DS value.	No. of Circles.
1	High.	6.64	0.450 <	11
2	Medium.	42.62	0.350 – 0.450	54
3	Low.	38.20	0.250 – 0.350	35
4	Very low.	12.55	< 0.250	14

Source: District Census Handbooks of Khargone, Barwani, Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon districts, 2001

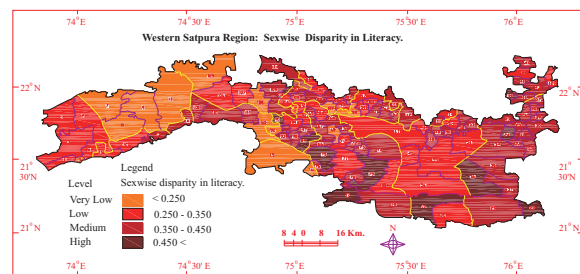


Figure: 1.2

CONCLUSIONS:

1. According to 2001 census, the overall proportion of male and female literates to total male and female population was 34.37 percent and 20.49 percent respectively which is not only lagged behind national male and female literacy but also Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
2. Toranmal is the circle which is having the lowest male-female differential in literacy in the entire region.
3. Out of total circles 35 circles lying in western and eastcentral part of the region, have low male-female differential in literacy, while in east and northeastern parts including 54 circles have medium male female differential in literacy. High sexwise disparity was observed in 11 circles.
4. The level of male- female literacy in the study region is found low in comparison of national level.
5. Priority order will be help to minimize the disparity in male-female literacy among administrative circles in the study region. For that purpose first priority should given to

the administrative circles which are having high sexwise disparity in literacy.

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Table: 1.1

Circle wise Literacy Rate and Male-Female Differentials in Literacy, Western Satpura Region,2001											
Circle	P.M.L.	P.F.L.	D.S.V.	Circle	P.M.L.	P.F.L.	D.S.V.	Circle	P.M.L.	P.F.L.	D.S.V.
Vadali	18.30	9.45	0.333	Bhikangaon	47.74	22.12	0.507	Kermala	29.37	17.25	0.298
Molagi	34.53	21.59	0.283	Lachora	50.00	29.24	0.385	Dadhkheda	29.00	13.60	0.414
Dab	21.13	12.27	0.280	Birah	53.76	32.19	0.390	Khatti	20.98	8.17	0.474
Morambg	32.16	18.82	0.312	Bhatalpura	70.61	53.64	0.318	Khokari	16.58	8.80	0.313
Khaper	36.61	25.99	0.217	Sundrel	54.24	30.89	0.424	Motani	25.34	15.28	0.273
Akkalkawa	42.48	29.39	0.251	Chikhawas	49.57	28.90	0.384	Indarpur(R.)	24.73	13.75	0.316
Khumamodi	36.43	26.69	0.194	Dhulkot	32.89	18.21	0.344	Upla	15.31	6.30	0.431
Chulwad	36.42	27.20	0.188	Bahadarpura	53.61	34.36	0.342	Palasud	32.10	19.55	0.287
Rohmal Bk.	45.77	33.17	0.230	Bhagwarpura	35.02	22.72	0.262	Sawada	27.07	13.82	0.364
Toranmal	24.96	18.90	0.153	Bhagyapur	49.84	30.42	0.358	Nihal(Jodai)	24.83	12.53	0.361
Somawal	43.54	27.58	0.306	Anakwadi	47.12	26.58	0.391	Bobhadi	36.70	20.28	0.358
Taloda	39.57	25.35	0.286	Damkheda	47.64	28.00	0.367	Takli	34.88	21.10	0.301
Bond	44.26	24.93	0.380	Barber	61.42	43.07	0.325	Salikalan	17.60	11.36	0.223
Mhaswad	32.59	17.34	0.364	Mandaw Kheda	43.42	23.87	0.390	Deonali	32.96	19.71	0.302
Bondi	50.37	36.77	0.241	Gadi	30.15	15.55	0.371	Wajhar	36.05	16.45	0.457
Sangvi	47.75	36.09	0.206	Mohapura	45.55	28.63	0.318	Niwalkhund	45.21	34.97	0.185
Lasur	52.59	25.92	0.500	Pipal Jhopa	17.51	9.26	0.317	Prashkheda	36.29	18.74	0.395
Vardi	38.46	21.77	0.352	Sirwel	50.47	10.70	0.330	Khedi	31.79	17.52	0.341
Kingaon	48.41	19.86	0.577	Golwadi	66.15	51.81	0.259	Dandwada	40.94	23.84	0.345
Sakhi	52.90	35.20	0.316	Achhalwadi	51.59	39.34	0.214	Jogwada	41.45	27.10	0.282
Raver	58.31	33.83	0.436	Keli	54.70	37.57	0.304	Chatli	42.73	21.03	0.444
Khanapur	68.66	41.98	0.482	Panali	57.05	41.58	0.270	Kunjari	46.33	24.08	0.432
Devit Buzurg	35.96	18.22	0.401	Bhadwadi	44.26	26.37	0.375	Gawadi	34.52	15.16	0.472
Saykheda	32.51	12.11	0.544	Dalki	46.27	26.34	0.382	Dhawadi	42.92	22.64	0.413
Chenpur	35.94	19.86	0.355	Keshavpura	60.15	38.90	0.375	Malgao	45.83	25.48	0.395
Khoi	51.60	27.75	0.442	Jhopali	26.56	13.99	0.346	Vasalyapani	30.41	19.93	0.246
Punaula	43.39	23.78	0.390	Badgaon	26.80	11.92	0.431	Raichul	32.03	14.81	0.431
Ted	47.41	25.38	0.424	Shahpura	23.96	11.56	0.380	Sajwani Kham	26.14	11.74	0.427
Abhapuri	32.00	14.82	0.431	Bijapur	28.26	14.03	0.382	Bammali	11.11	7.00	0.222
Mitawal	43.15	22.80	0.409	Kusmi	24.17	10.45	0.436	Tapar	14.01	8.30	0.257
Jhiranya	48.01	27.12	0.394	Kolkheda	18.33	11.31	0.246	Ranipura	13.94	7.28	0.314
Ratanpur	26.97	13.45	0.378	Karnodwada	13.79	6.35	0.373	Keli	13.25	8.39	0.224
Rajpura	22.87	10.56	0.400	Dhanoora	25.77	15.07	0.290	Raagaon	18.80	8.26	0.411
Mundiya	25.35	11.55	0.412	Padchha	13.90	5.42	0.449	Vedpuri	19.02	7.33	0.472
Chopali	28.30	14.25	0.378	Chachariya Pati	27.60	13.86	0.374	Unkhud	76.28	56.50	0.392
Dhupa Buzurg	15.93	6.21	0.459	Amjhiri	13.33	5.87	0.393	Bedyapura	62.31	37.47	0.440
Borwal	21.11	10.47	0.358	Solwan	28.05	12.05	0.453	Daul	61.55	36.48	0.445
Kanjhar	52.36	35.15	0.306	Mendliya Pani	26.48	12.33	0.407	Agarbai	38.13	21.73	0.343

Source: Calculated by the researcher, 2011.

Abbreviations: P.M.L. = % of male literates to total Male population.
 P.F.L. = % of Female literates to total Female population.
 D.S.V. = Differentials Value.

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