

STUDY OF LITERACY RATES IN KARNATAKA FROM LAST 5 DECADE

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ABSTRACT

Development of any economy economic and social infrastructure is very important. Especially development of human capital social infrastructure is pre-request. Human capital consist healthy, educated and skilled population. With having these thing economy will become strong and sustainable growth. In this way Dr. Nanjundappa Committee has taken 7 indicators, among these literacy rate is very important one. The present study is only considered literacy rate to analyze the regional disparity in Hyderabad Karnataka region and hence it is district level analysis in the census periods 1991, 2001, 2011. The analysis reveals that literacy rate in HK region increased from 39.90 to 52.36 in 2001 to 2011. The inter district variations with regard to region and gender to be decaling considerable. The suitable action required by the government to improve the rural literacy rate in the HK region in Karnataka.

Keywords: Literacy rate, regional disparity, Hyderabad Karnataka

INTRODUCTION

education is called one of the fundamental instruments for human growth. It helps individuals to explore and know more things and improvise and develop their knowledge. We could say that it is one of the primary factors in people's lives and helps them to face the different challenges and hurdles in life. Once Swamy Vivekananda said, "education is the full development of the human being". So, the education must be aimed at increasing knowledge of the human being and all-round development of the individual. The objective of education is to prepare an individual for life. Education is considered the tool for success in life. The literate people are the actual assets of our society. Education leads to following characteristics to people such as it gives a proper profession, a position in the society, belief in oneself to the individual in life. Education leads to the universal development of the people, community, and country .

Education is not a short-term process in one's life it is considered a lifelong process or continuous process because it shapes one's life. Education helps a person to shape his entire life, it changes individual behaviour and adds more value to life. That is why it should be the priority of any political leadership to develop education and introduce policies and schemes for the educational development of the people in the state. The educational policies introduced by the state government should be aimed at the removal of illiteracy and increase of literacy rate and also all-round development of the people in the state. Aristotle once said the main purpose of education is to reach happiness through the means of divine activities. Here the esteemed author compared education as a holy or sacred thing. One more very important western

philosopher Socrates says, the important goal of education is finding truth by eliminating all negative thoughts. One more important scholar John Dewey says education is nothing but its self-realization. Rousseau says education leads to the creation of good habits in life. So all the above examples show the importance of education in one's life and the important purposes of education. In Karnataka in the pre-independence period and also in the post-independent period education has been given importance.

After the reorganization of states, the political leadership in Karnataka has been given much importance to the educational development in the state. We have examples from the ancient period such as the gurukul system of education and so on during the pre-independence period also education has been given importance in the state. So literacy is considered as one of the main indicators of educational development in any state. According to UNESCO, literacy is a continuous process of gathering knowledge by individuals to attain their goals in society. Literacy means it is the capability to understand, read and write one's language. The growth of the society always depends upon the number of literate people in that state. In this paper, the researcher tried to examine the differences in literacy rates in the rural and urban areas and also the difference in the male and female literacy rates in the state. We tried to find out whether there is any significant difference in the rural and urban areas in the literacy rates and also whether there is any difference in male and female literacy rate in the state and the causes for the disparities.

Literacy

Literacy is the ability to read and write. Some researchers suggest that the study of "literacy" as a concept can be divided into two periods: the period before 1950, when literacy was understood solely as alphabetical literacy (word and letter recognition); and the period after 1950, when literacy slowly began to be considered as a wider concept and process, including the social and cultural aspects of reading and writing and functional literacy.

The importance of literacy

However, understanding the significance of literacy goes far beyond its definition.

- Literacy is essential. Without literacy, it's hard to live the life you want. From your earliest years, literacy skills help you develop and communicate. But when you have a tough start in life, it's easy to fall behind.
- At school, having the literacy skills to read, write, speak and listen are vital for success. If you find these things hard, then you struggle to learn. It affects your confidence and self-esteem.
- As an adult, without these same literacy skills, you can't get the jobs you want, and navigating everyday life can be difficult – from using the internet, to filling out forms or making sense of instructions on medicines or road signs. If you have children, it's hard to support their learning, and so the cycle continues.
- Low levels of literacy undermine the UK's economic competitiveness, costing the taxpayer £2.5 billion every year (KPMG, 2009). A third of businesses are not satisfied with young people's literacy skills when they enter the workforce and a similar number have organised remedial training for young recruits to improve their basic skills, including literacy and communication.

Types of Literacy

Reading and Writing

Traditional definitions of literacy usually refer to the ability to read and write. These are skills that can be developed over time, and they should be practiced regularly.

More than just knowing how to read and write basic letters and sentences (although this is a great start), this literacy means that you can understand and communicate what you have read and that you can express yourself through writing.

Numerical Literacy

In a nutshell, numerical literacy is the ability to use basic math skills in everyday life and the ability to use numbers to solve problems or manage finances. Going hand-in-hand with financial literacy, numerical literacy means:

- Understanding charts, diagrams, and data
- Solve problems
- Check answers
- Explain solutions
- Use logic

Digital Literacy

Digital literacy means being able to critically use technology, to navigate through various online forums and devices, understanding how technology works, and being able to creatively and inventively manipulate technology to solve problems. It goes hand in hand with media literacy.

Basically, being digitally literate means being able to use technology to solve problems and to express yourself. Contrary to popular belief, young people are not necessarily digitally literate just because they are competent in using technology - it depends on what they use it for.

Health Literacy

This is the type of literacy that allows you to understand the health care system, such as:

- Medications
- Communicating with doctors and specialists
- Getting the necessary help

Having poor health literacy skills is dangerous and can result in taking incorrect medications, trouble following instructions from your doctor about lifestyle, food, and referrals, missing appointments, and so on. More information can be found at our Health Literacy Infographic.

Financial Literacy

Going hand in hand with having good numeracy is the ability to understand and manage your finances. Financial literacy is "having the knowledge, skills and confidence to make responsible financial decisions" (Government of Canada), including:

- Understanding how finances work and applying them to your life
- Planning for your financial future and managing your personal funds
- Being confident to make important decisions
- Navigating financial systems and institutions
- Making the best use of the resources you have

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the growth of literacy rate in HK region.
2. To suggest the suitable measures for future growth.

METHODOLOGY

The study is mainly based on secondary sources of data, collected from various Government reports, Census Reports and District at a glance of Gov of Karnataka. Simple statistical tools used with the help of secondary data in the study area to know the growth of literacy rate, population and gender gap.

Literacy rate in hk region

Development of any economy economic infrastructure, natural resources and human capital are very important. Human capital means healthy, educated and skilled people. For strong human development required infrastructure is needed for social sector especially health and education. To study social sector Dr. Nanjundappa Committee has taken 7 indicators. Those indicators are Number of doctors (govt. & private) per 10,000, Number of government hospital beds per 10,000, Literacy rate (in percentage), Pupil-teacher ratio (1 to 10 classes), Student dropout rate (1 to 10 classes), Enrolments in government degree colleges, and Percentage of habitations having drinking water facility. The present study considered only one indicator among those that is Literacy rate. Education is considered to have a strong connection with social and economic development. In modern times when the focus is on the 'knowledge economy' the role of education becomes important in the development of human capital. When a society has literate and skilled citizens has more chances of development at the economic and social levels. The benefits of education are well recognized and have positive change in human life. Human capital is an asset for the economy and considered the best resource of the nation. Education is vital to the human resource

development and it provides knowledge, values and developing skills and in the process, increases the growth and productivity of the nation as well as region.

RESULT

Table 1: Population of HK region - 2001 to 2011

Districts	2001		2011	
	Population	%	Population	%
Ballari	20,27,140	21.28	24,52,595	22.87
Bidar	15,02,373	15.8	17,03,300	15.18
Gulbarga	21,74,742	22.82	25,66,326	22.88
Koppala	11,96,089	12.55	13,89,920	12.39
Raichur	16,69,762	17.52	19,28,812	17.19
Yadgir	9,56,180	10.03	11,74,271	10.47
Total	95,26,286	100	1,12,15,224	100

Source: Census report of 2001 and 2011, GOK,

Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

Table – 1, presents the D Population of Hyderabad Karnataka region - 2001 to 2011, as per 2001 & 2011 census, Total population of Hyderabad Karnataka region was 95,26,286 & 1,12,15,224 respectively. The newly formed yadgir district is smallest district in the region with the population of 11,74,271 (10.47) in 2011. Among the districts, Ballari and Gulbarga districts have the highest population in 2001 & 2011 that is 21.28, 22.87 & 22.82, 22.88 respectively.

Table 2: Total literacy rate in HK region districts

Districts	1991	2001	2011	Growth/Progress		
				1991-2001	2001-2011	1991-2011

Ballari	45.89	57.4	67.85	11.51	10.45	21.96
Bidar	45.11	60.94	71.01	15.83	10.07	25.9
Gulbarga	-	54.34	65.65	54.34	11.31	11.31
Koppala	-	54.1	67.28	54.1	13.18	13.18
Raichur	34.34	48.81	60.46	14.47	11.65	26.12
Yadgir	-	39.9	52.36	39.9	12.46	12.46

Source: Provisional Population Totals, Census of India 2011, Paper 2, Volume 1 of 2011 and KHDR

Table – 2, presents the total literacy rate in HK region districts from the period 1991 – 2011, during 2001 & 2011 period the highest literacy rate was in Bidar district, Second Ballari. In growth section 1991 – 2011 again Raichur first place, second Bidar. But Yadgir district observes the low literacy rate in all section in HK region as well as in Karnataka state Disticts. Hence there is need for development of education and educational infrastructure in Yadgir. Hence the reaming regions are also not having the adequate literacy more or less 35 to 45% of population are illiterates, this is not a good sign for socio-economic development of the region.

Table 3: Regional Disparity in literacy rate in HK region districts (in per cent)

Districts	1991			2001			2011		
	Male	Femal e	Gap	Male	Female	Gap	Male	Female	Gap
Ballari	59.11	32.2	2627	69.2	45.28	23.92	77.24	58.23	18.96
Bidar	58.97	30.5	28.44	72.46	48.81	23.65	79.94	61.66	18.28
Gulbarga	-	-		66.13	42.06	24.12	75.11	55.87	19.24
Koppala	-	-	-	68.42	39.61	2321	78.21	56.22	21.99
Raichur	46.75	21.7	25.05	61.52	35.93	25.59	71.35	49.56	21.79
Yadgir		-		51.35	28.32	23.03	63.33	41.31	22.02

Source: Provisional Population Totals, Census of India 2011, Paper 2, Volume 1 of 2011.

Table 3 indicate the gender gap in literacy rate in HK region districts, where gender gap was more in Koppala compared to other districts in HK region in 2001 and 2011, lowest gap observed in Bidar district in both 2001 and 2011. The female literacy was in all district was low; it is not a good sign for education development. With the total population of females where 35 to 40% are illiterates, thus gender bias has observed.

Table 4: Gender Disparity in literacy rate in HK region districts (in per cent)

Districts	1991			2001			2011		
	Rural	Urban	Gap	Rural	Urban	Gap	Rural	Urban	Gap
Ballari	38.71	60.93	22.22	50.29	70.24	19.95	62.6	76.89	14.29
Bidar	39.43	68.03	28.6	56.71	75.14	18.43	67	83.09	16.09
Gulbarga	-	-	-	46.14	71.64	25.5	58.77	79.82	21.05
Koppala	-	-	-	51.01	69.14	18.13	64.98	78.49	13.51
Raichur	30.42	56.38	25.96	42.49	66.86	24.37	55.19	75.61	20.42
Yadgir	-	-	-	34.88	63.59	28.71	47.47	72.98	25.51

Source: Provisional Population Totals, Census of India 2011, Paper 2, Volume 1 of 2011

Table 4, show the rural-urban literacy rate and gap from 1991 to 2011. Most of the population levied in rural area in the region. In 2001 highest rural-urban gap of literacy rate was seen in Yadgir district, lowest in Koppala district. In 2011 also Yadgir and koppla districts acquired same places. But the gap was reduced considerably but it is not a satisfactory. In other view rural area literacy rate was very low it means 30 to 40% of population is observer as illiterates

CONCLUSION

In the above discussion try to find out the regional disparity in terms of Literacy rate. In literacy section studied literacy rate, rural- urban literacy rate and find out the gender gap in literacy at district level in the HK region. In the finding shows that, there is a low literacy rate in the region compared to other districts of Karnataka. In gender gap section also observed that there is big gap between male and female literacy. Finally in rural-urban literacy rate also indicate that rural areas have low literacy than the urban area. Thus there is disparity in HK districts in terms on literacy. Government should show the concern to reduce the disparity. The high power committee recommended establishing appropriate institutions to develop the region. For instance in education sector, cluster complex was established in 39 most backward taluks for providing quarters of teachers because of enable the teachers to stay in rural areas and provide the quality

education. It is a one of the supporting factor for increase the literacy rate in HK region. But the fact is social sector has not received sufficient funds; however need to be education development of the region the policy makers as to look.

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