



A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF LITERACY IN PUNE DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT

Literacy is important parameter for the study of demographic, socio-cultural and economic status of any region. Literacy is an index of human development, quality of human life and basic human right. The objective of the paper is to examine the literacy in Pune district of Maharashtra. The study is based on secondary sources of data mainly collected from census of India 2001 and 2011. In the present study, attempt has been made to analyses the changed phenomena of Literacy in total population of Pune district of Maharashtra state. The demographic parameter has been taken into account for the study of human resource development. Any part of the world, Literacy has given an important place in the study of human resource development. It is noticed that literacy rate in Pune district was 76.05 per cent as compare to the State (82.34%) and Country (73.00%) the literacy rate was low. It is observed that the female rate was 71.72 per cent and male was 80.01 per cent. It is noticed here in each Tehsils of Pune district the male literacy was higher than the female. The study has observed that in Pune district the effective literacy was recorded only 69.67 percent in 2001 and it reached upto 76.05 percent in 2011. It showed 26 percent notable positive growth during the last decade due to the development of educational facilities, transportation, agricultural and economic development As compared to other districts in the state Pune district occupies the enough position in terms of literacy.

Key Words: Population, Literacy, Male-female Literacy.

INTRODUCTION

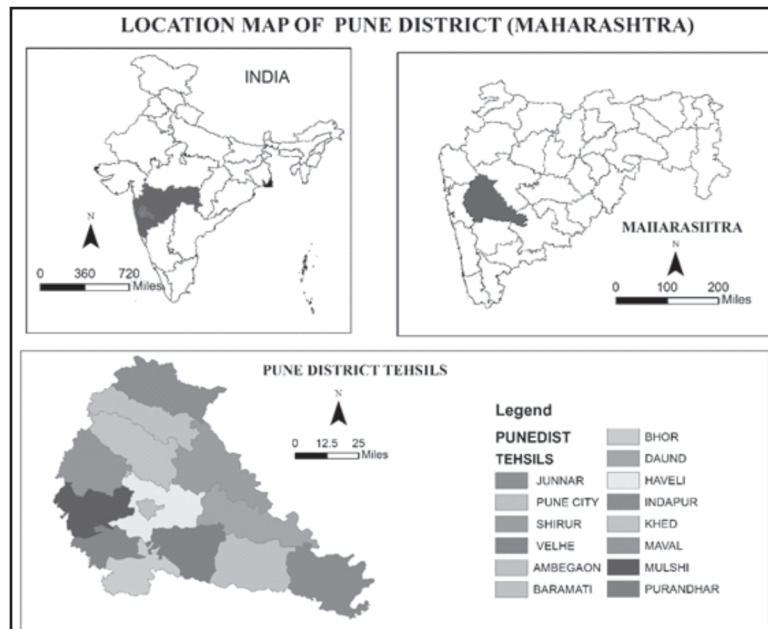
Education is universally acknowledged as one of the key inputs contributing to the process of national and individual development. Literacy is an index of human development and quality of human life Any person above the age of seven years, who can read and write in any language is treated as literate (Husain, 2011). It increases one's knowledge and understanding against exploitation, injustice and help in decision-making and getting better employment opportunities and plays a crucial role in socio-economic well-being. It is essential for poverty reduction, mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy (Godase, 2014). The quality of population can be judged from the level of literacy. Poor literacy hinders economic development and in case of females even retards the progress of family planning programmes (Tiwari, 2006). It increases one's knowledge and understanding against exploitation, injustice and help in decision-making and getting better employment opportunities and plays a crucial role in socio-economic well-being. Literacy is one of the most important indicators of social development. Literacy is the heart of basic education for all and essential for eradicating poverty reduction, mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development peace and democracy (Singh and Kour, 2013).

The literacy rate in the country has increased from an 18.33 per cent in 1951 to 73.0 per cent in 2011. The male literacy has increased from 27.16 per cent in 1951 to 80.90 per cent in 2011. The female literacy increased from 8.86 per cent in 1951 to 64.70 per cent in 2011. The role of education in facilitating social and economic progress is well accepted. Access to education is critical to access emerging opportunities that accompany economic growth. Keeping in view of this accepted fact there has been a major thrust on education since independence; but as far as ensuring quality of education in a particularly rural area is concerned it has always been one of the biggest challenges for the government (Hazra, 2011).

Study Area:

Study Area Pune district is located between 17° 54' N and 10° 24' N latitude and 73° 19' E and 75° 10' E longitude. The district has geographical area of 15,642 km² having population 9429408 in 2011. Average height of about 600 meters above mean sea level. Average rainfall in the district is 600 to 700 mm. This is usually during the monsoon months from July – October. Moderate temperatures are mainly observed here. Western part of district reaches huge rainfall, rainfall decreases west to eastside. Eastern part of district arise in rain shadow zone. Summers here begin from early March to July. Summers are dry and hot. The temperature ranges from 20 °C to 38 °C, though at the peak they may reach 40 °C. Major rivers of the district are: Pushpavati, Krushnavati, Kukadi, Meena, Ghod, Bhima, Bhama, Andhra, Indryani, Pavna, Mula, Mutha, Ambi, Mose, Shivganga, Kanandi, Gunjavni, Velvandi, Neera, Karha, Velu etc. total 33 major dam projects in Pune district. Pune district is bound by Ahmednagardistrict ,Solapur district, Satara district Raigad district and Thane district. It is the second largest district in the state and covers 5.10 percent of the total geographical area of the state. The landscape of Pune district is distributed triangularly in western Maharashtra at the foothills of the Sahyadri Mountains. Administratively the district is divided into 14 tehsils. These are Junnar, Ambegaon, Khed, Maval, Mulshi, Velhe, Bhore, Haveli, Purandar, Pune City, Indapur, Daund, Baramati and Shirur. Pune city is the administrative headquarters of the district. There are around 1,877 villages, 3 Cantonment (Board), 13 Municipal Council, and 19 Census Town totally 35 urban centers in the district. Slope is towards south-east. The study area has basaltic base having step like topography. In the west, there is Sahyadri basaltic mountain running north to south, and towards east, basaltic Deccan plateau, lying gentle slope towards east. It will try to changing pattern of population density in Pune district. Population density in pune district those tehsils having high density of population they have also great proportion of literacy rate.

Fig No. 1: location Map of Pune District



Objectives:

The present study has been undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To examine tehsil wise literacy of Pune District of Maharashtra from the year 2001 to 2011.
2. To assess the Spatio-temporal changes in effective literacy pattern of Pune District.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

This paper is based on secondary data sources. To fulfill this objectives data regarding literacy rate of Pune district is obtained from census of India, Pune district and Socio-economic abstract of Pune District. The data regarding climate and physiography is collected from the Socio-economic abstract and Gazetteer of Pune district. The collected data are processed. The Tahsil is taken as the component unit of investigation. The analysis and interpretation of data has been done from the geographical point of view. MS-Excel was applied to process, analyze and represent this data. High, moderate and low literacy patterns were examined in detail. ArcGIS software was applied to prepare the base maps and thematic maps.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION LITERACY OF INDIA

Literacy rate in India is 74.04 in 2011. All over India male literacy has 82.14 and female literacy has 65.46. Literacy in rural areas is worse than urban areas. Out of ten districts of India Kerala has first 7 district as per data of 2011. Kerala state having 93.91 percent literacy and Bihar having lowest 63.82 literacy ratio.

LITERACY OF MAHARASHTRA

Total population of Maharashtra state has 11,23,74,333 as per census data of 2011. Literacy rate in Maharashtra is 82.34 percent in 2011. All over India male literacy has 88.38 percent and female literacy has 75.87. Literacy in rural areas are not as good as than urban areas. Maharashtra first five district in literacy having Mumbai suburban 89.91%, Mumbai city 89.21%, Nagpur 88.39%, Akola 88.05% and Amravati 87.38%. Pune district stood 7 rank in Maharashtra. Literacy is lowest in Nandurbar 64.38%, Jalana 71.52%, Dhule 72.80, Parbhani 73.34% and Gadchiroli 74.63%.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND LITERACY IN PUNE

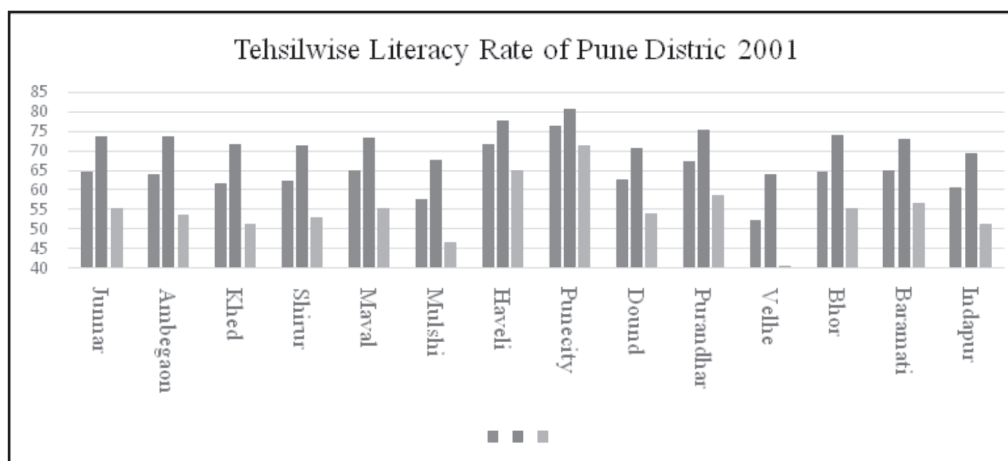
As per census data 2011 total population of Pune district was 9429408 comprising 4924105 male and 4505303 females. Pune district population constituted 8.39 percent of total population Maharashtra. In 2001 Pune district was 7.47 percent of Maharashtra population. The density of population was 603 sq. km in the study area (Census of India, 2011).

Table 3.-Literacy Rate of Pune District, 2001 and 2011

Sr. No	Name of Tehsil	Literacy Rate 2001			Literacy Rate 2011			Change in 2001 & 2011		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Junnar	64.63	73.82	55.22	74.79	80.67	68.75	10.16	6.85	13.53
2	Ambegaon	63.91	73.86	53.82	74.37	80.82	67.78	10.46	6.96	13.95
3	Khed	61.82	71.6	51.27	70.7	76.89	63.77	8.88	5.29	12.5
4	Shirur	62.51	71.3	53.09	72.13	77.56	66.21	9.62	6.26	13.12
5	Maval	64.94	73.52	55.45	72.2	77.96	65.82	7.26	4.44	10.38
6	Mulshi	57.54	67.58	46.64	67.78	74.18	60.66	10.24	6.6	14.02
7	Haveli	71.79	77.76	64.91	76.73	80.16	72.7	4.93	2.4	7.79
8	Punecity	76.29	80.79	71.38	80.05	82.32	77.63	3.76	1.53	6.25
9	Dound	62.62	70.54	54.08	69.38	74.73	63.68	6.76	4.19	9.6
10	Purandhar	67.23	75.47	58.63	73.78	79.51	67.83	6.55	4.05	9.21
11	Velhe	52.24	63.93	40.66	67.3	75.86	58.59	15.06	11.93	17.93
12	Bhor	64.67	73.96	55.49	72.4	79.65	64.98	7.73	5.69	9.5
13	Baramati	65.01	72.91	56.57	73.14	78.41	67.55	8.13	5.51	10.98
14	Indapur	60.58	69.23	51.28	71.79	77.26	65.89	11.21	8.03	14.61
Pune District		69.67	76.40	62.35	76.05	80.01	71.72	6.38	3.61	9.37
Maharashtra		76.88	85.97	67.03	82.34	88.38	75.87	5.46	2.41	8.84
India		64.84	75.56	53.67	73.00	80.90	64.70	8.16	5.34	11.03

Source – District Census Handbook 2001, 2011

Graph 2. Tehsil wise literacy ratio of Pune district 2011

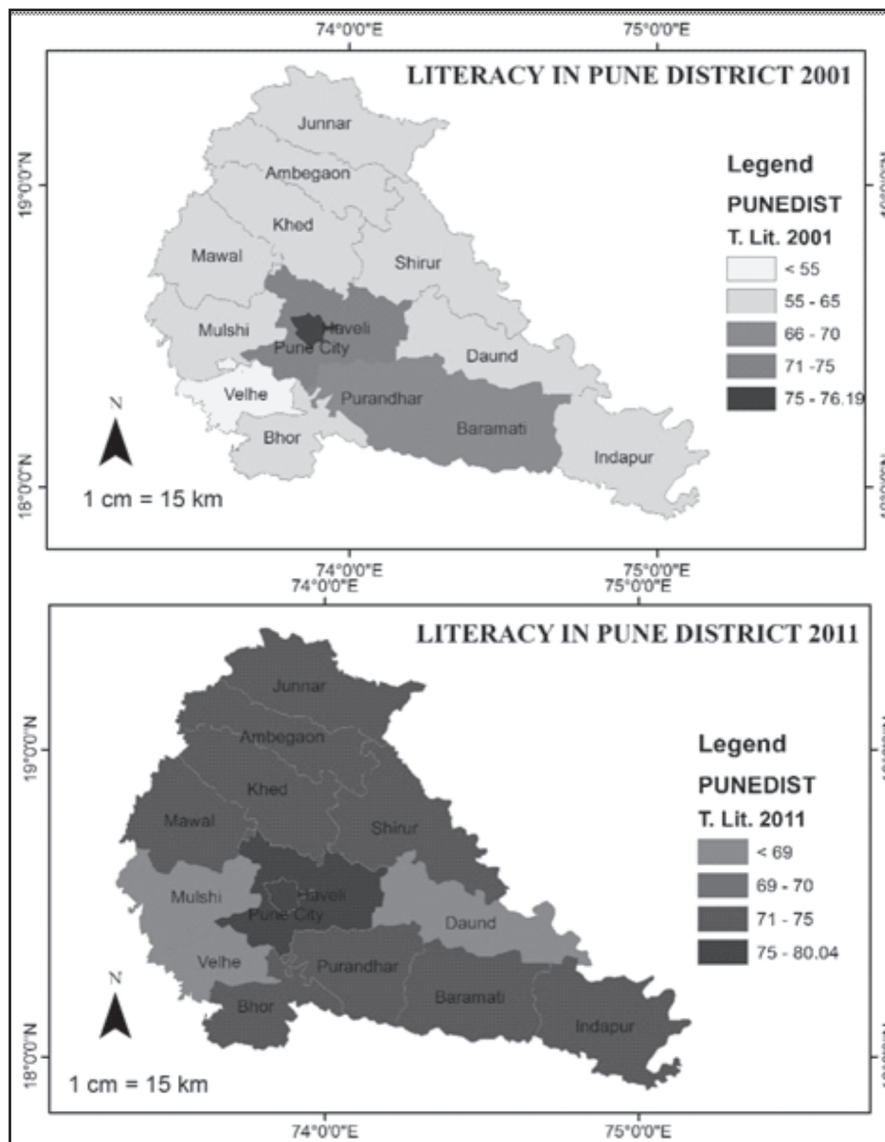


Literacy Rate 2001

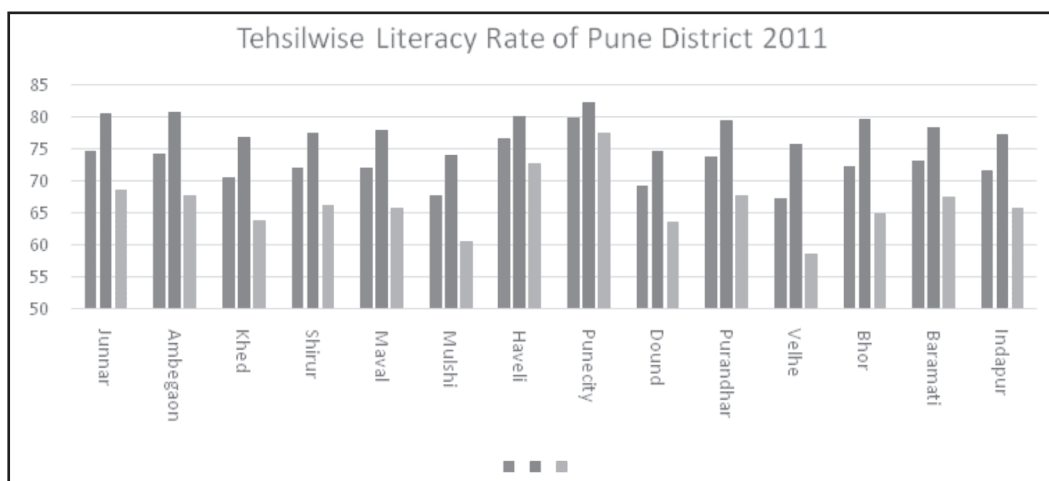
Literacy reflects the socio-economic and cultural set-up of a nation, ethnic group or community. The main advantage of literacy is that it provides relatively more opportunities of employment (Mote, 2010). It is found that the average literacy rate of study area was 69.67 per cent

which was comparatively lower than the state average (76.88%) in 2001. Over all observed in all Tehsils the female literacy rate was lower than the male literacy in the study area. In Indian society it is the male literacy rate, which is generally higher than the female literacy both in rural and urban areas (Ramotra, Vadiyar and Mote, 2009). Pune city tehsil having 76.29% literacy ratio which is highest in study area. Velhe has 52.24% literacy ratio which is lowest in district. Difference between male and female literacy is highest in Velhe tehsil and lowest in Pune city. Velhe, Mulshi, Kkhed, Ambegaon, Bhore and Maval tehsils having maximum difference in male and female literacy. Pune City, Haveli has minimum difference in male female literacy ratio.

Fig. No. 2 – Tehsil wise literacy Ratio of Pune District 2001 - 2011



Graph 2. Tehsil wise literacy ratio of Pune district 2011



Literacy Rate 2011

The literacy rate of Pune district has increased by 6.38 percentage points from 66.67 per cent to 76.05 per cent in 2001 and 2011. It is found that the average literacy rate of study area was 80.01 per cent which is lowest literacy in state of Maharashtra and it is much less than the average literacy of the state (82.34%). The overall literacy rate of study area varied from a minimum of 67.30 per cent in Velhe Tehsil to a maximum of Pune City 80.05 per cent in Pune District. The female literacy in the district was 71.72 per cent, which is far less than their counter part male literacy (80.01%) as well as the state average (75.87%). Female literacy as it shows is about 8.29 percent less than the male literacy and more than 4.09 Percent less than the state average. The attention it needs to be given to the females especially the tribal and hilly areas of Velhe, Mulshi, Ambegaon, Junnar and Khed tehsils to raise the overall literacy in the district.

CONCLUSION

It is found that the average literacy rate of study area was 76.5 per cent which is lowest literacy in state of Maharashtra and it is much less than the average literacy of the state (82.34%). The overall literacy rate of study area varied from a minimum of 67.30 per cent in Velhe Tehsil to a maximum of 80.05 per cent in Pune city Tehsil. The female literacy is very less in Junnar, Ambegaon, Maval, mulshi and Khed Tehsils. Literacy rate is comparatively higher in males than females. The western hilly and tribal area's having less amount of literacy ratio. Literacy ratio is quite high in urban areas of Pune district. Pune city is known as cultural and educational capital of Maharashtra due to increasing high amount of educational facilities Pune and suburban area of Pune district literacy rate change in good manner, but rural areas of Pune District literacy ratio is much lower in average of state. This is due to poverty, unemployment, poor roads and communication facilities, location of school, teacher absenteeism, lack of hostel facility etc. are some reasons for low literacy. Therefore, it is need to develop plan for improvement of literacy and provide employment, medical services and other essential facilities for raising their living standard. Government should implemented number of programme for illiterate people and child education. Maharashtra state having 'SarvaShikshaAbhiyan' due to this movement the education level increase in Maharashtra as well as in Pune district.

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