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Spatial Patterns of Literacy in Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT: Literacy is a critical demographic component of the human experience. It is necessary for the development of human character, as well as social and economic progress. It adds to improved health, productivity, income, capability, and respectable living, as well as increased community participation. New ideas for bettering society and one's own personal life style are part of education. The disparities between urban and rural areas are mostly due to the varying rates of change in towns and villages. Literacy, like other innovations, begins in cities and spreads to the countryside over time.

The current study aims to look into the patterns of literacy in the state of Rajasthan, as well as their differences (urban-rural). It has a population of 68548437 people, however the literacy rate is 66.1 percent. The report is based on data from India's 2011 census. District is the study unit. Urban- rural differentials have been calculated. The study's goal is to determine the Rajasthan's differential. Furthermore, there are significant disparities in the state between male and female rates, as well as number of colleges per lakh population.

KEYWORDS: Literacy, Literacy rate, Urban- rural Differential Index

I. INTRODUCTION

Education has always been a means of achieving well-being and is an instrument for bringing about social, economic, and political inclusion of excluded population of the society. For this literacy patterns are an important tool to analyse the ground situation. Spread of literacy is necessary for the process of development. A nation can only develop when its people are educated. Mahatma Gandhi once said that the purpose of education is to establish a non-violent, non-exploitative, social, and economic order. Keeping this in view of this accepted fact, there has been a major thrust on education since independence, but as far as earning quality in India is concerned it has always been one of the biggest challenges for the government(Som and Mishra,2014).

Indian census defines literary as "A person who can read and write a simple message in any language with understanding is considered literate". Since infants are small enough to have this understanding therefore in India literacy is calculated excluding 0-6 age group of the population. Some individuals may be unconcerned about the true importance of the three R's, yet the reality remains that they play a unique role in everyday life. In many senses, a man who cannot read, write, or perform even-addition and subtraction is uneducated, yet with this information at his disposal, he can attain higher levels of competency and development. When teaching the 3 R's, one must be clear and concise. After the emergence of dual literacy skills of reading and writing, the correlation between literacy and cultural progress has increased significantly.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are to

- Highlight the spatial patterns of literacy,
- To examine the urban - rural literacy and its differentials in the study area,
- To analyse the pattern of government colleges per lakh population in the state.

III. METHODOLOGY

The district has been considered the most appropriate unit of study. The study is based primarily on the secondary data obtained from the office of the census of India and department of higher education Rajasthan. The formula used to calculate literacy rate is

$$\text{Literacy rate} = \frac{\text{Total Literate Population}}{\text{Total Population} - \text{Population}(0-6 \text{ years})}$$

The formula used by Krishna and Shyam has been used in the present analysis to calculate urban-rural differentials.



$$DI = \frac{X_2 - X_1}{T}$$

Where, DI = Differential Index

X_2 = Literacy Percentage of Urban population

X_1 = Literacy Percentage of Rural population

T = Literacy Percentage of total population

IV. STUDY AREA

Rajasthan is the largest state of India in terms of area with a total of 33 districts. The state lies in the western part of India extending from 23°3' N to 30°12'N latitude and from 69°30'E to 78°17'E longitude. It has an area of over 3.42 lakhs square kilometre and occupies 10.45 percent geographical area of the country.

The neighbouring states are Punjab in the north, Gujarat in the south, Uttar Pradesh in the east, Haryana in the northeast and Madhya Pradesh in the southeast. International boundary separates the state from Pakistan in the west.

The total population of the state is 6.36 crore which is approximately 5.6 percent of the countries' total population. Maximum concentration of the population is in the eastern part of the state as the western parts of the state occupies the thinly populated Thar desert.

V. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

For measuring the differentials or inequality in the literacy rate of the relevant population groups different scholars have employed different techniques. Gosal(1964) calculator the differential by getting the ratio between the two groups. Chitnis (1974), Banerjee (1975), Nain(1988) used the simple techniques for calculating differentials. Yadav, Jetwal and Khan(2018) used literacy differentials for SC, ST, urban and rural population and calculated the composite index of development in the Hadouti region of Rajasthan.

VI. ANALYSIS OF URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIALS

Literacy of Rajasthan show great variation in 2011. The state has average literacy of 66.1 percent, and 14 districts have higher literacy rate than Rajasthan's average while 19 districts fall below this mark. The urban literacy rate for Rajasthan is 79.7 percent and 13 districts lie about this, and 20 districts are below the state average. The rural literacy rates also show a similar pattern with 14 districts above the state average and 19 districts falling below the state average.

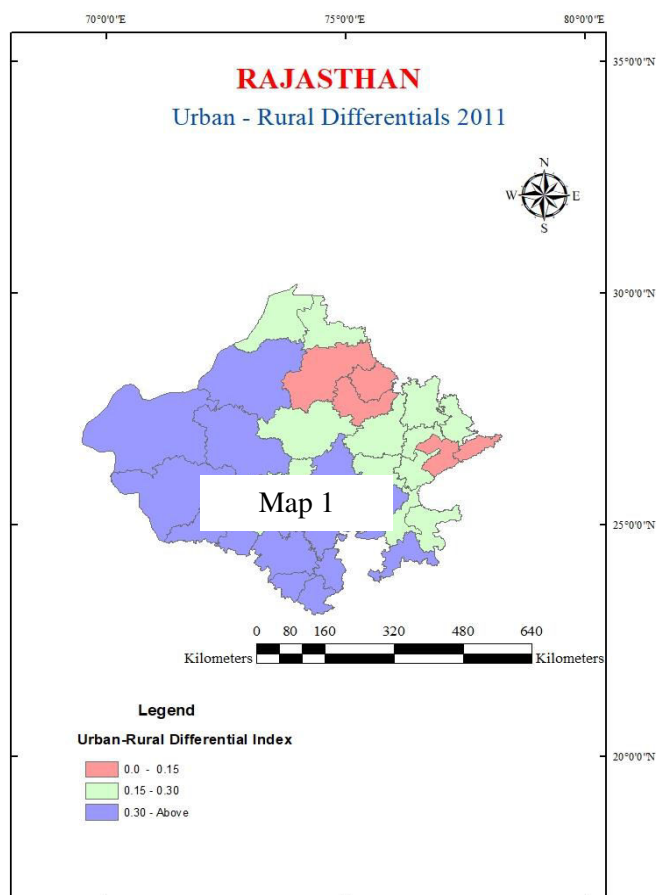
Table 1: Urban Rural differentials in Literacy Rates 2011

Name	Literacy rate Total	Literacy rate Urban	Literacy rate Rural	Urban Rural Differential Index
RAJASTHAN	66.1	79.7	61.4	0.28
Ajmer	69.3	83.9	59.1	0.38
Alwar	70.7	83.4	67.9	0.22
Banswara	56.3	85.2	54	0.55
Baran	66.7	78	63.6	0.22
Barmer	56.5	78.2	54.8	0.41
Bharatpur	70.1	79	67.9	0.16
Bhilwara	61.4	80.7	56	0.4
Bikaner	65.1	78	58.1	0.31
Bundi	61.5	77.9	57.3	0.33
Chittaurgarh	61.7	82.7	56.8	0.42
Churu	66.8	72.6	64.4	0.12
Dausa	68.2	80.7	66.3	0.21
Dhaulpur	69.1	72.7	68.1	0.07
Dungarpur	59.5	84.4	57.6	0.45
Ganganagar	69.6	78.7	66.2	0.18
Hanumangarh	67.1	75.4	65.1	0.15

Jaipur	75.5	82.5	67.6	0.2
Jaisalmer	57.2	78	53.8	0.42
Jalor	54.9	71.1	53.3	0.32
Jhalawar	61.5	81.1	57.6	0.38
Jhunjhunun	74.1	76.6	73.4	0.04
Jodhpur	65.9	79.4	58.5	0.32
Karauli	66.2	72.8	65	0.12
Kota	76.6	81.7	68.6	0.17
Nagaur	62.8	70.6	60.9	0.15
Pali	62.4	75.8	58.4	0.28
Pratapgarh	56	84.8	53.2	0.56
Rajsamand	63.1	81.9	59.5	0.35
Sawai Madhopur	65.4	79	61.9	0.26
Sikar	71.9	75.4	70.8	0.06
Sirohi	55.3	78.7	49	0.54
Tonk	61.6	73.8	58	0.26
Udaipur	61.8	87.5	54.9	0.53

Source: Computed from Census of India(2011), PCA, Data Highlights Rajasthan Series 9,p46

Literacy, like other innovations originate in urban places and diffuses into the countryside (Krishan and Shyam,1978). The urban-rural differentials are mainly the result of the differences of the economy. The urban economy favours education while the rural economy is agrarian which is less favourable for education. Thus, we see the difference in urban and rural literacy rates. Looking at the table 1, we can clearly classify the districts of Rajasthan based on urban-rural differentials into three broad categories.



1. Districts with low differentials

In this category we have included those districts which have urban rural differential values of less than 0.15. Five districts mainly Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Dhaulpur and Karauli lie in this category. The first four lie in the Shekhawati region and the last two lie in the eastern plains of Rajasthan. All these districts are favourite destinations of local and foreign tourists because of their splendid havelis and their paintings. The influx of tourists to these districts created an awareness in the rural population and hence higher is the literacy rate in their rural areas.

2. Districts with moderate differentials

In this category, we include those districts with urban rural differential values between 0.15 and 0.30. Twelve districts fall under this category mainly, Alwar, Baran, Bharatpur, Dausa, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Sawai Madhopur and Tonk. All these districts have rural literacy rates higher than the state average and where this value is less than the state average, urban values are lower than the state average 61.4 percent. All these districts are well connected. The rural areas are accessible, the northern districts lie near the National capital region, thus helping in the socio-economic development of the area, which enhances the quality of life and therefore helps in increasing the literacy rates.

3. Districts with high differentials

In this category we have included districts with urban rural differential values between 0.30 and above. Eleven districts come in this category which are Ajmer, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bundi, Bikaner, Chittaurgarh, Jaisalmer, Jalor, Jhalawar, Jodhpur and Rajsamand. While 5 districts of southern Rajasthan mainly, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, Sirohi and Udaipur have more than 0.45 differential index. If we look at this list or from Map 1, we find that 3 districts fall in western desert area and others lie in southern tribal belt of Rajasthan. The western districts of the desert have lower literacy rates than the state average and females of the rural areas are kept away from education as they have to fetch water from far off place for their daily needs, while the tribal areas have lower awareness and have low literacy rates.

VII. ANALYSIS OF COLLEGES PER LAKH POPULATION

Looking at table 2, we can classify the districts of Rajasthan into broad three categories.

Table 2: Number of Government Colleges per Lakh Population

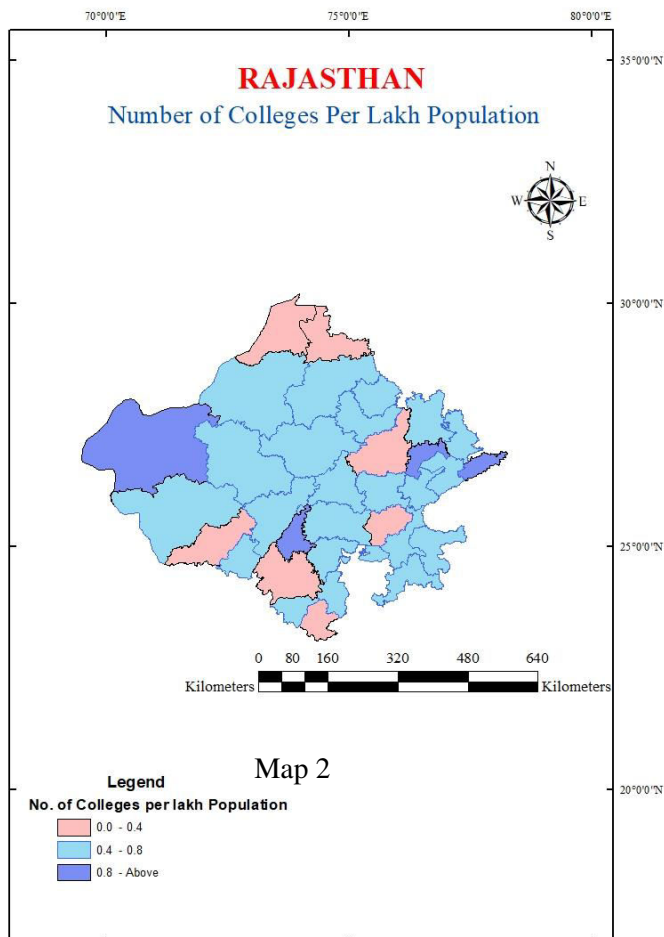
Name	Total Population	No of Colleges	Colleges per lakh population
RAJASTHAN	68548437	352	0.51
Ajmer	2583052	12	0.46
Alwar	3674179	21	0.57
Banswara	1797485	6	0.33
Baran	1222755	9	0.74
Barmer	2603751	17	0.65
Bharatpur	2548462	13	0.51
Bhilwara	2408523	12	0.5
Bikaner	2363937	13	0.55
Bundi	1110906	4	0.36
Chittaurgarh	1544338	11	0.71
Churu	2039547	15	0.74
Dausa	1634409	13	0.8
Dhaulpur	1206516	10	0.83
Dungarpur	1388552	6	0.43
Ganganagar	1969168	6	0.3
Hanumangarh	1774692	5	0.28
Jaipur	6626178	24	0.36
Jaisalmer	669919	6	0.9
Jalor	1828730	7	0.38
Jhalawar	1411129	7	0.5
Jhunjhunun	2137045	10	0.47
Jodhpur	3687165	17	0.46
Karauli	1458248	10	0.69
Kota	1951014	10	0.51
Nagaur	3307743	14	0.42
Pali	2037573	10	0.49
Pratapgarh	867848	5	0.58
Rajsamand	1156597	11	0.95
Sawai Madhopur	1335551	7	0.52
Sikar	2677333	14	0.52
Sirohi	1036346	6	0.58
Tonk	1421326	9	0.63
Udaipur	3068420	12	0.39

Source: Computed from website of DCE, Rajasthan

1. Districts with less colleges per lakh population

In this category we have included districts with less than 0.4 colleges per lakh population. 7 districts mainly, Banswara, Bundi, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jalor and Udaipur lie in this category. Jaipur city being the core of Jaipur district has the highest population in the state and so the value of colleges appears to be low otherwise it has the highest number of colleges in the state. Banswara, Jaipur and Udaipur are the centres of university. Apart from this the students

of these districts don't suffer much as they get admissions either in the University or the government colleges. There's a private universities and private colleges as well to cater to the demand of students. Average and intelligent students suffer in the other districts as facilities of higher education are limited.



2. Districts with medium colleges per lakh population

In this category we have districts with values between 0.8 and 0.4. This includes 22 districts and here the strength of government colleges is more compared to the population. All these areas are politically active, thus have managed to have at least one college at subdivision headquarters.

3. Districts with high colleges per lakh population

In this category we have included districts with values more than 0.8 colleges per lakh population. This includes 4 districts of Dhaulpur, Dausa, Jaisalmer and Rajsamand. The latter two have nearly 0.9 colleges per lakh population which is highest in the state. All these districts have lower population but the number of colleges here are comparatively high. The colleges are actually meeting the demand of the population. Dhaulpur is the smallest districts of Rajasthan but being politically strong (Former Chief Minister's area) has a good number of colleges. Here the students easily get admissions.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Although the literacy rate in Rajasthan has increased over the years but the tag of BIMARU state is not yet removed. There are big differences in literacy rates between male and female in urban and rural areas. In rural areas, parents oppose women's education, and poverty also hinders girls' education. The districts with less colleges per lakh population like Bundi, Banswara, Hanumangarh, Ganganagar and Udaipur needs to be accommodated with more colleges as rural folk don't send the girls to school as there is no facility or poor facility of higher education at tehsil headquarters.

Therefore, to achieve the goal of universal education, more attention should be provided to female literacy. The literacy gap between the different genders must be reduced. Financial assistance should be provided to socially disadvantaged groups to improve their socio-economic conditions, especially in rural areas. In this regard, local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and voluntary organizations should be invited. Therefore, without a poverty eradication plan, no literacy plan will be successful. This should not only be the task of the government, but all sectors of society should participate in these projects. More government colleges should be opened in the state to enhance the education to the school pass outs. Not only opening the colleges but recruiting faculty is also vital for quality education and research. Still Rajasthan has a long way to go.



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