



DR. Renu Sinha

## Educational Disparity In India : A Comparative Analysis

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Satyawati College (M), University of Delhi  
India

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**Abstract:** India is a developing economy and target to become a developed nation by 2047. But there are many obstacles in this path like, Illiteracy, Gender Disparity, poverty etc. The literacy rate in India in 2022 is 76.32% where Male literacy is 83.45% and female literacy is 69.01%. There is also state level education disparity in India. One side there is 96.2% literacy in state like Kerala while on other side in Rajasthan it is only 69.7%. There is educational disparity between Hindu - Muslim, SC - ST population also. The main aim of this paper is to show the disparity level of education in India between Male - Female population and state wise disparity of education. In this paper I am trying to show the relation between female literacy and Infant mortality rate, total fertility rate, Birth rate and Death rate. If we want to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat we have to remove this disparity.

**Key Words:** Educational Disparity, Viksit Bharat, Literacy, Infant mortality rate, Birth rate, Death rate.

**Methodology-** This paper is based on secondary data. Data collected from different sources like, report of NSSO (National Sample Survey Organisation), Economic Survey, Census of India, Report of Ministry of Education & Human Development, Agriculture at a glance etc.

**Literature Review-** Sangita Das in her article tries to compare Rural and Urban literacy of 15 selected Indian states during 1981 to 2011 and explore the instrument which can reduce the disparity in rural urban educational attainment.

Jandhyala B.G Tilak and Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary in their article shows that inequality in access to higher education increased substantially by households economic status.

Awasthy R.V. and Indrajit Bairagya found that after 75 years of independence group - based and class - based educational inequality is still persist in India. They found that educational attainment in India in comparison to world is very slow.

Sonalde Desai and Veena Kulkarni in their paper discussed the caste and religious differences in India during the period of 1999 - 2000. They also discussed the educational attainment in percentage for youth aged 24 - 29 years by gender.

Literacy in any country is a key of development. In ancient time India was known as Vishwa Guru but due to some reasons India become a colony of British Empire. During that period the traditional education system of India was destroyed but after independence we are trying to get our upadhi of Vishwa Guru again.

There are many obstacles on the path of this like Gender disparity, Education disparity, regional disparity etc. According to the census of India 2011 the average literacy rate is 73 per cent while according to National Statistical Commission survey literacy to be 77.7 per cent in 2017 - 18. Literacy rate in urban area was 87.7 per cent higher than the rural areas with 73.5 per cent. There is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India. It is 84.7 per cent for Men and 70.3 per cent for Women. The low level of literacy has a negative impact on family planning and population stabilisation program in India.

**Educational Disparity in India-** Educational disparity means the unequal distribution of academic resources like school facilities, availability of qualified, trained and experienced teachers, Books and technologies to socially excluded communities like SC, ST, OBC etc.

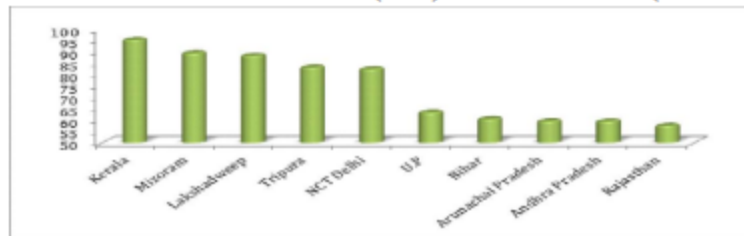
These communities tends to be historically disadvantaged and oppressed. Individuals belonging to these marginalized societies or groups are often denied access to schools with adequate resources. This disparity leads to differences in the educational status and ultimately suppresses social and economic mobility. There are many types of educational disparity in India like

- (1) Disparity of education by Gender
- (2) Disparity of education by social groups
- (3) Disparity of education by region / state wise

The average female literacy throughout the world is 79.9 per cent while for Male it is 89.2 per cent. In India it 84.7 per cent for Male and 70.3 per cent for female in the year 2017 - 18. Poverty, early marriage, pregnancy and gender based discriminatory practices are some main reasons of girls drop out from school and low literacy. Many girls in India are married at young age and drop out of school due to societal pressure or early pregnancies discriminatory.

**Table - 1**
**State wise Literacy Rate of India :As per Census 2011 & NSO Report (2017-18)**

Sr. No.	State / U.T	Males		Females		Total Person	
		2011	2017 - 18	2011	2017 - 18	2011	2017 - 18
1.	Kerala	95.02	97.4	91.98	95.2	93.91	96.2
2.	Lakshadweep	96.11	96.11	88.25	88.25	92.28	92.28
3.	Mizoram	93.72	93.72	89.40	89.4	91.58	91.58
4.	Tripura	92.18	92.18	83.15	83.15	87.75	87.75
5.	Goa	92.81	92.81	81.84	81.84	87.40	87.4
6.	Chandigarh	90.54	90.54	81.38	81.38	86.43	86.43
7.	NCT Delhi	91.03	93.7	80.93	82.4	86.34	88.7
8.	Maharashtra	89.82	90.7	75.48	78.4	82.91	84.8
9.	Tamil Nadu	86.81	87.9	73.86	77.9	80.33	82.9
10.	Uttarakhand	88.33	94.3	70.70	80.7	79.63	87.6
11.	Gujarat	87.23	89.5	70.73	74.8	79.31	82.4
12.	West Bengal	82.67	84.8	71.16	76.1	77.08	80.5
13.	Punjab	81.48	88.5	71.34	78.5	76.68	83.7
14.	Haryana	85.38	88	66.77	71.3	76.64	80.4
15.	Karnataka	82.85	83.4	68.13	70.5	75.60	77.2
16.	Odisha	82.40	84	64.36	70.3	73.45	77.3
17.	Chhattisgarh	81.45	85.4	60.59	68.7	71.04	77.3
18.	M.P	80.53	81.2	60.02	65.5	70.63	73.7
19.	U.P	79.24	81.8	59.26	63.4	69.72	73
20.	Andhra Pradesh	75.56	73.4	59.74	59.5	67.66	66.4
21.	Jharkhand	78.45	83	56.21	64.7	67.63	74.3
22.	Rajasthan	80.51	80.8	52.66	57.6	67.06	69.7
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	73.69	77.69	59.57	59.57	66.95	66.95
24.	Bihar	73.39	79.7	53.33	60.5	63.82	70.9
25.	ALL INDIA	82.14	84.7	65.46	70.3	74.04	77.7

**Source - CENSUS REPORT (2011) & NSO REPORT (2017 - 18)**


Education is measured through a variety of means through out the world including literacy rate, enrollment rate and graduation rate etc. Here I am using literacy rate to show the education level. Table - 1 & Graph - 1 show that female literacy is very low.

**Table - 2**
**Percentage of Literates (Age - 7 - years and Above) by Social / Religious Group in 2017 - 18**

Category	Rural + Urban		Category	Rural + Urban	
	Male	Female		Religious Group	Male
Special Group					
ST	77.5	61.3	Hinduism	85.1	70.0
SC	80.3	63.9	Islam	80.6	68.8
OBC	84.4	68.9	Christianity	88.2	82.2
OTHERS	90.8	80.6	Sikhism	87.3	75.9
ALL	84.7	70.3	All	84.7	70.3

Source : NSS REPORT 585: House Hold total consumption on education in India, 2017-18

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Note : ALL Includes Jainism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and Others.

**Graph-2**  
**Literacy Rate by Religion**

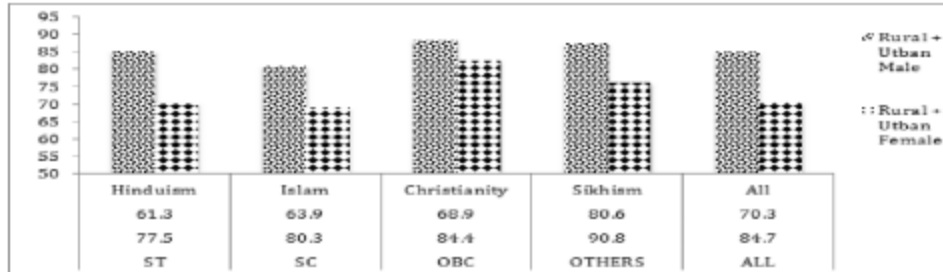


Table - 2 & Graph -2 shows that according to National Sample Survey report the literacy rate (person of age - 7 and above) at all India level stood at 77.2 per cent but there is disparity of education among SC, ST, OBC and Others categories population. Female literacy is also very low among these social groups and religious groups.

**Table - 3**  
**Relation between Female Literacy and Total Fertility Rate :**

State	Female Literacy Rate (%)		Change in Literacy during 2011 to 2018	Total Fertility Rate (%)		Change in TFR during 2008 to 2018
	2011	2018		2008	2018	
Andhra Pradesh	59.74	59.5	-0.24	1.8	1.6	0.2
Bihar	53.33	60.5	7.17	3.9	3.2	0.7
Gujarat	70.73	74.8	4.07	2.5	2.1	0.4
Haryana	66.77	71.3	4.53	2.5	2.2	0.3
Karnataka	68.13	70.5	2.37	2.0	1.7	0.3
Kerala	91.98	95.2	3.22	1.7	1.7	0
M.P	60.02	65.5	5.48	3.3	2.7	0.6
Maharashtra	75.48	78.4	2.92	2.0	1.7	0.3
Orissa	64.36	70.3	5.94	2.4	1.9	0.5
Punjab	71.34	78.5	7.16	1.9	1.6	0.3
Rajasthan	52.66	57.6	4.94	3.3	2.5	0.8
Tamil Nadu	73.86	77.9	4.04	1.7	1.6	0.1
U.P	59.26	63.4	4.14	3.8	2.9	0.9
West Bengal	71.16	76.1	4.94	1.9	1.5	0.4
ALL INDIA	65.46	70.3	4.84	2.6	2.2	0.4

Source : Office of Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs

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Note : Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana for the Year 2008.

It is clear with this table - 3 that total fertility rate is very high almost 3.3 to 3.9% in those state where female literacy is very low like Rajasthan, Bihar, U.P and M.P. It is also clear that when female literacy has risen from 2011 - 18 then total fertility rate declined as it is shown in the table that total fertility rate falls from 3.9 to 3.2 in Bihar, 3.3 to 2.7 in M.P, 3.3 to 2.5 in Rajasthan , 3.8 to 2.9 in U.P. Thus, we can say that if we want to control our population, we have to encourage our female literacy.

**Table - 4**  
**Relation between Women Literacy Rate, Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate In India**

State	Female Literacy Rate		Birth Rate (per 1000)		Death Rate (per 1000)		Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live Births)	
	2011	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Andhra Pradesh	59.74	59.5	18.4	16.0	7.5	6.7	52	29
Bihar	53.33	60.5	28.9	26.2	7.3	5.8	56	32
Gujarat	70.73	74.8	22.6	19.7	6.9	5.9	50	28
Haryana	66.77	71.3	23.0	20.3	6.9	5.9	54	30
Karnataka	68.13	70.5	19.8	17.2	7.4	6.3	45	23
Kerala	91.98	95.2	14.6	13.9	6.6	6.9	12	07
M.P	60.02	65.5	28.0	24.6	8.6	6.7	70	48
Maharashtra	75.48	78.4	17.9	15.6	6.6	5.5	33	19
Orissa	64.36	70.3	21.4	18.2	9.0	7.3	69	40
Punjab	71.34	78.5	17.3	14.2	7.2	6.6	41	20
Rajasthan	52.66	57.6	27.5	24.0	6.8	5.9	63	37
Tamil Nadu	73.86	77.9	16.0	14.7	7.4	6.5	31	15
U.P	59.26	63.4	29.1	25.6	8.4	6.6	67	43
West Bengal	71.16	76.1	17.5	15.0	6.2	5.6	35	21
ALL INDIA	65.46	70.3	22.8	20.0	7.4	6.2	53	32

Source : Office of Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs

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Note : Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana for the Year 2008.

Birth rate, Death rate, Infant mortality rate and total fertility rate are some selected indicators of human development index. When we show the relation between Women literacy and these indicators, we find that there is negative relation between literacy rate and these indicators when women literacy is low in 2011 (65.46%) then Birth rate, Death rate and IMR are high (22.8, 7.4 and 53). But when women literacy has risen in 2018 (70.3%) then Birth rate and Death rate has declined (20.0, 6.2 and 32).

Table - 5

Relation between NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT (NSDP) Per capita and Female Literacy

State	Female Literacy Rate		Birth Rate (per 1000)		Death Rate (per 1000)		Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live Births)	
	2011	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
Andhra Pradesh	59.74	59.5	18.4	16.0	7.5	6.7	52	29
Bihar	53.33	60.5	28.9	26.2	7.3	5.8	56	32
Gujarat	70.73	74.8	22.6	19.7	6.9	5.9	50	28
Haryana	66.77	71.3	23.0	20.3	6.9	5.9	54	30
Karnataka	68.13	70.5	19.8	17.2	7.4	6.3	45	23
Kerala	91.98	95.2	14.6	13.9	6.6	6.9	12	07
M.P.	60.02	65.5	28.0	24.6	8.6	6.7	70	48
Maharashtra	75.48	78.4	17.9	15.6	6.6	5.5	33	19
Orissa	64.36	70.3	21.4	18.2	9.0	7.3	69	40
Punjab	71.34	78.5	17.3	14.2	7.2	6.6	41	20
Rajasthan	52.66	57.6	27.5	24.0	6.8	5.9	63	37
Tamil Nadu	73.86	77.9	16.0	14.7	7.4	6.5	31	15
U.P.	59.26	63.4	29.1	25.6	8.4	6.6	67	43
West Bengal	71.16	76.1	17.5	15.0	6.2	5.6	35	21
ALL INDIA	65.46	70.3	22.8	20.0	7.4	6.2	53	32

Source : Office of Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs

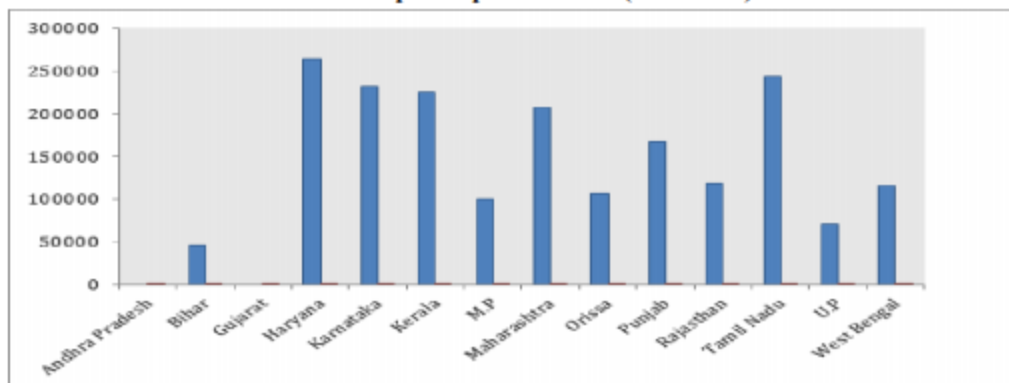
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Agriculture at a Glance 2019

Ministry of Statistics and program implementation, Govt. of India, retrieved 2-nd July" 2020

Graph - 3

State wise NSDP per Capita Nominal (2019-2020)



It is clear with Table - 5 & Graph - 3 that female literacy is also related to NSDP. In state like Kerala where female literacy is 95.2% NSDP is also high. When we compare Bihar with Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala's per capita NSDP then we find that Kerala's NSDP is 4.8 times higher than Bihar, 3.2 times higher than U.P, 1.9 times higher than Rajasthan, 2.2 times higher than M.P. Similarly, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamilnadu per capita NSDP is many more times than Bihar, U.P, M.P and Rajasthan. This proves that there is direct relationship between NSDP per capita and female literacy. If NSDP is high then female literacy is also high and vice versa.

**Government Initiatives-** As we know India will have the highest young population in the world over the next decade. So it is the responsibility of the Government to provide high quality educational facilities and opportunities to them. That will determine the future of our country. The Govt. will trying to provide all facilities, which shown in the table given below.

**Table - 6**
**Increase In Number Of Recognised Schools, Colleges and Universities Infrastructure :**

Year	Primary and Upper primary Schools	Secondary and Senior Secondary School	Colleges	Universities
2011 - 12	1193000	212000	34852	642
2018 - 19	1237000	276000	39931	993

Source : Education Statistics at a Glance, 2018 & U - DISE + Report and AISHE report 2018-19, M/O Education.

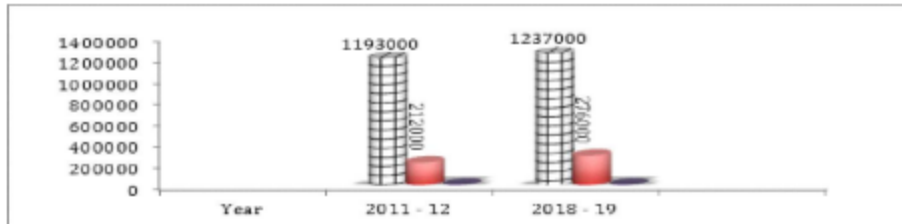
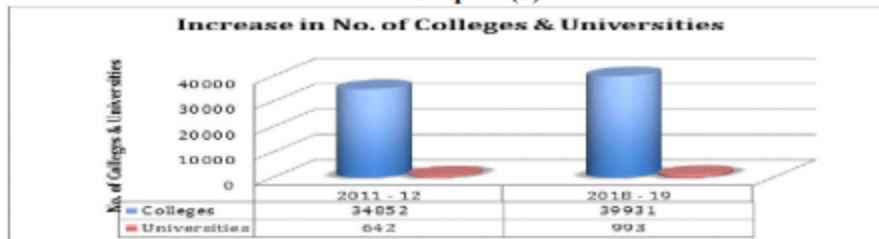
**Graph - 4 (a)**
**Numbers of Primary ,Upper primary Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools**

**Graph 4 (b)**


Table - 6 & Graph - 4(a) and 4(b) shows that from 2011 - 12 to 2018 - 19 number of primary and Upper primary schools have increased from 11.93 Lakh to 12.37 Lakhs. Similarly, number of secondary and senior secondary schools have risen from 2.12 Lakhs to 2.76 Lakhs, Number of Colleges increased from 34852 to 39931 and number of universities increased from 642 to 993.

**Programs and Schemes for School education during 2020 - 21-** To improve school efficiency and productiveness the govt. has announced many schemes / program like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, SCERT, DIET program, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, Self defence training program, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan, Padhna Likhna Abhiyan, MOOCS Courses for open schooling etc.

**CONCLUSION-** It is clear with above discussion that government has announced many schemes and program to encourage women education and trying to remove the educational disparity between male - female population, SC - ST and OBC population and different groups people. Now it is our duty to change our mind - set and give equal opportunities to everyone whether Male, female, Hindu - Muslim, SC - ST, OBC or any group people. We should appreciate the work done by female and encourage them to do more. Operative and productive photos and pictures should be shown to the society so the people can understand women are not only Mothers but they can be teachers, doctors, engineers, professors, scientist etc.

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