

## **Gender gap in literacy in Haryana**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Literacy is one of the important indicators to study the progress of any society. Present paper presents a regional perspective on pattern of literacy in Haryana with special focus on the gap among gender in literacy in the state. The study uses the secondary data available with the census of India. The study reveals that there is a wide gap among gender in terms of literacy in the state. Some districts recorded gap even more than 25 per cent point. Majority of the districts recorded higher gap in literacy among gender were distributed mainly in southern part of the state.

**Key Words :** Gender gap, Literacy, Occupation

### **INTRODUCTION**

Literacy is an important indicator of social, economic and cultural advancement of an area. It plays an active role in the socio-economic transformations of a society. A greater degree of its diffusion in recent years has been helpful in raising the standard of living and the social status of the poor masses. Though literacy and education by themselves do not generate socio-economic advancement, but lack of these can certainly be a barrier in development process (Gosal, 1979).

Literacy can influence other attributes in the society such as fertility, mortality, occupation, migration, etc., which are important components of demographic transition. Change in literacy rate is indicative of the processes of social advancement and economic transformation in the area. Literacy transition can provide the required impetus to these processes of social economic in a developing society (Smita, 1992).

According to the census of India, a person aged seven and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate. It is not necessary for a person to have any formal education or passes any minimum educational standard for being treated as literate.

Along with overall literacy in any society literacy rate of female population has great implications in any society. It is said that if you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family, this proverb itself highlights the importance of female literacy. Current data on literacy reflects that there is still a remarkable gap in literacy among gender in India as well the state of Haryana. Among districts in the state gender gap ranged remarkably. In the backdrop of this, the present study has made an attempt to analyze the regional pattern of gender gap in literacy in Haryana.

## METHODOLOGY

Present paper tries to highlight the regional pattern of gender gap in literacy at district level. Also it attempts to understand the factors that affect gender gap in literacy. The study is based on the secondary data from the census of India, 2011. To analyse the spatial pattern, district has been selected as a unit of study. Analysis has been done for all the 21 districts of the state of Haryana. District level data is obtained from district census handbook of the respective districts.

### Study area :

Haryana which is chosen as study area lies between 27°39' to 30°55'N latitude and 74°28' to 77°36' E longitude and located in the northern part of the India bounded by Uttar Pradesh in the East, Punjab in the West, Himachal Pradesh in the North and Rajasthan in the South. The National Capital Region of Delhi juts into it in the East. According to census, 2011, total population of the state was recorded 25351462, out of which, there were 877 female after per 1000 male. Overall literacy rate of the state in 2011 was 75.55 per cent while male and female literacy rate were 82.65 per cent and 65.04 per cent, respectively.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data reveals that as per census 2011, Haryana recorded 75.5 per cent literate population against 74.04 per cent of national average. Data reveals that 84.16 per cent of total male population

**Table 1 : Haryana : Gender gap in Literacy (in per cent), 2011**

| Sr. No. | District     | Gender Gap in Literacy<br>(in per cent point) |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1.      | Panchkula    | 11.05                                         |
| 2.      | Ambala       | 12.34                                         |
| 3.      | Yamunangar   | 12.46                                         |
| 4.      | Gurugram     | 12.48                                         |
| 5.      | Kurukshetra  | 14.18                                         |
| 6.      | Faridabad    | 14.77                                         |
| 7.      | Karnal       | 15.00                                         |
| 8.      | Panipat      | 15.91                                         |
| 9.      | Rohtak       | 15.93                                         |
| 10.     | Sirsa        | 16.03                                         |
| 11.     | Fatehabad    | 17.27                                         |
| 12.     | Sonapat      | 17.38                                         |
| 13.     | Kaithal      | 18.55                                         |
| 14.     | Jhajjar      | 18.58                                         |
| 15.     | Hisar        | 19.95                                         |
| 16.     | Jind         | 20.05                                         |
| 17.     | Rewari       | 21.87                                         |
| 18.     | Bhiwani      | 22.11                                         |
| 19.     | Mahendergarh | 25.15                                         |
| 20.     | Palwal       | 28.43                                         |
| 21.     | Mewat        | 33.34                                         |

Source: Census of India 2011 PCA

#### GENDER GAP IN LITERACY IN HARYANA

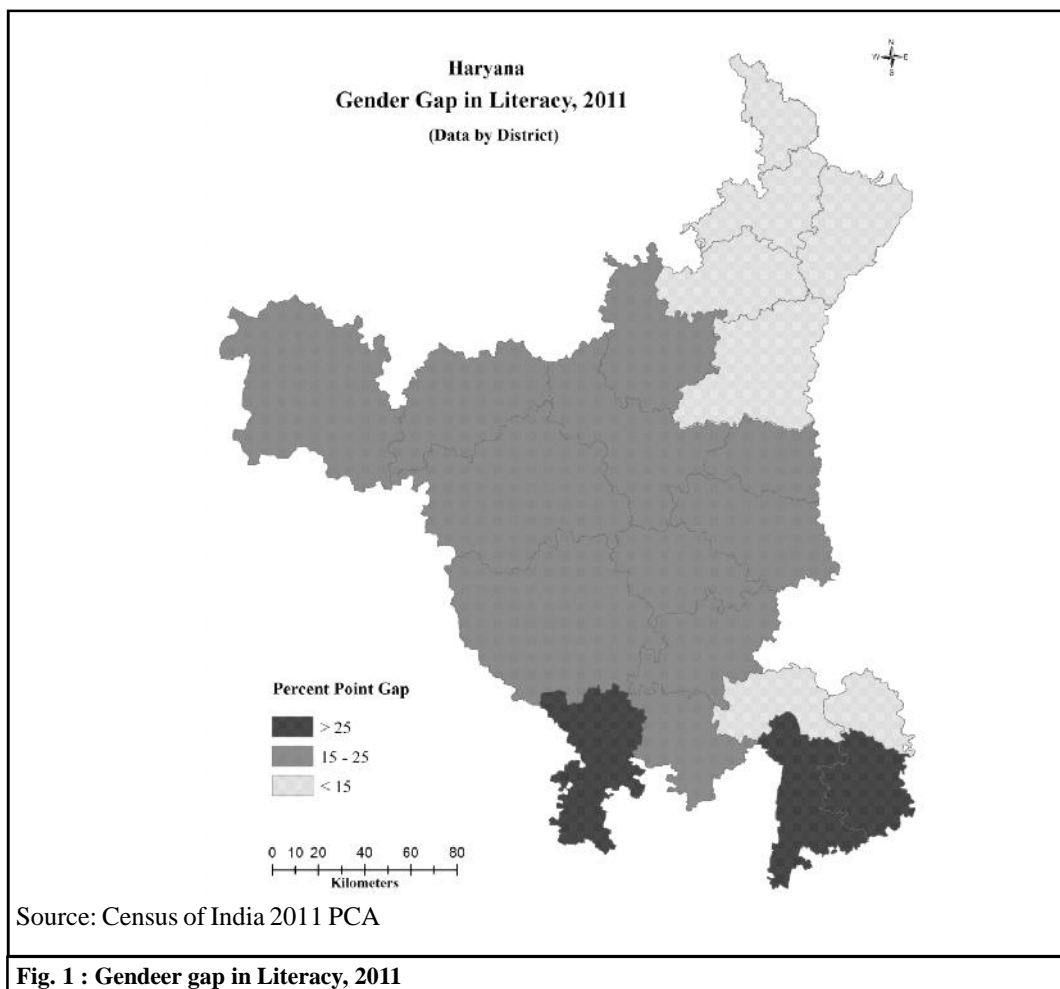
of state was literate while on the other hand, only 65.46 per cent of total female population was literate. It was observed that there was a gap of 18.12 per cent point between male and female literacy in the state, while India as whole recorded the gap of 16.68 per cent point.

At district level, gender gap in literacy varied from a minimum of 11.05 per cent point in Panchkula to a maximum of 33.34 per cent point in Mewat (Table 1). To understand the spatial pattern of gender gap in literacy in the state, districts of Haryana have been classified into following three categories:

1. Low gender gap districts (gap below 15 % point)
2. Moderate gender gap districts (gap between 15 to 25 % point)
3. High gender gap districts (gap above 25 % point)

#### Low gender gap districts :

Fig. 1 shows that out of 21 districts of the state, six districts namely Faridabad, Gurugram, Panchkula, Ambala, Yamuna Nagar, and Kurukshetra recorded gender gap in literacy below 15 per cent . As Fig. 1 reflects, these districts are distributed mainly along national capital region and northern part of the state.



**Moderate gender gap districts**

Out of total, there were 12 districts (Bhiwani, Rewari, Jind, Hisar, Jhajjar, Kaithal, Sonapat, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Rohtak, Panipat, and Karnal) that recorded gender gap in literacy between 15 to 25 per cent point. These districts were disseminating mainly in the central and western part of the state.

**High gender gap districts :**

There were three districts namely Mahendergarh, Palwal, and Mewat that recorded a gap among gender in literacy more than 25 per cent point. These districts were located in south and south-east Haryana.

The study found that out of 21 districts, nine districts namely Mewat, Palwal, Mahendergarh, Bhiwani, Rewari, Jind, Hisar, Jhajjar, and Kaithal recorded gender gap in literacy above state average and 11 districts recorded gender gap in literacy above national average. It was noticed that districts having higher literacy and high level of urbanization recorded low gender gap in literacy. Districts recorded high gap in literacy between male and female population was characterised by lower literacy and low level of urbanization. District Mewat registered least literacy and least urbanization but highest gender gap in literacy. Moreover, Mewat (79 %) and Palwal (20 %) districts recorded higher proportion of Muslims in their population. This shows that the religious community and level of literacy together with urbanization have their impact on gender gap in literacy in the area.

**Conclusion :**

The study found that the state has recorded gender gap in literacy higher than the national average. At district level a wide gap in literacy among gender was recorded in the state. Majority of the districts located in southern part of the state recorded comparatively higher gap in literacy among gender. To conclude it can be said that the urbanization and religious community played an important role in gender gap in literacy in the state.

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