

Female Literacy Rate in Uttar Pradesh: A District wise Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Across the globe, women are less educated than their male counterparts. Women face discrimination right from the childhood. In upbringing, males are fed first and better than females. The Indian tradition also requires that women eat last and least throughout their lives even when pregnant and lactating situation. Malnourished women give birth to malnourished children. Women receive less healthcare facilities than men and consequently many women in rural areas die in childbirth due to easily preventable complications. Statistics reveal that in India, males significantly outnumber females and this imbalance has increased over time. According to 2011 census, report the Male Literacy Rate is 79.24 per cent whereas Female Literacy Rate is 59.26 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. This huge difference between Male and Female Literacy Rate is showing discrimination against women in Uttar Pradesh. Another way to understand gender discrimination is to analysis of female literacy rate. In the present study, an attempt has been made to examine the Female Literacy Rate in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Words : Gender equity, Male literacy rate, Female literacy rate, Total literacy rate, Work participation rate, Sex ratio

INTRODUCTION

Across the globe, women are less educated than their male counterparts. Women face discrimination right from the childhood. According to 2011 census, report the Male Literacy Rate is 79.24 per cent whereas Female Literacy Rate is 59.26 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. This huge difference between Male and Female Literacy Rate is showing discrimination against women in Uttar Pradesh.

Review of Literature:

Barro and Jong-wha (1994) use a panel data set of 138 countries to examine the empirical determinants of growth, including measures for both male and female schooling. In what they see as a “puzzling finding”, female education is negatively correlated with growth. Barro and Lee attribute this to a sign of “backwardness” in the society, where gender differences are picking up on aspects of undeveloped countries that may not have been captured with an initial GDP variable. Therefore, such less

developed countries may experience higher growth rates due to a convergence mechanism.

Psacharopoulos (1994) finds that returns to female education are positive and higher than, their male counterparts. This micro literature also points to indirect benefits from gender equality.

Quibria (1995) “Gender and Poverty: Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asian Developing Countries.” has studied and found that across the globe, women are less educated and receive worse healthcare than their male counterparts receive.

Bils and Klenow (1998) assert that it is not education that leads to growth, but growth that leads to education. As has been shown in past studies, returns to education increase substantially as an economy becomes more developed.

Behrman *et al.* (1999) find that children of more literate mothers in India study nearly two more hours a night. In addition, gender inequality has been shown to influence a number of development related goals, such

as lower fertility rates, higher education rates, and better child health.

Seguino (2000a; 2000b) has studied and found that in a sample of export-oriented Asian nations, higher rates of growth are actually correlated with higher rates of gender inequality. She attributes this to the ability of firms to pay female labor less than males without fear of backlash or revolution, thus spurring investment.

Sen (2001), in his essay "Many Faces of Gender Inequality", opined that there is need to take a plural view of gender inequality, which can have many different faces. The prominent faces of gender injustice can vary from one region to another, and also from one period to the next. He further described that the Gender inequality hurts the interests not only of girls and grown-up women, but also of boys and men, through biological connections (such as childhood undernourishment and cardiovascular diseases at later ages) and also through societal connections (including in politics and in economic and social life).

Quentin (2008), "The Effect of Gender Inequality on Growth: A Cross-Country Empirical Study" has studied and found that an underinvestment in women's education has a negative effect on growth.

Objectives of the study:

Followings are the main objectives of the study -

1. To highlight the difference between Male and Female Literacy Rate,
2. To find out Co-relation between male and female literacy rate among districts of Uttar Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data source. The data are collected from Census of India and Department of Statistics. The time series and cross sectional data are collected for 71 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

District wise Female Literacy-Rate in Uttar Pradesh:

Another way to understand gender discrimination is to analysis of female literacy rate. We have classified all the districts of Uttar Pradesh in three groups-high female literacy, medium literacy and low literacy. It can be observed from the table 1 that highest female literacy is in Ghaziabad (81.42%) whereas lowest female literacy

rate recorded in Shrawasti (37.07%). This is showing huge gap (44.35%) between the highest and lowest female literacy rate among the districts of Uttar Pradesh. Moreover, if we compare female literacy rate with the India and the other states, we found that in 2011 average female literacy rate in India was 65.46 per cent whereas it is 59.26 per cent for Uttar Pradesh.

It is also revealed from the table that female literacy rate, of 11 districts is above the national average. These districts are- Ghaziabad (81.42%), Kanpur Nagar (76.89%), Lucknow (73.88%), Gautam Budha Nagar (72.78%), Auraiya (71.97%), Etawah (71.16%) Kanpur Dehat (68.48%), Mainpuri (68.35%), Varanasi (68.2%), Meerut (65.69%) and Mau (65.59%).

Male and Female Literacy Rate of Top/ Bottom Ten Districts in Uttar Pradesh:

This would be quite interesting to find out top and bottom districts of Uttar Pradesh according to their male and female literacy rate. In the following tables (Table 2 and 3) we arrange to show the gender discrimination in the literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh. It is revealed from the table that, as far as difference between top male literacy rate and their corresponding female literacy rate is concerned the average difference between two gender is 19.32 per cent, whereas this gap is highest in Deoria district (24.73%) and lowest in Ghaziabad (6.74%). It can be concluded that top ten highest male literacy districts are showing an average of 19.32 per cent swift in favor of male. This is showing great gender disparity in Uttar Pradesh.

However, in the bottom ten districts, the highest difference in between male and female literacy rate is in the Gonda district (23.1) whereas the lowest is in the Rampur district (16.91). Moreover, the average difference between male and female literacy rate is 19.7 per cent. These districts are also showing huge gender disparity in this region.

In this research, we find out co-relation between male and female literacy rate in 2011 of the total districts of Uttar Pradesh and find out that there is very high degree of positive co-relation (value of r is +0.94) between male and female literacy rate. Moreover, we have also applied coefficient of co- relation between total literacy rate and female literacy rate in 2011 and find out that there is very high degree of positive co-relation (value of r is +0.98) between total literacy rate and female literacy rate.

Table 1 : District wise Female Literacy-Rate in Uttar Pradesh (2011)					
District wise Female Literacy-Rate in Uttar Pradesh (2011) (High, Medium, and Low) (In 2011 U.P's Average Female Literacy Rate : 59.26) (In 2011 India's Average Female Literacy Rate : 65.46)					
High Female Literacy Rate (61.72-81.42)		Medium Female Literacy Rate (54.95-61.54)		Low Female Literacy Rate (37.07-54.74)	
Ghaziabad	81.42	Gorakhpur	61.54	Kushi Nagar	54.74
Kanpur Nagar	76.89	Bijnor	61.45	Mahoba	54.65
Lucknow	73.88	Deoria	61.34	Sonbhadra	54.11
Gautam Budha Nagar	72.78	Baghpat	61.22	Barabanki	54.1
Auraiya	71.97	Pratapgarh	60.99	Chitrakoot	54.03
Etawah	71.16	Mahamaya Nagar	60.79	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	53.77
Kanpur Dehat	68.48	Faizabad	60.72	Sitapur	52.8
Mainpuri	68.35	Farrukhabad	60.51	Kheri	52.62
Varanasi	68.2	Sultanpur	60.17	Pilibhit	52.43
Meerut	65.69	Muzaffarnagar	60	Lalitpur	52.26
Mau	65.59	Hardoi	59.17	Shahjhapur	51.73
Jansi	64.88	Agra	59.16	Kaushambi	50.76
Firozabad	64.8	Mathura	58.93	Bareilly	50.35
Ambedkar Nagar	64.62	Mirzapur	58.77	KashiramNagar	50.2
Kannauj	64.46	Unnao	58.54	Mahrajganj	50.14
Jalaun	63.88	Basti	58.35	Moradabad	49.63
Saharanpur	63.3	Rae Bareli	58.06	Siddharth Nagar	49.61
Chandauli	63.07	SantRavidasNagar	57.79	Gonda	49.13
Allahabad	62.67	Fatehpur	57.76	Rampur	46.19
Azamgarh	62.65	Aligarh	57.48	Budaun	41.76
Gazipur	62.29	Hamirpur	57.19	Balrampur	40.92
Etah	61.72	Sant Kabir Nagar	56.99	Bahraich	40.76
Ballia	61.72	Bulandshahar	56.6	Shrawasti	37.07
Jaunpur	61.7	Banda	54.95		

Table 2 : Male and Female Literacy Rate of Top Ten Districts in Uttar Pradesh -2011			
Male and Female Literacy Rate of Top Ten Districts in Uttar Pradesh -2011 (Top Ten Districts Average Male Literacy Rate : 87.01) (Top Ten Districts Average Female Literacy Rate : 67.68)			
District/State	Male Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Difference between Male and Female Literacy Rate
U.P.	79.24	59.26	19.98
Gautam Budha Nagar	90.23	72.78	17.45
Ghaziabad	88.16	81.42	6.74
Etawah	87.64	71.16	16.48
Auraiya	87.37	71.97	15.4
Mainpuri	86.93	68.35	18.58
Jansi	86.58	64.88	21.7
Deoria	86.07	61.34	24.73
Jaunpur	86.06	61.7	24.36
Gazipur	85.77	62.29	23.48
Pratapgarh	85.29	60.99	24.3

Table 3 : Male and Female Literacy Rate of Bottom Ten Districts in Uttar Pradesh -2011

Male and Female Literacy Rate of Bottom Ten Districts in Uttar Pradesh -2011 (Bottom Ten Districts Average Male Literacy Rate : 65.71) (Bottom Ten Districts Average Female Literacy Rate : 46.01) (r is +0.98 between total literacy rate and female literacy rate in 2011) (r is +0.94 between male and female literacy rate in 2011)			
Districts	Male Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Difference between Male and Female Literacy Rate
Shrawasti	59.55	37.07	22.48
Bahraich	60.23	40.76	19.47
Balrampur	61.66	40.92	20.74
Budaun	62.39	41.76	20.63
Rampur	63.1	46.19	16.91
Moradabad	66.83	49.63	17.2
Bareilly	69.47	50.35	19.12
Shahjhapur	70.09	51.73	18.36
Kheri	71.58	52.62	18.96
Gonda	72.23	49.13	23.1

Conclusion:

It is revealed from the above discussion that, as far as difference between top male literacy rate and their corresponding female literacy rate is concerned the average difference between two gender is 19.32 per cent, whereas this gap is highest in Deoria district (24.73%) and lowest in Ghaziabad (6.74%). This is showing an average of 19.32 per cent swift in favor of male. This is showing great gender disparity in Uttar Pradesh. However, in the bottom ten districts, the average difference between male and female literacy rate is 19.7 per cent. These districts are also showing huge gender disparity in this region.

It can also be concluded from the above discussion that there is very high degree of positive co-relation (value of r is +0.94) between male and female literacy rate. Moreover, we have also found out that there is very high degree of positive co-relation (value of r is +0.98) between total literacy rate and female literacy rate.

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