

THE STUDY OF SPATIO-TEMPORAL CHANGES OF LITERACY IN AHAMADNAGAR DISTRICT

S.N. Shingote

Department of Geography, Arts Science and, Commerce College, Kolhar

Tal: Rahata Dist. Ahmednagar (M.S.)

sopanshingote@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Literacy is the most important social factor, which are the effect on development of any region. Literacy rate of the population is defined as the percentage of literates in the age group six years and above. For different age groups the percentage of literates in that age group gives the literacy rate. A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate by the Indian census. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not literate. It is not necessary that a person who is literate should have received any formal education or should have received passed any minimum educational standard (Census of India). Chandana and Sidhu (1980) stated that literacy is that qualitative attribute of population which is a fairly reliable index of the socio-economic development of an area and the lack of this keeps the population economically poor and mentally isolated. The high literacy is found in Ahemednagar, Shrirampur and Rahatatahsil, because of the availability of educational facility such as pree-primary and primary reduction facility in this tahsil. The low Literacy is recorded in Akole, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhedtahsil because lower development of educational facility in this tahsil. The high change of literacy rate is recorded in Akole, Nevasa and Jamkhedtahsil in study region.

Keywords: Population, Literacy, Change, Growth, education etc.

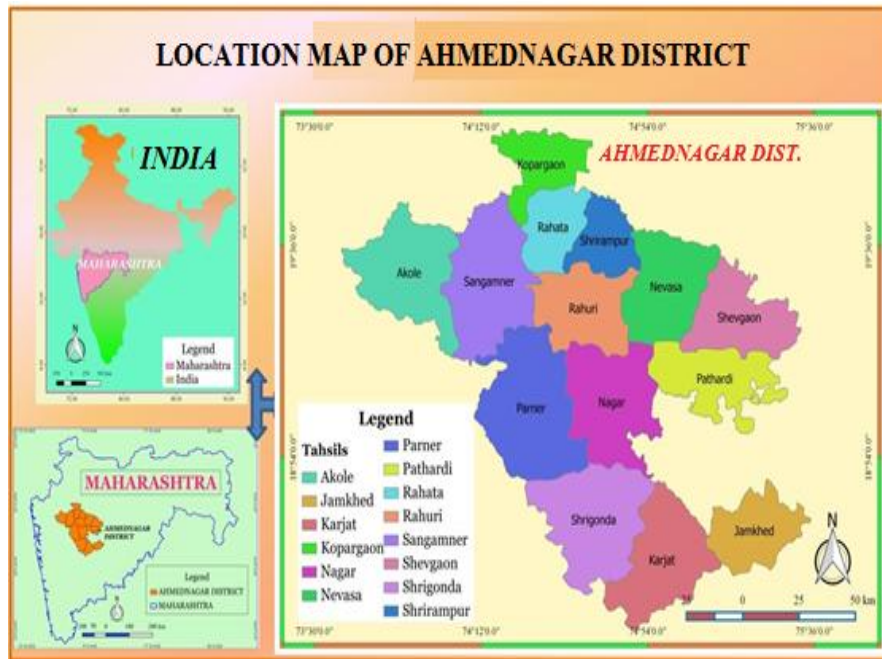
Introduction

Literacy and educational attainment are affecting on demographic behavior related with marriage, fertility, mortality, migration and work participation rate (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2011). A high level of literacy rate is an important factor in the process of modernizations. Literacy is a very important tool for communication, learning and information, thus literacy is a virtual pre-condition for individuals and for national development (Krishna, 2004).

In international usage, literacy is defined as the ability to read and write at least a simple message in any language. Literacy plays a very crucial role in the social and economic development in a country. A low level of literacy in a population retreads the progress along the path of social and economic development and political power. Illiteracy, particularly among adults in society, results in stagnation of technology, social (M.I. Hassan 2005).

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 programmers (Tiwari, 2006). Therefore, an attempt is made here to study Literacy rate in study region.

Location of Study Region



Ahmednagar district is the largest district of Maharashtra and it is popularly known as “Nagar”. It is situated in the central part of the Maharashtra State in upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhimabasin and lies between north latitudes 18°19’ and 19°59’ and east longitudes 73°37’ and 75°32’. It is bounded by Nashik district in the north, Aurangabad and Beed districts to the east, Osmanabad and Solapur districts to the south and Pune and Thane districts to the west. The district has a geographical area of 17114 sq. km., which is 5.54% of the total State area. The district is well connected with capital City Mumbai & major cities in Maharashtra by Road and Railway.

It is divided into 14 talukas namely Ahmednagar, Rahuri, Shirampur, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Jamkhed, Karjat, Shrigonda, Parner, Akole, Sangamner, Kopergaon and Rahata. The District has an area of 17,048 sq. kms. and a population of 45,43,159 persons as per 2011 Census. The district ranks 1st in terms of area, 6th in terms of population in Maharashtra State.

Objectives

The following objectives are mainly taken into consideration while studying Literacy in Ahmednagar district

1. To examine tehsil wise literacy of Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra from the year 1991 to 2011.
2. To assess the Spatio-temporal changes in literacy pattern of Ahmednagar District.

Data Collection and Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data source. To fulfill the objective data regarding literacy collected from district census handbook of Ahmednagar district for the period of 1991, 2001 and 2011. 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.

The Literacy Rate is calculating for following formula

$$\text{Literacy Rate} = \frac{\text{Literate Population}}{\text{Total Population above 6 Years}} \times 100$$

After data collection, the data is computed and analyzed it. To avoid fluctuation and to get reliable result. Tahsil is taken as the basic unit of investigation.

Literacy Rate in Ahemednagar District:

A) Literacy Rate in 1991:

During the period of investigation in 1991 the study region shows the literacy rate in Ahemednagar district. The average 54.62 percent literacy rate is recorded in 1991 in study region. The table and figure shows the high literacy rate is recorded in Ahemednagar and Shrirampur tahsil i.e. above 65.70 percent in study region, which is higher than average of study region. The moderate i.e. 57.68 to 65.70 percent literacy rate is recorded in Sangamner, Kopergaon, Rahuri and Shrigondatahsil in study region, while the low i.e. below 57.68 percent literacy rate is recorded in Akole, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Karjat and Jamkhed tahsil, because lower development of

educational facilities in this tahsil. There is not available of the literacy data in Rahata tahsil.

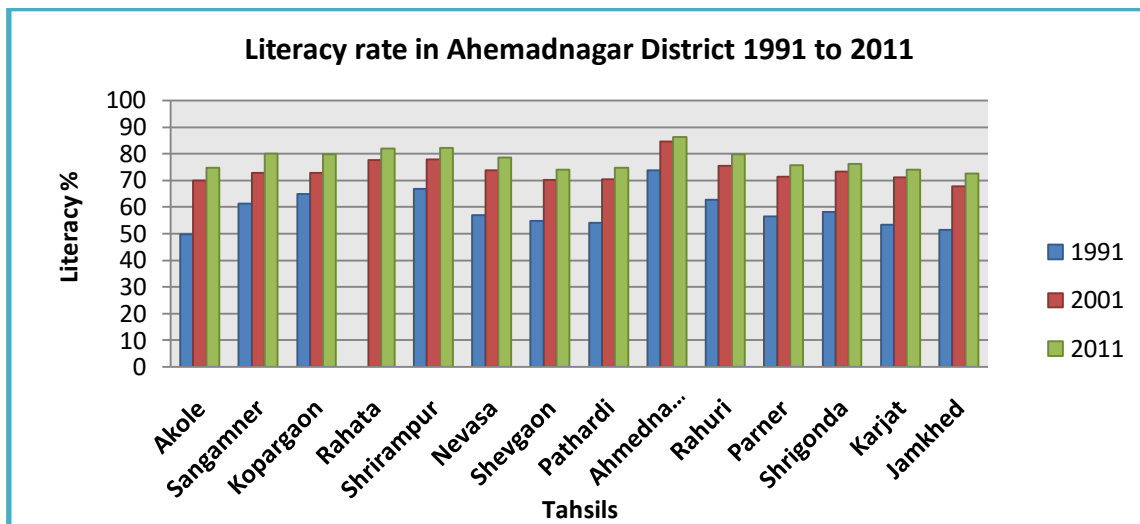
B) Literacy Rate in 2001

During the period of investigation in 2001 the study region shows the literacy rate in Ahemednagar district. The average 73.55 percent literacy rate is recorded in 2001 in study region. The table and figure shows the high literacy rate is recorded only in Ahemednagar tahsil i.e. 84.60 percent in study region, because development of educational facilities district headquarter in this tahsil, which is higher than average of study region. The moderate i.e. 73.40 to 79.00 percent literacy rate is recorded in Shrirampur, Rahata, Rahuri and Shrigondatahsil in study region, while the low i.e. below 73.40 percent literacy rate is recorded in Akole, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Karjat Jamkhed Sangamner and Kopergaontahsil because lower development of educational facility in this tahsil.

Literacy rate in Ahemadnagar District 1991, 2001 and 2011

Tahsil	Literacy in %			Change
	1991	2001	2011	1991 to 2011
Akole	49.66	70.00	74.86	25.20
Sangamner	61.39	72.79	79.96	18.57
Kopergaon	64.88	72.90	79.84	14.96
Rahata	N.A.	77.70	82.08	NA
Shrirampur	66.77	78.00	82.12	15.35
Nevasa	57.09	73.80	78.51	21.42
Shevgaon	54.75	70.10	73.94	19.19
Pathardi	54.02	70.40	74.74	20.72
Ahemednagar	73.74	84.60	86.35	12.61
Rahuri	62.82	75.60	79.74	16.92
Parner	56.46	71.50	75.64	19.18
Shrigonda	58.25	73.40	76.25	18.00
Karjat	53.35	71.20	74.11	20.76
Jamkhed	51.52	67.80	72.62	21.10
Average Study Region	54.62	73.55	77.91	23.29

Source: Compiled by researcher, on the basis of District census handbook of Ahemadnagardistrict1991, 2001 and 2011.

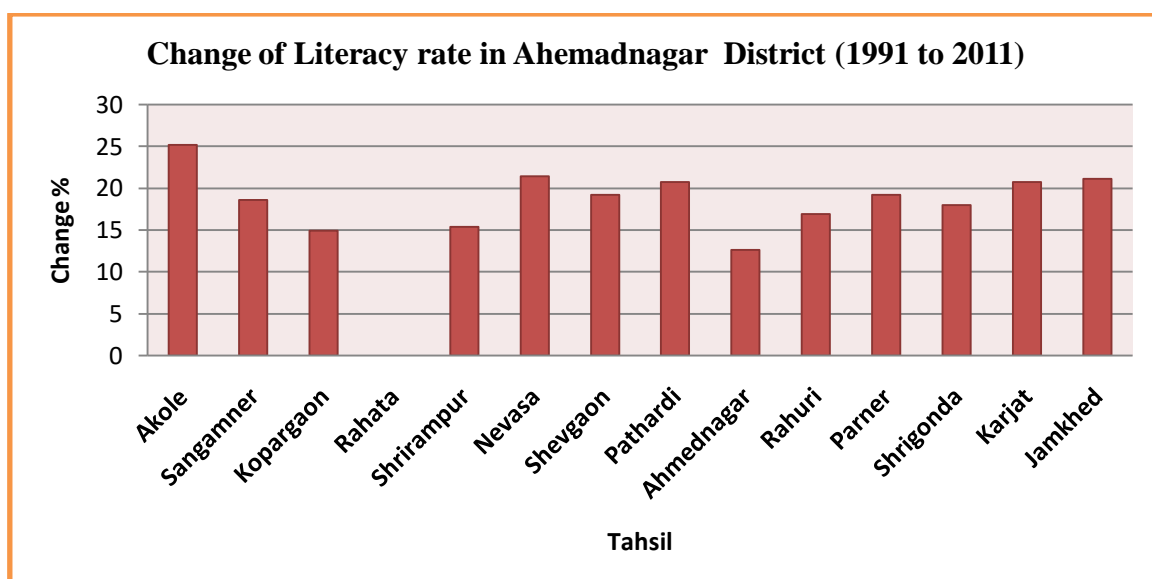


C) Literacy Rate in 2011

During the period of investigation in 2011 the study region shows the literacy rate in Ahemednagar district. The average 77.91 percent literacy rate is recorded in 2011 in study region. The table and figure shows the high literacy rate is recorded in Ahemednagar, Shrirampur and Rahatatahsil i.e. above 81.76 percent in study region, because development of educational facilities in this tahsil which is lower than average percentage of study region. The moderate i.e. 77.19 to 81.76 literacy rate is recorded in Sangamner, Kopergaon, Nevasa and Rahuritahsil. The low i.e. below 77.19 percent literacy rate is recorded in Akole, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhedtahsil because lower development of educational facility in this tahsil.

D) Change Literacy from 1991 to 2011

During the period of investigation in 1991 to 2011 the study region shows the change of literacy rate in Ahemednagar district. The average 23.29 percent increase literacy rate is in 1991 to 2011 in study region. The table shows that the high change of literacy rate is recorded in Akole, Nevasa and Jamkhedtahsil i.e. above 20.99 percent in study region. The moderate change of literacy rate is recorded in Sangamner, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Rahuri, Parner, Shrigonda and Karjattahsil in study region i.e. 16.80 to 20.99 percent, while the low i.e. below 16.80 percent change of literacy rate is recorded in Kopergaon, Shrirampur and Ahemednagar tahsil. There is not available change of literacy data in Rahatatahsil in the period of 1991 to 2011.



Conclusions

The study reveals that there is great influence of educational factors on Literacy in Study region. During the period of under study, the high literacy is found in Ahemednagar, Shrirampur and Rahatatahsil, because of the availability of educational facility such as pre-primary and primary reduction facility in this tahsil. The low Literacy is recorded in Akole,

Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhedtahsil because lower development of educational facility in this tahsil. The high change of literacy rate is recorded in Akole, Nevasa and Jamkhedtahsil in study region. The low change of literacy rate is recorded in Kopergaon, Shrirampur and Ahemednagar tahsil.

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