

FEMALE LITERACY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS OF KHERI DISTRICT

Abhijeet Kumar

Research Scholar

Email: abhijeet.rentpur@gmail.com

Dr. Kaustubh Narayan Misra

Associate Professor

Department of Geography

Buddha P.G. College, Kushinagar

Abstract

Literacy plays an important role in determining the development of any area. Lying in the Terai region of the Himalayas, Kheri is a soil, water and forest resource-rich region but instead an under-developed and backward district of Uttar Pradesh. This can be traced by analyzing especially the female literacy of the region.

Keywords

Female, literacy, Kheri, development, rural.

Reference to this paper
should be made as follows:

Received: 22.05.2022

Approved: 20.06.2022

**Abhijeet Kumar,
Dr. Kaustubh Narayan
Misra,**

*FEMALE LITERACY IN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCKS OF KHERI DISTRICT*

RJPSSs 2022, Vol. XLVIII,

No. 1, pp.46-53

Article No.6

Similarity Check: 15%

Online available at:

<http://rjpss.anubooks.com>

DOI: *[https://doi.org/10.31995/](https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2022v48i01.06)*

[rjpss.2022v48i01.06](https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2022v48i01.06)

Introduction

Literates are to those who can read and write in a language. It is very important to obtain such a level of education where one can read the instructions and make decisions using their conscience to elevate the economic development of any country (**R. D. Tripathi, 1999**). Literacy plays a very crucial role in eradicating poverty and mental loneliness and also creating mutual international harmony with the independent dynamism of demography. The literacy pattern of any society indicates its rate of socio-economic development (**R. C. Chandana, 1980**).

Education at the minimum level is called literacy. The study of spatial differentiation and distribution of literacy level is an important aspect of population which contributes to better understanding and elimination of problems coming in the way of literacy elevation. Literacy affects the socio-economic pattern of any particular area and is also get affected by these, directly or indirectly. Undoubtedly, the social and economic process continues with the spread of education and literacy. In fact, one comes out of its limited understanding and establishes the interactional relationship with the social, economic and political trends of its region and in doing so, one not only contributes to the self-development but also to the development of society.

There is found a positive relationship co-relation between female literacy and social development in any region. As the rate of female literacy grows, the new ways of socio-economic development emerge in any particular region. Generally, if there is found a significant differences in female literacy in any particular region it might be due to the various socio-economic and geographical reasons. It is very likely to find differences in the regional morphology of female literacy in a vast country like India where there is significant social diversity and economic unevenness. It becomes very clear after the comparative study of regional morphological trends and socio-economic setup that in the countries or societies with less developed economies, there is found many literacy differences than the other demographic indicators such as sex ratio, caste structure and occupational structure, whereas, in the developed countries or societies, these differences are nominal (**Kusum Singh, 2002**).

According to the anthropological perspective, literacy is such a social indicator of the population on the basis of which the criteria of social development could be set. In India, anyone who can read and write in any common instruction of any language can be put in the category of literate. Education is a key factor in human development (**Rakesh Singh, 2008**). And this is the reason why the evaluation of human development is done on the basis of literacy and related indicators. From the geographical point of view, literacy is a multidimensional indicator of the socio-

economic development of any region. Commission on population treats a person as literate who can read, write and understand a simple instruction in any language (Hiralal, 2001). According to the 2011 Census of India, any person of the age 07 years and above can be treated as literate if he or she can read and write in any language (Census of India, 2011).

To better understand the literacy in rural regions, we need to study the literacy at Community Development Block (C. D. Block) level. A C. D. Block is a rural area administratively earmarked for planning and development. The area is administered by a Block Development Officer (B.D.O.), supported by several technical specialists and village-level workers. (Maheshwari, 1984)

Diversity is not only limited to regions rather it can be found at intra-regional, Intra-state, Tehsil and even at the block level (Bhaiyalal, 2013). The following are the main factors that influence the female literacy-

1. Historical factors
2. Political factors
3. Social factors
4. Economic factors

Objectives

The present research paper aims

1. to study the female literacy differences in community development blocks of Kheri district
2. to clear the relationship between female literacy and regional development

Data Source and Methodology

The present research paper studies the female literacy at the C. D. block level in the Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. In this study, the secondary data are collected through District Census Handbook (DCH) and Census tables. And to analyze the relation between female literacy and regional development, the statistical methods are deployed.

Study Area Kheri district is within the Terai lowlands at the base of the Himalayas, with several rivers and lush green vegetation. Kheri is a district of Uttar Pradesh state in India. Situated between 27.6° and 28.6° north latitude and 80.34° and 81.30° east longitudes, and about 7,680 square kilometers (2,970 sq mi) in area, it is roughly triangular in shape, the flattened apex pointing north.. Lakhimpur Kheri is bounded on the north by the river Mohan, separating it from Nepal; on the east by the Kauriala River, separating it from Bahraich; on the south by Sitapur and Hardoi;

and on the west by Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur. Several rivers flow across Lakhimpur. Some of these are Sharda, Ghagra, Koriyala, Ull, Sarayan, Chauka, Gomti, Kathana, Sarayu and Mohana.

The climate is hot throughout the year except in the rainy seasons. During summer(March to June), the temperature can reach above 40 °C (104 °F) and in winters(October to February) it can drop to around 4 °C (39 °F). The nights are very cold during winter and fog is very common in this season. The annual average rainfall in Lakhimpur Kheri is 1,085.3 millimeters (42.73 in), mostly in the monsoon months (July to September).

According to the 2011 census Lakhimpur Kheri District has a population of 4,021,243 roughly equal to the nation of Liberia or the US state of Oregon.

This gives it a ranking of 56th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 523 inhabitants per square kilometer (1,350/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001–2011 was 25.38 percent. Out of a total population of 4,021,243, the male population stands at 2,123,187 and the female population stands at 1,898,056. Kheri has a sex ratio of 894 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 60.56 percent. The literacy is 71.72 percent point in urban areas and 59.04 percent in rural areas. The male literacy is higher at 69.57 percent versus against 50.42 percent female literacy, and the gap in male/female literacy rate is 19.15 percent. The literacy among males in rural areas is 68.64 percent in comparison to 48.23 percent among females. Among urbanites in the district, as much as 76.43 percent of males are literates as against 66.49 percent of females. Languages spoken here include Awadhi, a vernacular in the Hindi dialect continuum spoken by over 38 million people, mainly in the Awadh region(**Census, 2011**).

Female Literacy Not only in the study area but also in India, as a whole, had the female literacy rate always been lower than that of the male literacy rate. According to the census of India 2001, the female literacy rate of India was 54.18 percent whereas in Uttar Pradesh, it was only 42.98 percent and in the Kheri district, it was only 35.40 percent. According to census of India 2011, the female literacy rate of India was 65.46 percent whereas in Uttar Pradesh, it was only 59.26 percent and in the Kheri district, it was only 50.42 percent.

As it is evident from Table 01, that in 2001, the Lakhimpur block has the highest female literacy i.e. 47.70 percent. While Ramia Behar block has the lowest female literacy rate i.e. 16.90 percent. Mauli block has the highest gap between male and female literacy i.e. 29.30 percent and the least gap between male and female literacy is found in Ramia Behar block i.e. 22.00 percent.

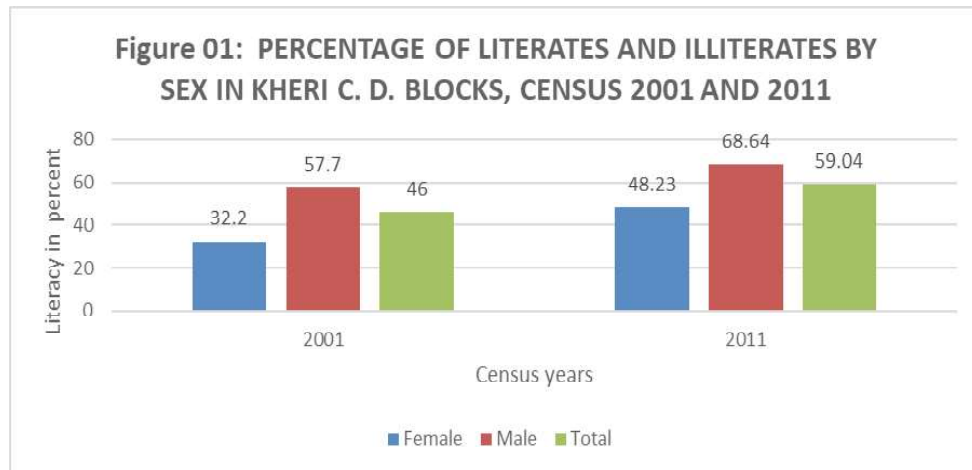
We can also infer from Table 01 that in 2011, the Kumbhi Gola block has the highest female literacy rate i.e. 58.44 percent and it really did well in 10-year span from the last census of 2001. Dhaurehra block has the lowest female literacy rate i.e. 35.01 percent. If we talk about the largest gap between male and female literacy rates, then the Mitauli block again tops the rank with a 22.00 percent gap and the least gap between male and female literacy is found in the Dhaurehra block i.e. 18.61 percent.

Table 01: Percentage of Literates and Illiterates by Sex in Kheri C. D. Blocks, 2001 & 2011

Sr. No.	Name of Block	Year									
		2001					2011				
		Total	M	F	G	Total	M	F	G		
1	Palia	46.00	59.10	31.3	27.80	57.53	67.84	46.23	21.61		
2	Nighasan	34.30	44.50	22.30	22.20	49.89	59.25	39.44	19.81		
3	Ramia Behar	28.90	39.00	16.90	22.00	46.44	55.54	36.12	19.42		
4	Kumbhi Gola	56.90	69.50	42.30	27.20	68.84	78.09	58.44	19.65		
5	Bankeyganj	47.60	60.00	33.00	27.00	60.29	69.98	49.48	20.50		
6	Bijua	37.90	49.80	24.20	25.60	57.35	67.25	46.42	20.83		
7	Mohammadi	50.60	62.40	36.50	25.90	61.57	71.15	50.57	20.58		
8	Mauli	56.60	70.10	40.80	29.30	66.81	77.14	55.14	22.00		
9	Pasgawan	53.50	65.70	38.70	27.00	64.37	74.17	53.06	21.11		
10	Benjamin	58.20	70.70	43.70	27.00	68.42	78.26	57.45	20.81		
11	Lakhimpur	61.40	73.50	47.70	26.10	68.89	78.64	58.02	20.62		
12	Phoolbehar	42.50	54.20	29.00	25.10	58.51	67.95	47.9	20.05		
13	Nakahara	41.60	52.90	28.40	24.50	56.17	65.42	45.72	19.70		
14	Dhaurehra	30.90	41.10	18.60	22.50	44.97	53.62	35.01	18.61		
15	Isanagar	35.03	46.50	21.60	24.90	50.95	60.55	39.81	20.74		
16	Forest Villages*	24.30	33.30	11.60	21.70	-----	-----	-----	-----		
	Total	46.00	57.70	32.02	25.60	59.04	68.64	48.23	20.41		

*C.D. Block omitted in Census 2011, M= Male, F=Female, G=Gap between male and female literacy

Source: District Census Handbook, 2001 & 2011



Source: District Census Handbook, 2001 and 2011

Conclusion

The study area is a rural area and male-dominated as well. It requires the mutual contribution of both males and females in the development of any region. Due to the lower female literacy rate, the regional development of the study area has not been achieved yet because the female participation of the rural female population in economic activities are very less in the study area also majority of rural females are bound only to agricultural and household activities and low female literacy rate could be one of the primary reason for this.

According to **Gosal (1985)**, education doesn't itself conducts social, and economic progress but lack of this could impact the development process. Literacy plays an important role in controlling natural powers and making them viable and also in making a society with a scientific mindset and justice. In any country or region, literacy is the mother of societal development, nurtures of modernism, a glimpse of cultural reflections, a factor in poverty eradication and a threshold factor in controlling the conservative, pessimistic and fatalistic views.

The influence and imprint of educated women can clearly be seen in their children. When a man is educated, he is the one who gets educated but when a female gets educated, the family along with the society gets educated. The literacy of females cannot be ignored in any region or society aiming to achieve the zenith of development.

As it is evident from the figure 01 that there is positive growth in the female literacy between 2001 and 2011 which is around 16.3 percent whereas the growth in male literacy is 10.94 percent in the same period. The total rural literacy in the

district also increased by 13.04 percent. These data are satisfactory but still, the rural female literacy in the district is much lower than the male literacy which can be attributed to the following reasons

- a) treating females as a secondary citizens in the male-dominated Indian patriarchal society
- b) forcing females to do primarily the household chores
- c) controlling females and keeping them away from the fast pacing modern world

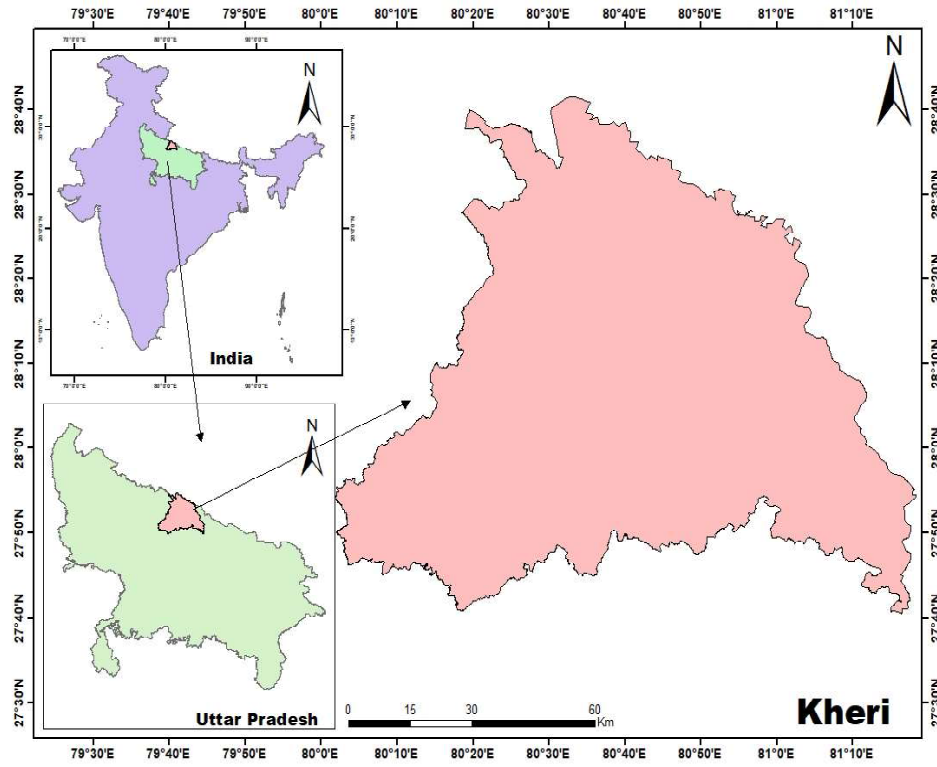
But the conditions are improving day by day due to the various central and state government schemes and programs like

- a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- b) Saksharata Mission
- c) District Primary Education Program
- d) Operation Black Board
- e) Formal Education
- f) Mid-day Meal Scheme
- g) Compulsory and Free primary education till the age of 14 years

But still, the positive efforts at personal, family and social levels are needed and also government needs to formulate more such schemes and programs with better funding and monitoring.

Reference

1. Tripathi, R.D. (1999). *Demography and Population Studies*. Vasundhara Publication: Pg. **211**.
2. Chandna, R.C. (2012). *Population Geography*. Kalyani Publishers: Pg. **337**.
3. Singh, Kusum. (2002). *Female Literacy in Eastern Uttar Pradesh*. Thesis. Geography Department. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University: Gorakhpur. Pg. **131-149**.
4. Singh, Rakesh. (2008). "*Locational Factors in Rural Development- Symbolic Study of Mau District*". Thesis. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University: Gorakhpur. Pg. **53**.
5. Hiralal. (2000). *Population Studies*. Radha Publications: Pg. **180-181**.
6. Maheshwari. (1984). "Rural Development and Bureaucracy in India". *The Indian Journal of Public Administration*. XXX(3). Pg. **1093-1100**.
7. Bhaiyalal. (2013). "Female Literacy and Development in Kerakal Tehsil". *Sanvikas Sandesh*. Vol.21. No.11. June. Pg. **100-101**.



LOCATION MAP OF KHERI DISTRICT