



A comparative Study of Gender Gap in Literacy

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Abstract

Literacy played an important role in social development. Therefore the government of India gives importance for education. For increasing the literacy rate Primary education is free in the country. Therefore 74.04% persons are literate in India in which male literacy was 82.14% and female literacy was 65.46% in 2011. Gender gap is a major problem in India in all sectors as well literacy. But nowadays the gender gap is reduced in the country.

Key Words: Total literacy, Male Literacy, Female literacy, Gender gap, Increased, Decreased, Decadal growth.

Objectives

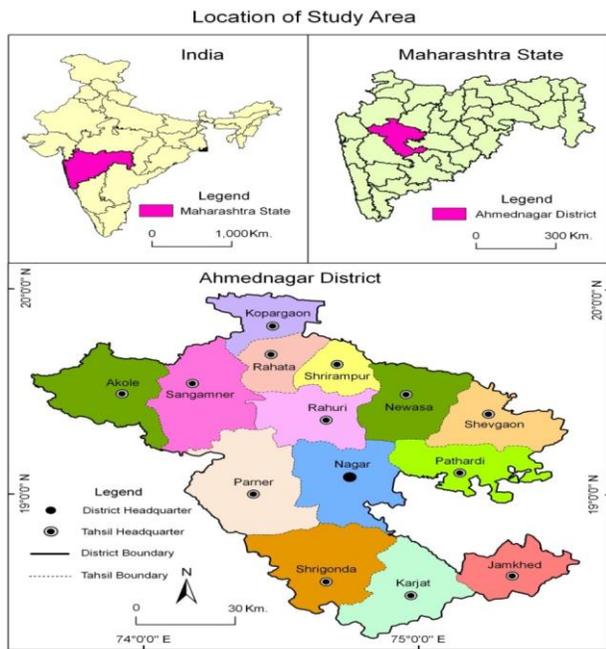
- 1) To study the total literacy rate in India, Maharashtra and Ahmednagar District.
- 2) To understand the gender wise literacy rate in study region.
- 3) To find out the Decadal growth in female literacy in study region.
- 4) To compare the gender gap among in study region.

Data base and Methodology

The entire research work is based on secondary data. This data is collected from different Census of India (1961 to 2011), District Census Handbook, published articles etc. The collected data are analyzed by statistical and cartographic techniques.

The Study Region

For the present study the study area is India, Maharashtra and Ahmednagar district. Maharashtra State has a geographical area of 307713 sq. km and is bounded by North latitude 15°40' and 22°00' and East Longitudes 72°30' and 80°30'. The State has 35 districts and 358 taluka. Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra has been selected as a study area. It located between 18°2' to 19°9' north latitudes and 73°9' to 75°5' east longitudes and situated partly in the upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhima basin. The district is very compact in shape and length of 200 km. and a breadth of 210 km.



Result and Discussion

The ability to both read and write a simple message with understanding in any language is called literate person in India.

Formula:

$$\text{Literacy Rate} = \frac{\text{Literate Population}}{\text{Total Population above 6 age}} * 100$$

Decadal growth in literacy in India (%)

Census Year	Total literacy	Decadal growth in total literacy	Male	Female	Decadal growth in female literacy
1961	28.30	-	40.40	15.35	-
1971	34.45	6.15	45.96	21.97	6.62
1981	43.57	9.12	56.38	29.76	7.79
1991	52.21	8.64	64.13	39.29	9.53
2001	64.83	12.62	75.26	53.67	14.38
2011	74.04	9.21	82.14	65.46	11.79

Table no. 1 Decadal growth in literacy in India (%) Source: Census of India

Table no. 1 shows that in 1961 total literacy rate of **India** was only 28.30 %, in which male literacy was more than total literacy rate i.e. 40.40 % and female literacy was only 15.35% which was less than total literacy rate of India. After a decade in 1971 the literacy rate was increased in both male and female literacy i.e. 45.96 and 21.97 respectively. The decadal growth in female literacy was increased by 6.62 % which was more than the growth in total literacy rate of country i.e. 6.15%. The total literacy rate and male female literacy rate was increased in 1971 to 2011. The total literacy rate continuously grew from 43.57 % in 1981 to 52.21 % in 1991, 64.83 % in 2001 and 74.04 % in 2011. Male literacy rate also continuously grew from 56.38 % in 1981 to 64.13 % in 1991, 75.26 % in 2001 and 82.14 % in 2011. Female literacy rate also continuously improved from 29.76 % in 1981 to 39.29 % in 1991, 53.67 % in 2001 and 65.46 % in 2011. But there was fluctuation in the growth in total literacy rate and growth in female literacy in India. In 1971 the growth rate recorded in total literacy less than (6.15%) the growth in female literacy rate (6.62%). But in 1981 the growth rate in total literacy recorded more than (9.12%) the growth in female literacy rate (7.79%). From 1991 to 2011 the growth rate in female literacy was continuously more than the total growth rate of literacy in India. The total growth rate of literacy in country was 8.64%, 12.62% and 9.21%; at that time the growth rate in female literacy was 9.53%, 14.38% and 11.79% in 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively.

Decadal growth in literacy in Maharashtra (%)

Census Year	Total literacy	Decadal growth in total literacy	Male	Female	Decadal growth in female literacy
1961	35.08	-	49.26	19.80	-
1971	45.77	10.69	59.40	31.00	11.20
1981	57.24	11.47	70.06	43.50	12.50
1991	64.87	7.63	76.56	52.32	8.82
2001	77.27	12.40	86.27	67.51	15.19
2011	82.91	5.64	89.82	75.48	7.97

Table no. 2. Decadal growth in literacy in Maharashtra (%), Source: Census of India (Maharashtra) H.R.D. Report, 2002

Table no. 2 shows that in 1961 total literacy rate of **Maharashtra** was only 35.08 %, in which male literacy was 49.26 % which was more than the growth in total literacy rate of state and female literacy was only 19.80% which was less than total literacy rate of state. After a decade in 1971 the literacy rate was increased in both male and female literacy i.e. 59.40 and 31.00 respectively. The decadal growth in female

literacy was increased by 11.20 % which was more than the growth in total literacy rate of state i.e. 10.69%. The total literacy rate continuously grew from 35.08 % to 45.77 % in 1971, 57.24 % in 1981, 64.87 % in 1991, while 77.27 % in 2001 and 82.91 % in 2011. Male literacy rate also continuously grew from 49.26 % to 59.40 % in 1971, 70.06 % in 1981, 76.56 % in 1991, while 86.27 % in 2001 and 89.82 % in 2011. Female literacy rate also continuously improved from 19.80 % to 31.00 % in 1971, 43.50 % in 1981, 52.32 % in 1991, while 67.51 % in 2001 and 75.48 % in 2011. But there was fluctuation in the growth in total literacy rate and growth in female literacy in Maharashtra. In 1971 the growth rate recorded in total literacy less than (10.69%) the growth in female literacy rate (11.20%). From 1971 to 2011 the growth rate in female literacy was continuously more than the total growth rate of literacy in state. The total growth rate of literacy in the state was 10.69%, 11.47%, 7.63 %, 12.40% and 5.64% at that time the growth rate in female literacy was 11.20%, 12.50%, 8.82%, 15.19 % and 7.97% in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively.

Decadal growth in literacy in Ahmednagar (%)

Census Year	Total literacy	Decadal growth in total literacy	Male	Female	Decadal growth in female literacy
1961	26.45	-	39.36	13.03	-
1971	36.23	9.78	48.97	22.91	9.88
1981	43.16	6.93	56.51	29.24	6.33
1991	61.03	17.87	75.30	45.99	16.75
2001	64.31	3.28	72.83	55.25	9.26
2011	80.22	15.91	88.81	71.15	15.90

Table no.3 Decadal growth in literacy in Ahmednagar district (%) ,Source- Socio-economic Abstract Ahmednagar District - 2013

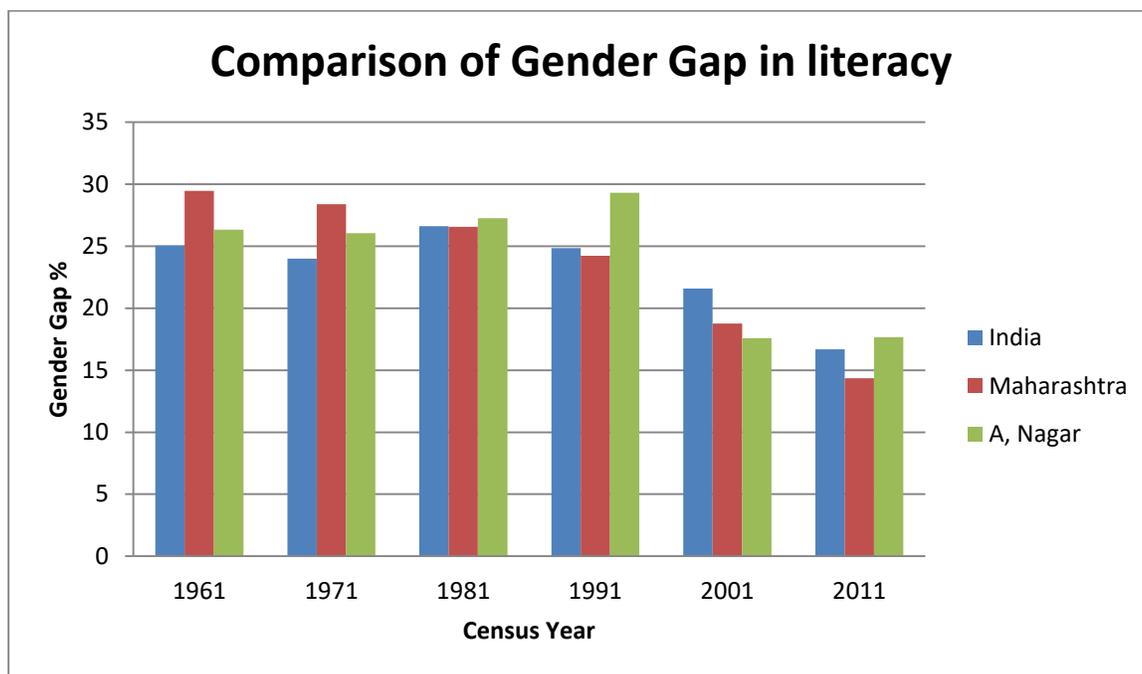
Table no.3 reveals that in 1961 there are only 26.45% literate person in the **Ahmednagar district** in which male literacy was 39.36% and female literacy was only 13.03%. A look at the literacy rate, there were less than 50% persons were illiterate till 1981. But after that in 1991, 2001 and in 2011 the total literacy was increased rapidly by 61.03%, 64.31% and 80.22% respectively. But there was fluctuation in the growth in total literacy rate and growth in female literacy in Ahmednagar District. In 1971 the growth rate recorded in total literacy less than (9.78%) the growth in female literacy rate (9.88%). But in 1981 and 1991 the growth rate in total literacy recorded more than (6.93%) and (17.87 %) the growth in female literacy rate (6.33%) and (16.75 %) respectively. In 2001 the growth rate in female literacy was again recorded more than (9.26%) the growth rate in total literacy (3.28%). But in 2011 the growth rate in total literacy (15.91%) and the growth rate in female literacy (15.90%) were near about equal in the district.

Comparison of gender gap in literacy (%)

Census Year	India			Maharashtra			Ahmednagar		
	Male	Female	Gender Gap	Male	Female	Gender Gap	Male	Female	Gender Gap
1961	40.40	15.35	25.05	49.26	19.80	29.46	39.36	13.03	26.33
1971	45.96	21.97	23.99	59.40	31.00	28.40	48.97	22.91	26.06
1981	56.38	29.76	26.62	70.06	43.50	26.56	56.51	29.24	27.27
1991	64.13	39.29	24.84	76.56	52.32	24.24	75.30	45.99	29.31
2001	75.26	53.67	21.59	86.27	67.51	18.76	72.83	55.25	17.58
2011	82.14	65.46	16.68	89.82	75.48	14.34	88.81	71.15	17.66

Table no. 4 Comparison in literacy in India, Maharashtra and Ahmednagar (%)

Source: Compiled by researcher



From the table no. 4 it is revealed that in 1961 total literacy rate of **India** was only 28.30 %, in which male literacy was 40.40 % and female literacy was only 15.35%. At that time the gender gap in literacy was about 25.05%. After a decade in 1971 the literacy rate was increased in both male and female literacy i.e. 45.96 and 21.97 respectively and therefore the gender gap in literacy was decreased i.e. 23.99%. But from 1971 to 1981 total literacy rate and male female literacy rate was increased but at that time gender gap was also increased i.e. 26.62%. Male literacy rate also continuously grew from 56.38 % in 1981 to 64.13 % in 1991, 75.26 % in 2001 and 82.14 % in 2011. Female literacy rate also continuously improved from 29.76 % in 1981 to 39.29 % in 1991, 53.67 % in 2001 and 65.46 % in 2011. The gender gap in literacy is continuously decreased except 1971 to 1981 due to drought in 1974. The gender gap in literacy rate was continuously decreased from 26.62 % in 1981 to 24.84 % in 1991, 21.59 % in 2001 and 16.68 % in 2011.

In 1961 total literacy rate of **Maharashtra** was only 35.08 %, in which male literacy was 49.26 % and female literacy was only 19.80%. At that time the gender gap in literacy was about 29.46%. After a decade in 1971 the literacy rate was increased in both male and female literacy i.e. 59.40 and 31.00 respectively and therefore the gender gap in literacy was decreased i.e. 28.40%. Male literacy rate also continuously grew from 49.26 % to 59.40 % in 1971, 70.06 % in 1981, 76.56 % in 1991, while 86.27 % in 2001 and 89.82 % in 2011. Female literacy rate also continuously improved from 19.80 % to 31.00 % in 1971, 43.50 % in 1981, 52.32 % in 1991, while 67.51 % in 2001 and 75.48 % in 2011. The gender gap in literacy is continuously decreased from 1961 to 2011. The gender gap in literacy rate was continuously decreased from 29.46 % to 28.40 % in 1971, 26.56 % in 1981, 24.24 % in 1991, while 18.76 % in 2001 and 14.34 % in 2011.

In the present research study researcher calculate development about literacy in the study region. According to table No. 3.11 the percentage of total literate person was getting increase from 1961 to 2011. In 1961 there are only 26.45% literate person in the **Ahmednagar district** in which male literacy was 39.36 and female literacy was only 13.03%. A look at the literacy rate, there were less than 50% persons were illiterate till 1981. But after that in 1991, 2001 and in 2011 the literacy was increased rapidly by 61.03%, 64.31% and 80.22% respectively. The male and female literacy also increased in these 30 years. The male literacy was increased by 75.30%, 72.83 and 88.81 in 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively, and 45.99%, 55.25 and 71.15% was female literacy respectively. But there was fluctuation in gender gap recorded from 1961 to 2011 in the district. In 1961(26.33 %) and 1971(26.06 %) the gender gap was decreased but in 1981 (27.27%) and 1991(29.31%) but this gap was increased and again decreased in 2001(17.58%) and then increased in 2011(17.66%).

Conclusion

In India total literacy rate was continuously increased by 45.74 % from 28.30% in 1961 to 74.04 % in 2011. Male literacy rate was continuously improved by 41.74 % from 40.40% in 1961 to 82.14 % in 2011. Female literacy rate was continuously grown by 50.11 % from 15.35% in 1961 to 65.46 % in 2011. But the gender gap in literacy was decreased by 8.37% from 25.05% in 1961 to 16.68 % in 2011.

In Maharashtra total literacy rate was continuously increased by 47.83 % from 35.08% in 1961 to 82.91 % in 2011. Male literacy rate was continuously improved by 40.56 % from 49.26% in 1961 to 89.82 % in 2011. Female literacy rate was continuously grown by 55.68 % from 19.80% in 1961 to 75.48 % in 2011. But the gender gap in literacy was decreased by 15.12% from 29.46% in 1961 to 14.34 % in 2011.

In Ahmednagar district total literacy rate was continuously increased by 53.77 % from 26.45% in 1961 to 80.22 % in 2011. Male literacy rate was continuously improved by 49.45 % from 39.36% in 1961 to 88.81 % in 2011. Female literacy rate was continuously grown by 58.12 % from 13.03% in 1961 to 17.15 % in 2011. But in Ahmednagar district there was fluctuation in gender gap recorded from 1961 to 2011 in the district. In 1961(26.33 %) and 1971(26.06 %) the gender gap was decreased but in 1981

(27.27%) and 1991(29.31%) but this gap was increased and again decreased in 2001(17.58%) and then increased in 2011(17.66%).

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