INEQUALITY IN MALE –FEMALE LITERACY OF SANGLI DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA): A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT:

Literacy plays a crucial role in socio-economic development of any nation. It is one of the important demographic elements and which are good measure of human progress towards the modernization. Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation. It affects on the important demographic attributes like fertility, mortality and occupations. According to Indian census defined literacy as the ability to read and write with understanding in any language excluding the population 0-6 age group. The main objectives of this paper are to analyze inequality in male-female literacy in Sangli district. It also attempts the regional disparity in rural and urban male-female literacy. Secondary data has been used for the present study. To measure the male-female disparity in literacy David Sopher's disparity index (1974) modify by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been employed. The study reveals that there are significant variations observed in total, rural & urban male-female literacy in Sangli District.

Key Words: Literacy, Disparity, Rural, Urban, Male-Female, Poverty, Development.
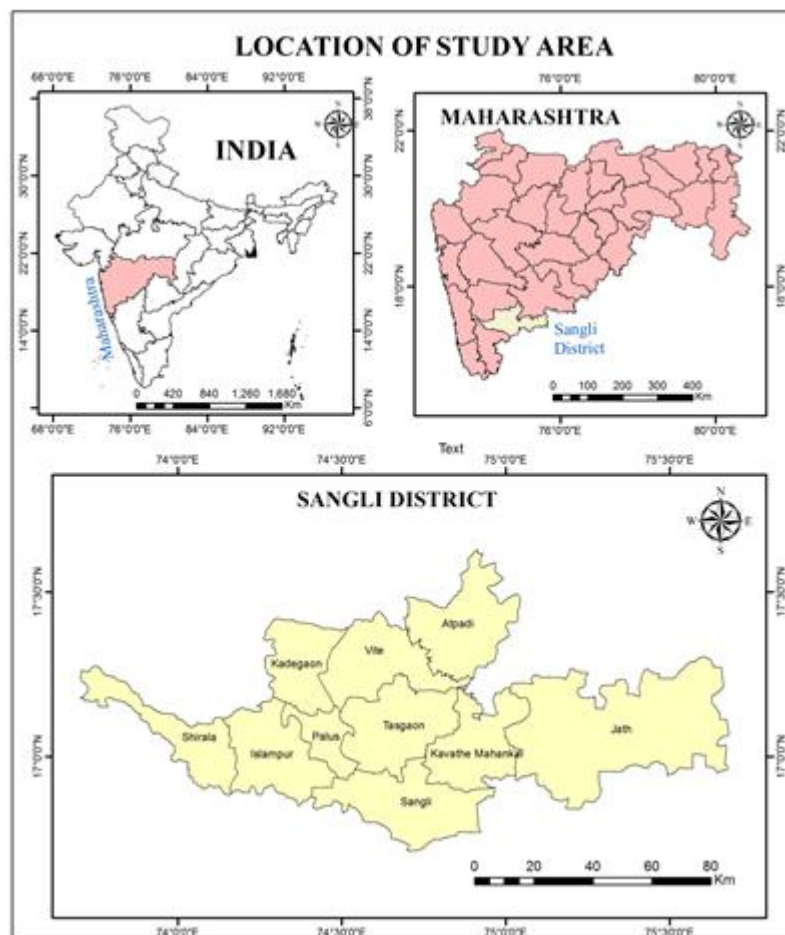
INTRODUCTION:

Literacy plays very important role in regional development. Literacy is broadly defined as the ability to read and write (Ahamaed, and Nuna). In modern world literacy is defined is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world. It is the ability to understand and use those written language forms required by society and or valued by the individual. It is also reliable index of socio-economic development and an important precondition of rural development (Ramotra, 2008).

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the inequality in patterns of literacy in Sangli district. It also attempts the regional disparity in rural- urban & male-female literacy.

STUDY AREA:

Sangli district is one of the southern districts of Maharashtra State and is a part of the Deccan Plateau. It lies between $16^045'$ north latitude $17^033'$ north latitude and $73^042'$ East longitude to $75^040'$ east longitude (Census of India, 2011). It is surrounded by Satara and Solapur district to the north, Karanataka State to the east and south, Kolhapur district to the south-west and it also small boundary with Ratnagiri district in the west. The area of the district is 8514.79 sq. Kms and it has a population 28,22,143 as per 2011 census. The density of population 331 persons per sq. km. The sex ratio of the district is about 963. The entire district is divided into 10 tehsils.

LOCATION OF STUDY AREA

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DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:

To achieve the major objectives of the present research paper tahsilwise secondary data has been collected from census of India district census handbook and socio-economic abstract of Sangli district (2011). In this paper tahsil is taken as unit of study. Literacy is computed for the population above 6. To measure the male-female disparity in literacy David Sopher's disparity index (1974) this formula modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been employed.

$$Ds = \log (X_2 / X_1) + \log (100 - X_1) / (100 - X_2) \dots (I)$$

$$Ds = \log (X_2 / X_1) + \log (200 - X_1) / (200 - X_2) \dots (II)$$

Where,

X_1 = Female literacy

X_2 = Male literacy

In the present study X_2 is considered for male and X_1 for female and literacy rates. The lacuna in David Sophar's model is that it cannot handle both 'Zero' and 100, whereas in Kundu's model if there is 100 per cent literacy it can handle but 'Zero' will not be. Moreover his index satisfies all the axims. Therefore, Kundu's model is naturally preferable. Multiple bar graphs are used for presenting data. Statistical method is adopted for determining class category viz. high, moderate and low.

ANALYSIS:

Table 1: Sangli District: Total Literacy & Male – Female disparity-2011

Sr. No.	Tashil	Literacy rate in %			Male – Female Disparity
		Total	Male	Female	
1	Shirala	78.87	89.36	68.79	0.1877
2	Walwa	85.21	91.34	78.34	0.1121
3	Palus	86.11	90.46	80.46	0.0888
4	Khanapur	82.23	89.45	74.68	0.1328
5	Atpadi	72.74	82.33	63.24	0.1799
6	Tasgaon	83.29	89.76	76.66	0.1173
7	Miraj	84.85	86.13	79.42	0.0601
8	K.M.	78.57	86.56	70.39	0.1439
9	Jat	73.18	78.29	62.10	0.1549
10	Kadegaon	80.98	88.98	73.05	0.1439
	District	81.48	88.22	74.79	0.1110

Source: Census of India, District Census Handbook of Sangli, 2011

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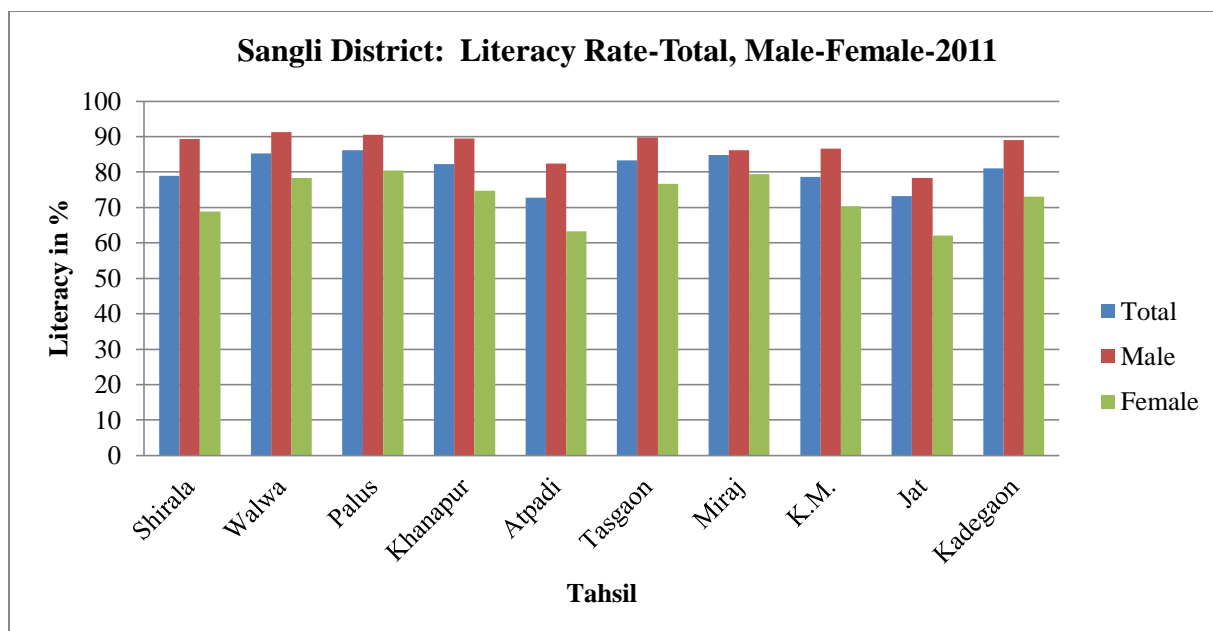**Sangli District: Literacy Rate-Total, Male-Female-2011**

Fig. 1

Literacy has been considered one of the most important attributes for social development. Table no. 1.1,1.2 and 1.3 reveals that there are significant variations observed in total, rural, urban and male-female literacy in Sangli district in 2011 census. The literacy rate in the study area is about 79.84 % in 2011. High literacy rate is observed in Palus tahsil (86.11 %). Because this tahsil is a socio-economically highly developed. The moderate literacy rate are observed in Walwa, Miraj, Tasgaon, Kadegaon and Khanapur tahsil. Area under irrigation, percentage of workers in non-agricultural sector, health facility, area under sugarcane, transportation facilities and levels of socio-economic development and general awareness among the people all these major factors are responsible for this high and moderate literacy rate. The low literacy rate is observed Atpadi, Jat, Shirala and Kavathe-Mahankal tahsil. These tahsils are economically and industrially less developed. Majority of population is engaged in primary economic activity especially in agriculture. Besides this poor transpiration facility and awareness about literacy is low. These tahsils are always facing to drought condition.

MALE-FEMALE LITERACY:

The female literacy is 62.10 % and for male it is about 91.29 % in the study area. It shows wide gap of 29.19 % literacy between male-female literacy.

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Table 2: Sangli District: Rural Literacy Rate & Male – Female disparity-2011

Sr. No.	Tashil	Literacy rate in %			Male – Female Disparity
		Total	Male	Female	
1	Shirala	78.87	89.36	68.79	0.1877
2	Walwa	84.87	91.29	78.13	0.1172
3	Palus	86.11	90.46	80.96	0.0843
4	Khanapur	80.24	89.07	71.82	0.1563
5	Atpadi	72.74	82.33	63.24	0.1799
6	Tasgaon	82.45	89.19	75.57	0.1223
7	Miraj	82.43	86.13	79.42	0.0601
8	K.M.	78.57	86.56	70.39	0.1477
9	Jat	73.18	78.29	62.10	0.1549
10	Kadegaon	80.98	88.98	73.05	0.1439
	District	79.84	87.39	72.27	0.1260

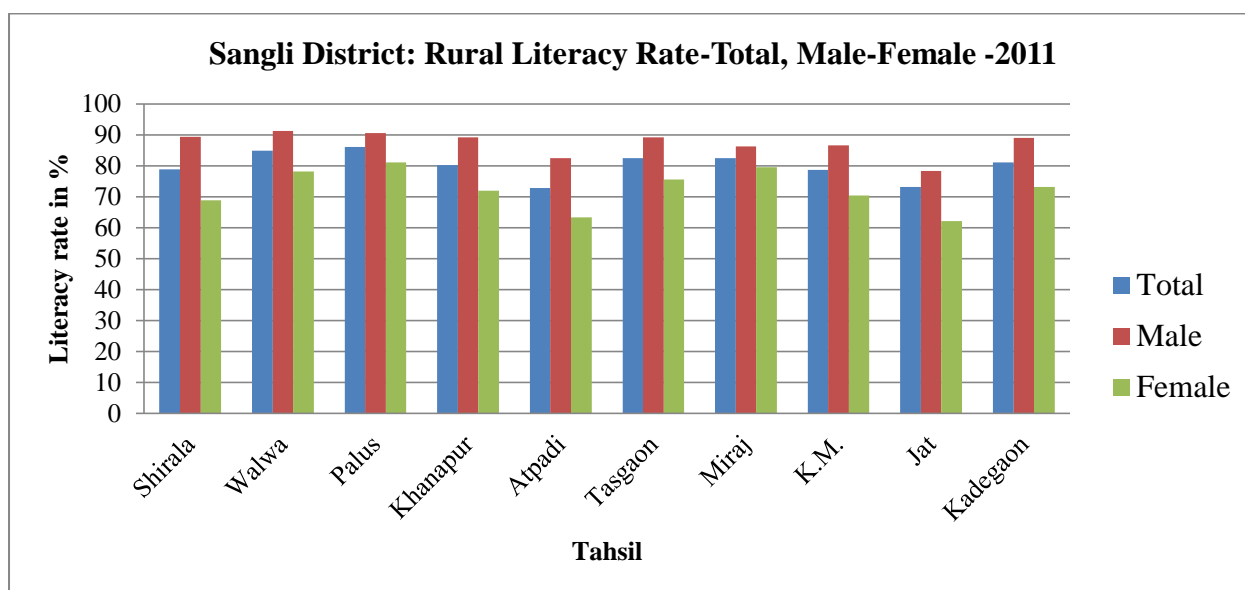**Source:** Census of India, District Census Handbook of Sangli, 2011

Fig. 2

RURAL LITERACY RATE:

There are regional variations in the rural literacy in Sangli district. It is found that literacy rate in the study area 79.84 per cent in 2011. It is little higher literacy of the state (79.84 per cent). The high rural literacy rate (above 85 per cent) is observed only in Palus tahsil and the below 80 per cent is observed Shirala, Kavathe-Mahnankal, Jat and Atpadi tahsil. The remaining tahsils of Sangli district recorded moderate rural literacy (80 to 85 per cent). The

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rural male – female disparity is high in Shirala and Atpadi tahsil of the study area because these tahsils are socio-economically less developed, whereas Palus, Walwa and Miraj tahsils indicate low male-female disparity.

URBAN LITERACY RATE:

Table 3: Sangli District: Urban Literacy Rate & Male – Female disparity-2011

Sr. No.	Tashil	Literacy rate in %			Male – Female Disparity
		Total	Male	Female	
1	Shirala	--	--	--	--
2	Walwa	86.36	91.51	80.99	0.0932
3	Palus	--	--	--	--
4	Khanapur	87.27	92.08	82.29	0.0865
5	Atpadi	--	--	--	--
6	Tasgaon	88.02	92.98	82.87	0.0892
7	Miraj	85.99	90.15	81.79	0.0741
8	K.M.	--	--	--	--
9	Jat	--	--	--	--
10	Kadegaon	--	--	--	--
	District	86.30	90.63	81.76	0.0712

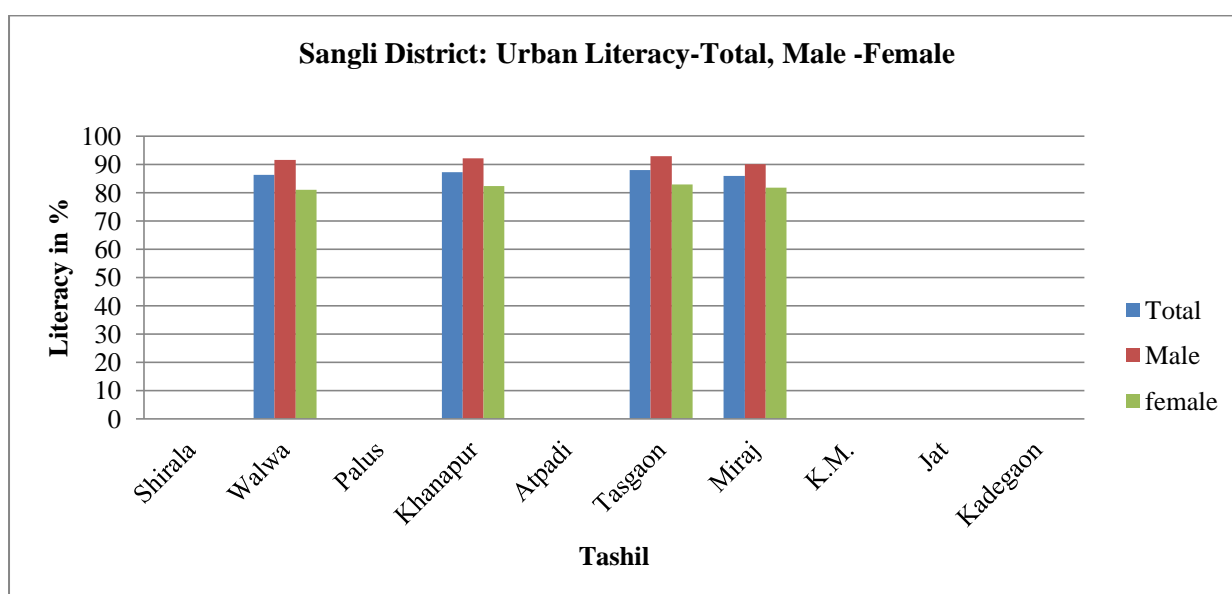**Source:** Census of India, District Census Handbook of Sangli, 2011

Fig. 3

According to 2011 census 22.96 per cent population in Sangli district lived in urban areas. It is observed that urban literacy rate in the study region was 86.30 per cent in 2011. Urban literacy rate in the study area varied from a minimum of 85.99 in Miraj tahsil and maximum urban literacy was observed in 88.02 in Tasgaon tahsil. Above 85 per cent of literacy rate observed in Tasgaon, Walwa, Khanapur and Miraj tahsil. These four tahsils of Sangli district where development of agricultural and industrial are associated with the enrichment of socio-economic facilities. The emergence of industries has strengthened educational, transport and communication facilities. It is observed that the urban male-female disparity is very high in Walwa tahsil (table 1.3). Here also both the urban literacy and male –female disparity of the study area is higer than the state.

CONCLUSION:

The study reveals that there are significant variations in total, rural, urban and male-female literacy rate in Sangli district. It is observed that the male literacy is higher than the female literacy. The male female disparity was 0.111 in 2011. It is observed that the low female literacy in drought prone area of Sangli district. To achieve equilibrium in the literacy the regional variation must be reduced. This can be done by giving priority to weaker literacy areas. The first priority should be given to areas of poor literacy. And the last priority should be given to areas with good level of literacy.

In order to improve the literacy among the female, the government needs to undertake awareness campaign such as street play, radio, you tube and T.V. programs, folk arts, posters, and wall paper competitions. And govt. should implement attractive incentive scheme. The activities listed above aim at over all development of rural masses. Necessary funds and facilities should be available by govt. for implementation of above programs. The increased rate of rural literacy will uplift the social status to the female section of the society. Minds and hearts of the people need to change to make them send their girl children to schools and colleges.

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