



A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF LITERACY PATTERN IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract- In the present paper an attempt has been made to examine variations in literacy pattern of Solapur District. A significant characteristics is of population is literacy and educational attainment. This characteristic shows the level of development of the region or country. Literacy as per definition of the Indian Census Operation of 2001, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate. Literacy has traditionally been described as the ability to read and write. It is a concept claimed and defined by a range of different theoretical fields. Literacy rate is one of the important demographic elements, which is a good measure of human progress towards modernization. From this point of view, the present study has been undertaken.

Keywords- Spatio-temporal, Economic states, Social awareness, Monsoon season

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Introduction

The variations in literacy, many times indicate, the place of which a society is getting transform. A level of literacy influences to a significant extent, the socio economic development of a region. Literacy also influences fertility, mortality, and economic composition of the population of a region. Levels of literacy vary enormously from one country to other. Even with the same country, the levels of literacy vary between urban and rural areas, among males and females and also different occupational and social groups. A large numbers of socio economic factors, such as nature of economy, levels of urbanization, standard of living, place of females in society, educational opportunities and levels of technological development influence the literacy pattern.

Objectives

The major object of this paper is to study the population literacy and spatio-temporal variation in literacy of Solapur District of Maharashtra.

Database and Methodology

Present study mostly relies on the secondary data collected through District statistical Department of Solapur, District socio-economic abstract of Solapur District and census handbook of Solapur District. For the present investigation, District is selected as in general and tahsils in particular. The collected data are analyzed by statistical and cartographic techniques. The actual literacy change of specific decade is obtained by dividing the difference between the two decades. In order to calculate the level of literacy rate in a population the following formula is used.

$$LR = \frac{L}{P} \times K$$

Where 'LR' means the literacy rate, 'L' indicate the number of literate persons, 'P' indicate the total population respectively and 'K' is equal to 100 (percentage value).

Study Area

The present study deals with the geographical perspectives of the population growth in Solapur district. The Solapur district is bounded by 17°05' North latitudes to 18° 32' North latitudes and 74° 42' East of 76° 15' East longitudes. The total geographical area of Solapur district is 14895² K.m. divided into eleven tahsils. The Population is 32.4 lakhs in eleven tahsils of District.(Censes 2001). It is bounded from the North by Osmanabad district and Ahmednagar district, on the North-East by Satara district and at the South & East it has common boundary of Karanataka state. The rivers like Bhima, Sina, Man, Nira Bhogawati and many other smaller tributaries drain in the district. The soil of the district is orion from volcanic DeccanTrap. It varies from light brown to black in colour and lesser in quality. Climate of the district is generally semi-arid type expect during the monsoon season. The average annual rainfall is 584 mm. It varies from East to West between range of 200 to 600 millimeters. Temperature is high in summer season. Agriculture is main occupation of the people in the district where jowar, bajara, tur, gram, mug, groundnut, sugarcane are the main crops. Agriculturally Solapur District is considered as the bowl of jowar.

Location Map of study region

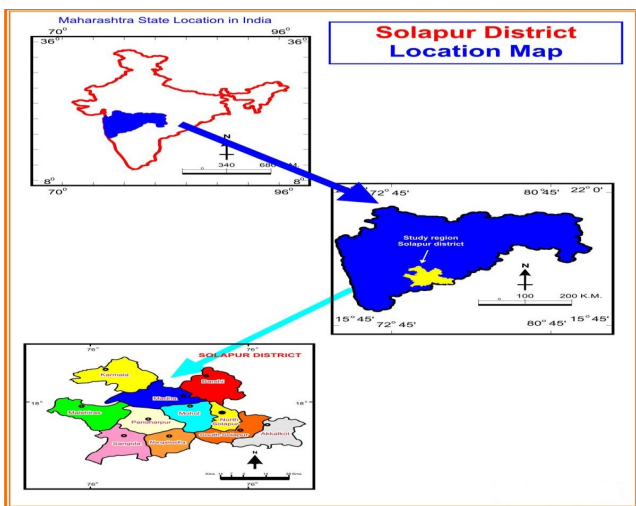


Fig. 1-

Explanation

Literacy of Solapur district has been studied by two i.e. temporal literacy change and spatial literacy pattern.

Literacy pattern in Solapur District

The percentages of literates to the total population for the year 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 have been calculated for temporal variation in tahsilwise literacy pattern of Solapur District.

Literacy pattern in 1971 Year

The average literacy for the region was 33.90 percent for the 1971, being highest for the North Solapur tahsil, while lowest was for Mangalwedha tahsil. There are only four tahsils that show higher percentage of literates than the region average, these are in order of importance, North Solapur, Pandharpur, Barshi and Mohol. Rest of other tahsils represents low percentage of literates than the region average in the year 1971.

Table 1- Percent of literates to total population in solapur district (1971-2001)

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Percentage of literates				Change in 1971 to 2001
		1971	1981	1991	2001	
1.	Karmala	29.23	36.32	52.24	68.66	39.43
2.	Madha	30.86	40.58	57.02	70.14	39.28
3.	Barshi	35.47	44.19	61.67	74.09	38.63
4.	North Solapur	45.32	50.43	65.64	76.09	30.77
5.	Mohol	35.18	37.09	52.06	69.54	34.36
6.	Pandharpur	35.85	39.39	54.70	69.54	33.69
7.	Malshiras	28.39	36.49	54.09	71.67	43.28
8.	Sangola	25.85	33.52	49.73	66.28	40.43
9.	Mangalwedha	24.63	32.54	51.04	66.67	42.04
10.	South Solapur	28.77	33.61	49.45	67.37	38.60
11.	Akkalkot	28.78	35.00	46.39	67.74	38.96
	District Total	33.90	40.69	56.39	71.25	37.35

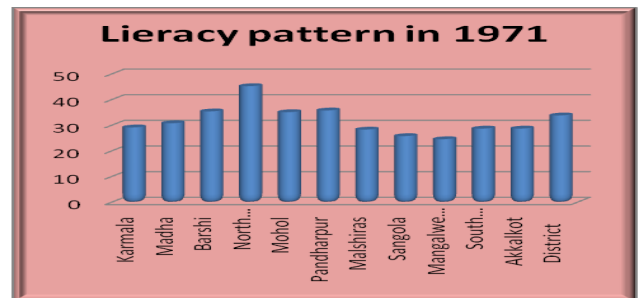


Fig. 2A-

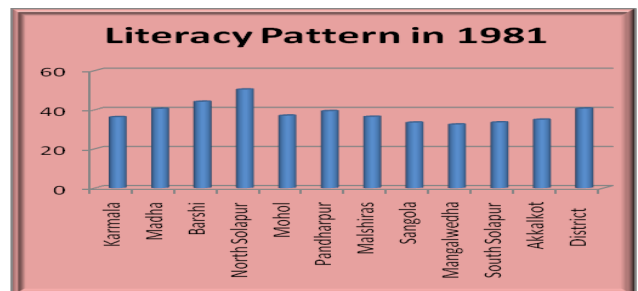


Fig. 2B-

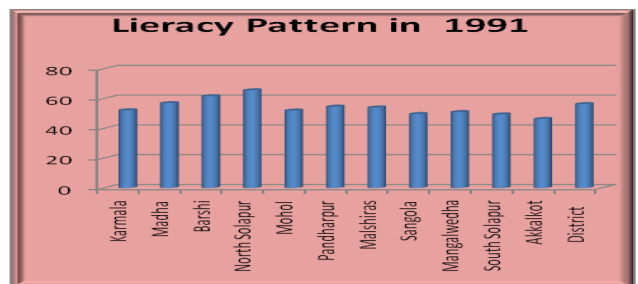


Fig. 2C-

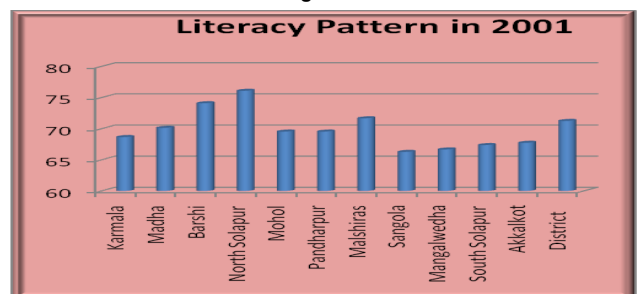


Fig. 2D-

Literacy pattern in 1981 Year

For the year 1981, the total literacy for the district was 40.69 percent. North Solapur Tahsil again retained the first position as regard to percentage of literates, while lowest again for the Mongalwedha tahsil. In this year, there were only two tahsils namely North Solapur and Barshi which were above the region average for the literacy, while rest other tahsils represented much lower percentage of literates below the average for the region.

Literacy pattern in 1991 Year

In the year 1991, the district total percentage for literates was estimated 56.39 percent; North Solapur has occupied the first position as far as the total literacy within the various tahsils concerned. In the year 1991, Akkalkot tahsil large behind than other tahsils of the district. There are wide variations in the percentage of literates within the district of Solapur. There are only two tahsils in the year 1991; having the higher proportion of literates than the region average.

Literacy pattern in 2001 Year

In the most recent decade for 2001, due to social awareness among the people, remarkable percentages of literate were recorded in the year 2001. For the district as a whole, the percentage of literate was observed 71.25 percent, being highest for the North Solapur tahsil while lowest for the Sangola tahsil. In the north Brashi and in the central part of region, the northern Solapur tahsil and in western part of district, Malshiras depict higher percentage than the region average. One more point to note that due to social awareness among the people, most of the tahsils of Solapur district have recorded very astonishing percentage of literate in most of the tahsils and as a result of this, there are not so wide variations in the literacy rate within the different tahsils of the Solapur district. It may be state that the primary education facilities are being made compulsory by the Government in order to improve the standard of living of the people. This has also been observed that now a day, parents living in the rural areas are taking increasing interest to teach their children without making distinction between male and female child. Other tahsils were found below the region average.

Overall change in Literacy pattern of Solapur District

The literacy of Solapur district tremendously increasing in last four decades. The rate of growth varies from tahsil to tahsil in study region. It is also influenced by many environmental as well as socio-economic and cultural factors.

Table 2- Overall change in Literacy pattern Solapur District (1971-2001)

Sr. No.	Change in literacy	No Of Tahsils	% to total	Name of Tahsils
1	High (above 40 %)	3	27.27	Malshiras, Sangola, Mangalwedha
2	Moderate (35 to 40%)	5	45.45	Karmala, Madha, Barshi, South Solapur, Akkalkot
3	Low (below 35 %)	3	27.27	North Solapur, Mohol, Pandharpur

Source :- Compiled by Researcher

The table 2 clearly shows that the high literacy is observed in Malshiras, Sangola and Mangalweda tahsil of Solapur district. After

increasing the educational facilities, increasing economic states, connectivity of villages to town and people attitude towards life are responsible for high increasing literacy rate. Moderate literacy observed in Karmala, Madha, Barshi, Akkalkot and south Solapur in study region. In these region lack of transportation network, low economic states, not good tendency towards the female literacy. Low increasing rate is observed in North Solapur, Mohol and Pandharpur tahsil of district but total literacy of this region is actually high in this tahsil. These tahsils are well developed and major cities are located in this region.

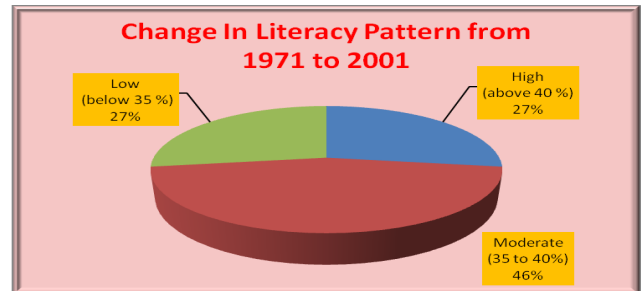


Fig. 3-

Conclusion

This paper studies that the spatio-temporal variation in literacy pattern of Solapur District. These variation can be attributed to social, cultural and economical factors severely impact on literacy of district. The high literacy is observed in Mohol and low in North western part of district. The comparative study between four decade shows the increasing in literacy slightly. The growth rate of literacy varies tahsil to tahsil in Solapur District. For increasing the literacy in especially in rural area need to provided transport facilities, totally free education, strong protection for girls, bank loan, etc.

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