
Spatial Analysis of Female Literacy in Religious Minorities of Uttar Pradesh, India

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Abstract

This study is related to the district-wise spatial analysis of female literacy in religious minorities of Uttar Pradesh. Analysis is based on district level secondary data obtained from the census of India (census report of 2001). The study reveals that during 2001 female literacy in Jains is (67.2%) followed by Sikhs (51.9%), Christians (50.4%), Buddhists (34.9%) and Muslims (31.7%). In Jains, male-female literacy difference is only 8%, whereas in others minorities this difference is high and in Buddhists it is very high. For example male-female difference in Buddhists is very high (24.2%) followed by others minorities (20.9%), Muslims (17.1%), Sikhs (15.6%), Christians (12%). In majority (Hindus) this difference is 14.2% which is lower than the Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities.

Key words: Female literacy, Religious minorities, Education, Economic status, Sex difference.

Introduction

The role of education as a catalyst or agent of social change has been well recognized. Education is said to determine the level of aspirations, technology, Productivity, efficiency etc. It has been felt that the education constitute some of the basic factors in the process of development. However, education has not received its due attention, particularly in the case of women. This is perhaps because the significance of the role of women in economic development has not been recognised in the society. Therefore, educating of women has been sadly neglected. An educated and skilled workforce contributes to higher economic growth. Education extends the horizon of general awareness of people by exposing them to

modern ideas and by developing rational thinking pattern for planning and decision-making. Thus, education of women can play an important role in affecting population growth. Since woman occupies a central position in the society, it is being used as a means of life and aiding the process of development.

Objective

The study of this paper is based on following objectives:

1. To evaluate sex different in literacy among the minorities of Uttar Pradesh
2. To analyze spatial pattern of female literacy in religious minorities.

Methodology

Analyses under the study are based on secondary source of information's, which are obtained from census of India (Census report, 2001). District-wise female literacy are computed and used for analysis. To identify spatial pattern, three broad categories such as areas of high female literacy rate (above 50%), areas of moderate female literacy rate (50% - 30%) and areas of low female literacy rate (below 30%) have been categorized. Analysed results are shown on maps through arc GIS software. Maps and obtained tabulated results are described below:

Study Area

The state of Uttar Pradesh is study area. Uttar Pradesh is located in the Northern part of India, particularly in the Northern Ganges plain between 23°53' N to 31°28' N latitudes and 77°33' E to 84°39' E longitudes. Uttar Pradesh is spreader over an area of 2, 40, 98 km². Uttar Pradesh is a large populous state in India, which has populations of 166, 197, and 921 (2001). The proportions of deferent religious population share in Uttar Pradesh as Hindus are 133, 979, 263 (80.7%), Muslims are 30, 740, 158 (18.5%), Sikhs are 678,059 (0.4%), Buddhists are 302,031 (0.2%), Christians are 212,578 (0.1%), Jains are 207,111 (0.1%) and others are 78721 (0.001).

Sex Different in Literacy Rate

According to our objectives, first sex difference in literacy rate in minorities of Uttar Pradesh is analysed. Various statistical parameters regarding sex difference as male and female literacy rates are mentioned in Table No. 1.

As far as female literacy of minorities is concerned it is observed that the highest female literacy rate (67.2%) is in Jains, because the Jains are economically strong and they give more emphasis on education, while

the lowest (31.7%) is found in Muslims because they are economically weak and orthodox. One another region for lower female literacy in Muslims is that the females of this community are considered as the dutiful home bird and there are fewer opportunities for them to participate in the economic struggle. Second highest female literacy (51.9%) is noticed in Sikhs because they are economically strong and employment conscious, while the second lowest female literacy is in Buddhists (34.9%) due to the poor economical condition and their conversion from low status schedule caste population in lure of opportunities. Therefore, Buddhists are not very much interested to provide education to females and they try to get early marriage of their daughters. Christian's female literacy is 50.4%, which is third in position among the all minorities region behind higher proportion is establishment of missionary's instruction for education in urban areas. The impact of sex difference on female literacy is significant and it is observed that in Jains male-female literacy difference is only 8%, whereas in others minorities this difference is high. For example Male-female literacy difference in Buddhists is very high (24.2%) followed by others (20.9%), Muslims (17.1%), Sikhs (15.6%), Christians (12%). If we compare it form male-female literacy difference of majorities i.e. Hindus this difference is 14.2%, which is higher than the Jains and Christians. In rest of the minorities such as Sikhs, Muslims, others and Buddhists this difference is lower.

Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy in Minorities

Spatial analysis of female literacy of minorities in Uttar Pradesh has taken place on district level. Females literacy rate in minorities of Uttar Pradesh are mentioned in Table No. 2. During our analysis, it is observed

that highest female literacy rate (86.0%) is noted in district Jyotiba Phule Nagar under the Jains community, whereas lowest female literacy rate (11.7%) is found in district Shrawasti under the Muslims among the all religions.

Based on the Table No. 2 three types of spatial patterns as mentioned in methodology are identified and represented in Fig. 1. The spatial pattern of female literacy in each minority is discussed as below.

Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy in Jains

Female literacy rate is higher in Jains almost in all religion than the other religions. The highest (86.0%) female literacy is found in Jyotiba Phule Nagar district, whereas lowest (26.8%) female literacy rate is observed in district Basti. In 43 districts of the state literacy rate is higher than the state's average of 67.2%, while in 27 districts literacy rate is lower than the state's average. Fig. 2 shows that only 3 district namely Basti, Maharajganj and Ballia has low literacy rate (below 30%). Whereas 57 districts such as Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Lucknow, Bijnor, Saharanpur, Meerut, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Moradabad, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Nagar, Mathura, Barabanki, Jhansi, Muzaffar Nagar, Hathras, Rae Bareli, Banda, Kannauj, Lalitpur, Baghpat, Rampur, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Firozabad, Sitapur, Agra, Hathras, Rae Bareli, Banda, Kannauj, Lalitpur, Baghpat, Rampur, Etawah, Farrukhbad, Firozabad, Sitapur, Agra, Hamirpur, Etah, Mainpuri, Badun, Sonbhadra, Bareilly, Mahoba, Bulandshahar, Gorakhpur, Bahraich, Varanasi, Sant Kabir Nagar, Mirzapur, Auraiya, Allahabad, Fatehpur, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Chandauli, Pratapgarh, Mau, Faizabad, Jalaun, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Kaushambi, Chitrakoot, Gonda, Kanpur Dehat, Balrampur, Kheri and Sultanpur have high female literacy rate (above 50%) in Jains. Rest 10 districts of the state have moderate female literacy rate (50% - 30%) in Jains.

Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy in Sikhs

Sikh's female literacy rate is also high and has second position in Uttar Pradesh. The highest (81.6%) female literacy in Sikhs is observed in Lucknow, while the lowest (18.2%) female literacy in Sikhs is found in district Kaushambi. The provincial state's average literacy rate is 51.9%. However, there are 31 districts higher than the state's average and 39 districts are below than the average literacy rate. Fig. 1 represents that only two districts Faizabad and Kushinagar have below 30% female literacy in Sikhs, whereas in 37 districts namely Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Sonbdadra, Faizabad, Agra, Gorakhpur, Rae Bareli, Mirzapur, Chandauli, Saharanpur, Auraiya, Varanasi, Moradabad, Etawah, Firozabad, Allahabad, Meerut, Bareilly, Farrukhabad, Gonda, Pratapgarh, Aligarh, Muzaffarnagar, Sultanpur, Lalitpur, Shahjahanpur, Mainpuri, Mahoba, Rampur, Bulandshahar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Bijnor, Jalaun and Basti the proportion of female literacy is higher (above 50%). Rest 31 districts of the state have moderate female literacy rate between 30% and 50%.

Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy in Christians

Christians are in third position based on female literacy among the all minorities. The highest female literacy (80.8%) in Christians is found in district Jhansi, while lowest female literacy rate (16.8%) is observed in district Shrawasti too. The average literacy rate in Christians is 50.4%. Out of 70 districts of the state, 26 districts have more than the state's average literacy rate, whereas 44 districts have less than the average. Fig. 1 shows that only three district Shrawasti, Balrampur and Bahraich have less than 30% female literacy, while 27 districts namely Jhansi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Ghaziabad, Mahoda, Varanasi, Meerut,

Table 1. Statistical Parameters of Female & Males Literacy Rate in Minorities (2001).

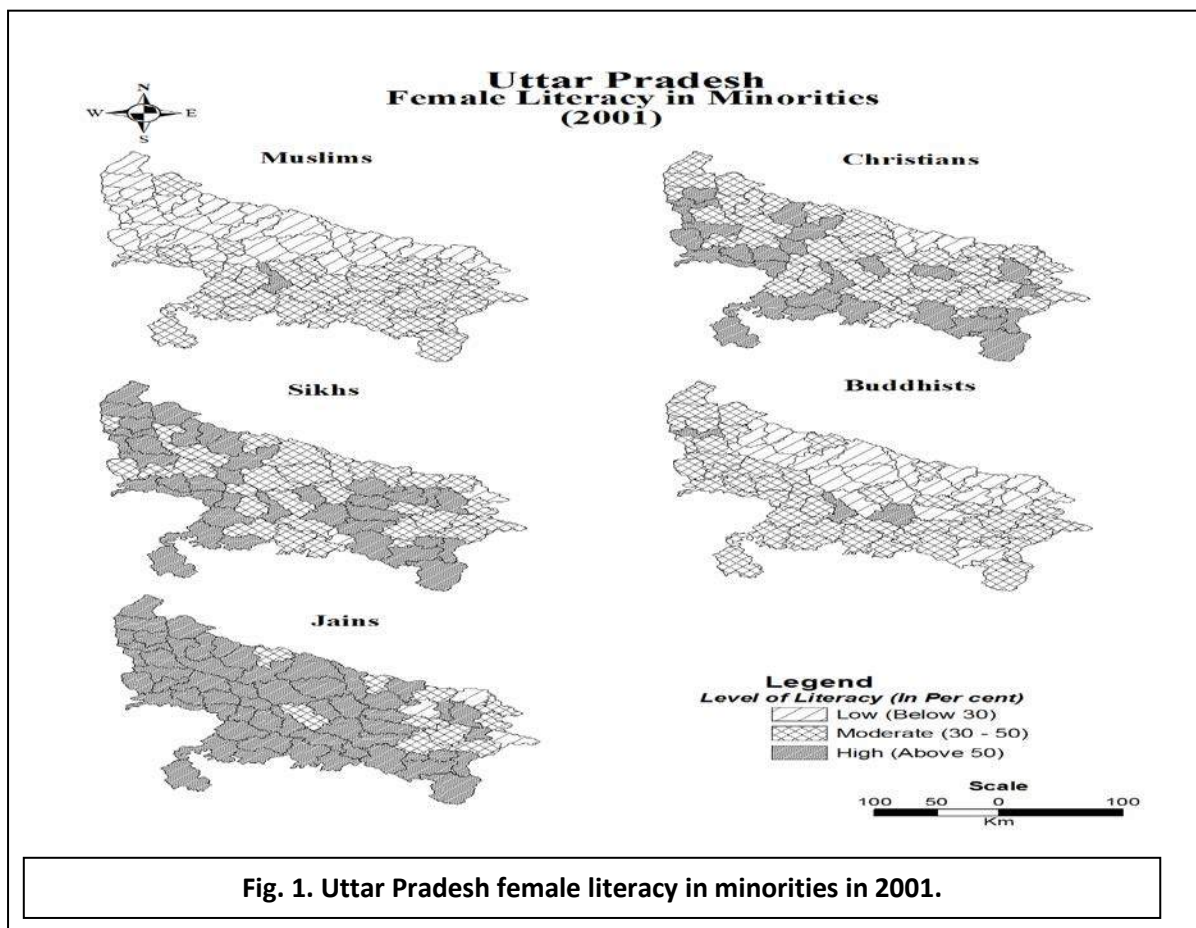
Statistical Parameters	Female & Males Literacy Rate									
	Muslims		Christians		Sikhs		Buddhists		Jains	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Average	31.7	48.8	50.4	62.4	51.9	67.5	34.9	59.1	67.2	75.2
Minimum	11.7	27.9	16.8	31.6	18.3	43.8	15.8	31.8	26.8	13.7
Maximum	50.9	63.5	80.8	83.6	81.6	85.8	57.4	79.8	86.0	88.4
S.D.	8.9	8.7	14.5	11.4	12.4	8.8	9.9	9.6	17.0	13.6

Table 2. District-Wise Females Literacy Rate in Minorities (2001).

Sl. No.	Districts	Females Literacy Rate					
		Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Others
1	Saharanpur	29.8	49.2	65.0	38.3	84.7	25.0
2	Muzaffarnagar	26.6	39.1	53.6	35.5	81.6	100.0
3	Baghpat	21.8	45.5	36.4	47.2	80.4	45.8
4	Meerut	27.6	69.0	58.2	46.8	83.8	70.6
5	Ghaziabad	27.9	73.7	74.2	56.3	82.9	73.9
6	G. B. Nagar	22.9	78.7	77.2	40.1	83.0	69.8
7	Bulandshahar	24.3	35.4	51.3	33.7	75.9	28.6
8	Bijnor	32.0	48.3	50.9	33.8	85.3	50.0
9	J. P. Nagar	24.3	39.6	48.5	39.7	86.0	100.0
10	Moradabad	20.9	46.7	60.7	26.9	83.0	33.3
11	Rampur	19.4	37.4	51.4	22.1	80.1	36.4
12	Bareilly	21.1	65.5	57.7	27.2	76.1	37.8
13	Badaun	20.1	38.1	36.3	21.5	76.9	5.0
14	Aligarh	27.8	57.2	53.9	33.5	82.8	52.6
15	Mathura	20.3	62.2	49.4	38.5	82.4	20.0
16	Agra	32.9	64.6	68.9	38.8	78.4	67.5
17	Hathras	23.5	38.1	44.1	41.3	81.4	0.0
18	Etah	22.5	47.3	37.5	34.7	77.0	50.0
19	Shahjahanpur	24.6	50.2	52.4	27.2	67.3	69.0
20	Pilibhit	22.5	42.6	46.0	34.1	48.5	22.4
21	Kheri	25.1	42.1	46.6	25.1	52.4	17.5
22	Firozabad	30.1	54.3	59.2	43.1	78.9	40.0
23	Mainpuri	29.5	59.2	52.3	46.1	77.0	50.0
24	Farrukhabad	30.5	63.7	56.3	42.3	79.2	50.0
25	Hardoi	26.3	42.2	42.7	29.0	64.8	13.8
26	Sitapur	26.9	49.0	49.2	21.9	78.8	41.4

27	Barabanki	25.2	37.8	42.2	24.1	81.9	33.3
28	Lucknow	47.5	80.3	81.6	49.8	86.0	83.2
29	Unnao	32.8	40.0	49.7	24.0	47.2	54.5
30	Kanpur Nagar	50.9	75.7	79.8	51.8	82.8	76.0
31	Kanpur Dehat	36.4	42.9	45.2	38.4	55.4	45.7
32	Auraiya	38.4	44.6	63.9	47.7	71.4	42.4
33	Kannauj	27.1	42.7	50.1	44.8	80.6	51.9
34	Etawah	39.2	60.4	60.7	47.8	80.0	16.7
35	Jalaun	34.3	43.3	50.3	33.3	61.1	11.1
36	Jhansi	48.3	80.8	72.4	47.8	81.9	82.6
37	Lalitpur	44.5	62.8	52.6	38.6	80.4	9.3
38	Mahoba	41.2	73.3	52.0	43.9	76.0	0.0
39	Hamirpur	39.5	54.3	46.4	43.8	77.3	50.0
40	Banda	34.5	57.2	44.2	36.6	80.6	50.0
41	Chitrakoot	40.2	42.0	46.6	47.4	59.4	100.0
42	Fatehpur	37.3	44.3	43.4	33.0	68.5	37.5
43	Rae Bareli	30.5	49.7	67.0	57.4	81.3	66.7
44	Sultanpur	30.9	40.6	53.2	28.1	51.7	13.0
45	Faizabad	37.9	61.5	70.8	41.2	61.4	43.8
46	Ambedkar Nagar	44.9	44.8	46.0	32.0	42.2	65.0
47	Pratapgarh	35.2	43.8	54.7	31.4	62.4	52.8
48	Kaushambi	33.9	36.4	18.2	32.7	59.6	0.0
49	Allahabad	42.7	67.6	58.7	41.7	70.1	66.0
50	Jaunpur	39.4	38.2	46.7	32.7	38.8	28.6
51	Azamgarh	47.6	44.0	36.1	30.7	46.9	17.3
52	Ghazipur	45.7	49.2	45.7	42.0	44.2	44.0
53	Ballia	45.7	49.1	41.4	43.6	29.9	31.6
54	Varanasi	35.7	70.9	63.4	47.3	75.2	72.6
55	Chandauli	34.9	63.0	65.2	35.2	62.5	36.9
56	Mirzapur	32.0	67.1	66.8	28.8	74.1	47.6
57	Sonbhadra	34.6	68.6	71.0	30.9	76.5	50.0
58	Bahraich	17.7	27.6	37.5	23.8	75.3	61.1
59	Shrawasti	11.7	16.8	39.5	33.3	33.3	0.0
60	Gonda	20.1	44.7	54.9	19.8	57.6	23.3
61	Balrampur	19.5	26.1	40.7	15.8	52.9	70.0
62	Siddharthnagar	28.0	34.5	32.8	16.3	31.6	5.3
63	Mahrajganj	23.1	30.9	43.9	19.6	27.3	42.9
64	Gorakhpur	40.4	79.0	67.0	25.8	75.8	34.2

65	S. K. Nagar	35.7	37.9	51.0	27.3	74.2	26.7
66	Basti	30.1	33.6	50.1	21.0	26.8	75.0
67	Kushinagar	23.1	36.9	29.0	18.8	40.3	9.6
68	Deoria	36.3	48.1	43.0	32.8	32.5	12.0
69	Mau	49.3	61.6	40.1	35.9	62.3	16.7
70	S. R. Nagar	34.7	37.1	36.8	19.6	59.7	19.6



Sonhadra, Allahabad, Mirzapur, Bareilly, Agra, Farrukhabad, Chandauli, Lalitpur, Mathura, Mau, Faizabad, Etawah, Mainpur, Banda, Aligarh, Hamirpur, Firozabad and Shahjahanpur have more than the 50% female literacy in Christians. Rest 40 districts have moderate level of female literacy (30% to 50%).

Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy in Buddhists

Female Literacy rate in Buddhists is on fifth position in all the minorities of Uttar Pradesh.

Table No. 2 and Fig. 1 reveal that highest (57.4) female literacy is observed in Rae Bareilly, while lowest (15.8%) female literacy is found in Balrampur district. There are 33 districts, where female literacy is higher than the state's average (34.9%), while in remaining 37 districts the female literacy are below the average. Fig. 1 shows that 22 districts namely Balrampur, Siddharth Nagar, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Gonda, Basti, Badaun, Sitapur, Rumpur, Bahraich, Unnao, Barabanki, Kheri, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sultanpur,

Mirzapur and Hardoi have comparatively low (more than 30%) literacy rate in Buddhists, whereas in is only in 3 districts namely Kanpur Nagar, Ghaziabad and Rae Bareli Buddhist's female literacy is higher (above 50%). Rest 38 districts have moderate (30% -50%) female literacy rate in Buddhists.

Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy in Muslims

Highest (50.9%) female literacy rate in Muslims is observed in Kanpur Nagar, while lowest (11.7%) female literacy rate is observed in district Shrawasti (Table No. 2). In Uttar Pradesh Average Muslim's literacy rate is 31.7%. About 34 districts have above and 36 districts have below the state's average. Fig. 1 shows that 31 districts namely Shrawasti, Bahraich, Rampur, Balrampur, Gonda, Badaun, Mathura, Moradabad, Bareilly, Baghpat, Pilibhit, Etaw, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Hathras, Jyotiba Phula Nagar, Bulandshahar, Shahjahanpur, Kheri, Barabanki, Hardoi, Muzaffarnagar, Sitapur, Kannauj, Meerut, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, Siddharthnagar, Mainpur, Saharanpur have less than 30% Muslim's female literacy rate, whereas 1 district Kanpur Nagar have more than 50% Muslim's literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh. Rest 38 districts have moderate (50% -30%) muslims female literacy rate.

Conclusion

Gender difference in literacy is remarkable in those communities where economic condition is not favorable and thoughts regarding the female child are also not positive. Particular attention needs to be paid to the sex difference in literacy and to promote female education especially in Muslims and Buddhists. Although the Government has given more emphasis on the opening of schools and *madarsas* in the state but Government do not take care about the presence of student and their quality of education, therefore literacy

level and the development of societies are not achieved as desired in the state.

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