

# SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE ON SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN KARNATAKA

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## Abstract

Education is one of the important needs of life and less degree of literacy is an obstacle to economic growth. Literacy reflects socio-economic and cultural setup of nation, ethnic group or community or a region. Other consideration is that the concept of literacy generally refers to the minimum level of literacy skills. Thus literacy is that qualitative attribute of population which is a fairly reliable Index of socio-economic development of an area. Hence, the present paper has been aimed to examine the spatial pattern of SC/ST literacy in Karnataka from 1961-2001. Such analysis of trend in literacy assumes added significance for a state like Karnataka where the society and Economy have been experiencing a significant change during recent years among the down trodden population likes SC/ST and other.

## Key words:

## Introduction

Education is one of the important needs of life and less degree of literacy is an obstacle to economic growth. Literacy reflects socio-economic and Cultural set up of nation, ethnic group or community or a region. Other consideration is that the concept of literacy generally refers to the minimum level of literacy skills (Golden H.H). The Indian Census defines a person who would both read and write with understanding in any language is recorded as literate. Thus, literacy is that qualitative attribute of population which is a fairly reliable index of socio-economic development of an area. A certain minimum level of literacy is, therefore a basic requirement for the people to get out of ignorance and backwardness (Chaurasia, B.P., 1990). Under these circumstances of literacy importance, the researcher felt to study the literacy amongst SC/ST population of Karnataka.

Such analysis of trend in literacy assumes added significance for a state like Karnataka where the society and economy have been experiencing a significant change during recent years among the down trodden population like SC/ST and other.

The spatio temporal trend of literacy among this population is not uniform. In 1961, general literacy percentage of Mysore State was estimated at 20.6 per cent while it was just 4.6% for Scheduled Caste and 0.2% for Scheduled Tribes to the total population. In 2011, general literacy percentage of Karnataka State is estimated at 75.4% while it is 9.75% for Scheduled Caste and 3.75% for Scheduled Tribes to the total population of the state.

In the year 1961 the literacy ratio was just 9% of the total SC/ST population and it jumped to an extent of 56.00% by 2011. Remarkable increase took place for the down trodden community. There is considerable variation in the distribution of literate persons as well there is also a clear distinctive variation between male and female literacy.

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## Objectives of the present study

To know the spatial pattern of SC/ST literacy form 1961-2011. To study the distribution of SC/ST literacy variation between male and female literacy. The literacy rate of population has been calculated by dividing the literate population and total population data and multiplying it by 100.

### Spatial Pattern of Literacy form 1961-2011

The division -wise break up of literacy among SC/ST population reveals that there is low literacy throughout the state of Karnataka compared to other states of the country. The computed figure shows district wise variation in literacy of SC/ST population during 1961-2011.

Four Zones are identified as follows:

The areas of very high literacy rate (above 7%). The areas of high literacy rate (5%-7%). The areas of moderate literacy rate (3%-5%). The areas of low literacy rate (Below 3%).

#### 1. The areas of very high literacy rate (above 7%)

In 1961 the districts which come under this are Bangalore (18.51%), Kolar (10.33%), Belgaum (9.52%) and Mysore (7.72%), whereas in 2011 the districts which come under the very high literacy rate are Bangalore (Urban) (11.74%) and Mysore (6.08%). But compared to General Population, the literacy in this sector are extremely poor. The cause for this, are the negligence by all either government or by the upper castes of Hindus. Except Bangalore (18.51%), though other districts (3) full under very high but the percentage of literates is very poor. (Negligible)

By 2011 there was a lot of change in the society and the policy and programmers', put up by the Government and NGOs, to improve overall educational level of SC/STs and there is an increasing trend in literacy during this period and it is quite satisfactory. Of course, within small span, it is not possible to change the scenario of this down trodden community on a modern scenario.

#### 2. The areas of high literacy rate (5%-7%)

The areas of high literacy rate in 1961 the districts which come under this are Chitradurga (6.08%), Tumkur (6.08%), Dharwad (6.05%) and Bijapur (5.52%). Whereas in 2011 the districts which come under the high literacy rate are Belgaum (5.88%) & Tumkur (5.23%)

#### 3. The areas of moderate literacy rate (3%-5%)

In 1961 the moderate literacy percentage found in four districts. namely. Shimoga (4.5%), Dakshina Kannada (4.01%), Hassan (3.39%), and Mandya (3.63%), In 2011 the districts which come under moderate literacy are Chitradurga (4.90%), Davanagere (4.32%), Bidar (4.14%) Kolar (4.07%), Gulbarga (4.03%), Raichur (3.83%) & Chikkaballapura (3.04%).

#### 4. The areas of low literacy rate (Below 3%)

The districts come under the low literacy are Bellary (2.94%), Gulbarga (2.83%), Chikkamagalur (2.77%), Uttara Kannada (1.85%), Raichur (1.62%), Kodagu (1.54%), and Bidar (1.42%). These district in 1961 having low percentage of literacy because these regions are mainly located in the Western and Northern parts of the state. Where SC and STS are engaged purely for petty things and these people unavoidably had to depend on this small work for their survival. Since SC/ST population are mainly located in the tracts in

Bellary, Uttara Kannada and Chikamagalur districts, implementation of education schemes are not an easy and secondly the Government started giving importance to these population only after 1971. In case of Raichur, Gulbarga and partly in Bellary. The SC/ST are concentrated in the remote villages. The Malnad consists more than 46% of forest areas and the northern parts mainly dry region which have peculiar characteristics in the distribution of rural settlements which has affected on education also.

Whereas in 2011, 18 districts come under the low literacy areas. They are Bijapura (2.94%), Shimoga (2.75%), Hassan (2.73%), Haveri and Koppal (2.58%), Bagalakote (2.48%), Chamarajnagar (2.47%), Chikamagalur (2.21%), Mandya (2.09%), Dharwad (2.00%), Bangalore (R) (1.98%), D. Kannada (1.97%), Yadgir (1.82%), Gadaga (1.58%), Ramanagara (1.56%), U. Kannada (1.22%), Udupi (1.11%), Kodagu (1.00%).

### **SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF LITERACY OF SC/ST IN KARNATAKA STATE-1961-2011**

As per the Census of 1961 the numerical strength of SC/ST literates were just 2, 98,129 with overall percentage of 9% which is very smallest compared to other States. Where as in 2011 the overall literates of SC/ST, has increased to 82,45,674 (56.00%).

This kind of increase in literacy is mainly the education taken by female population also. The literacy rate in urban areas has increased more than 40.60% mainly due to infrastructure and education facilities along with awareness. Apart from these reasons, government has given lot of scope to the SC/ST to uplift them through education. For this all facilities were extended from food, clothes, residence, to scholarships from primary to higher education. In 1961 the overall population of SC/ST was very low and the SC/ST were not aware of the importance of education and were not exposed to the education systems, which lead to the low percentage i.e., 9% which is a pathetic one. In Karnataka State the SC/ST literacy rate ranging from 35.75 % to 71.4%.

#### **Literacy among the SC/ST in 2011**

According to 2011 census the literacy rate among the scheduled castes of Karnataka was better than of the scheduled tribes. As against the Karnataka average of 20.28 percent of SC/ST, the districts of Chitradurga (37.18%), Chamarajnagar (33.04%), Kolar (33.04%), Bellary (32.89%), Bidar (32.76%), Raichur (32.23%), Chikkaballapura (32.07%), Yadgir (29.45%), Davanagere (27.56%), Koppal (26.34%), Mysore (25.56%) had more than 25% of the SC/ST population under the category of literates. Other 13 districts namely, Tumkur (23.80%),

Bangalore (R) (23.78%), Gulbarga (23.28%), Chikamagalur (22.23%), Haveri (19.58%), Bijapur (19.47%), Ramanagara (19.12%), Gadaga (18.61%), Bagalakote (18.37%), Hassan and Kodagu (18.36%), Shimoga (18.00%), Belgaum (15.91%) had a moderate literacy rate at over 15% literacy, but still more than the state's average rate of 17.34 percent literacy.

Another six districts, namely Mandya (14.98%), Bangalore (12.89%), Dharwad (12.69%), Udupi (9.89%), D. Kannada (9.76%) had less literacy than the state's average and U. Kannada have the lowest % of literacy i.e. 9.32.

Looking at the literacy among the male and females separately, it is identified that most of the districts male literacy is much higher than that of the females. For the state as a whole, the SC/ST male literacy average in 2011 was 20.88% as against 19.54% of the females. However, considerable variations among different districts in respect of both the male and female's literacy.

As regards to male literacy, seven districts viz., Chitradurga, Chamarajnagar, Bellary, Bidar, Raichur, Kolar, Yadgir had above 30% of the males in the category of literates, and

Chitradurga have literates the highest percentage of over 38.12%. 9 districts had male literacy between 20%and 30% .But one district with male literacy below is the state's average i.e. U.Kannda having the lowest male literacy i.e.9.39% only

### LITERACY RATE 1961-2011

Year	Persons literacy	General	Scheduled literacy	Caste	Scheduled Tribes literacy	Persons
1961	28.80		4.83		4.13	
1971	36.83		13.89		14.85	
1981	46.21		20.59		20.45	
1991	56.04		38.06		36.01	
2001	67.04		44.81		40.73	
2011	75.4		56.85		53.89	

Table 1. TOTAL LITERCY OF SC/ST population in KARNATAKA STATE- 1961-2011.

S.LNO	Districts/State	Total SC/ST Literacy(1961)	%	Total SC/ST Literacy(2011)	%
	Karnataka	298129	9.00	8245674	53.00
1	Bangalore	55205	18.51	968487	11.74
2	Bangalore (R)	_____	_____	163808	1.98
3	Bagalkot	_____	_____	204569	2.48
4	Belgaum	28380	8.52	485658	5.88
5	Bellary	8761	2.94	467562	5.67
6	Bidar	4205	1.42	341593	4.14
7	Bijapur	16600	5.57	243031	2.94
8	Chamarajnagar	_____	_____	203990	2.47
9	Cikkabllapur	_____	_____	251197	3.04
10	Chikkamagalur	8273	2.77	181952	2.21
11	Chitradurga	18144	6.08	404338	4.90
12	Dakshinkannada	11939	4.01	162587	1.97
13	Davanigere	_____	_____	356232	4.32
14	Dharwad	18016	6.05	165298	2.00
15	Gadag	_____	_____	130299	1.58
16	Gulburga	8435	2.83	332395	4.03
17	Hassan	10110	3.39	225055	2.73
18	Haveri	_____	_____	212589	2.58
19	Kodagu	4596	1.54	75824	1.00
20	Kolar	30819	10.33	335789	4.07
21	Koppal	_____	_____	213106	2.58
22	Mandaya	10846	3.63	172271	2.09
23	Mysore	23011	7.72	501590	6.08
24	Raichur	4802	1.62	315815	3.83
25	Ramanagaram	_____	_____	129035	1.56
26	Shimoga	12361	4.15	227229	2.75
27	Tumkur	18138	6.08	431722	5.23
28	Udupi	_____	_____	91645	1.11
29	Uttar kannada	5497	1.85	100810	1.22
30	Yadgir	_____	_____	150209	1.82

Sources: Censuses of hand book, Government of Indian, 1961 & 2011.

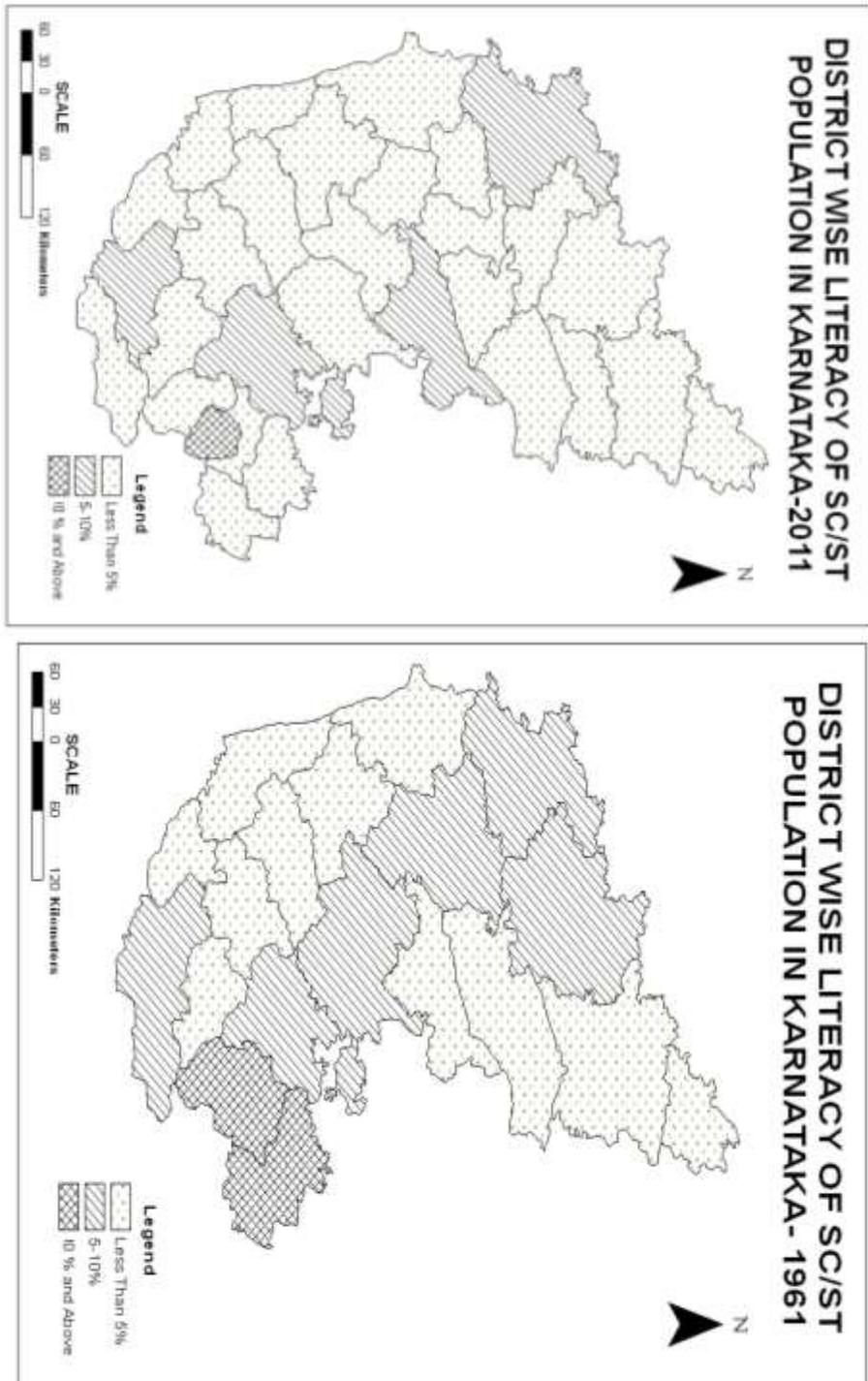


Figure 1. District wise SC/ST Literacy Rate-1961 & 2011.

As regards to female literacy, Chamarajnagar is at the top with 36.23% literate females. Chitradurga (36.00%), Kolar (32.95%), Bellary (31.46%), Bidar (31.86%), Chikkaballapura (31.30%), Raichur (30.45%), literate females were much better than all other districts. Davanagere, Koppal, Mysore, Yadgir, Tumkur, Bangalore (R), Gulbarga and Chikkaballapura, though far behind, yet had literacy between 20 to 30 percent of the category of literates. Another 12 districts also had a higher female literacy than the state's average, yet there are 15 districts viz., Ramanagara, Haveri, Bijapur, Bagalakovote, Gadaga, Hassan, Kodagu, Shimoga, Belgaum, Mandya, Bangalore, Dharwad, D. Kannada, Udipi and U. Kannada had less female literacy than the state's average. However, U. Kannada and Udipi were the worst with under 9 percent women in the category.

## Findings

The literacy rate of SC/ST population in Karnataka state has been increased from 1961-2011. In 1961 literacy rate state was just 9.00% and it rose to an extent of 56.00% in 2011. It is mainly due to the given special attention by the central and state Government. Special programmes have been undertaken effectively in the successive five year plans and the size of investment on these special programmes has increased with each successive plan. Amongst all the districts Udipi (71.41) ranking first in the SC/STs in literacy rate. An increase of literacy rate is also found in Yadgir district i.e., 35.75%. The reason for this is mainly of occupation of SC/STs in those respective districts. Udipi district is economically, culturally and socially on a different footing and value of education had played a major role. Male-female SC/ST literacy varies in different parts of the state. The low differential areas are observed in western and eastern parts and high in southern parts. But low differential areas have low female literacy rate, prevalence of social prejudices, trend of early marriage and general poverty. The high differential is due to the high proportion of non-agricultural workers, high female literacy, and high level of urbanization etc.

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