



## Geographical Rhetoric's of Literacy in Urban and Rural Areas of Karnataka State

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### Abstract

Karnataka is 66 years old. Since its formation, the state's economy has changed dramatically. The state's GSDP and GSDP per capita have risen while the economy has grown and urbanised. The state's economic statistics are robust. However, Karnataka's human and social development may not be as noteworthy as its other achievements. It ranks 19th in India's HDI. The image of literacy does not link with the picture of the state's growth, despite the fact that the literacy rate in Karnataka is higher than the literacy rate of the country as a whole. The development narrative of Karnataka's economy is quite lengthy, but the state of Karnataka in terms of human development and social development may not sound as good compared to its other performances. The goal of this article is to talk about the literacy rates in each district of Karnataka state, based on the results of the 2011 census. The researchers' primary focus has been on determining the levels of literacy present in Karnataka's urban and rural communities throughout the state's many different districts. The report also underlines the difference between the literacy rates of men and women in the state's urban and rural districts.

**Keywords:** Literacy; Disparity; Rural and Urban

### Introduction

The state of Karnataka is in the south-western part of India. It was established following the enactment of the States Reorganisation Act on 1 November 1956. In 1973, the state formerly known as Mysore was renamed Karnataka. The name of the state is derived from the Carnatic region. The state's economy has changed dramatically since its inception. Both the state's GSDP and per capita GSDP have grown, indicating a developed and urbanised economy. The state has the strongest economic

indicators among Indian states. With an estimated GSDP growth of 8.2% in the 2010–11 fiscal year, Karnataka is one of the fastest-growing states in India (The Hindu, 2011). Karnataka's 2010–2011 GSDP is estimated to be at 2719.56 billion (Bernardo et al., 2010). Compared to other states, Karnataka's GDP and per capita GDP grew at the fastest pace in the last decade. In 2008–09, the most money went to GSDP from the tertiary sector (US \$31.6 billion), the secondary sector (US \$17 billion), and the primary sector (US \$9.5 billion). (Ekonomi & Borobudur, 2009).

Karnataka's GDP per capita jumped 17.57 percent from 259,803 INR (lakhs) in 2020 to 305,458 INR (lakhs) in 2021, according to the country's official statistics (knoema blog. (n.d.)). GDP per capita increased by 173.00 percent in 2021, following a 13.52 percent increase in 2012.

Currently, Karnataka has the sixth-largest GDP of any Indian state, while its Human Development Index score is the nineteenth-highest among Indian states. Automobiles, agricultural, aerospace, textiles and garments, biotechnology, and heavy engineering are thriving sectors in Karnataka (MSME, 2012). The state contains sector-specific special economic zones (SEZs) for vital businesses like IT, biotechnology, engineering, food processing, and aerospace. The fourth biggest technological cluster in the world is located in Karnataka, India's IT capital. As of October 2020, the country operates 34 SEZs. Karnataka's unique flora and fauna and 320 kilometres of natural coastline make it an ideal destination for nature tourists. The number of tourists that visited the state rose from 214.85 million in 2018 to 228.5 million in 2019 (Ekonomi & Borobudur, 2009). Karnataka is also the garment centre of India, accounting for almost one-fifth of the nation's total garment production. Karnataka specialises in a competent workforce.

## Research Problem

Karnataka has successfully completed sixty-six years since it was first established. The economy of the state has seen a dramatic shift since its creation. Not only have the state's GSDP and GDP per capita gone up, but the economy has also become more developed and urbanised. The state has strong economic indicators among Indian states.

However, Karnataka's human and social development may not be as impressive as its other accomplishments (Sri-C. Mallanna, n.d.). It ranks nineteenth in the Human Development Index among Indian states. According to the 2011 Census Report, Karnataka ranks thirteenth in terms of literacy among the largest states in the nation. However, it ranks thirteenth in terms of female literacy. Although the literacy rate in Karnataka is greater than the national average, the picture of literacy does not match the state's image of progress. According to the 2011 census, the present study examines the literacy rates of all Karnataka districts. The researcher has focused primarily on analysing the literacy rate in rural and urban regions of Karnataka. In addition, the research stresses the differentiating male and female literacy rates in the state's urban and rural districts. Karnataka is situated approximately between 11.5° North and 18.5° North latitudes and 74° East and 78.5° East longitudes.

## Study area

Karnataka is situated in the south western part of India. Karnataka is roughly located between the latitudes of 11.5°

North and 18.5° north, and the longitudes of 74° East and 78.5° East. The state stretches around 191,791 square kilometres and surrounds the western coast of the Indian subcontinent. Karnataka is on the Deccan Plateau, and the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats meet there to form the Nilgiri Hills. The length of Karnataka from north to south is around 750 kilometres, while its width from east to west is approximately 400 kilometres. Karnataka has around 320 kilometres of coastline. Karnataka's position within the Indian subcontinent is coveted due to its long length of gorgeous coastline, high, verdant hills, and favourable climate. Karnataka borders the Arabian Sea and the Laccadive Sea. In terms of land area, Karnataka is the seventh biggest state in India, and it shares borders with one union territory and six states. Goa is located north-west of Karnataka. The state has a northern border with Maharashtra. Karnataka is located to Karnataka's northeast, while Andhra Pradesh shares its eastern border. On the map, Tamil Nadu is located on the south-east side, whereas Kerala borders it on the south-west.

## Objectives of the Study

The current study research has been composed with the following objectives in mind:

1. To exhibit the condition of literacy in Karnataka according to the 2011 census
2. To investigate variations between rural and urban literacy in the state
3. To examine the variations among male and female literacy rates in urban and rural Karnataka.

## Hypotheses

Prior to examining the data, the researcher developed the following hypotheses:

There is no significant difference between rural and urban literacy in the state.

There is a major difference between urban male and urban female literacy levels.

There is no significant disparity between female and male rates of literacy in the state.

There is a major difference between rural male and female literacy.

## Research Methodology

This report was compiled using secondary sources. Secondary data that has been published or data that has not been published has been considered secondary data. For this investigation, only the most trustworthy sources were used. The statistical data has been tabulated correctly. Statistical testing of hypotheses has also been performed using the proper instrument (t-test). Accordingly, conclusions have been reached.



## Literacy in Karnataka State

The literacy rate is one of the most vital socioeconomic indicators in any nation (Manjunatha NK, 2017). Human capital is regarded as one of the most important aspects in quickening the growth process. From this viewpoint, it is essential to monitor the progress of literacy. Human capital is enhanced as a result of an increase in the literacy rate. The following table depicts the state of Karnataka's literacy development.

The data shown in the table above details the literacy rates for the Indian state of Karnataka and the whole country of India from 1991 to 2011 (Final Census Report), as well as the current situation of the gender gap. The details of the table reveal that both the state of Karnataka and the country as a whole have consistently improved their literacy rates. During each census, Karnataka has a higher literacy rate than the rest of the country. Karnataka has a much higher female literacy rate than the national average. When it comes to literacy rates, there is a significant disparity between males and females in both the state of Karnataka and the rest of the nation as a whole. However, the gender gap has been shrinking since 1991. Obviously, this improvement might be deemed quite sluggish. Karnataka, which has a higher literacy rate than the national average, ranks thirteenth among the top 28 states in terms of literacy.

In terms of female literacy, Karnataka is ranked thirteenth. Since 1991, the gender difference in illiteracy has been diminishing in Karnataka and throughout the nation. However, this disparity differs by state. According to the 2011 census, the literacy and gender disparities in Karnataka and its individual districts are as mentioned in the following table.

According to the 2011 census, Table 2 provides a description of the state of Karnataka's and its different districts' literacy rates. This table also displays the overall literacy rate, as well as the literacy rate in rural and urban areas individually. In both of them (rural vs. urban and overall literacy), there are also separate charts for men and women. This provides a comprehensive image of the literacy rates of various regions, such as rural and urban, and classes, such as male and female. This data table also illustrates a few further variations.

According to the information in the table, 75.36 percent of Karnataka's population is literate. This state's rate of literacy is higher than the national average by 1.32 percentage points. The state's literacy rate improved by 8.56 percent, from 67.04 to 75.60 percent, between 2001 and 2011. This decade has seen a decline in the state's literacy rate compared to 1991-2001, when it stood at 9.03 percent. The national literacy rate has improved from 52.21 percent to 64.83 percent over this time period. Thus, the country's overall literacy rate has improved by 12.62 percent.

During the period from 1991 to 2001, Karnataka's literacy rate increased at a slower pace than the national average. During the years 2001–2011, the state's literacy rate declined

more than the national average. Karnataka is ranked 13th out of the 28 states in terms of literacy. The analysis of Table 2 leads to the following significant findings:

1. The district with the highest literacy rate in Karnataka is Dakshinakannada, at 88.57 percent, while the district with the lowest literacy rate is Yadgir, at 51.83 percent.
2. In Karnataka, the male literacy rate is 82.85 percent, and the female literacy rate is 68.13 percent. As a result, there is a 14.72 percent difference in literacy rates between men and women. In contrast, male and female literacy rates were 56.04 percent in 1991 and 67.04 percent in 2001. In this aspect, the literacy gap between women and men has reduced from 2001 to 2011 due to the rise in literacy. In each of Karnataka's 30 districts, women have a lower percentage of literacy than males. The district with the highest female literacy rate is Dakshina Kannada, with 84.13 percent, while the district with the lowest female literacy rate is Yadgiri, with 41.48 percent. Raichur district has the highest gap between male and female literacy, at 21.74 percent, while Bangalore urban district has the lowest, at 7 percent.
3. In Karnataka, urban literacy is 17.04 percent higher than rural literacy. In 1991, the gap was 22.92 percent, while in 2001 it was 18.84 percent. Consequently, the difference between rural and urban literacy in Karnataka has narrowed between 2001 and 2011. In all districts of Karnataka, rural regions have a lower rate of literacy than urban areas. At 24.96 percent, Yadgiri district has the largest literacy gap between rural and urban regions, while Dakshina Kannada district has the lowest, at 6.79 percent.
4. Comparable findings are found when the disparity between male and female literacy in the state of Karnataka and its districts is analysed separately for rural and urban regions. This indicates that the female literacy rate is lower than the male literacy rate in all the rural and urban regions. Rural women have the lowest literacy rate in the state of Karnataka and in all of its districts.
5. The 2011 census reveals large disparities in the levels of literacy between rural and urban regions in Karnataka State. With a mean score of 69.4917 for rural regions and 83.8880 for urban areas, the rural and urban areas of Karnataka vary significantly in terms of literacy. This may not be a motivating factor for human resource development given the disparity between the two regions. Based on the 2011 census, a comparison of rural and urban literacy in different districts of Karnataka showed a significant difference. The t-value (-7.737) was not significant at the 0.05 level of significance ( $p < 0.05$ ). Hence, the suggested hypothesis is rejected.



Table 1. Literacy Rate of Karnataka and India

| Sl. No. | Census | India    |        |       |                                | Census | Karnataka |        |       |                                |
|---------|--------|----------|--------|-------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|--------------------------------|
|         |        | Literacy |        |       | Gender differences in literacy |        | Literacy  |        |       | Gender differences in literacy |
|         |        | Male     | Female | Total |                                |        | Male      | Female | Total |                                |
| 1       | 1991   | 64.13    | 39.29  | 52.21 | 24.84                          | 1991   | 67.26     | 44.34  | 56.04 | 22.92                          |
| 2       | 2001   | 75.26    | 53.67  | 64.83 | 21.59                          | 2001   | 76.29     | 57.45  | 67.04 | 18.84                          |
| 3       | 2011   | 82.14    | 65.46  | 74.04 | 16.68                          | 2011   | 82.85     | 68.13  | 75.60 | 14.72                          |

Table 2. Literacy in Karnataka State (Percentage According to 2011 Census)

| Sl. No. | District         | Overall Literacy |          |        | Rural Literacy |       |        | Urban Literacy |       |        | Difference in Male, Female lit. |       | Difference in Urban-Rural |       |        |       |
|---------|------------------|------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|         |                  | Total            | Male     | Female | Total          | Male  | Female | Total          | Male  | Female | Rural                           | Urban | Total                     | Male  | Female | Total |
|         |                  | 1                | Bagalkot | 68.82  | 79.23          | 58.40 | 64.20  | 75.77          | 52.58 | 78.58  | 86.55                           | 70.65 | 23.20                     | 15.90 | 20.83  | 10.77 |
| 2       | Bangalore        | 87.67            | 91.01    | 84.01  | 78.21          | 84.54 | 70.92  | 88.61          | 91.66 | 85.27  | 13.61                           | 6.39  | 6.99                      | 7.13  | 14.35  | 10.40 |
| 3       | Bangalore Rural  | 77.93            | 84.82    | 70.63  | 75.16          | 83.06 | 66.80  | 85.37          | 89.57 | 80.95  | 16.27                           | 8.62  | 14.19                     | 6.51  | 14.15  | 10.21 |
| 4       | Belgaum          | 73.48            | 82.20    | 64.58  | 69.28          | 79.12 | 59.20  | 85.56          | 91.10 | 79.95  | 19.91                           | 11.15 | 17.62                     | 11.98 | 20.74  | 16.28 |
| 5       | Bellary          | 67.43            | 76.64    | 58.09  | 61.81          | 72.42 | 51.02  | 76.63          | 83.58 | 69.62  | 21.40                           | 13.96 | 18.55                     | 11.16 | 18.60  | 14.82 |
| 6       | Bidar            | 70.51            | 79.09    | 61.55  | 66.73          | 76.28 | 56.82  | 81.81          | 87.42 | 75.88  | 19.46                           | 11.54 | 17.54                     | 11.14 | 19.06  | 15.09 |
| 7       | Bijapur          | 67.15            | 77.21    | 56.72  | 62.81          | 74.03 | 51.10  | 81.33          | 87.80 | 74.79  | 22.93                           | 13.01 | 20.49                     | 13.78 | 23.70  | 18.52 |
| 8       | Chamara-janagar  | 61.43            | 67.93    | 54.92  | 57.95          | 64.80 | 51.06  | 78.39          | 83.29 | 73.54  | 13.73                           | 9.75  | 13.01                     | 18.49 | 22.48  | 20.44 |
| 9       | Chikkaballa-pura | 69.76            | 77.75    | 61.55  | 66.39          | 75.41 | 57.10  | 81.57          | 86.01 | 77.06  | 18.31                           | 8.95  | 16.20                     | 10.60 | 19.96  | 15.18 |
| 10      | Chikmagalur      | 79.25            | 85.41    | 73.16  | 76.95          | 83.82 | 70.15  | 87.93          | 91.40 | 84.51  | 13.68                           | 6.89  | 12.25                     | 7.58  | 14.36  | 10.98 |
| 11      | Chitradurga      | 73.71            | 81.37    | 65.88  | 70.68          | 79.19 | 61.91  | 85.89          | 90.22 | 81.55  | 17.28                           | 8.67  | 15.49                     | 11.03 | 19.64  | 15.21 |
| 12      | Dakshina Kannada | 88.57            | 93.13    | 84.13  | 85.33          | 90.97 | 79.83  | 92.12          | 95.50 | 88.83  | 11.14                           | 6.66  | 9.00                      | 4.52  | 9.00   | 6.79  |
| 13      | Davanagere       | 75.74            | 82.40    | 68.91  | 71.77          | 79.63 | 63.69  | 84.02          | 88.19 | 79.77  | 15.94                           | 8.42  | 13.49                     | 8.55  | 16.07  | 12.25 |
| 14      | Dharwad          | 80.00            | 86.37    | 73.46  | 72.09          | 80.98 | 62.72  | 85.92          | 90.49 | 81.31  | 18.26                           | 9.18  | 12.91                     | 9.51  | 18.59  | 13.83 |
| 15      | Gadag            | 75.12            | 84.66    | 65.44  | 71.86          | 82.83 | 60.62  | 80.94          | 88.01 | 73.92  | 22.20                           | 14.09 | 19.22                     | 5.18  | 13.30  | 9.07  |
| 16      | Hassan           | 76.07            | 83.64    | 68.60  | 72.79          | 81.41 | 64.29  | 88.36          | 91.94 | 84.81  | 17.12                           | 7.12  | 15.03                     | 10.52 | 20.52  | 15.57 |
| 17      | Haveri           | 77.40            | 84.00    | 70.46  | 75.69          | 83.05 | 67.89  | 83.39          | 87.39 | 79.29  | 15.16                           | 8.10  | 13.55                     | 4.34  | 11.40  | 7.70  |
| 18      | Kodagu           | 82.61            | 87.19    | 78.14  | 81.09          | 85.94 | 76.37  | 91.48          | 94.41 | 88.58  | 9.57                            | 5.83  | 9.05                      | 8.46  | 12.21  | 10.39 |
| 19      | Kolar            | 74.39            | 81.81    | 66.84  | 69.08          | 78.11 | 59.82  | 86.13          | 90.05 | 82.18  | 18.29                           | 7.87  | 14.97                     | 11.94 | 22.36  | 17.05 |
| 20      | Koppal           | 68.09            | 78.54    | 57.55  | 66.05          | 77.12 | 54.85  | 78.03          | 85.48 | 70.59  | 22.27                           | 14.90 | 20.99                     | 8.37  | 15.74  | 11.98 |
| 21      | Mandya           | 70.40            | 78.27    | 62.54  | 67.78          | 76.34 | 59.21  | 83.24          | 87.78 | 78.75  | 17.13                           | 9.03  | 15.73                     | 11.45 | 19.54  | 15.47 |
| 22      | Mysore           | 72.79            | 78.46    | 67.06  | 63.29          | 70.64 | 55.78  | 86.09          | 89.50 | 82.67  | 14.86                           | 6.83  | 11.40                     | 18.86 | 26.89  | 22.80 |
| 23      | Raichur          | 59.56            | 70.47    | 48.73  | 54.11          | 66.01 | 42.37  | 75.12          | 83.10 | 67.10  | 23.65                           | 16.00 | 21.74                     | 17.09 | 24.73  | 21.01 |
| 24      | Ramanagara       | 69.22            | 76.76    | 61.50  | 65.26          | 73.96 | 56.36  | 81.54          | 85.47 | 77.51  | 17.60                           | 7.96  | 15.26                     | 11.51 | 21.16  | 16.28 |
| 25      | Shimoga          | 80.45            | 86.07    | 74.84  | 76.37          | 83.14 | 69.60  | 87.79          | 91.35 | 84.24  | 13.54                           | 7.11  | 11.23                     | 8.21  | 14.64  | 11.42 |
| 26      | Tumkur           | 75.14            | 82.81    | 67.38  | 71.66          | 80.48 | 62.71  | 87.32          | 90.93 | 83.67  | 17.77                           | 7.26  | 15.43                     | 10.45 | 20.96  | 15.67 |
| 27      | Udupi            | 86.24            | 91.41    | 81.58  | 83.91          | 89.85 | 78.65  | 92.13          | 95.22 | 89.21  | 11.20                           | 6.01  | 9.84                      | 5.37  | 10.56  | 8.23  |
| 28      | Uttara Kannada   | 84.06            | 89.63    | 78.39  | 81.31          | 87.63 | 74.87  | 90.73          | 94.49 | 86.91  | 12.77                           | 7.57  | 11.24                     | 6.85  | 12.05  | 9.41  |
| 29      | Yadgir           | 51.83            | 62.25    | 41.38  | 47.05          | 58.02 | 36.05  | 72.01          | 80.03 | 63.92  | 21.96                           | 16.11 | 20.87                     | 22.02 | 27.87  | 24.96 |
| 30      | Gulbarga         | 64.85            | 74.38    | 55.09  | 58.09          | 69.08 | 46.86  | 78.61          | 85.12 | 71.91  | 22.23                           | 13.22 | 19.29                     | 16.04 | 25.05  | 20.52 |
|         | KAR-NATAKA       | 75.36            | 82.47    | 68.08  | 68.73          | 77.61 | 59.71  | 85.78          | 90.04 | 81.36  | 17.91                           | 8.67  | 14.39                     | 12.42 | 21.66  | 17.04 |



6. The 2011 census shows that the levels of literacy of urban men and women in different districts of Karnataka State are very different. Considering mean scores of 88.9323 for urban men and 78.9647 for urban females, the literacy levels of urban males and females in Karnataka differ substantially. The t-value (7,143) was not statistically significant at the 0.05 level ( $p > .05$ ). Hence, the suggested hypothesis is accepted.
7. Similarly, when comparing total male and female literacy levels in various Karnataka districts with a mean score of 81.1637 for men and 66.0503 for females, the literacy levels of males and females in Karnataka differ greatly. The assessment of male and female literacy in various Karnataka districts based on the 2011 census revealed a substantial difference. The t-value (6,799) was not statistically significant at the 0.05 level ( $p > .05$ ), hence the suggested hypothesis is rejected.
8. The mean literacy of Karnataka's rural males (78.1210) and rural females (60.7067) differs greatly. A 2011 census comparison of rural male and female literacy in Karnataka indicated a considerable gap. The t-value (7,473) was not statistically significant at the 0.05 level ( $p > .05$ ), hence the suggested hypothesis is accepted.

### Important Findings

In every census, the literacy rate in Karnataka and the rest of the nation has increased. In addition, the state of Karnataka has a higher rate of literacy than the national average. However, Karnataka ranks thirteenth among the largest states in terms of female literacy and thirteenth in terms of overall literacy. Which does not correspond with the state's evolved image.

In India and Karnataka, the female literacy rate is lower than the male literacy rate in every census (1991–2011). Also, according to the 2011 census, the female literacy rate is lower in every district in the state than the male literacy rate.

Moreover, according to the 2011 census, the state's rural districts have a lower literacy rate than urban areas. In each

district, rural women had the lowest percentage of literacy.

In India, in the state of Karnataka, there is a considerable gap between female and male literacy rates. This gender gap in literacy is lessening over time.

### Conclusion

The literacy rate has risen from 67.04 percent in 2001 to 75.6 percent in 2011. Even though the state's literacy rate has increased by more than 8 percent over the last decade, Karnataka still has a long way to go as it was ranked thirteenth out of all 29 states. In 2011, the literacy rate at the national level was 74%. In 2011, 82.85 percent of men in Karnataka were literate, compared to 68.13 percent of females, a difference of 14.72 percent. The equivalent values for India as a whole are 82.1% and 65.4%, a difference of 16.68%. In every district in the state of Karnataka, the gender gap in literacy is an obstacle. Extensive work is necessary to solve this issue.

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