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REGIONAL IMBALANCES IN THE LEVEL OF LITERACY IN KARNATAKA: VITAL INPUTS FOR POLICY FORMATION TO BRIDGE THE GAP

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Abstract

Human resources constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of nations. The principal institutional mechanism for developing human skill and knowledge is the formal educational systems. Education is a key factor for the rapid development of a country. Education is the best foundation for any civilized society. It challenges the face of a nation and plays a pivotal role in development. Education is the prime agent to bring desirable modifications in the knowledge, skill and sensitivity of human beings. It is a catalytic factor which can be used as an instrument of developing or producing required skilled manpower.

Inequalities between the educational levels of different groups have been both the cause and the effect of the differentials between their levels of socio-economic development. This is especially true of the levels of literacy, which provides the essential pre-condition for educational development.

With a view to unravel the complexities in the process of diffusion of literacy, the analysis in the present paper is concerned with the identification, measurement and explanation of inequities in territorial distribution of literacy

Keywords: Regional Imbalance; Literacy; Manpower

Introduction

Since the dawn of civilization, education and development have been intrinsically linked through bi-directional causality. The challenge of development work in the social sector in India today is one of bridging huge disparities across regions of the country, gender and social groups. Unless national and state policies specifically target resources to address these disparities, achieving higher level outcomes in an inclusive manner, which is the real

goal for human development in education and health, will be a distant dream.

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With a view to unravel the complexities in the process of diffusion of literacy, the analysis in the present paper is concerned with the identification, measurement and explanation of inequities in territorial distribution of literacy. In this endeavor,

The educational institutions, schools, colleges and institutions of higher learning focus at improving the quality of life. Institutional education is much more important in the education which is grounded on the sublime values of human life, such as compassion, tolerance, honest and humanism. So, education is really the process of eradication of the illiteracy and the role of teachers is of paramount importance in this process.

Some educational pioneers like Shri. Aurovind Ghosh, Rabindranath Tagore and Gandhiji who tried a lot to provide education suited to Indian needs and culture during the British time. As Gandhiji said “Real education consists in drawing the best of yourself. What better book can than the book of humanity?”. Our education must also aim at as Swami Vivekanand said, “Man making and character building”. Only the people with the good character can build India of tomorrow – strong, resilient, and confident. We need man and woman values to ensure that larger concerns of our society are addressed with deep understanding of values of our heritage and culture.

Concept and review

Among the various characteristics of population, education is the most important one. Education makes man capable to think and distinguish between good and bad. Literacy is a reliable index of socio-economic development of an area and it is the best tool for minimizing the socio-economic differences which essentially exists in rural and urban areas of the region. Through the urbanization, standard of living and status of man and woman in the society increases. Though education by itself does not generate socio-economic progress, the lack of it can certainly be an impediment in the development process. A certain minimum level of literacy is therefore a basic requirement for people rid of illiteracy and backwardness.

The concept of literacy, which varies from country, to country generally, refers to the minimum level of literacy. This minimum level of skills varies from ability to communicate orally, to make a check of variety of difficult arithmetical

computations. Chandana and Sidhu (1980) in his article explains that, literacy is essential for eradication of poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic process.

Objectives

- To know the geographical features of Karnataka
- To know the District Wise Distributional Pattern of Literacy in Karnataka State. 2011.
- To Know the Growth of Population in Karnataka.

Methodology

In the present study an attempt has been made to study the District Wise Distributional Pattern of Literacy in Karnataka State. (As per the 2011 census). The present study is based on purely secondary source of data. The required data for the 2011 has been obtained from the statistical office Bengaluru and Karnataka state Gazetteer. To know the District Wise Distributional Pattern of Literacy in Karnataka State. 2011. District has been taken as a unit of study. The data are suitably processed and classified and tabulated in the form of tables and maps with the help of cartographic techniques.

Study Area

The state of Karnataka is a tourist paradise and geographers' workshop with its special geographical location and features. It has rivers, hills and mountains, valleys, plains and Plateau, varieties of Plants and animals, forests and mineral resources. It is not only rich in Sandalwood, and Spices but also the world's richest bio-diversity center. Karnataka has a rich heritage and history; it inspires people to create a bright future in many ways in the state.

Location and extent

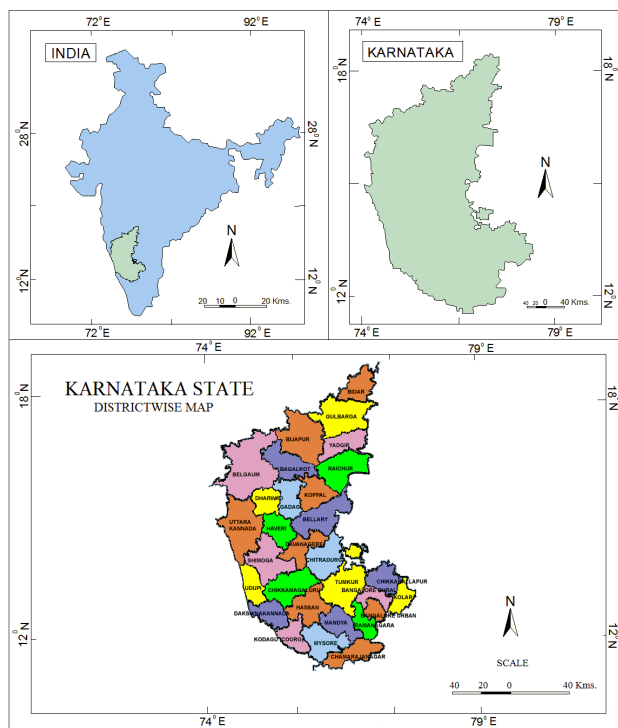
The Southern state of Karnataka is a Pioneer in many fields among the Indian states. According to one ancient text, the poetics entitled “Kaviraja marga” belongs to 9th century that land of Karnataka stretched from Cauvery to Godavari (Karnataka gazetteer 1981, 2005). Now it is located in the western part of Decca plateau. It has both water and land boundaries. It has common border with Maharashtra in the North, Andra Pradesh in the East, Tamilnadu in the South and Southeast, Kerala in the Southwest and Goa in the North West. Western part is flanked by the Arabian Sea. The State shape resembles like cashew nut. It extends Latitudinal from 11°31' to 18°45' north and longitudinally from 74°12' to 78°40' of East. The maximum latitudinal extent is 7° 14' from Aurad taluk of Bidar district in the North to Moyar River in the South (Chamarajanagar) for a distance of 750 Km. The maximum longitudinal extent is 4° 28' from Karwar



of Uttar Kannada district in the west to Mulbagilu taluk of Kolar district in the extreme east for a distance of 400 kms. It is the eighth largest states of the Indian union with a total Geographical area of 1, 91,791 sq. Kms, It is accounting for 5.83 percent of the total area of the country (Karnataka gazetteer 1981, N.B.K. Reddy and G.S.Murty1967).

Origin Name of the Karnataka

There are no scholarly consents on the exact evidence for the term Karnataka. According to a group, it is derived from Kar + nadu literally black land or the land of the black soil. No doubt major parts of the Karnataka covered by black soil. Others have held that it is derived from Karu + Nadu which mean elevated land or country. Compared to the eastern parts, western part is more elevated (Karnataka gazetteer 1981).



Growth of Population

The population growth of Karnataka corresponds with the trend of population growth of the country. In the first three decades (1911-1940) the state population growth was very low and it was negative in the period of 1911-21 due to the influence of epidemics like plague, cholera and influenza. In the first 30 years the total net addition was only 16.3 lakhs. The population growth was accelerated from 1951 Onwards, and it was recorded in 1981 and failed 1981 onwards. The growth of Population from 2001 to 2011 and share of the population growth at district level. Among the districts of

Karnataka Bangalore district has recorded the highest growth rate with 46.68percent and Chikamangaluru has recorded negative growth rate with – 0.28percent. The share of percent in total population was high in Bangaluru and low in Kodagu with 15.69 and 0.91percent.

District wise analysis of literacy ratio in Karnataka

Literacy

It reflects the social and Economic Development of the particular region, empowerments of literacy helps to the improvement of people knowledge and skills. According to 2011 census the literacy rates of women and men in Karnataka were 77.92 and 59.60 percent. The trend has been maintained in both male and female in 2001. It was 76.29 and 57.45 percent respectively. In 2011 with in the state Udupi has recorded highest and Yadagir recorded lowest literacy rate with 91.11 and 59.01 percent respectively.

To know the district wise spatial variation in Literacy ratio in the year 2011, the highest literacy rate was observed in 07 district in the state, Bengaluru (88.5), Dakshin Kan-nada (88.6), Dharwad (80.3), Kodagu (82.5), Shimoga (80.5), Udupi (86.3) and Uttar Kannada(84.0).This highest literacy ratio was recorded because of the development of educational institutions, improvement of education in urban area, development of infrastructure facilities and government support. Whereas medium Literacy ratio was found in 14 districts namely Bengaluru Rural (78.3), Belagavi (73.9), Bidar (71.0), Chikkabalapura (70.1), Chikkamangalore (79.2), Chitradurga (73.8), Davanagere (76.3), Gadag (75.2), Hassan(75.9), Haveri (77.6), Kolar(74.3), Mandya (70.1), Mysore (72.6), and Tumakur (74.3). The lowest literacy ratio was confined to nine districts, Bagalkot (69.4), Bellari (67.8), Vijayapura (67.2), Chamarajnagara (61.1), Kalaburgi (65.7), Koppala (67.3), Raichur (60.5), Ramanagara (69.2) and Yadagiri (52.4). These low literacy ratios in these districts are mainly because of lack of infrastructure facilities, lack of school and colleges in especially rural area etc.

In view of these evidences it is found true in the present study where one can observe difference in one district to other districts. Karnataka state as a whole literacy ratio varies from one district to another district during 2011.

Table 1. District wise population, Growth, and Literary Ratio of Karnataka in 2011

Name of the Districts	Area in km ²	Population in 2011 in Lakhs			Growth Rate in%	Literacy Rate	Share
		Males	Females	Persons		2011	2011
Bagalkot	6,575	9.52	9.37	18.9	14.46	69.4	3.09
Bangalore	2,190	50.25	45.63	95.88	46.68	88.5	15.69
Bangalore Rural	2,259	5.07	4.79	9.87	16.02	78.3	1.16
Belgaum	13,415	24.27	23.51	47.78	13.38	73.9	7.82
Bellary	8,450	12.8	12.51	25.32	24.92	67.8	4.14
Bidar	5,448	8.7	8.29	17	13.16	71	2.78
Bijapur	10,494	11.12	1.06	21.75	20.38	67.2	3.56
Chamarajanagar	5,101	5.13	5.07	10.2	5.75	61.1	1.67
Chikkaballapura	4,524	6.37	6.16	12.54	9.17	70.1	2.05
Chikmagalur	7,201	5.67	5.7	11.37	-0.28	79.2	1.86
Chitradurga	8,440	8.43	8.16	16.6	9.39	73.8	2.72
Dakshina Kannada	4,560	10.32	10.51	20.83	9.8	88.6	3.41
Davanagere	5,924	9.89	9.57	19.46	8.71	76.3	3.18
Dharwad	4,260	9.39	9.07	18.46	15.13	80.3	3.02
Gadag	4,656	5.38	5.26	10.65	9.61	75.2	1.74
Gulbarga	10,990	13.07	12.57	25.64	17.94	65.7	4.20
Hassan	6,814	8.85	8.9	17.76	3.17	75.9	2.91
Haveri	4,823	8.19	7.79	15.8	11.08	77.6	2.61
Kodagu	4,102	2.74	2.8	5.54	1.13	82.5	0.91
Kolar	3,969	7.79	7.6	15.4	11.04	74.3	2.52
Koppal	7,189	7.01	6.89	13.91	16.32	67.3	2.28
Mandya	4,961	9.09	8.99	18.08	2.55	70.1	2.96
Mysore	6,854	15.11	14.83	29.94	13.39	72.6	4.90
Raichur	6,827	9.66	9.58	19.24	15.27	60.5	1.77
Ramanagara	3,556	5.48	5.34	10.82	5.06	69.2	3.15
Shimoga	8,477	8.79	8.75	17.55	6.88	80.5	2.87
Tumkur	10,597	13.54	13.26	26.81	3.74	74.3	4.39
Udupi	3,880	5.62	6.15	11.77	5.9	86.3	1.93
Uttara Kannada	10,291	7.27	7.09	14.36	6.15	84	2.35
Yadgir	5,273	5.91	5.81	11.72	22.67	52.4	1.92
Karnataka	1,91,791	310.57	300.72	611.29	15.67	75.6	100

Source: Karnataka State census book -2011.

Table 2. Pattern of District wise spatial distribution of Literacy in Karnataka, 2011

Sl.No	Cate-gory	Index	Number of the District	Name of the District
1	High	>80	07	Bangalore, Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, , Kodagu, Shimoga, Udupi and Uttara Kannada
2	Medium	70 to 79	14	Bangalore Rural, Belgaum, Bidar, Chikkaballapura, Chikamanglore, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Gadag, Hasan, Haveri, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, and Tumkur
3	Low	<69	09	Bagalkot, Bellary, Vijayapur, Chamarajanagar, Kalaburgi, Koppal, Raichur, Ramanagara, and Yadgir

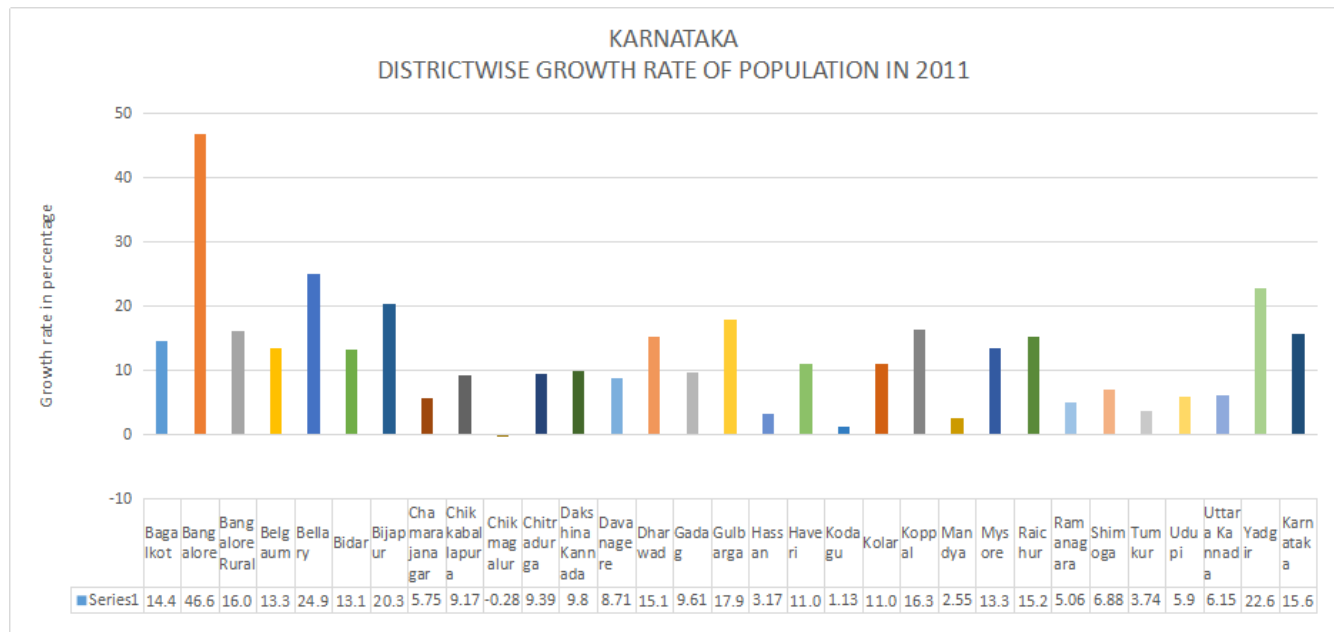
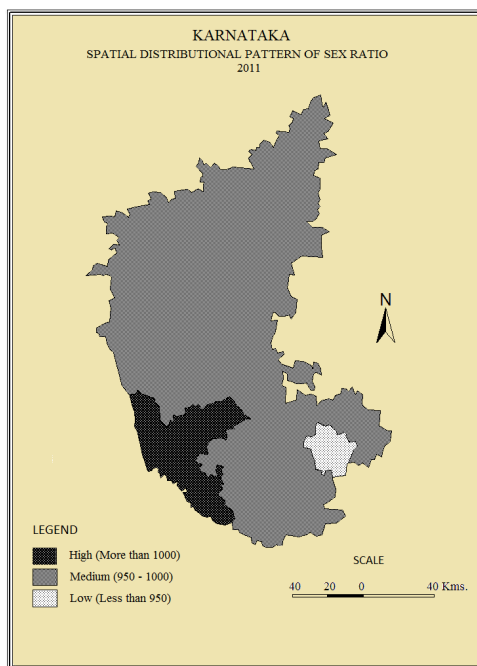


Fig. 1. Districtwise growth rate of population in 2011



Conclusion

In view of partly contrasting and partly complementary reflects the social and Economic Development of the particular region, empowerments of literacy help to the improvement of people knowledge and skills. According to 2011 census the literacy rates of women and men in Karnataka were 77.92 and 59.60 percent. The trend has been maintained in both male and female in 2001. It was 76.29 and 57.45 percent respectively. In 2011 with in the state Udupi has recorded highest and Yadagir recorded lowest literacy rate with 91.11 and 59.0 percent respectively. This changing trend in the Literacy ratio district wise in the state may bring the balance between districts to district. This in future may decrease the socio-economic and demographic problems in the field of education.

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