



Analysis of Literacy among Sub-Divisions of Karauli District, Rajasthan

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Received: 20 Sept., 2022

Revised: 25 Nov., 2022

Accepted: 06 Dec., 2022

ABSTRACT

Literacy is an important component of human life. It helps in social and economic progress along with personality development of human (Yadav, 2021). Achieving literacy is a fundamental right of every woman and man (Chauhan and Khan, 2019). Literacy is a human right in itself which is helpful in achieving other human rights just as right to education helps in eradicating illiteracy. It is a rights-based approach but must be understood on the basis of inclusive principles essential to human development (Reed Trust). Even after many systems, laws, and resources are available for literacy, there is a huge difference in female-male literacy (Katiyar, 2016). According to the 2011 demographic data, the national literacy rate is 73 percent, in which the male literacy rate is 80.90 percent and the female literacy rate is 64.60 percent. This difference between male and female literacy rate is a matter of serious concern. In the context of Rajasthan, the total rate of literacy is 66.11 percent. On the basis of gender, this rate is 79.19 percent for men and 52.12 percent for women, which is much less than the national literacy rate of women (Directorate of Literacy and Continuing Education, Government of Rajasthan). Similarly, the female literacy rate for the study area Karauli district is 48.61 percent respectively, which is very less than the national and state female literacy rate. These figures of literacy are troubling all the development efforts being made by the state government to awaken interest in education among girl students and women. In this research paper, efforts have been made to know the status of female literacy in the sub-division of Karauli district and to find out the reasons for the decrease in female literacy rate and the efforts being made by the government. The condition of female

How to cite this article: Sharma, M. and Sharma, M. (2022). Analysis of Literacy among Sub-Divisions of Karauli District, Rajasthan. *TechnoLearn: An International Journal of Educational Technology*, 12(02): 225-235.

Source of Support: None; **Conflict of Interest:** None



education in Rajasthan has not been good since the beginning (Saigal and Srivastava, 2021). Old beliefs, lack of infrastructure, policy of discrimination between boys and girls and to some extent geographical reasons are also the reasons for lack of female literacy.

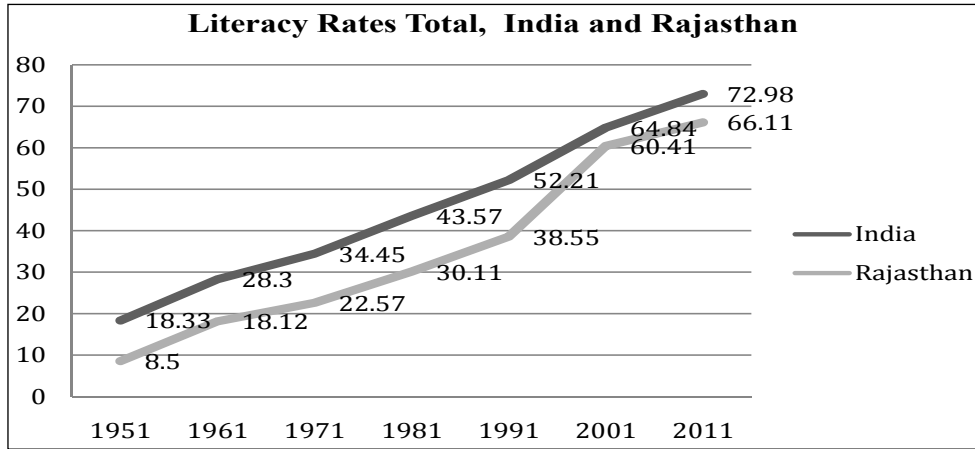
Keywords: Literacy, Literacy Rate, Gender Differences, Education Schemes

Education is a continuous process of human development (Reddy, 1979). A person who understands at least one language and is able to read and write in that language is called literate (Taufiq, 2017). In India, all persons above the age of 6, irrespective of their gender, are literate if they have the ability to understand, read, and write in an Indian language (Census, 2011). Education proves to be an important factor in the perspective of social development, especially in rural areas, so it is a criterion for measuring human development (Hashmi, 2017). The increase or decrease in literacy in any society affects the socio-cultural values as well as the economic bases in that entire geographical area (Sadhana, 2018). Along with poverty eradication and mental development, literacy plays an important role in fostering peace in society and friendly relations at the international level (Chandna, 1980).

Equal access to education for women like men is their basic human right. Because when a woman is educated, her benefits are also unpredictable. It is an eternal truth that with the increase in female literacy, the standard of living of the family, society and the country improves, as well as the society gets healthy and educated citizens (Anjana, 2018). Supporting women's education, great thinker Swami Vivekananda has said that- "First educate your women and leave them free, then they will tell you what reforms are needed in the society". It is clear from the above statement that if public awareness is to be brought in the society, then women have to be educated first. How important is women's education, it becomes clear from the statement of India's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. He had said that- "If a man is educated then only one person is educated whereas if a woman is educated then the whole family is educated. The meaning of a strong woman is a strong Mother India". The education of a woman affects the whole country because if the woman is educated then the family will be educated and if the family is educated then the society will be educated. Educated society only makes a civilized and cultured country (Rauf, 2015). It is clear from Nehru Ji's statement that an educated mother not only creates but also brings unexpected political and economic benefits.

Despite the statements of many legends, many studies and many welfare schemes of the government, even a developing country like India is facing illiteracy. India ranks 128th in terms of literacy ranking at the international level. India's literacy rate is only one percentage point higher than a small country like Bangladesh. Not only the country but many states are also struggling with this lack of literacy. Rajasthan is also not untouched by this. Rajasthan is at number three among the states with the lowest literacy. In terms of area, Rajasthan is the largest state in the country with 33 districts. Its area is 3.42 lakh sq km. Its borders meet Punjab in the north, Gujarat in the south, Uttar Pradesh in the east, Madhya Pradesh in the southeast and Haryana in the northeast. The western boundary of Rajasthan is international

which separates it from Pakistan. According to Census 2011, the population of Rajasthan is 68548437, which is 5.66 percent of the total population of the country. From this point of view, Rajasthan is the eighth largest state of the country. The population growth rate in the state has been 21.33 percent in the decade 2001-2011, which is less than the growth rate of 28.41 percent in the previous decade 1991-2001. The population density of the state is 200 persons per sq km, which is less than the national population density of 382 persons per sq km. About 75 percent of the state’s population lives in rural areas. The percentage of Scheduled Castes in the state is 17.8 and Scheduled Tribes is 13.5 (Registrar General of India, 2011). The maximum population of Rajasthan resides in the eastern part because of the Thar desert in the west.



Source: Census of India

Fig. 1: Literacy Rates Total, India and Rajasthan

It is clear from the above graph that the highest increase in literacy rate in Rajasthan has happened between 1991 and 2001, which is about 21.86 percent.

Table 1: Literacy Rate (%) in Rajasthan

Census Year	Total	Male	Female	Difference
1951	8.02	13.09	2.51	10.58
1961	15.21	23.71	5.84	17.87
1971	19.07	28.74	8.46	20.28
1981	24.40	36.30	11.40	24.90
1991	38.60	55.00	20.40	34.60
2001	60.40	75.70	43.90	31.80
2011	66.10	79.19	52.12	27.07

Source: Directorate of Literacy and Continuing Education, Government of Rajasthan.

It is clear from the above table that the difference in literacy rate between male and female in Rajasthan has been increasing instead of decreasing after independence. This difference was 7 percent between Census 1951 and 1961, and the difference in literacy rate between Census 1961 and 1981 decreased from 2.41 percent to 4.62 percent. But in the 1991 census, this difference suddenly increased to 9.7 percent. This is a matter of concern for the state as many schemes for women's education were being run by the state government. This analysis puts a question mark on the implementation of these schemes.

Study Area

Formerly the entire Karauli district was a part of Sawaimadhopur district. On March 1, 1997, the Government of Rajasthan announced the formation of Karauli, the 32nd district of the state. Karauli district was formally inaugurated on July 19, 1997 by merging five tehsils of Sawaimadhopur district. The purpose of making Karauli a district was to develop the rural areas and remove the backwardness of the Dang region. It was formerly a princely state, which after independence joined the Matsya Federation in April 1949 and later became a part of the United Rajasthan along with Jaipur State. The area of Karauli district is 5043 square kilometers and according to the 2011 census the population of the district is 1458459, which is 20.54 percent more than the 2001 census. The population density of the district is 289 persons per sq km and sex ratio is 861 which is less than the state (928) and national (940) sex ratio. The Chambal river on the eastern border of the district separates it from Madhya Pradesh. Dholpur, Bharatpur, Dausa, and Sawaimadhopur are other nearby districts. Many forts, bastions, mansions, and temples located in the district tell the saga of its glorious history.

Presently Karauli has four assembly constituencies, six sub-divisions, nine tehsils, eight panchayat committees and four municipal bodies. Karauli, Hindauncity, and Todabhim urban areas of Karauli district and the rest of the district are of rural background. The spread of education in Karauli district started 150 years ago. At that time there was no tradition of educating girls. The first school in Karauli was started in 1889 by the name of King Edward High School. According to the 1901 census, a middle school for girls was operating in Karauli and in the last decade of the twentieth century many girls secondary schools were opened in and around Karauli (Venugopal, 2020).

Data and Methodology

This study is based on the secondary data of Census 2001 and 2011 as Karauli district was a part of Sawai Madhapur district before 1997 hence the data prior to 2001 has not been included in the study. Standard formulas of statistics have been used for data processing.

Objective

The purpose of this research paper is to study the changes in literacy rate among the sub-divisions of Karauli between 2001 to 2011 and to clarify the difference between female-male literacy rate.

Current scenario of education in the district

According to the DISE Plus Report 2021-22, the scenario of education system in Karauli district is as follows:—

Table 2: Total Number of Schools

School Category	Government			Private		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Primary	67	716	783	9	35	44
U. Primary	26	360	386	74	248	322
Secondary	5	67	72	69	136	205
Sr. Sec.	14	238	252	56	110	166
Total	112	1381	1493	208	529	737

Source: DISE Plus Report 2021-22, Karauli, Rajasthan

It is clear from the above table that the number of government schools in the entire district is twice that of private sector schools. But a deep analysis of the data reveals that at the secondary level, the number of private schools in urban and rural areas is almost three times. In primary education, the number of government schools is eighteen times more than private schools. At the higher secondary level, the number of private schools in urban areas is four times that of the government ones.

Table 3: Total Number of Schools for Girls Only (Govt.)

School Category	Total
Primary	1
U. Primary	25
Secondary	6
Sr. Sec.	13
Total	45

Source: DISE Plus Report 2021-22, Karauli, Rajasthan.

It is clear from the above data that the number of girl’s schools in the district without facility of Dang region is much less than expected. Due to the low income of the residents of rural areas and old customs, girls rarely get opportunities to study in urban areas.

Table 4: Class Wise Enrollment (Government + Private) and Gender Gap

Class	Boys	Girls	Total	Gender Gap %
Class 1 - 5	103931	94384	198315	4.81
Class 6 – 8	49318	44174	93492	5.50
Class 9 – 10	30738	25400	56138	9.51
Class 11 – 12	22165	16500	38665	14.65
Class 1 – 8	153249	138558	291807	5.03
Class 9 – 12	52903	41900	94803	11.61
Class 1 – 12	206152	180458	386610	6.65

Source: DISE Plus Report 2021-22, Karauli, Rajasthan.

Enrollment data analysis of DISE Report 2021-22 shows that there is a difference of 6.65 percent in the total enrollment of boys and girls in class 1 to 12, but it is in a worrying state at the class level. The gender gap in enrollment in class 11-12 is 14.65 percent, which is the highest. In class 9-10 this gap is 9.51 percent while for class 9-12 the gender gap is 11.61 percent. So it is clear that a large number of girls drop out before reaching class 9.

Literacy Rate Analysis

According to the figures published by Census 2011 and Economic and Statistics Department, Karauli, the following is the status of literacy in the district:—

Table 5: Total Literacy Rate (%) in Urban and Rural Areas of Karauli & Rajasthan

Category	Karauli District			Rajasthan		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Male	81.41	84.14	80.93	79.20	87.91	76.16
Female	48.61	60.05	46.52	52.10	70.73	45.80
Gender Gap	32.80	24.09	34.41	27.10	17.18	30.36
Total	66.82	72.77	65.05	66.11	79.68	61.44

Source: District Census Handbook, Karauli District.

The literacy rate of Karauli district is higher than the literacy rate of the state. But if the urban and rural literacy rate is compared, then the literacy rate of the district is more than

the state in rural areas and less in urban areas. Similarly, there is a huge difference in the literacy rate of 32.80 percent between male and female in the district, which is more than the literacy gender gap of the state. The literacy gender gap of urban and rural area is also in a very bad condition. It is clear from this that a lot of improvement is needed in the condition of female education in the district.

Total six sub-divisions Todabhim, Nadauti, Hindaun, Karauli, Mandrayal, and Sapotra are located in Karauli district. Todabhim, Hindaun, Karauli, and Sapotra are town areas which are considered as urban areas due to being municipal bodies. Most of the area of Karauli district is rural which is divided into 241 gram panchayats with 902 villages. If the literacy figures are analyzed at the sub-division level, the following picture emerges.

Table 6: Literacy Rate by Sex in Sub-Divisions, 2011

Sub-Divisions	Literacy Rate (%)			Gender Gap
	Total	Male	Female	
Todabhim	68.66	85.17	49.71	35.46
Nadoti	66.37	82.86	47.66	35.20
Hindaun	69.99	85.36	52.31	33.05
Karauli	63.64	77.70	47.20	30.50
Mandrial	60.98	75.56	43.26	32.30
Sapotra	61.66	76.20	44.59	31.61
Karauli District	66.22	81.41	48.61	32.80

Source: District Census Handbook, Karauli District.

According to Census 2011, total literacy in the district was recorded at 66.22 percent, which is equal to the total literacy rate of the state. There is a big difference in the literacy rate from the perspective of men and women. While the male literacy rate was recorded at 81.41 percent, the female literacy rate was recorded at 48.61 percent. Which is about 4 percent less than the female literacy rate of the state. Gender gap in literacy rate is 32.80 percent. This is also more than the gender gap of the state (27.10). The total literacy rate within the district ranges between a minimum of 60.98 percent (Mandrayal) and a maximum of 69.99 percent (Hindaun). The lowest male literacy rate was recorded at 75.56 percent (Mandrayal) and the highest at 85.17 percent (Todabhim). The figures of female literacy rate also cannot be called very good. The lowest female literacy rate was recorded at 43.26 percent (Mandrayal) and the highest at 49.71 percent (Todabhim). The gender gap in the literacy rate in the district as a whole was recorded around the total gender gap of the district. The lowest gender gap is in Karauli (30.50 percent) and the highest in Todabhim (35.46 percent).

Table 7: Literacy Rate by Rural-Urban Areas in Sub-Districts, 2011

Sub-Divisions	Literacy Rate (%)			Gap
	Total	Rural	Urban	
Todabhim	68.66	68.14	73.73	5.59
Nadoti	66.37	66.37	0	0
Hindaun	69.99	68.19	75.31	7.12
Karauli	63.64	61.99	68.83	6.84
Mandrial	60.98	60.98	0	0
Sapotra	61.66	61.11	77.62	16.51
Karauli District	66.22	72.77	65.05	-7.72

Source: District Census Handbook, Karauli District.

It is clear from the above data that in rural areas the lowest literacy rate was recorded in Mandrayal (60.98 percent) and highest in Hindaun (68.19 percent). In urban areas, the lowest literacy rate was found in Karauli (68.33 percent) and highest in Sapotra (77.62 percent). Maximum gap support (16.51 percent) was found in literacy of rural and urban areas. District level figures are opposite to this. Here the literacy rate of urban areas is 7.72 percent less than that of rural areas.

Table 8: Comparative Analysis of Literacy Rate by Census, 2001-2011

Sub-Divisions	2001		2011	
	Total	Gender Gap	Total	Gender Gap
Todabhim	61.7	41.11	68.66	35.46
Nadoti	64.6	35.1	66.37	35.20
Hindaun	72.2	29.1	69.99	33.05
Karauli	58.4	36.4	63.64	30.50
Mandrial	55.3	40.8	60.98	32.30
Sapotra	58.0	35.9	61.66	31.61
Karauli District	63.4	35.1	66.22	32.80

Source: Directorate of Literacy and Continuing Education, Government of Rajasthan.

The comparative study of Census 2001 and 2011 shows that the literacy rate at the district level has increased by three percent and the gender gap has reduced by more than two percent. In sub-divisions Todabhim, Nadauti, Karauli, Mandrayal, and Sapotra, literacy has increased and gender gap has decreased and on the contrary, literacy has decreased in Hindaun and gender gap has increased.

It is clear from the data analysis of Census 2001 and 2011 that the condition of literacy in the entire district cannot be said to be very good, especially the condition of female literacy is worse. The gender gap is visible up to 30-35 percent at the district level and sub-divisions. In such a situation, serious efforts are needed to increase female literacy. More than 85 percent population of Karauli lives in villages and about 15 percent population lives in urban/town areas. Due to the rural background of Karauli district and backwardness of Dang area, people are not inclined towards female education. The female literacy rate is also low in urban areas of the district as male students get education in big cities. Following are some of the reasons for the decrease in female literacy in the district—

1. **Social:** Maximum population of Karauli resides in villages and is bound in old traditions and customs. Due to male dominated society in entire Rajasthan, boys are still given priority over girls in rural areas and girls are expected to stay at home and help in domestic and agricultural work. Despite the tireless efforts of the government, the girls in the district get married even before they attain adulthood.
2. **Economic:** The main source of livelihood in the district is agriculture and mining business. Due to which the economy of rural areas is very low and the residents here are able to live with great difficulty. In such a situation, only boys get opportunities to get education as compared to girls because boys are considered as earning members.
3. **Physical:** Most of the schools in rural areas are established at Panchayat headquarters only. Due to which boys and girls find it difficult to reach the school. There are many problems for girls to travel long distances to school. Girls also have to face eve teasing and molestation on the way and there is lack of means of transport in rural areas. Because of this, girls do not get proper opportunities for education. Lack of facilities for women in schools is also a big problem.
4. **Structural:** There is a lack of adequate number of educational institutions in rural areas. So this is also a reason to affect the literacy rate.

Government Efforts To Increase Literacy

Huge efforts are being made by the government to increase the literacy percentage in the entire state and for maximum enrollment and retention. Under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, efforts are being made to improve the system of schools in deprived places as well as to remove the shortage of teachers. In order to attract boys and girls towards school, mid-day meal, scholarship distribution, free travel up to 50-100 km in roadways buses and transport vouchers are being provided. Apart from this, CBSE affiliated Swami Vivekananda Model School, Mashibo affiliated Mahatma Gandhi English School, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Residential School, Devnarayan Board Residential School have been opened to compete with private sector schools. There will definitely be positive results in the Census 2021 report.

Special schemes are being run to attract girls for education. These include Gargi Puraskar, Kali Bai Bhil and Devnarayan Scooty Scheme to encourage meritorious girl students. Apart from this, Mukhyamantri Sambal Yojana is being implemented for widow/divorced women. All these efforts of the government will yield far-reaching results.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, an attempt has been made to understand the difference between male and female literacy in sub-divisions areas of Karauli district and to clarify the status of literacy between rural and urban areas. Data published in Census 2001, 2011, Economic Review published by Rajasthan Statistics Department and other valid documents have been used for the study. While studying the literacy rate, an attempt has been made to understand the reasons for the decrease in female literacy rate. This study will open a new way to do more research in this area because despite the government's efforts, there is no increase in literacy in the district and the excess of gender gap in the literacy rate raises questions on all efforts. More research is needed in the future to understand this problem in more depth.

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Internet Resources

- <https://foundation.rajasthan.gov.in/rf/pdf/Karauli.pdf>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/top-reasons-poor-education-system-karauli-rajasthan-prashant-pal>
- https://jankalyanfile.rajasthan.gov.in//Content/UploadFolder/OrderEntry/Stats/2023/Publication/O_060223_a509a2ed-07e6-47ac-b85e-daccf391ae12.pdf
- <https://jankalyanfile.rajasthan.gov.in//Content/UploadFolder/DepartmentMaster/166/2023/Feb/30409/171931.pdf>
- Care India <https://www.careindia.org/blog/literacy-rate-in-india/>
- Reed Trust, <http://www.reedtrust.org/>

