

Literacy rate in India 2022

Dipanjolly Nath

MA in Education (Gauhati University)

Abstract

India is the second most populous country in the world by demographics. With a 1.21 billion population and a growth rate of 1.41%, the population will only continue to rise enormously. However, it can be concluded that India's population is very young when the age structure of the country is taken into account. 65% of India's population is in the 15–64 age group, and 30% of the population is under the age of 15. When the literacy rate of India is taken into account, it is 74.04% as per the 2011 census. India's literacy rate was only 14% at the time of independence. Since then, it has increased, but at varying rates in different states, with some like Kerala and Mizoram having rates significantly higher than the national average and Bihar having a pitiful rate of 63.8%. The focus of this essay is on the fundamentals of literacy, its significance, the state-by-state projected literacy rate in India in 2022, the causes of India's high rate of illiteracy and the government's actions to speed up the country's educational planning.

Keywords: NFHS-5, NSO, Literacy rate, India

Literature Review:-

1. India's Literacy Rate Assistant Professor of Economics at Saurashtra University in Rajkot, Gujarat, India, Dr. NAVINCHANDRA R. SHAH Vol. 1, Issue: 7, October 2013, International Journal of Research in All Subjects in Multi Languages (URSML ISSN: 2321 -2853).
2. In India, the rate of female literacy is a better indicator of the birth rate and infant mortality rate. Family Practice Journal. Oct.–Dec. 2013: 2(4): 349–353. DOI: 10.4103/2249-4863.123889.
3. China and India's literacy rates, Economic and Political Weekly, November 11, 1995, Vol. 30, No. 45, pp. 2868–2878, Jean Dreze and Jackie Loh (11 pages), Economic and Political Weekly is the publisher.

Objectives of the study:-

1. To examine the literacy rate in India 2022.
2. To identify the state highest literacy rate in India
3. To identify the states lowest literacy rate in India
4. To identify the difference between urban and rural literacy rate in India

Research methodology:-

1. Secondary data: NFHS-5 statistics that were used to calculate the NSO literacy rate for 2022.
2. NSO data on India's literacy rate in 2022, were subjected to an ecological analysis. The 2021 and 2022 Indian Censuses were used to calculate the literacy rates per state. We choose literacy rates as a reflection of educational status to provide an exact percentage figure for consistent comparison.

3. Using a descriptive approach to research.

Introduction

A literate person is a valuable asset to the prosperity of a country. To ensure that people have the complex communication and critical thinking abilities required to succeed in the workplace and a global economy, a high literacy rate is crucial. India's population still has a long way to go before being fully literate, notwithstanding recent increases in literacy rates. Since 2001, the number of persons who can read, write, and communicate has increased by more than double the national average. However, there are significant regional differences in literacy rates.

Because literacy is the cornerstone of opportunity and growth, it matters. When you can read and write, you can gain access to knowledge and concepts that will raise your standard of living and give you the ability to take better care of your loved ones and yourself. In addition to academic success, the literacy rate in India is a key element for socioeconomic development.

Over the past 40 years, India's literacy rate has substantially increased. The National Survey of India produced a report stating that India's literacy rate in 2022 was 77.7%. 73% of people in 2011 were literate. 4% more people now live there than according to the most recent census. Although that is quite impressive in comparison to other emerging nations, it still means that almost one in four Indians cannot read or write (compared to about one in eight people worldwide). India's most literate state is Kerala. Kerala's literacy rate is 96.2%. India will achieve universal literacy in 2060, according to UNESCO. Every year, on September 8, people all across the world commemorate International Literacy Day. The UNESCO estimates that 86.5 percent of the world's population is literate.

The National Statistical Commission estimated that the average literacy rate in India was 77.7% in 2017–18, up from the Census of India estimate of 73% in 2011. Urban areas had a literacy rate of 87.7%, greater than rural areas' rate of 73.5%. In India, there is a significant gender gap in the literacy rate, with effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) of 84.7% for males and 70.3% for women. Family planning and population stabilization initiatives in India are severely hampered by the low female literacy rate. Studies have shown that female literacy, especially when women do not otherwise have economic independence, is a substantial predictor of the use of contraception among married Indian couples. The census revealed a promising finding: growth in female literacy rates (11.8%) increased significantly more quickly than growth in male literacy rates (6.9%) between 2001 and 2011, indicating that the gender gap may be closing.

A continuum of learning that includes literacy enables people to realize their potential, engage fully in their communities, and achieve their goals.

Importance of literacy

Reading and writing are the classic definitions of literacy. Although these are crucial elements of literacy, today we understand it to include a lot more. According to Alberta Education, literacy is the capacity, assurance, and willingness to use language to understand, create, and express meaning in all facets of daily life. The concept of language as a socially and culturally produced form of communication is explained.

In its broadest meaning, literacy refers to "certain ways of thinking about and performing reading and writing" with the aim of comprehending or communicating ideas or thoughts in written form in a

given environment. 2 In other words, people in literate civilizations have certain ways of creating and reading written material, as well as attitudes about these methods. According to this perspective, writing and reading both involve constantly producing content for certain purposes. Literacy instruction, learning, and practice throughout a person's lifespan are always influenced by beliefs about reading, writing, and their importance to both society and the individual.

According to some researchers, there have historically been two distinct eras of interest in the concept of "literacy."

First, there was the time before 1950, when literacy was only thought of as alphabetical literacy (word and letter recognition). The second is the time frame that followed 1950, when literacy gradually started to be seen as a broader concept and practice that included the social and cultural components of reading and writing, as well as academic and functional literacy.

It is challenging to sum up literacy's importance in a few words because of how much it affects every facet of human life. The relevance of literacy is best summed up by the following points:

1. **Literacy is the building block of education:** It serves as the cornerstone of one's ongoing education. In order to pursue an education, everyone needs to learn how to read and write. One cannot imagine getting an education in the modern world without knowing able to read, write, and do simple math. Lack of appropriate literacy skills increases the risk of student dropout. Any type of knowledge or information that is pertinent to a person's lifetime learning can be acquired and retained by those who are literate. Without good literacy skills, one cannot advance in scholastic development.
2. **Increased literacy Self-esteem:** A person's development depends on their level of self-worth and self-concept. People always have an edge in broader education when they grasp foundational literacy skills in their early years. Additionally, persons with reading skills are more self-assured and have higher levels of confidence in daily activities, which enables them to meet problems in life head-on and advance.
3. **It raises general standards of living:** The minds of literate people are more developed, and they have a better grasp of their surroundings. They are better equipped to manage their daily lives, healthcare, and finances. Additionally, they are more skilled and have access to better employment that offer greater stability and a higher socioeconomic status and improved living quality.
4. **Health is enhanced by literacy:** Numerous studies in the field of health show that adult literacy and reduced infant death rates are positively correlated. A literacy program was also found to increase participants' propensity to seek out medical care for both themselves and their kids when necessary. Additionally, they were more inclined to adopt preventive health measures like vaccines. Similar to this, literate individuals seek out information and knowledge about health from a range of sources, including books, leaflets, posters, and other electronic sources, and then take preventative actions to enhance their physical and mental well-being.
5. **It aids in lowering poverty:** In the struggle against poverty, literacy is a potent tool. A huge disadvantage is having poor reading and writing skills.. It makes it challenging for a person to carry out regular chores efficiently. On the other hand, having a higher level of literacy not only improves a person's quality of life by improving his talents, but it also opens up employment options for him and his family, helping them to rise out of poverty. Widespread illiteracy is one of the main reasons why most nations are economically behind. In terms of the advancement of the nation, it is expensive. Most persons who lack

literacy skills lead unproductive or less productive lives and erect different obstacles to the advancement of society.

6. It supports gender equality: According to former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, "every literate woman represents a win over poverty." As was said above, literate women are advantageous to their family in a number of ways. They can work more effectively with men to manage households and other institutions, and educated mothers are more likely to put their children's education first. They can also play a significant role in the advancement of society. The value of women in the home and in society can be understood by literate men, who can also give them the tools they need to succeed. Reduced gender gaps are mostly due to increased literacy.

7. It upholds democratic principles: The ability to monitor local politics and stay current on topics affecting their communities is better for citizens who are read. Additionally, they are more likely to cast ballots and take part in other aspects of local democracy. They take their civic duties seriously and support the harmonious coexistence of different communities within a greater social structure. In conclusion, literacy is crucial since it serves as a building block for a person's development. From a communal perspective, it is equally crucial for the entire growth of a community. Because they converse and share ideas, literate communities are more creative and productive. Greater mutual understanding results from the exchange of ideas, opinions, and concerns, which ultimately promotes the inclusive growth and development of all members.

Literacy rate in India 2022

The realities of a great nation must be known by us, the inhabitants of India. The world's largest democracy is found in India. This honorable title respects us and reassures us of our fundamental obligations.

India, the second-largest nation in the world by population, has an issue with the literacy rate. Every person needs to think about societal changes to deal with the same. We will learn in-depth information today on the Indian Literacy Rate and how to address it.

India's average literacy rate as of the year 2021 is 77.70%, according to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO). In India, male literacy is at 84.70% in 2021, and female literacy is at 70.30%. According to the National Family Health Survey 2019–21 (NFHS-5), adult men and women (15–49 years old) have literacy rates of 87.4% and 71.5%, respectively. 763,498,517 (76.34 billion) people in the nation are literate, according to the 2011 Census. There are 328,814,738 people in total, with 434,683,779 (43.46 crore) men and them. The general literacy rate is 72.9%, although the rates for men and women are 16.25 percentage points apart at the national level, with men's rates at 80.89% and women's at 64.64%.

State wise literacy rate in India

| States & Union Territories | Male Literacy Rate % | Female Literacy Rate % | Average Literacy Rate % |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A&N islands | 90.11 | 81.84 | 86.27 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 73.4 | 59.5 | 66.4 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 73.69 | 59.57 | 66.95 |
| Assam | 90.1 | 81.2 | 85.9 |
| Bihar | 79.7 | 60.5 | 70.9 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Chhattisgarh | 85.4 | 68.7 | 77.3 |
| Chandigarh | 90.54 | 81.38 | 86.43 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 86.46 | 65.93 | 77.65 |
| Daman & Diu | 91.48 | 79.59 | 87.07 |
| Delhi | 93.7 | 82.4 | 88.7 |
| Goa | 92.81 | 81.84 | 87.4 |
| Gujarat | 89.5 | 74.8 | 82.4 |
| Haryana | 88 | 71.3 | 80.4 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 92.9 | 80.5 | 86.6 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 85.7 | 68 | 77.3 |
| Jharkhand | 83 | 64.7 | 74.3 |
| Karnataka | 83.4 | 70.5 | 77.2 |
| Kerala | 97.4 | 95.2 | 96.2 |
| Lakshadweep | 96.11 | 88.25 | 92.28 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 81.2 | 65.5 | 73.7 |
| Maharashtra | 90.7 | 78.4 | 84.8 |
| Manipur | 86.49 | 73.17 | 79.85 |
| Meghalaya | 77.17 | 73.78 | 75.48 |
| Mizoram | 93.72 | 89.4 | 91.58 |
| Nagaland | 83.29 | 76.69 | 80.11 |
| Odisha | 84 | 70.3 | 77.3 |
| Puducherry | 92.12 | 81.22 | 86.55 |
| Punjab | 88.5 | 78.5 | 83.7 |
| Rajasthan | 80.8 | 57.6 | 69.7 |
| Sikkim | 87.29 | 76.43 | 82.2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 87.9 | 77.9 | 82.9 |
| Telangana | 80.5 | 65.1 | 72.8 |
| Tripura | 92.18 | 83.15 | 87.75 |
| Uttarakhand | 94.3 | 80.7 | 87.6 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 81.8 | 63.4 | 73.0 |
| West Bengal | 84.8 | 76.1 | 80.5 |
| All-India | 84.7 | 70.3 | 77.7 |

*Source: Survey by National Statistical Office (NSO). *UTs & NE States based on 2011 Census*

Indian states having highest literacy rate

| State | Male | Female | Average |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Kerala | 97.4 | 95.2 | 96.2 |
| Mizoram | 93.72 | 89.4 | 91.58 |
| Delhi | 93.7 | 82.4 | 88.7 |
| Tripura | 92.18 | 83.15 | 87.75 |
| Uttarakhand | 94.3 | 80.7 | 87.6 |
| Goa | 92.81 | 81.84 | 87.4 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 92.9 | 80.5 | 86.6 |
| Assam | 90.1 | 81.2 | 85.9 |
| Maharashtra | 90.7 | 78.4 | 84.8 |
| Punjab | 88.5 | 78.5 | 83.7 |

Source: survey by National Statistical Office (NSO). *UTs & NE States based on 2011 Census

India's state having lowest literacy rate

| State | Male | Female | Average |
|-----------------|------|--------|---------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 73.4 | 59.5 | 66.4 |
| Rajasthan | 80.8 | 57.6 | 69.7 |
| Bihar | 79.7 | 60.5 | 70.9 |
| Telangana | 80.5 | 65.1 | 72.8 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 81.8 | 63.4 | 73.0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 81.2 | 65.5 | 73.7 |
| Jharkhand | 83 | 64.7 | 74.3 |
| Karnataka | 83.4 | 70.5 | 77.2 |
| Chhattisgarh | 85.4 | 68.7 | 77.3 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 85.7 | 68 | 77.3 |

Source: survey by National Statistical Office (NSO). *UTs & NE States based on 2011 Census

Literacy rate urban vs. rural 2022

| State | Rural Literacy Rate | | | Urban Literacy Rate | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|---------------------|--------|---------|
| | Male | Female | Average | Male | Female | Average |
| Andhra Pradesh | 67.5 | 53.4 | 60.4 | 86.3 | 73.1 | 79.6 |
| Assam | 89.4 | 79.9 | 84.9 | 96.1 | 91.4 | 93.8 |
| Bihar | 78.6 | 58.7 | 69.5 | 89.3 | 75.9 | 83.1 |
| Chhattisgarh | 84 | 65.6 | 75 | 91.8 | 82.3 | 87.2 |
| Delhi | | | | 94.1 | 83.4 | 89.4 |
| Gujarat | 85.7 | 68 | 77 | 95.2 | 86.3 | 91.1 |
| Haryana | 85.8 | 66.4 | 77 | 92.5 | 81.2 | 87.3 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 92.3 | 79.2 | 85.6 | 97.8 | 93 | 95.5 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jammu & Kashmir | 84.9 | 66 | 75.8 | 88.5 | 75.7 | 82.6 |
| Jharkhand | 80.6 | 61.4 | 71.4 | 92.6 | 78.6 | 86.1 |
| Karnataka | 78.2 | 63.1 | 71 | 92.5 | 83.7 | 88.3 |
| Kerala | 96.7 | 94.1 | 95.4 | 98.2 | 96.4 | 97.3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 77.9 | 61 | 69.8 | 91.4 | 79.5 | 85.8 |
| Maharashtra | 87 | 71.4 | 79.4 | 95.3 | 87.6 | 91.7 |
| Odisha | 82 | 67.3 | 74.9 | 94.4 | 85.9 | 90.2 |
| Punjab | 85.5 | 74 | 80 | 93.8 | 86.7 | 90.5 |
| Rajasthan | 77.6 | 52.6 | 65.5 | 91.1 | 74.6 | 83.5 |
| Tamil Nadu | 84.2 | 70.8 | 77.5 | 92.3 | 85.9 | 89 |
| Telangana | 70.6 | 53.7 | 62.1 | 91.7 | 79 | 85.5 |
| Uttarakhand | 93.1 | 79 | 86.1 | 97.4 | 85.9 | 92 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 80.5 | 60.4 | 70.8 | 86.8 | 74.9 | 81.2 |
| West Bengal | 82 | 72.6 | 77.4 | 91.4 | 84.7 | 88.1 |
| All-India | 81.5 | 65 | 73.5 | 92.2 | 82.8 | 87.7 |

Source: survey by National Statistical Office (NSO)

The causes of illiteracy in India

It is crucial for any nation's population to be educated and literate if it wants to have a productive human capital. The root cause of poverty is a lack of education. When people are unable to make a living and exercise rational thought, crime rates rise. Because some people still do not think that girls should be educated, women's illiteracy rates are substantially higher than those of men. A weak foundation also exists for the educational infrastructure. There are too many differences between public and private schools' educational standards. Because of this, not everyone can afford to send their children to private schools. India as a whole has a 74.04% literacy rate. With a literacy percentage of 93.91%, Kerala leads the way. Moreover, Bihar has India's lowest literacy rate (63.82%). In India, the Ministry of Home Affairs conducts a census every ten years.

1. Lack of awareness: The level of illiteracy may be high in areas where many residents do not comprehend why it is crucial for them to attend school. Lack of knowledge about the significance of attending school can also contribute to disinterest in the advantages of formal education. Urban areas often have a lower percentage of illiterate persons than rural areas do. Compared to those who live in distant areas, people in towns are more conscious of the need to eradicate illiteracy, the difficulties brought on by a lack of education, and the societal advantages of literacy.

2. Social barriers: Many social barriers, like limitations on girls' access to education in some societies, cause illiteracy among the population group they affect. There have been problems with girls' education in some parts of the world, which has led to the creation of many groups that support women's education. Another social problem that contributes to illiteracy in the neighbourhood is the forced marriage of young people. Illiteracy is also a result of social or familial standards that prevent female education. Those who belong to the wrong caste may not be given the chance to attend school in nations where the caste system is still in use. They are born with the fate of being illiterate.

- 3. A lack of accessible educational resources:** People who live in remote areas without many or any educational resources may continue to be illiterate. The distance to the closest school could be several miles. Many others opt to stay home rather than endure the difficult task of trekking vast distances every day simply to get to school. The high percentage of illiteracy in rural areas is largely a result of a lack of access to educational resources.
- 4. Poverty:** Parents with low incomes who are poor find it challenging to pay school tuition. They must decide between caring for their children's fundamental requirements, such as food, shelter, and clothing, and sending them to school. Compared to regions where basic education is free and required, the number of children who do not attend school is more common in nations where basic education is not free.
- 5. Lack of family support:** This is particularly true when a child has dyslexia and finds it difficult to read or write. When a child's condition is not understood by the family, it may be considered that the youngster is not intelligent and that education is not for everyone. A youngster with a reading problem can overcome it and successfully complete formal education with the support of supportive family members.
- 6. Unemployment of the educated:** Some people think that going to school should only be done in order to get a good job and live a good life. Education is not essential to them without the promise of job. There may not be enough incentive for the illiterate to attend school in a nation where many educated people are out of work. Since there is no guarantee of a return on investment, they question why anyone would spend so much money on education. There may be enough driving forces for individuals to eradicate illiteracy in nations where educated people have decent occupations and decent salaries.
- 7. Population:** Another significant element contributing to the rising rate of illiteracy in our nation is the swift increase in population. Fewer resources are available, but many users are using them. Instead of forcing their children to attend school, the impoverished people believe that by having more children, they will be able to send them to work and so increase their income.
- 8. Corruption:** Red tape and corruption have significantly contributed to our current situation. The money that is given to improve education is frequently misdirected or abused and utilized to line the coffers of their own authorities.
- 9. Brain Drain:** The educated youth in India frequently decide to move abroad or find employment in search of a better lifestyle there, as well as because they are unable to find favorable employment in India due to the fierce competition for even the most basic decent jobs. The great minds are leaving India because they believe their talent will be better utilized and their opportunities will be better than in India. As a result, they move abroad, causing a brain drain in our nation.
- 10. Regressive thinking:** Gender prejudices continue to be a big problem in our society. They don't think girls' education is as important as boys' because girls won't help them after marriage, so they only send their boys to school and give them an education, which furthers the imbalance in the number of girls and boys with degrees.

The government has implemented the following efforts to raise literacy levels in India:-

1. Education for a group of Minorities: Article 30 of the Constitution provides all minorities have the right to set and administer institutions of their preference.

2. Free and Compulsory Education: Article 41, 45, and 46 of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution instructs the state to ensure that all citizens must receive free education.
3. Equality of Opportunity in Educational Institutions: The fundamental right of equality clearly signifies that in the eyes of the law, there can be no discrimination based on caste, status, sex, class, or creed. Equal opportunities must be provided to everyone in a country.
4. Article 21 (A) as the fundamental right :-The new amendment was brought to provide free and mandatory education to all children between the age of 6 to 14 years; this is made as to the fundamental right.
5. Programs like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme give students free meals. Since they receive food at school, people in poverty send their kids to school.
6. Scholarships are also offered to encourage students' interest. A student is given access to school supplies including uniforms and textbooks for no additional cost.

Findings:

1. According to an NSO survey, the literacy rate for men in India was higher in 2022 than for women.
2. In India in 2022, Andhra Pradesh has the lowest average literacy rate and Kerala has the highest.
3. In India, the literacy rate in urban areas is higher than that in rural areas.

Conclusion

The ability to read, write, and interpret information in order to effectively communicate is referred to as literacy. In the broader field of human capital, education and skill growth are crucial. An essential component of Indian education is the Right to Education Act. Nevertheless, the historical development of India's educational system can be attributed to the various education policies that have been developed after Independence. There are several government initiatives in India that are geared toward the educational system at every level. The higher education system is receiving a lot of attention these days. International Literacy Day 2022 was observed by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan "The key to a lifetime of education and a potent weapon against poverty is literacy. Let's make a commitment to raising literacy rates and expanding access to high-quality education for a Shikshit and Viksit Bharat as we observe #InternationalLiteracyDay."

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