

# Gender educational inequalities across various sections in Rajasthan

Annu

Department of Geography, MDU Rohtak, Haryana

---

**Abstract:** The present paper examines the extent of inter and intra- district gender inequalities in education in Rajasthan for period of 2011. The inequality in literacy rate is estimated by co-efficient of equality. The empirical findings by and large support the hypothesis that (i) the inter district variation in literacy rates is found to be higher among females, ST population and in rural area than their counterparts (males, SC & General population and urban area); (ii) there exist wide gender inequality in literacy rate among General population and backward population.

---

## Introduction

The process of development of any economy is characterised by regional inequalities. These inequalities become pronounced in a specific population, area and even get modified with time. Different scholars have different view point regarding inequality. Some believe that convergence between regions will take place (Mathur, 2003). As contrary to this, works of Gunnar Myrdal, Andre Gunder Frank show that divergence between regions take place. Another model suggests the divergence occurs only in initial phase followed by convergence in the later phase (Hirschman, 1958 & Williamson, 1968). This paper attempts to examine the extent of gender inequality in educational development in the state of Rajasthan, as Rajasthan recorded the highest gap between male and female literacy in 2011 census.

There are sufficient evidences of inter-state, inter-district and intra-district inequality in education in India. The Education Commission (1964-66), National Policy of Education (1968), New Education Policy (1986) and Evaluation Education Policy (1992) gave emphasis to reduce the disparities between male and female, between different social groups of population and between rural and urban area and suggested measures for equalisation of educational opportunities. Special programmes like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have tried to reduce the inequalities in access as well as participation in primary/elementary education. Since inequalities are more pronounced between males and females, rural and urban areas, backward and general class, this paper is an attempt to look at gender inequalities across different sections of society as well as in rural and urban areas in Rajasthan. Education and literacy are two different things but here literacy has been taken as an indicator of education.

## Study Area

The present paper focuses on the state of Rajasthan. It is the largest state of India in area and comprise of 33 districts. Jaipur is the capital and the largest city in terms of population followed by Jodhpur. Rajasthan's economy mainly revolves around agriculture and pastoral activity. The state had 0.434 HDI value in 2007-08 which falls in low category. The state has around 88.8% of Hindu population, around 17.83% of SC population and 13.48% of ST population. About 67.06% population is literate of which 79.19% of male population and 52.12% of female population is literate. According to 2011 census the state recorded the lowest of female literacy and largest gap between male and female literacy rates in the entire country.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

- (i) To examine the inter-district variation in literacy rate in Rajasthan.
- (i) To estimate the inequality in literacy rate between male and female across different sections of society in rural and urban areas.

## Hypothesis

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the validity of the following hypothesis are also tested empirically.

- (i) The inter-district variation in literacy rates is found to be higher among females, ST population and in rural area than their counterparts (males, SC & General population and urban area).
- (ii) There exists wide gender inequality in literacy rates among General population and backward population.

## Methodology

### I. The Data

As the study relied upon secondary data, the required information on literacy rate is collected from the census of India, 2011 for different districts of Rajasthan. The district is considered as the region.

### II. The Methods

The inter-district variability in literacy rate is estimated by standard deviation and co-efficient of variation for 2011 census year for male and female of different social groups of population in rural and urban areas. In order to estimate the inequality in literacy rate the co-efficient of equality is used which may be written as follows:

#### Coefficient of Equality (CE) = $X_1/X_2$

Where  $X_2 \geq X_1$  and

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  are the observed values of two groups of population.

Here we have used  $X_1$  = female literacy

$X_2$  = male literacy

The value of CE will always range between 0 and 1. In case of no inequality CE will be 1. The smaller value of CE will show higher level of inequality and higher value will show lesser inequality.

### The Empirical Results

The section presents the inter and intra district inequality in literacy rates in Rajasthan.

#### Inter-District Inequality

The inter-district variation in literacy rates are estimated in terms of co-efficient of variations. These results are reflected in Table-1.

**Table-1: Average and Co-efficient of variation in Rajasthan.**

	Total population		SC population		ST population		General population	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Overall average literacy	79.19	52.12	73.77	44.63	67.62	37.27	82.72	56.83
Overall C.V.	6.44	13.64	8.13	13.99	17.93	30.62	5.14	13.06
Urban average literacy	76.16	45.8	71.8	41.4	66.7	36.1	79.76	49.49
Urban C.V.	7.33	14.53	8.62	14.84	18.45	31.68	5.75	13.76
Rural average literacy	87.91	70.73	80.58	55.78	81.03	55.57	89.57	74.17
Rural C.V.	3.56	8.49	6.86	11.39	14.86	23.53	3.67	8.82

The state experiences higher literacy rates for male in each category be it for General population or SC, ST, rural or urban area. Urban area experience higher literacy than the rural area for both male and female. In all categories the General population experience the higher literacy rate followed by SC and ST categories except in urban area, where in male literacy the ST category experience higher literacy rates than the SC; in the female literacy also there is small difference between the SC and ST categories. Looking at the coefficient of variation values the highest variation is found in rural area while the urban area experiences the lesser variations. Co-efficient of variation is also higher for

female foe e.g if look at the overall situation then co-efficient of variation is almost double for female than their counterpart 13.64% to 6.44% respectively. Co-efficient of variation is least for the General population followed by SC and ST population for both male and female. Hence the hypothesis that ‘the inter-district variation in literacy rates is found to be higher among female, ST population and in rural area than their counterparts (male, SC & General population and urban area) is fully supported by the empirical evidence of the study.

### **Intra- District Inequality**

The inequality in literacy rates between male and female across various sections in rural and urban area have been calculated with the help of co-efficient of equality. Table -2 presents the results.

**Table-2: Co-efficient of equality in Rajasthan**

	Total population	Overall SC population	ST population	General Population	Total population	Rural area SC population	ST population	General Population	Total population	Urban area SC population	ST population	General Population
Rajasthan	0.66	0.60	0.55	0.69	0.60	0.58	0.54	0.62	0.80	0.69	0.69	0.83
Ganganagar	0.76	0.70	0.72	0.79	0.73	0.70	0.74	0.75	0.84	0.72	0.71	0.87
Hanuman garh	0.72	0.69	0.72	0.73	0.70	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.80	0.71	0.73	0.82
Bikaner	0.70	0.59	0.70	0.72	0.63	0.58	0.61	0.64	0.81	0.65	0.76	0.83
Churu	0.69	0.63	0.69	0.70	0.66	0.62	0.67	0.67	0.74	0.64	0.74	0.75
Jhunjhunun	0.70	0.68	0.67	0.71	0.69	0.67	0.65	0.69	0.74	0.69	0.74	0.75
Alwar	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.68	0.64	0.64	0.60	0.64	0.82	0.72	0.71	0.85
Bharatpur	0.65	0.59	0.65	0.66	0.61	0.57	0.63	0.62	0.78	0.65	0.75	0.82
Dhaulpur	0.67	0.61	0.57	0.70	0.65	0.60	0.56	0.67	0.77	0.66	0.70	0.80
Karauli	0.60	0.53	0.58	0.63	0.57	0.52	0.58	0.60	0.71	0.58	0.64	0.75
Sawai Madhopur	0.58	0.53	0.53	0.62	0.53	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.75	0.64	0.71	0.78
Dausa	0.63	0.59	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.58	0.60	0.62	0.76	0.67	0.68	0.79
Jaipur	0.74	0.65	0.62	0.77	0.63	0.59	0.58	0.64	0.84	0.70	0.72	0.87
Sikar	0.68	0.63	0.64	0.69	0.66	0.62	0.63	0.67	0.75	0.67	0.71	0.76
Nagaur	0.62	0.52	0.60	0.64	0.59	0.51	0.58	0.61	0.72	0.58	0.75	0.74
Jodhpur	0.66	0.57	0.48	0.68	0.55	0.50	0.44	0.57	0.82	0.71	0.59	0.84
Jaisalmer	0.55	0.55	0.43	0.56	0.51	0.53	0.42	0.51	0.76	0.68	0.53	0.78
Barmer	0.57	0.54	0.40	0.59	0.56	0.53	0.40	0.57	0.75	0.63	0.48	0.78
Jalor	0.54	0.52	0.40	0.56	0.53	0.51	0.39	0.54	0.68	0.59	0.47	0.70
Sirohi	0.57	0.50	0.39	0.64	0.51	0.45	0.36	0.58	0.75	0.67	0.57	0.79
Pali	0.62	0.58	0.47	0.64	0.59	0.56	0.47	0.61	0.73	0.66	0.54	0.75
Ajmer	0.68	0.64	0.53	0.69	0.54	0.52	0.41	0.55	0.84	0.76	0.78	0.86
Tonk	0.59	0.54	0.48	0.62	0.53	0.51	0.47	0.54	0.78	0.66	0.74	0.80
Bundi	0.62	0.58	0.53	0.66	0.57	0.55	0.52	0.59	0.77	0.66	0.64	0.80
Bhilwara	0.63	0.56	0.49	0.65	0.57	0.53	0.48	0.59	0.81	0.67	0.59	0.83
Rajsamand	0.61	0.60	0.45	0.63	0.57	0.57	0.44	0.59	0.79	0.69	0.57	0.82
Dungarpur	0.63	0.64	0.59	0.72	0.61	0.63	0.59	0.68	0.84	0.70	0.70	0.89
Banswara	0.62	0.58	0.57	0.77	0.59	0.57	0.56	0.71	0.87	0.70	0.70	0.91
Chittaur	0.61	0.55	0.47	0.63	0.55	0.51	0.46	0.57	0.82	0.71	0.67	0.84

rgarh

Kota	0.76	0.67	0.66	0.80	0.66	0.61	0.64	0.68	0.83	0.72	0.71	0.86
Baran	0.65	0.61	0.58	0.68	0.61	0.59	0.57	0.63	0.77	0.65	0.70	0.80
Jhalawar	0.61	0.56	0.54	0.64	0.57	0.54	0.53	0.58	0.81	0.67	0.69	0.84
Udaipur	0.65	0.68	0.53	0.73	0.57	0.61	0.52	0.63	0.87	0.78	0.67	0.89
Pratapgarh	0.61	0.61	0.53	0.71	0.58	0.59	0.53	0.67	0.84	0.74	0.66	0.86

### **Overall inequality in male and female literacy among various sections**

It has been noticed that the average value is for Rajasthan is 0.66. The largest inequality is seen in case in case of ST population as value is of coefficient of equality is 0.55, while the least inequality is seen in case of General population followed by SC population with values 0.69 and 0.60 respectively. If we look at the total population than largest inequality in literacy is seen in Jalor while least inequality is seen in Kota as respective values of coefficient of equality are 0.54 and 0.76. In case of SC population the largest inequality is observed in Sirohi as the coefficient of equality is 0.50, the least inequality 0.70 is observed in Ganganagar. In case of ST population least inequality is found in Hanumangarh, while the largest inequality is found in Sirohi as the coefficient of equality values are 0.72 and 0.39 respectively. Looking at the General Population least inequality is found in Kota while the largest inequality is found in Jalor as the co-efficient of equality values are 0.80 and 0.56 respectively. The value of co-efficient of equality vary from 0.39 in Sirohi to 0.80 in Kota which are for ST and General population respectively. Hence it can be said that inequality exists between regions as well as across different sections of society considering male and female literacy rates.

### **Gender Inequality in rural area**

The average value of coefficient of equality for Rajasthan is 0.60. The respective values of coefficient of equality for ST, SC and General population are 0.54, 0.58 and 0.62. So the largest inequality is seen in ST followed by SC and General population. In case of overall population, SC and ST population the largest inequality is found in Sirohi while least inequality is found in Ganganagar. The least coefficient of equality values for overall population, SC and ST population for Sirohi are 0.51, 0.45 and 0.36, while respective highest values for Ganganagar are 0.73, 0.70 and 0.74. For General population the highest inequality is found in Jaisalmer, while the least inequality is found in Ganganagar as respective values of coefficient of equality are 0.50 and 0.75. The value of coefficient of equality vary from 0.36 in Sirohi to 0.75 in Ganganagar which are for ST and General population respectively.

### **Gender Inequality in urban area**

The average value of coefficient of equality for Rajasthan is 0.80. The respective values of coefficient of equality for ST, SC and General population are 0.69, 0.69 and 0.83. So the largest inequality is seen in ST and SC followed by General population. If we look at the total population than largest inequality is seen in Jalor while least inequality is seen in Banswara as respective values of coefficient of equality are 0.68 and 0.87. In case of SC population the largest inequality is observed in Karauli as the coefficient of equality is 0.58, the least inequality 0.78 is observed in Udaipur. In case of ST population the least inequality is found in Ajmer, while the largest inequality is found in Jalor as the coefficient of equality values are 0.78 and 0.47 respectively. Looking at the General Population the least inequality is found in Banswara while the largest inequality is found in Jalor as the co-efficient of equality values are 0.91 and 0.70 respectively. The value of co-efficient of equality vary from 0.47 in Jalor to 0.91 in Banswara which are for ST and General population respectively.

### **Conclusion**

The preceding analysis reflects very clearly that (i) the inter district variation in literacy rates is found to be higher among females, ST population and in rural area than their counterparts (males, SC & General population and urban area). (ii) In all spheres the female literacy is lower than male literacy, be it across different sections of society or in rural or urban area. (iii) Inequality do vary in different sections, the least inequality is found in General population while the largest inequality is found in ST population. (iv) Sirohi and Jalor districts come out to be areas which need special attention in rural and urban area respectively as these two have recorded the largest inequalities among various sections of society in gender literacy contexts. Hence it is clearly indicated by the empirical results that inter and intra regional inequalities in literacy do exist in Rajasthan. It can be said that in order to reduce the gap between the between the advanced and backward regions and the gender gap within region, necessary steps should be taken on priority basis

by the state government as well as by the NGO'S to spread mass literacy programme among the backward sections and backward regions of the state.

### References

- [1]. Aggarwal, Y. (2001) Disparities in educational development. New Delhi: NIEPA.
- [2]. Census of India (2011). Directorate of Census, Government of India.
- [3]. Dreze, Jean and Amartya Sen. (1995). India: Economic development and social opportunity. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- [4]. Hirshman, A.O. (1961). The strategy of economic development. 1st ed. New Heaven: Yale University Press.
- [5]. Kamat, A.R. (1981). Education and social change amongst the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 16(31), 1279-1284.
- [6]. Kundu, A & Rao, J.M. (1983). Inequality in education development: Issues in measurement changing structure and its socio-economic correlates with special reference to India. In: Moonis Raza (ed), *Educational planning : A long term perspective*. 1st ed. New Delhi: NIEPA. 435-465.
- [7]. Lockheed, M, A Verspooretal (1991). Improving primary education in developing countries. London: Oxford University Press.
- [8]. Mahmood, A. (1977). *Statistical methods in geographical studies*. 1st ed. New Delhi: Rajesh Publications.
- [9]. Mathur (1983). Regional development and income disparities in India: a sectoral analysis. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 31(2), 475-505.
- [10]. Mathur, A. (2003). National and regional growth performance in the Indian economy: a sectoral analysis. In: Mohapatra, A.C. and Pathak, C.R. (eds.) *Economic liberalisation and regional disparities in india*. Shillong: Star Publishing House.
- [11]. Mohammad Izhar Hassan, Pritirekha Daspatanayak, B. K. Mishra (2007) Regional inequality in Orissa: Some emerging issues. *Indian Journal of Regional Science*, 39(1), 40-49.
- [12]. Ramotra, K.C. (2008). *Development processes and scheduled castes*. 1st ed. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
- [13]. Sopher, D.K. (1974). Measurement of disparity . *The Professional Geographer*, 26 (4), 389-392.
- [14]. Thapan, Meenakshi (1993). *Life at School*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.