

**Per Capita Income and Literacy rate in Karnataka: A District Level Study****Dr. D. N. Patil**

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**Abstract**

*"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence"*

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Literacy is considered to be a stepping stone for success and development. Individuals benefit reflects on their living standards and thereby their surroundings. It helps individuals to escape from poverty and bring down infant mortality rates. Empowerment of men and women lies in educating people. Human resources i.e. population with skill, training and education enrich the society and country's prosperity. The UNICEF has defined literacy as the Ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate compute and use printed and written materials connected with varying contexts. It involves continuum learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society. This paper attempts to study the district level trend of per capita income in association with literacy rate. It was found that there was a strong relation between per capita income and literacy rate in the districts of Karnataka. The paper is built followed by review of literature, methodology, discussion with suggestions and references.

**Key Words: Per Capita Income, Literacy Rate, Government Schemes**

**Introduction**

**H**uman wants are unlimited where the means are limited in the world. Fulfilment of needs of present generation without compromising with the wants of future generation is the major challenge before us. A country with its various schemes and programmes for improvement of living standards of people are due matters in economic development. Employment generation and promotion of self employment are key for income generation of the people. Hence government initiated many schemes for increasing income of the people along with making them to be capable through good education, skill and training. Recently per capita income of people in India has an increasing sign but not free from inequality. Every ten year census of India shows improvement in literacy rate but in reality graduates are being produced, not the potential and capable youths for work.

**Objectives of the paper are:**

1. To study the district level trend of per capita income in Karnataka
2. To examine the relation between literacy rate and per capita income
3. To suggest measures to improve per capita income and standard of living

**Source of data and limitation of the study**

This paper is based on secondary data. The required information have collected from various government & non government websites, articles, papers and publications. The present paper is limited to analyse the district level trend of per capita income and literacy rate in Karnataka state.

**Analysis and Discussion**

Table 1 indicates about per capita income and literacy rate during 2001 and 2011. There are four divisions included 30 districts of Karnataka. It has been said that Gulbarga and Belgaum divisions were comes under northern region and Mysore and Bangalore divisions were under southern region of

Karnataka state. To speak, division wise per capita income during 2001 is highest in Bellary district against lowest in Raichur district in Gulbarga division, highest in Dharwad district and lowest in Haveri district in Belgaum division, highest in Bangalore (Urban) district and lowest in Tumkur district in Bangalore division, highest in Dakshin Kannada and lowest in Mandya district in Mysore division. Similarly, division wise per capita income during 2011 is highest in Bellary district against lowest in Bellary district in Gulbarga division, highest in Dharwad district and lowest in Haveri district in Belgaum division, highest in Bangalore (Urban) district and lowest in Tumkur district in Bangalore division, highest in Kodagu and lowest in Chamarajnagar district in Mysore division. In terms of ranks, Bangalore (Urban) district stood first in 2001 and 2011 where Raichur district stood last rank in 2001 and Yadgir district in 2011. Except Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Dakshin Kannada, Kodagu and Udapi, other all districts have per capita income below the state average.

It is also shown that the literacy rate of each districts of the state which indicates the knowledge, skill and potentiality that people tend to work for sustainable life. As per census 2001, the top five districts with highest literacy rate were namely, Dakshin Kannada (83.35%), Bangalore –Urban (83.96%), Udapi (81.25%), Kodagu (77.99%) and Uttara Kannada (76.60) where top five districts with lowest literacy rate are namely, Yadgir (39.30%), Raichur (48.81%), Chamarajnagar (50.87%), Koppal (54.10%) and Gulbarga (54.34%) in Karnataka. Similarly, during 2011, the top five districts with highest literacy rate were namely, Dakshin Kannada with (88.62%), Bangalore –Urban (88.48%), Udapi (86.29%), Uttara Kannada (84.03%) and Kodagu (82.52%). Where top five districts with lowest literacy rate were namely, Yadgir (52.36%), Raichur (60.46%), Chamrajnagar (61.12%), Koppal (67.28%) and Gulbarga (65.65%) in Karnataka. It has been found that almost southern states of the Karnataka region were top in literacy rate then northern districts.

**Table 1 Per-Capita Income and Literacy Rate  
2001-2011**

S l. N o	Distric t	Per Capita Income (in Rs.)		Rank		Literacy Rate (%)		Rank	
		20 01	201 1	20 01	20 11	20 01	20 11	20 01	20 11
<b>Gulbarga Division</b>									
1	Bellary	15 81 9	660 38	12	7	57. 40	67. 85	23	17
2	Bidar	11 07 5	355 26	26	29	60. 94	71. 01	20	20
3	Gulbar ga	12 04 9	406 22	24	24	54. 34	65. 65	26	27
4	Koppal	15 17 0	469 75	14	17	54. 10	67. 28	27	25
5	Raichur	10 97 0	379 77	27	27	48. 81	60. 46	29	29
6	Yadgir	N A	338 95	-	30	39. 90	52. 36	30	30
<b>Belgaum Division</b>									
7	Bagalk ot	15 63 8	463 50	13	18	57. 30	69. 39	24	23
8	Belgau m	15 10 6	486 19	15	14	64. 21	73. 94	17	16
9	Bijapur	13 08 5	413 47	22	21	57. 01	67. 20	25	26
10	Dharwa d	16 87 8	702 33	9	6	71. 61	80. 30	8	7
11	Gadag	14 01 3	432 24	17	20	66. 11	75. 18	14	13
12	Haveri	11 99 6	400 92	25	25	67. 79	77. 60	11	10
13	Uttar Kannad a	16 33 7	505 98	11	13	76. 60	84. 03	5	4
<b>Bangalore Division</b>									
14	Bangal ore (Urban)	31 80 4	183 607	1	1	82. 96	88. 48	2	2
15	Bangal ore (Rural)	21 82 1	941 24	4	3	69. 59	78. 29	9	9
16	Chikab allapur	N A	411 76	-	22	59. 24	70. 08	22	22
17	Chhitra	13	397	21	26	64.	73.	16	18

7	durga	56 7	28			45	82		
18	Davangere	14 05 6	484 53	16	15	67. 43	76. 30	12	11
19	Kolar	13 55 0	506 65	21	12	65. 84	74. 33	15	14
20	Ramnagar	N A	644 54	-	10	60. 71	69. 20	21	24
21	Shimoga	16 78 7	508 00	9	11	74. 52	80. 50	6	6
22	Tumkur	12 94 5	436 87	23	19	67. 01	74. 32	13	15
<b>Mysore Division</b>									
23	Chamrajnagar	13 88 0	357 20	17	28	50. 87	61. 12	28	28
24	Chikmagalur	17 17 5	579 26	6	9	72. 20	79. 24	7	8
25	Dakshin Kannada	27 37 3	870 12	2	4	83. 35	88. 92	1	1
26	Hassan	13 79 4	476 91	18	16	68. 63	75. 89	10	12
27	Kodagu	24 20 0	102 074	3	2	77. 99	82. 52	4	5
28	Mandya	13 73 9	406 31	19	23	61. 05	70. 14	19	21
29	Mysore	18 02 2	657 03	7	8	63. 48	72. 56	18	19
30	Udapi	21 08 7	758 85	5	5	81. 25	86. 29	3	3
	<b>State</b>	<b>18 19 6</b>	<b>682 27</b>			<b>66. 64</b>	<b>75. 60</b>		

*Source: Census 2001-2011  
Statistical Abstract of Karnataka 2001-02 to  
2004-05 &*

*Economic Survey of Karnataka (2005-06 to 2010-11) Directorate of Economic & Statistics, Bangalore*

The average state level literacy rate was found 66.64 percent in 2001 and 75.60 percent in 2011 which shows overall about 8.96 percent increase in literacy rate. Further, an interesting fact is that districts with highest literacy rate have handsome per capita income and vice viz. This shows that there is a strong relationship between per-capita income

and poverty. The important factor behind high literacy and per capita income among these districts were strong production base.

### Suggestions and Discussion

This paper shows the variance of per capita income and literacy rate in Karnataka. The Karnataka state has started various schemes and programmes in both rural and urban areas to improve the educational standards and uplift income of people. Government schemes and policies such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Learning through digital content, autonomy to educational institutions, mid day meal scheme among other for educational purpose and schemes such as MGNREGA, Youth empowerment, self employment schemes among other for income generation in Karnataka state. For supplementing income of farmers, government started Prime Minister Krishi Samman Yojana under which Rs. 6000 annually given to farmers. However, there is need felt to take seriousness and wide publicity of schemes among the community. It has suggested that the government need to invest more in backward region of the Karnataka state namely in the northern districts where low per capita and low literacy rate was existed. It is better to aware public in regard to income generation activities through self employment.

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