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Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Growth of Literacy Rate in Kolhapur District**Dr Tembare Uttam Sadashiv**

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Abstract:

A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been taken as literate by the Indian census. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not literate. It is not necessary that a person who is literate should have received any formal education or should have received passed any minimum educational standard (Census of India, 1991). In international usage, literacy is defined as the ability to read and write at least a simple message in any language. Literacy plays a very crucial role in the social and economic development in a country. A low level of literacy in a population retards the progress along the path of social and economic development and political power. Illiteracy, particularly among adults in society, results in stagnation of technology, social cultural lags, weakens national security, and overall stagnation of the economic progress. (M.I. Hassan 2005) Chandana and Sidhu (1980) stated that literacy is that qualitative attribute of population which is a fairly reliable index of the socio-economic development of an area and the lack of this keeps the population economically poor and mentally isolated. Literacy and education are also the indices of human resource development (Chandana, R.C. and Sidhu, M.S., 1980). During the period of investigation, the study reveals that there is great influence of educational, socio-economic factors on growth of literacy in study region. The high change of literacy rate is found in Bavda and Chandagad because availability of educational facility, which leads high growth rate of literacy in these tahsil. The moderate change of literacy rate is recorded in Radhanagari, Ajara, Gadhinglaj, Shahuwadi and Panahala tahsil. The low change of literacy rate is recorded in Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karvir, Kagal and Bhudargad tahsil because these tahsil have already literate population in previous year census.

Key words: Literacy, Growth, Change, Population etc.

Introduction:

Literacy has been considered as one of the prime factors and an indicator for the socio-economic development of the people of a region. It influences and determines qualitatively and quantitatively not only the human resources, but also other population attributes like fertility, mortality, age of marriage and economic participation of a population ultimately, aiming towards welfare of the society (Sawant and Lewis, 2004). The minimum level of skills varies from ability to communicate orally, to make a check of a variety of difficult arithmetic computations. However, the length of schooling has often been considered as a basis of distinguishing between a literate and illiterate (Trewartha, 1969).

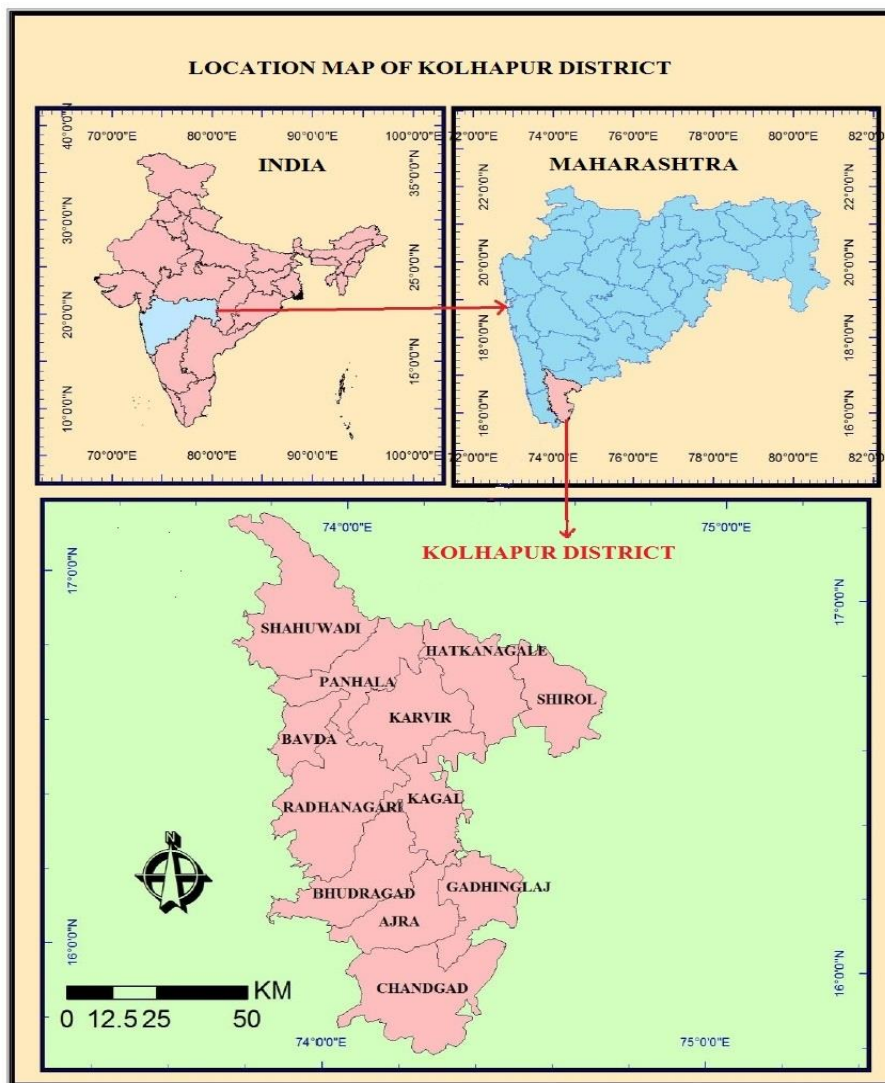
The concept regarding Growth of population is often used to denote the change in number of inhabitants of a territory during specific period of time, irrespective of facts whether the change is positive or negative (Chandana R. C. and Sidhu M. S., 1980). The growth of population means any change in population number, if change is in negative direction then population decreases, when it is in positive direction then population increases. The concept of population growth or change refers to the growth of the human population in a particular area during a specific period of time. The growth of population in any area is an index of its economic development, social awakening and many other characters Population is powerful resource of any nation but it is literate is important. Literacy rate of the population is defined as the percentage of literates in the age group seven years and above. For different age groups the percentage of literates in that age group gives the literacy rate (Census of India, 2001). The

social benefit of literacy attainment is also higher, besides its economic return. Literacy alters perceptions attitudes and behavior. It generates awareness and builds personality in such a way as to promote development and welfare of a nation and its people (Sengupta and Guha, 2002).

Therefore, an attempt is made to analyze literacy in study region, the study of literacy growth is most important and need full aspect in population geography.

The Study Region:

Kolhapur district is situated in the Southern part of Maharashtra. It is located in between 150 42' 30" to 170 11' 25" North latitude and 730 43' 10" to 740 43' 45" East longitude. Kolhapur district is surrounded by Sangli district to the North, Karnataka State to the East and South, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to the West. The Sahyadri ranges to the West and Varna River to the North form the natural boundaries. For the administrative purpose, the district is divided into 12 tahsils i.e. Shahuwadi, Panhala, Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karvir, Bavda, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajra, Gadhinglaj and Chandgad. The total population of the district is 38, 76,001 persons, as per 2011 census, it constitutes 3.45 percent population to the state total. The geographical area of district is 7746.40 square kilometer, which constitutes 2.52 percent of state. The average literacy of Kolhapur district is 81.50 percent. The Kolhapur city is a district headquarters with a population of 549236 persons, as per 2011 Census.



Objectives:

The main objective of the present study is to study the growth of literacy rate in Kolhapur district.

Data Collection and Methodology:

The present study is based on secondary data source. To fulfill the objective data regarding literacy rate collected from district census handbook of Kolhapur district for the period of 1991, 2001 and 2011.

The growth of literacy may be approached just taking into consideration the next growth of literacy over the basic year may approach the growth of literacy. The following formula is used to calculate the growth rate of literacy.

$$R = \frac{P_n - P_o}{P_o} \times 100$$

Where:

R = Growth rate of literate population.

P_n = Current year of literate population.

P_o = Base year of literate population.

The growth of literacy is one of the significant factors associated with man's life. Growth of literacy mainly depends upon different factors viz. educational facility, socio economic condition. Such a growth or change can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of percentage. It gives us a general idea of the development of the region and socio-economic characteristics of the region. Therefore, the study of growth of literacy is most important and need full aspect in population geography.

Literacy depends on following some factors:

The literacy is depends on some of the socio-economic factors. However, among the factors that may be called as important determinants of literacy Cost of education, Political/ideological background, Type of economy, Standard of Living, Degree of urbanizations, Stage of technological advancement, Degree of development of means of urbanization, Religious background, Medium of instruction, Status of women in the society, Prejudices against the females mobility and education, Availability of education institutions, General value system and Public policies (Chandna, 2009).

Pattern of Literacy:**Literacy 1991:**

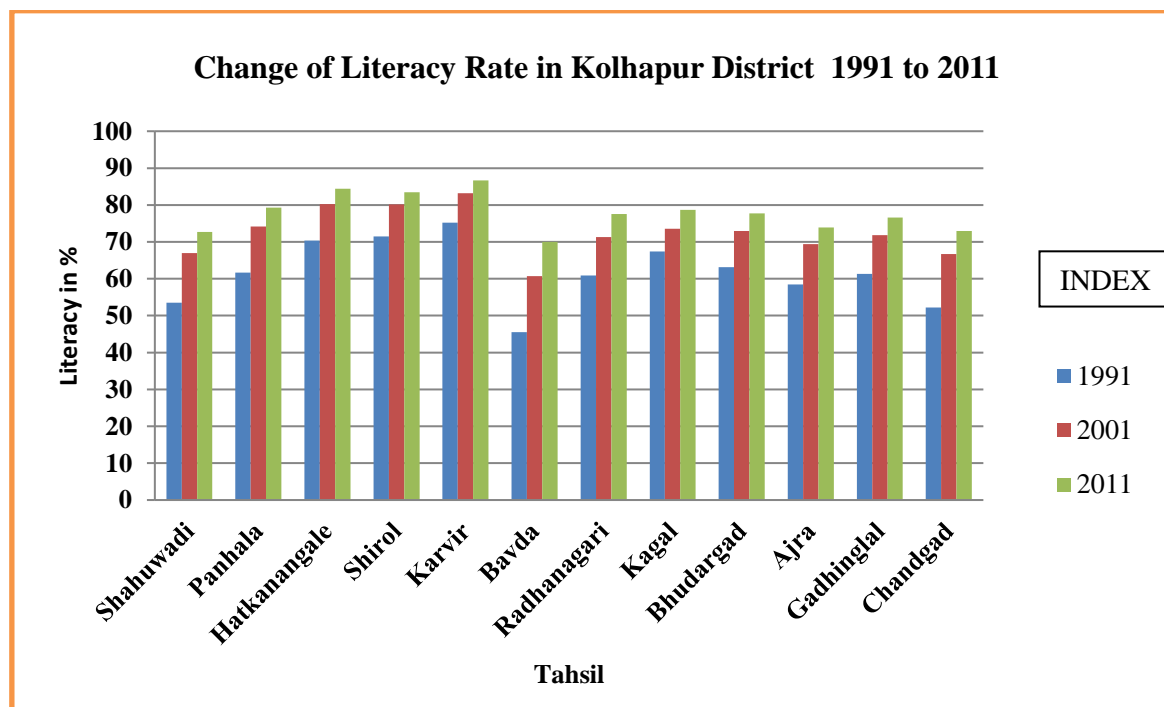
The table 1 indicates that the study region as a whole has 66.94 percent literacy during 1991 of the census year, but spatial distribution varies from tahsil to tahsil. The high literacy (above 65.52 %) is found in Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karvir and Kagal tahsil because the development of educational facilities. The moderate literacy (55.61 to 65.52 %) is recorded in Panahala, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajara and Gadhinglaj. The low growth (below 55.61 %) of literacy is recorded in Shahuwadi, Bavda and Chandagad tahsil because these tahsil have lower development of educational facility

Table No. 1 Change of Literacy rate in Kolhapur District 1991 to 2011

Sr. No	Tahsils	Change of Literacy in between 1991-2011			
		1991	2001	2011	Change in % (1991 to 2011)
1	Shahuwadi	53.54	66.93	72.68	26.33
2	Panhala	61.66	74.16	79.27	22.22
3	Hatkanangale	70.33	80.25	84.37	16.64
4	Shirol	71.49	80.15	83.44	14.32
5	Karvir	75.23	83.16	86.64	13.17
6	Bavda	45.50	60.74	70.00	35.00

7	Radhanagari	60.88	71.33	77.59	21.54
8	Kagal	67.36	73.58	78.65	14.35
9	Bhudargad	63.13	72.92	77.71	18.76
10	Ajra	58.49	69.37	73.93	20.88
11	Gadhinglaj	61.29	71.81	76.62	20.01
12	Chandgad	52.24	66.67	72.94	28.38
	District	66.94	76.93	81.50	17.87

Source: Compiled by Researcher on basis of District Census Handbook of Kolhapur District, 1991 to 2011.



Literacy 2001:

The table 1 indicates that the study region as a whole has 76.93 percent literacy during 2001 of the census year, but spatial distribution varies from tahsil to tahsil. The high literacy (above 75.68 %) is recorded in Hatkanangale, Shirol and Karvir tahsil because the development of educational facilities. The moderate literacy (68.21 to 75.68 %) is recorded in Panahala, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajara and Gadhinglaj tahsils. The low growth (below 68.21 %) of literacy is recorded in Shahuwadi, Bavda and Chandagad tahsil because these tahsil have lower development of educational facility.

Literacy 2011

The table 1 indicates that the study region as a whole has 81.50 percent literacy during 2011 of the census year, but spatial distribution varies from tahsil to tahsil. The high literacy (above 81.08 %) is recorded in Hatkanangale, Shirol and Karvir tahsil because the development of educational facilities. The moderate literacy (75.54 to 81.08 %) is recorded in Panahala, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad, and Gadhinglaj tahsils. The low growth (below 75.54 %) of literacy is recorded in Ajara Shahuwadi, Bavda and Chandagad tahsil because these tahsil have lower development of educational facility.

Tahsil wise changing literacy growth rate from 1991 to 2011 in study region:

The table 1 indicates that the region as a whole has +17.87 percent change of literacy rate during the period of investigation. But spatial distribution varies from tahsil to tahsil. The high change of literacy (above 27.61 %) rate is found in Bavda and Chandagad because availability of educational

facility, which leads high growth rate of literacy in these tahsil. The moderate (20.44 to 27.61 %) change of literacy rate is recorded in Radhanagari, Ajara, Gadhinglaj, Shahuwadi and Panahala, tahsil. The low change of literacy rate (below 20.44 %) is recorded in Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karvir, Kagal and Bhudargad tahsil because these tahsil have already literate population in previous year census.

Conclusions:

During the period of investigation, the study reveals that there is great influence of educational, socio-economic factors on growth of literacy in study region. The high literacy is recorded in Hatkanangale, Shirol and Karvir tahsil because the development of educational facilities. The moderate literacy is recorded in Panahala, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad, and Gadhinglaj tahsils. The low growth of literacy is recorded in Ajara Shahuwadi, Bavda and Chandagad tahsil because these tahsil have lower development of educational facility. The high change of literacy rate is found in Bavda and Chandagad because availability of educational facility, which leads high growth rate of literacy in these tahsil. The moderate change of literacy rate is recorded in Radhanagari, Ajara, Gadhinglaj, Shahuwadi and Panahala, tahsil. The low change of literacy rate is recorded in Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karvir, Kagal and Bhudargad tahsil because these tahsil have already literate population in previous year census.

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