

# **Geographical Analysis of Literacy and Education among Schedule Casts in Uttar Pradesh**

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## **PROBLEM**

In pre-British India, access to education was confined to highly privileged Brahmins and other upper castes with the traditional system of Sanskrit learning being monopolized by the Brahmins alone. The entry into the temples of learning for members of the lower caste was completely forbidden. Even during the British days when education was formalized and relatively secularized through the formal school system, the scheduled castes, the untouchables, continued to be disallowed to participate in educational activities. It was generally believed that education and knowledge is meant for the upper castes and those who have to work with their hands do not require any education. The prevailing economic situation for the majority of depressed castes was such that they could not even think to send their children to schools. The admission procedures were unfavorable and the cost of education was high as compared to their economic standing or earnings. Today, after fifty years of the protective discrimination, the condition of a few of them has definitely changed has taken place. They still continue to face the same hostility as before. The understanding has formed the stimuli to search level and pattern of scheduled castes literacy and education taking the state of the Uttar Pradesh as a case study.

## **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

The main objective of the study is to examine the spatial differentiation in the literacy rate among scheduled castes and between scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes. Keeping in view, a large number of objectives may be set for this study, but few of them are-

1. To examine special pattern of scheduled castes literacy and educational levels in Uttar Pradesh.
2. To identify the spatial pattern of disparities in literacy rates between scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes.
3. To examine spatial pattern of growth of scheduled castes literacy in Uttar Pradesh.
4. To examine at micro-level the low level of literacy and educational development among scheduled castes in Uttar Pradesh.
5. To test the hypothesis that the low level of literacy and educational development

among scheduled castes is the result of their socio-economic deprive

## **MAIN FINDINGS**

The main findings of the research work are divided in two parts: –

### **Finding Based on Secondary Data:**

The number of scheduled castes literates has increased at very high rate but the base of scheduled castes literates has remained low due to high increase in population. The overall scheduled castes literacy rate has generally improved during 1961–1991. It has increased from 7.02 percent in 1961 to 20.53 percent in 1991. The percentage increase in male literacy is relatively higher as compared to the scheduled castes female population. The scheduled castes male literacy increased from 12.39 in 1961 to 31.66 in 1991, while the corresponding female literacy shows a marginal increased from 1.14 percent in 1961 to 7.81 percent in 1991 due to the attitude of elders in the family and that of the *Biradari*, who consider education as irrelevant for females. There is great deal of disparity within the state as well as in both urban and rural areas. It is more in the districts where the proportion of urban population is more. A similar patterns is seen in Ghaziabad, Meerut, Jalaun, Lucknow, Allahabad, and Varanasi. The literacy rate is by and large linked with the occupational group structure of the population particularly in the rural areas of the state. It is very poor among agricultural laborers, cultivators and people engaged in livestock rearing, forestry etc. The literacy rate is much higher in urban areas (32.93%) as compared to the rural areas (18.91%) of the state. The position of scheduled castes female in rural areas is much worse. There are only 7081 percent females against 31.66 percent scheduled castes males.

The highest growth rate in literacy is found in the area of low or very low level of literacy and vice versa while the newly created districts have recorded the negative and very low growth in scheduled castes literacy. Rural areas of the state have recorded higher growth in literacy than the urban areas and the growth in literacy among females is more than the growth of literacy among the males in every parts of the state, especially among rural females. Rohilkhand and the eastern Uttar Pradesh have noticed the very high and high growth in literacy. The fact is that the districts of these regions have low and very low literacy level. The overall scheduled castes literacy has generally improved during 1961–1991.

### **Finding Based on Primary Data:**

The scheduled castes literacy rate is slightly less than non-scheduled castes population in Masauta. As far as the literates without education are concerned the scheduled castes continue to be disadvantaged and the proportion of female literates without education is lower than that males in Masauta. The rate of dropout is high among scheduled castes population, especially in females in Masauta. The scheduled castes in general lag far behind the non-scheduled castes in terms of educational attainment in Piparahis.

The proportion of literates without education is significantly higher among females than that of males in Hempur. The scheduled castes females have marginally higher literacy rate than that of non-scheduled castes females in Hempur. It is surprising to note that not a single scheduled caste female has attended post-metric education in Hempur. The

disparity between male and female literates is very high both in scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes population in Indirapuram. The proportion of scheduled castes literates without education is higher than the corresponding non-scheduled castes in Indirapuram. The scheduled castes lag behind non-scheduled castes population with respect to educational attainment. The rate of dropout is high among scheduled castes as compared to non-scheduled castes children. The percentage of literates and educated persons is high in urban areas that the rural areas. The disparity between scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes literate and educated persons is high both in rural and urban parts. It is very high between males and females.