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Literacy Status of Scheduled Cast Population in Ratnagiri District

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Introduction:

A qualitative trait that acts as a relatively reliable measure of a region's socioeconomic development is the literacy rate of the people. By delaying a society's social evolution, economic advancement, and political maturity, illiteracy can inhibit growth. Therefore, for a population to advance, there must be a particular minimum level of literacy. It acts as a barometer for the development of a community as well as its social and economic achievements. Rural areas contrast dramatically with urban areas and are notable to a considerable extent. Literacy is crucial as a weapon for change and as a demographic no variation. Literacy is crucial for overcoming mental isolation and poverty. Therefore, it is crucial to examine the trends and patterns in literacy. The rates of literacy among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe groups are comparatively low. For these two groups, the illiteracy rate in 1961 was very nearly 75%. In addition, the Ratnagiri district's scheduled caste population's male-female literacy imbalance is being investigated.

Study area:

Ratnagiri district is situated in Konkan region of Ratnagiri dist. state. It lies between 16° 59' 0" N latitude and 73° 18' 0" E. longitude. It is surrounded by Raigad district to the north, Pune district to the east, Satara district to the south east, south Sindhudurg and Arabian Sea to the West. The Sahayadri ranges to the east and Arabian Sea in the west from natural boundaries. The study region has an area of 8196 Sq. km. The district has a population density of 196 inhabitants per square kilometer (510 /sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was -4.96 %. Ratnagiri has a sex ratio of 1123 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 82.43%. For administrative purpose the district is divided into Mandangad, Dapoli, Khed, Chiplun, Guhagar, Sangameshwar, Ratnagiri, Lanja and Rajapur tahsils.

Objectives:

1. To study the Literacy status of SC population.
2. To study the spatial distribution of Literacy status of SC population.

Data and methods: Secondary data make up the vast majority of the data used in this study. The required data has therefore been acquired from the various sources, including:

- 1) Manuals for district censuses. 2) The 2011 Indian Census

A number of tables and graphs have been used to display the obtained data. The

pertinent data from each district in the research region was nonetheless obtained for the current study in order to provide a baseline for the physical position of each tehsil as determined by the 2011 Census. Tehsil-level data were gathered and computed for analysis.

Scheduled Caste Literacy:

The literacy rate of the scheduled caste people in Ratnagiri dist. was 74.98% in 2011, according to the census. It shows a rising trend in the state of Ratnagiri dist.' scheduled caste population's literacy rate. It is noted that the improvement in scheduled caste literacy at the district level was unequal, with significant differences.

Table no. 1 Tehsil-wise Literate SC Population in Ratnagiri dist. District (2011)

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Total SC Pop.	Literate SC Pop.	Percentage out of District Pop.
1	Mandangad	2911	2137	73.41
2	Dapoli	4070	3096	76.06
3	Khed	8739	6352	72.68
4	Chiplun	8815	6685	75.83
5	Guhaghar	2831	2125	75.06
6	Ratnagiri	11932	9253	77.54
7	Sangmeshwar	9712	7097	73.07
8	Lanja	7018	5031	71.68
9	Rajapur	4917	3527	71.73
	Ratnagiri Dist.	66948	50201	74.98

Source: Census 2011

Tehsil wise Literacy rate of Scheduled Caste Population:



In Ratnagiri district, 25.02% percent of scheduled caste residents were literate, while Ratnagiri tehsil had a greatest literacy rate of 77.54 percent. The scheduled caste

population's lowest literacy rate was found in Lanja (71.68%). In comparison to the rest of Ratnagiri dist., the scheduled caste population's literacy rate was low in the Rajapur (71.73%), Khed (72.68%), Sangmeshwar (73.07%) and Mandangad (73.41%). In the Ratnagiri dist., high literacy rate found in the tehsils of Dapoli (76.06%), Chiplun (75.83%) and Guhaghar (75.06%). Now the progress has been made but the variation in literacy pattern is the indicates of regional imbalances in the levels of socio-economic development.

Tehsil wise Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste Population:

In terms of the state's scheduled caste population's literacy rate, the Ratnagiri dist. is much less literate than the same portion as a whole. It was noted that there was significant fluctuation in the literacy rate at the tehsil level. Five tehsils Rajapur, Lanja, Khed, Sangmeshwar. The following three types of regions may be separated based on the average literacy rate in the Ratnagiri dist.

Area of High Literacy

There are four tehsils like, Dapoli, Guhaghar, Chiplun and Ratnagiri fell into this category. In the Ratnagiri district, the scheduled caste population's literacy rate in 2011 was 74.98 percent. The highest literacy rate found in the Ratnagiri tehsil that is, 77.54 percent followed by Dapoli (76.06%), Chiplun (75.83%) and Guhaghar (75.06%). The population of scheduled castes was found to have a literacy rate below the state average. The percentage of education level was high compared to other districts in the research region because to urbanisation and industrialization.

Area of Moderate Literacy

The average literacy rate of the scheduled caste people in two tehsiles, these are Khed (72.68%) and Sangmeshwar tehsil (73.07%), using the region's average rate as a base between 72 and 74.99 percent districts separated into areas of intermediate literacy.

Area of Low Literacy

According to 2011 data, areas with scheduled caste populations that had literacy rates below 71.99 % were classified as areas with low literacy. Lanja (71.68%) and Rajapur (71.73%) districts were included in this category. A large portion of the scheduled caste society is both illiterate and landless. Additionally, it has been found that the income and lifestyle of the parents have a significant impact on the literacy rate. If the parents are wealthy, the family's literacy rate is frequently fairly high. Poor parents are unable to provide their children the necessary education for success.

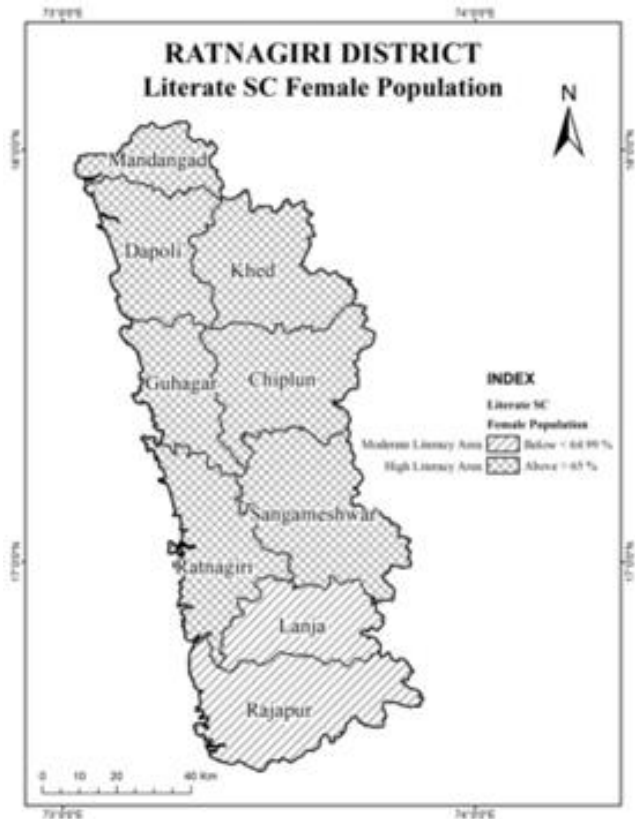
Male Female Literacy 1981-2001

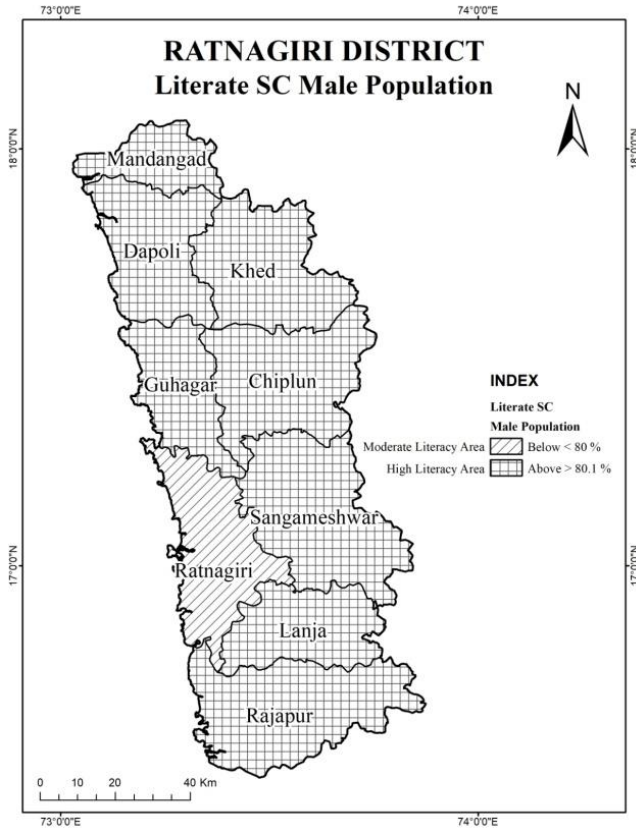
In relation to the rest of the population, the scheduled castes do indeed have an extremely low percentage of literacy. In comparison to non-scheduled caste populations, the literacy rate among scheduled castes in the Ratnagiri district was equally low.

Table no. 2 Tehsil-wise SC Male-Female Population in Ratnagiri dist. District (2011)

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Male Pop.	%	Female Pop.	Percentage
1	Mandangad	1108	81.71	1029	66.17
2	Dapoli	1639	82.81	1457	69.67
3	Khed	3431	80.61	2921	65.15
4	Chiplun	3609	83.46	3076	68.49
5	Guhagar	1125	82.41	1000	68.21
6	Ratnagiri	4819	77.06	4436	70.9
7	Sangmeshwar	3753	81.99	3344	65
8	Lanja	2569	80.13	2462	64.58
9	Rajapur	1806	80.89	1721	64.09

Source: Census 2011





It is discovered that there is a significant gender gap in the literacy rates of the scheduled caste groups' males and females. In the studied region, the literacy rate for men was 81.11 percent in 2011, compared to only 66.91 percent for women. The scheduled caste female literacy rate in these periods was 14% less than male literacy rate. The greatest rate of scheduled caste female literacy was recorded in the Ratnagiri tehsil, at 70.9 percent, followed by Dapoli (69.67%) and Chiplun (68.49%). Rajapur tehsil has the lowest rate of female literacy among reserved castes (64.09%). Guhagar and Mandangad tehsils has 68.21 % and 66.17 % literacy rate respectively. In the same time frame, it was also noted that the scheduled caste population's male literacy rate was twice as high as its female literacy rate.

In the Ratnagiri dist., male literacy rates in 2011 were 81.11 percent while female literacy rates were just 66.91 percent. Ratnagiri tehsil, which had the lowest male (77.06%). The greatest rate of scheduled caste male literacy was recorded in the Chiplun tehsil, at 83.46 percent, followed by Dapoli (82.81%) and Guhagar (82.41%). Sangmeshwar, Mandangad, Rajapur and Khed tehsils has 81.99%, 81.71%, 80.89% and 80.61 % literacy rate respectively. In the same time frame, it was also noted that the

scheduled caste population's male literacy rate was as high as its female literacy rate.

There were significant disparities in literacy rates throughout the area, but the scheduled caste population's rate was flat. It is determined that the regional inequalities. Although there has been improvement in literacy, economic development has varied. Low standing of women in society, lack of educational awareness, people's occupations and economic status are the primary causes of the low literacy rates in these areas. Now, different government development initiatives for the most vulnerable groups, including mandatory education, fee reductions, and seat reservations programmes, are helping to raise their literacy rates.

Conclusion:

Literacy among the scheduled castes is quite low, as described. The district of Ratnagiri's scheduled caste residents' literacy rates varied significantly. The gender disparity in the scheduled caste groups' male and female literacy rates is found to be rather large. In Ratnagiri District, the scheduled caste population's literacy rate was 74.98% in 2011. The highest literacy rate found in the Ratnagiri tehsil that is, 77.54 percent. The lowest literacy rate found in the Lanja tehsil that is, 71.68%. In the studied region, the literacy rate for men was 81.11 percent in 2011, compared to only 66.91 percent for women. The scheduled caste female literacy rate in these periods was 14% less than male literacy rate. The greatest rate of scheduled caste female literacy was recorded in the Ratnagiri tehsil, at 70.9 percent. Rajapur tehsil has the lowest rate of female literacy among reserved castes (64.09%). Ratnagiri tehsil, which had the lowest male (77.06%). The greatest rate of scheduled caste male literacy was recorded in the Chiplun tehsil, at 83.46 percent. Economic growth, the conclusion is. Low literacy rates have been noted in certain locations as a result of regional differences in literacy levels. Progress in literacy has been made despite the low standing of women in society, their low educational attainment, their inclination towards domestic work, and their precarious financial situation. Today, several government development measures, such as seat reservations, fee reductions, and obligatory education, are assisting in raising the literacy rates of the most vulnerable communities.

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