



A BRIEF REVIEW ON VARIOUS DATA OF LITERACY RATE AND ITS DIFFERENTIAL IN INDIA

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Abstract

The present paper is a Documentary Research/ analysis following the Qualitative approach and the researcher aimed at the Literacy rate in India. Researcher fined the various data of the Literacy rate in India. Researcher fined the Literacy rate Census 1901 to 2011 in India. In this research objectives are to find out the Literacy rate in pre and post independence India, ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate, State Census Details etc. In this research paper one principle variable- Literacy rate in India was considered. Researchers explained various data of the Literacy rate in India, and also find out the literacy rate update between census 2001, and 2011 in India through the different website. Researcher fined that Kerala as the most literate state in India, with a literacy rate of 94.65% and However, Tamil Wikipedia claims that Kerala's literacy rate in 2013 is 95.5%, and Bihar as the lowest literate state in India, with a literacy rate of 63.82%.

Keywords: *Literacy Rate, Census Report, Census 2011, India.*

1.1 Introduction

To know development in a society, Literacy is another proper indicator of economic development. For purpose of census, a person in age limit of seven and above, who can both write and read with understanding in any of the language is considered as a literate in India. The 15th official census in India was calculated in the year 2011. In a country like India, literacy is the main foundation for social and economic growth. When the British rule ended in India in the year 1947 the literacy rate was just 12%. Over the years, India has changed socially, economically, and globally. After the 2011 census, literacy rate India 2011 was found to be 74.04%. Compared to the adult literacy rate here the youth literacy rate is about 9% higher. Though this seems like a very great accomplishment, it is still a matter of concern that still so many people in India cannot even read and write. The numbers of children who do not get education especially in the rural areas are still high. Though the government has made a law that every child under the age of 14 should get free education, the problem of illiteracy is still at large. Now, if we consider female literacy rate in India, then it is lower than the male literacy rate as many parents do not allow their female children to go to schools. They get married off at a young age instead. Though child marriage has been lowered to very low levels, it still happens. Many families, especially in rural areas believe that having a male child is better than having a baby girl. So the male child gets all the benefits. Today, the female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. The literacy rate in India has always been a matter of concern but many NGO initiatives and government ads, campaigns and programs are being held to spread awareness amongst people about the importance of literacy. Also the government has made strict rules for female equality rights. India literacy rate has shown significant rise in the past 10 years. Here are some facts about different states literacy rate, Kerala is the only state in India to have 100% literacy rate. It is followed by Goa, Tripura, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra, Sikkim. The lowest literacy rate in India is seen in the state of Bihar. We also need to think why is the literacy rate is low here in India compared to other developed countries. Basically the population in India is very high. Being the 7th largest country its population stands 2nd in the world after China. There are over 1 billion people in India. The number of schools and educational centers especially in rural areas is less. Even today many people are below the poverty line. Also people aren't aware that children should get free education according to the law.

1.2. Objectives

Following are the objectives of the present study –

- To find out the Literacy rate in pre and post independence India.
- To find out the Present ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate.
- To find out Present ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate and Sex.
- To find out the State Census Details.
- To compare the census 2001 and 2011 by literacy rate.

1.3. Research Questions

- What are the Literacy rate in pre and post independence India?
- What the Present ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate?
- What the Present ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate and Sex?
- What is the State Census Details?
- What is the difference between 2001 and 2011 Census by literacy rate?



1.4. Delimitation

The study has been confined to the literacy rate in India. The literacy rate in Pre independence (from 1901) and the post independence India have been taken into consideration in the present study.

1.4. Methodology

To conduct the present research successfully the researcher has employed the Documentary Research following the Qualitative approach. The researcher attempt to study in present status Literacy rate of in India.

1.5. Analysis and Interpretation

Table A: Literacy Rate in Pre and Post Independence India

Census year	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1901	5.35	9.83	0.60
1911	5.92	10.56	1.05
1921	7.16	12.21	1.81
1931	9.50	15.59	2.93
1941	16.10	24.90	7.30
1951	16.67	24.95	9.45
1961	24.02	34.44	12.95
1971	29.45	39.45	18.69
1981	36.23	46.89	24.82
1991	42.84	52.74	32.17
2001	64.83	75.26	53.67
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46

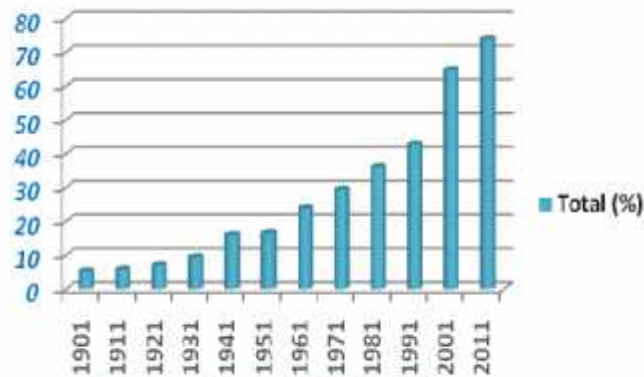


Fig 1: Literacy Rate from 1901-2011 in India

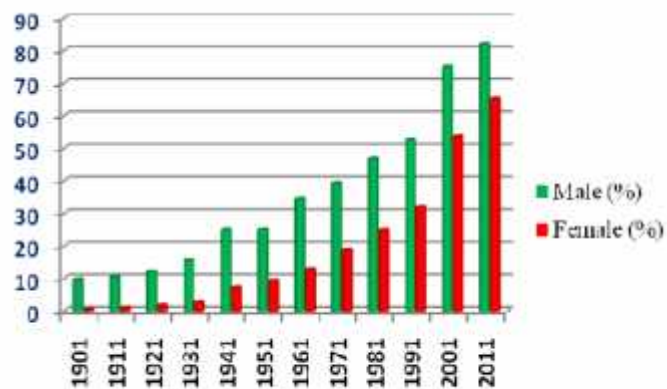


Fig 2: Male and Female Literacy Rate from 1901 - 2011 in India

The table lists the "crude literacy rate" in India from 1901 to 2011.

Any one above age 7 who can read and write in any language with an ability to understand was considered a literate. In censuses before 1991, children below the age 5 were treated as illiterates. The literacy rate taking the entire population into account is termed as "crude literacy rate", and taking the population from age 7 and above into account is termed as "effective literacy rate". Effective literacy rate increased to a total of 74.04% with 82.14% of the males and 65.46% of the females being literate.

Table B: Ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate: 2011

Rank	India/State/Union Territory	Literacy rate
1	Kerala	93.91
2	Lakshadweep	92.28
3	Mizoram	91.58
4	Tripura	87.75
5	Goa	87.40



6	Daman & Diu	87.07
7	Puducherry	86.55
8	Chandigarh	86.43
9	Delhi	86.34
10	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	86.27
11	Himachal Pradesh	83.78
12	Maharashtra	82.91
13	Sikkim	82.20
14	Tamil Nadu	80.33
15	Nagaland	80.11
16	Manipur	79.85
17	Uttarakhand	79.63
18	Gujarat	79.31
19	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	77.65
20	West Bengal	77.08
21	Punjab	76.68
22	Haryana	76.64
23	Karnataka	75.60
24	Meghalaya	75.48
25	Odisha	73.45
26	Assam	73.18
27	Chhattisgarh	71.04
28	Madhya Pradesh	70.63
29	Uttar Pradesh	69.72
30	Jammu & Kashmir	68.74
31	Jharkhand	67.63
32	Rajasthan	67.06
33	Arunachal Pradesh	66.95
34	Bihar	63.82
India (Census 2011):		74.04

In September 2013, the State Government of Tripura claimed that the state has surpassed Kerala as the most literate state in India, with a literacy rate of 94.65%. However, Tamil Wikipedia claims that Kerala's literacy rate in 2013 is 95.5%.

As per Population Census of India 2011, the **Literacy rate of India** has shown an improvement of almost 9 percent. It has gone up to 74.04% in 2011 from 65.38% in 2001, thus showing an increase of 9 percent in the last 10 years. It consists of male literacy rate 82.14% and female literacy rate is 65.46%. Kerala with 93.9% literacy rate is the top state in India. Lakshadweep and Mizoram are at second and third position with 92.3% and 91.06% literacy rate respectively. Bihar with 63.08% literacy rate is the last in terms of literacy rate in India. Majority of states in India has shown major signs of improvement in their overall literary rate thus contributing towards a literate nation.

Table C: Ranking of states and Union Territories by Literacy rate and Sex

Males			Females		
Rank	India/State/Union Territory	Literacy rate	Rank	India/State/Union Territory	Literacy rate
1	Lakshadweep	96.11	1	Kerala	91.98
2	Kerala	96.02	2	Mizoram	89.40
3	Mizoram	93.72	3	Lakshadweep	88.25
4	Goa	92.81	4	Tripura	83.15
5	Tripura	92.18	5	Goa	81.84
6	Pondicherry	92.12	6	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	81.84
7	Daman & Diu	91.48	7	Chandigarh	81.38
8	Delhi	91.03	8	Pondicherry	81.22



9	Himachal Pradesh	90.83	9	Delhi	80.93
10	Chandigarh	90.54	10	Daman & Diu	79.59
11	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	90.11	11	Nagaland	76.69
12	Maharashtra	89.82	12	Himachal Pradesh	76.60
13	Uttarakhand	88.33	13	Sikkim	76.43
14	Sikkim	87.29	14	Maharashtra	75.48
15	Gujarat	87.23	15	Tamil Nadu	73.86
16	Tamil Nadu	86.81	16	Meghalaya	73.78
17	Manipur	86.49	17	Manipur	73.17
18	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	86.46	18	Punjab	71.34
19	Haryana	85.38	19	West Bengal	71.16
20	Nagaland	83.29	20	Gujarat	70.73
21	Karnataka	82.85	21	Uttarakhand	70.70
22	West Bengal	82.67	22	Karnataka	68.13
23	Odisha	82.40	23	Assam	67.27
24	Punjab	81.48	24	Haryana	66.77
25	Chhattisgarh	81.45	25	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65.93
26	Madhya Pradesh	80.53	26	Odisha	64.36
27	Rajasthan	80.51	27	Chhattisgarh	60.59
28	Uttar Pradesh	79.24	28	Madhya Pradesh	60.02
29	Assam	78.81	29	Andhra Pradesh	59.74
30	Jharkhand	78.45	30	Arunachal Pradesh	59.57
31	Jammu & Kashmir	78.26	31	Uttar Pradesh	59.26
32	Meghalaya	77.17	32	Jammu & Kashmir	58.01
33	Andhra Pradesh	75.56	33	Jharkhand	56.21
34	Arunachal Pradesh	73.69	34	Bihar	53.33
35	Bihar	73.39	35	Rajasthan	52.66

- **States reported with literacy rate greater than 90% :** Kerala (94%), Lakshadweep (91.85%) and Mizoram (91.33).
- **States with literacy rate between national average (72.99%) and below 90% :** Tripura (87.22%), Goa (88.70%), Daman & Diu (76.24%), Pondicherry (85.85%), Chandigarh (86.05%), Delhi (86.21%), A&N Islands (86.63%), Himachal Pradesh (82.8%), Maharashtra (82.34%), Sikkim (81.42%) Tamil Nadu (80.09%), Nagaland (79.55%), Manipur (79.21%), Uttarakhand (78.82%), Gujarat (78.03%), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (76.24%), West Bengal (76.26%), Punjab (75.84%), Haryana (75.55%), Karnataka (75.36%) and Meghalaya (74.43%).
- **Literacy rate in rural areas** stand at 67.67% with rural male literacy rate 77.15% and rural female literacy rate 57.93%. Whereas **literacy rate in urban areas** stand at 84.11% with urban male literacy rate at 88.76% and urban female literacy at 79.11%.
- **Literacy rate of SCs** stands at 66.07% (Male SCs 75.17% & Female SCs 56.46%).Whereas **Literacy rate of STs** Stand at 58.96% (Male STs 68.53% & Female STs 49.35%).

Gender disparity in literacy rates declined by 5.34 percent points from 21.59 percent points in 2001 to 16.25 percent points in 2001-2011. There has been a continuous decrease in gender gap in literacy since 1991 (24.84 percent point).

Table D: State Census 2011 Details.

State	Population	Increase	Area(km ²)	Density	Sex-Ratio	Literacy
Uttar Pradesh	199,812,341	20.23 %	240,928	829	912	67.68
Uttar Pradesh	199,812,341	20.23 %	240,928	829	912	67.68
Maharashtra	112,374,333	15.99 %	307,713	365	929	82.34
Bihar	104,099,452	25.42 %	94,163	1,106	918	61.80
West Bengal	91,276,115	13.84 %	88,752	1,028	950	76.26
Andhra Pradesh	84,580,777	10.98 %	275,045	308	993	67.02



Madhya Pradesh	72,626,809	20.35 %	308,252	236	931	69.32
Tamil Nadu	72,147,030	15.61 %	130,060	555	996	80.09
Rajasthan	68,548,437	21.31 %	342,239	200	928	66.11
Karnataka	61,095,297	15.60 %	191,791	319	973	75.36
Gujarat	60,439,692	19.28 %	196,244	308	919	78.03
Orissa	41,974,218	14.05 %	155,707	270	979	72.87
Kerala	33,406,061	4.91 %	38,852	860	1084	94.00
Jharkhand	32,988,134	22.42 %	79,716	414	948	66.41
Assam	31,205,576	17.07 %	78,438	398	958	72.19
Punjab	27,743,338	13.89 %	50,362	551	895	75.84
Chhattisgarh	25,545,198	22.61 %	135,192	189	991	70.28
Haryana	25,351,462	19.90 %	44,212	573	879	75.55
Delhi	16,787,941	21.21 %	1,483	11,320	868	86.21
Jammu and Kashmir	12,541,302	23.64 %	222,236	56	889	67.16
Uttarakhand	10,086,292	18.81 %	53,483	189	963	78.82
Himachal Pradesh	6,864,602	12.94 %	55,673	123	972	82.80
Tripura	3,673,917	14.84 %	10,486	350	960	87.22
Meghalaya	2,966,889	27.95 %	22,429	132	989	74.43
Manipur	2,855,794	24.50 %	22,327	128	985	76.94
Nagaland	1,978,502	-0.58 %	16,579	119	931	79.55
Goa	1,458,545	8.23 %	3,702	394	973	88.70
Arunachal Pradesh	1,383,727	26.03 %	83,743	17	938	65.38
Puducherry	1,247,953	28.08 %	490	2,547	1037	85.85
Mizoram	1,097,206	23.48 %	21,081	52	976	91.33
Chandigarh	1,055,450	17.19 %	114	9,258	818	86.05
Sikkim	610,577	12.89 %	7,096	86	890	81.42
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	380,581	6.86 %	8,249	46	876	86.63
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	343,709	55.88 %	491	700	774	76.24
Daman and Diu	243,247	53.76 %	111	2,191	618	87.10
Lakshadweep	64,473	6.30 %	30	2,149	946	91.85
India	1,210,854,977	17.64 %	3,287,240	382	940	74.04

The Indian Census 2011 can be referred to as the seventh census operation after Indian independence. The national census 2011 has been run on all the 28 states of the country and the seven Union Territories. There have been surveys on cities and districts as well. The data of Indian census 2011 covers all the major aspects of society like population, sex ratio and literacy percentage as well. Here is a list on census 2011 data of India.

There are presently 28 states in India. The total population of the country is 1.21 billion presently. According to the State Census 2011, the most populated state in India is Uttar Pradesh with a population of 19.96 crores. The least populated state in the country is Sikkim with a population of 60, 7688. The census of Indian states 2011 reveals that Kerala is the highest literate state in the country with 93.91% of literacy rate. Bihar is the least literate state with a literacy rate of 63.82%. The Indian census 2011 state wise shows that Kerala represents the highest sex ratio with 1084 females per 1000 males while Haryana features the lowest sex ratio in India with just 877 women per 1000 males.

Table E: Census 2001 and 2011 by Literacy Rate

This is a list of the States and Union Territories of India in order of literacy rate. This information was compiled from 2011 and 2001 census of India. The list does not include the newly formed states of Telangana and residual Andhra Pradesh in 2014. A *Times of India* report quoted the literacy rates of the separate states as: Telangana - 66.5%; and Andhra Pradesh - 91.1%.



India/State/Union Territory	Literacy Rate (%) - 2011 Census	Literacy Rate (%) - 2001 Census	Decadal Difference (%)
Kerala	93.91	90.86	3.14
Lakshadweep	92.28	86.66	5.62
Mizoram	91.58	88.80	2.78
Tripura	87.75	73.19	13.56
Goa	87.40	82.01	5.39
Daman & Diu	87.07	78.18	8.89
Pondicherry	86.55	81.24	5.31
Chandigarh	86.43	81.94	4.49
Delhi	86.34	81.67	4.67
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	86.27	81.30	4.97
Himachal Pradesh	83.78	76.48	7.30
Maharashtra	82.91	76.88	6.03
Sikkim	82.20	68.81	13.39
Tamil Nadu	80.33	73.45	6.88
Nagaland	80.11	66.59	13.52
Manipur	79.85	69.93	9.92
Uttarakhand	79.63	71.62	8.01
Gujarat	79.31	69.14	10.17
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	77.65	57.63	20.02
West Bengal	77.08	68.64	8.44
Punjab	76.68	69.65	7.03
Haryana	76.64	67.91	8.73
Karnataka	75.60	66.64	8.96
Meghalaya	75.48	62.56	12.92
Odisha	73.45	63.08	10.37
Assam	73.18	63.25	9.93
Chhattisgarh	71.04	64.66	6.38
Madhya Pradesh	70.63	63.74	6.89
Uttar Pradesh	69.72	56.27	13.45
Jammu & Kashmir	68.74	55.52	13.22
Jharkhand	67.63	53.56	14.07
Rajasthan	67.06	60.41	6.65
Arunachal Pradesh	66.95	54.34	12.61
Bihar	63.82	47.00	16.82
Total India:	74.04	64.83	9.21

In September 2013, the State Government of Tripura claimed that the state has surpassed Kerala as the most literate state in India, with a literacy rate of 94.65%.^{[6][7]} However, Tamil Wikipedia claims that Kerala's literacy rate in 2013 is 95.5%.

1.6 Findings

- Literacy rate of India in 2011 is 74.04%. The Male literacy rate is 82.14% and Female literacy rate is 65.46% according to Census 2011.
- Among the Indian states, Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% and then Mizoram 91.58%.
- Among the Union Territories, Lakshadweep has the highest literacy rate of 92.28%.
- Bihar has the lowest literacy rate in India with 63.82%.
- The Male literacy is highest in Lakshadweep 96.11% and Kerala 96.02%.
- The Female literacy is highest in Kerala 91.98% and Mizoram 89.40%.
- Lowest male literacy is in Bihar 73.39%.
- Lowest female literacy is in Rajasthan 52.66%.



1.7 Conclusion

The illiterate adults should realize that they should be responsible citizens in a democracy. An illiterate person cannot perform his duties properly. It is not enough to enable them how to read and write, they must know what they are expected to do as citizens of this great country. There should be continuous Post-literacy programme, so that they do not forget what they have learnt and keep themselves, up-to-date about the developments in the country.

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