

## The Study of Literacy Rate among the Scheduled Castes Population in Haryana (2001-2011)

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### Abstract

Literacy is one of the important aspect of demographic studies and essential for the socio-economic and political development, especially for the poor and backward group of population of any region or country. Among the social group, the scheduled castes are considered as backward group of society in India and governments (both central and state) launches and run various programmes and schemes for the upliftment of these groups. In the present paper an attempt has been made to bring out the pattern of literacy rate in the scheduled castes population of Haryana, which is one of the economically developed state in India.

**Key words-** Literacy rate, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Haryana

### Introduction

Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play demographic process (Chandna, 2015). All demographic aspects are influenced by literacy. Thus, the study of literacy patterns and trends is of immense significance mainly for developing countries like India, which takes more than 17 percent population of the world. The socio- cultural diversity is also a key feature of Indian population. India is home to at least nine religions, which are divided into 3000 castes and 25000 sub-castes and approximately each caste identifies with specific occupation. The socio-economic conditions vary among these castes.

Haryana is one of the 'geographically small' but 'economically develop' state of India. The state occupies just 1.4 percent area and 2.09 percent population (2011) of country. The literacy rate of the state has 67.91 percent, which has reached 75.55 percent in 2011. The state is also rich with socio-cultural diversity. According to the census of 2011, the total population of the state is 255351462, which takes 87.46 percent Hindu, 7.03 percent Muslim, 4.91 percent Sikhs, 0.21 percent Jain and 0.41 percent others. This population is further divides in to three groups:



between the literacy rate of scheduled castes population and the average literacy rate of the state (Figure-1).

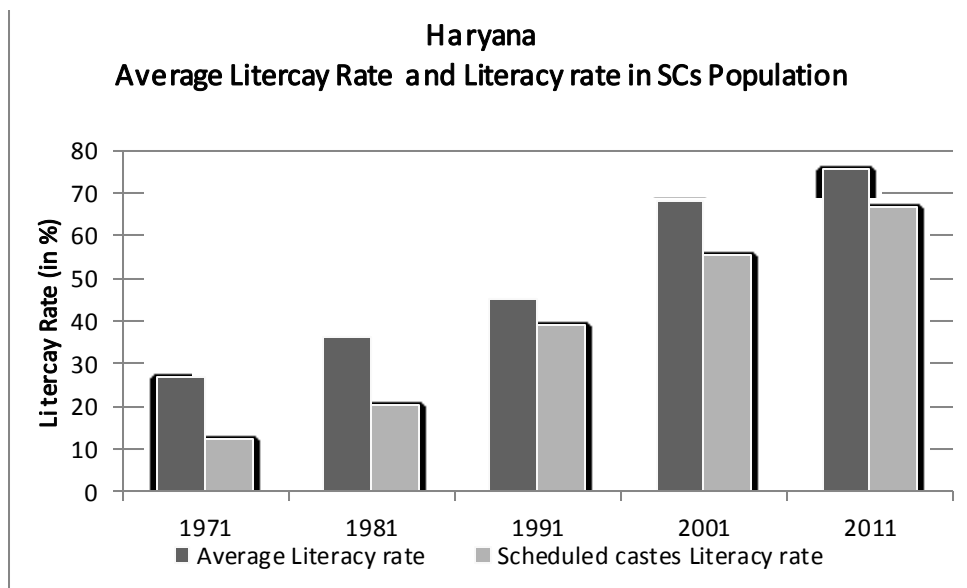


Figure-1

During some previous years, the Government of Haryana launched many programmes/ schemes for the upliftment of literacy level in scheduled castes population, such as ‘Dr. Ambedkar Medhavi Chhattar Sansodhit Yojna (2005-06), The Scheme of Financial Assistance for Higher Competitive Examination to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes candidates through private institutions (2009), Scheme for Financial assistance to the institutions/ societies of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Free text books to SC students studying in classes 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, Cash Award Schemes for scheduled caste classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> for boys & girls, Monthly Stipends to all scheduled caste students in classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> etc. The present paper deals with the study of literacy rate in Scheduled Castes population of Haryana from 2001 to 2011.

### Objectives

There are following objectives of present research work-

To study the literacy rate of scheduled castes population at district level

To assess the changes in literacy rate of scheduled castes population from 2001 to 2011

### Data Source

The present study is entirely based on the census data of the period 2001 and 2011. The various directories of districts, other related census volumes, various reports of Government organizations and NGOs have been studied for present research work. The districts of 2001 have been considered as the base districts. Hence, the new districts of 2011 have been merged with their parent districts. The processed data is represented with maps, tables and diagrams.

### Result and discussion

There is some growth in the literacy rate of scheduled castes population in Haryana (Table-1). During 2001, the average literacy rate of state's scheduled castes population has 55.45 percent, which has very low as compare to average literacy rate of state during same period. The lowest literacy rate among scheduled castes population has recorded in Fatehabad district (41%) and highest in Rewari district (68.7 %) followed by Gurgaon, Panchkula, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Sonipat, Jhajjar and Mahendergarh, where the literacy rate has more than 60 percent.

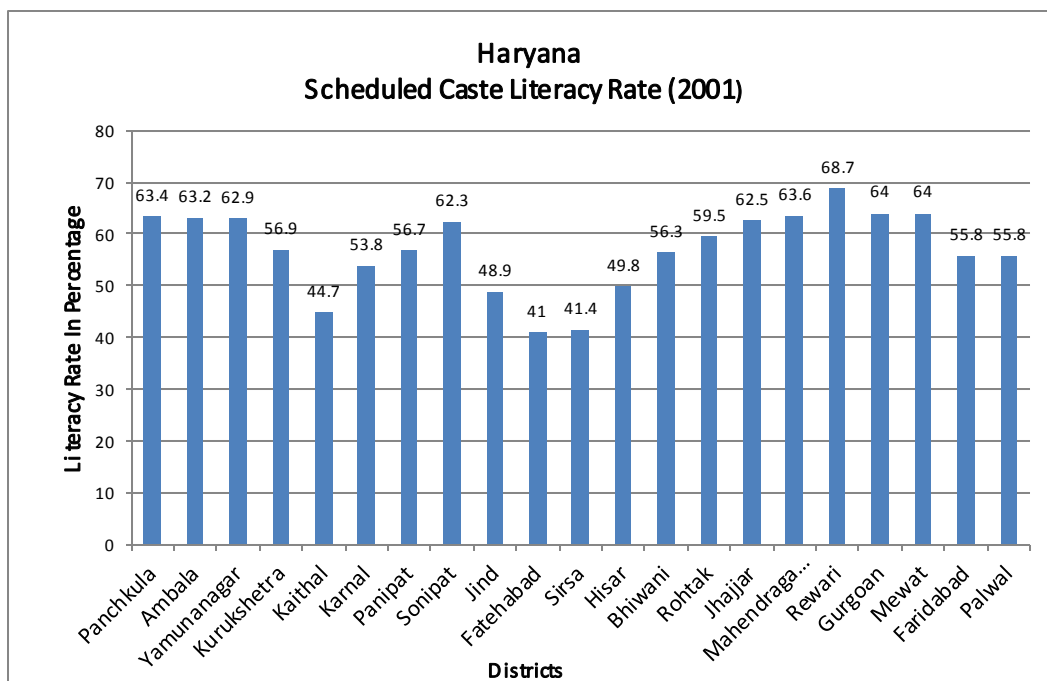


Figure-2

The districts Rohtak, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Bhiwani, Faridabad, and Karnal have 50 to 60 percent literacy rate, whereas more than half population of scheduled castes was illiterate in the districts Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Sirsa and Fatehabad (Figure 2 and Map 2).

Table-1  
Haryana  
Literacy Rate in Scheduled Castes Population (2001-2011)

Sr. No.	District	2001			2011			Growth in literacy	Rank (Growth wise)
		Literacy rate (%)	Rank	Category	Literacy rate (%)	Rank	Category		
1	Panchkula	63.4	4 <sup>th</sup>	Medium	71.3	7 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	07.9	15 <sup>th</sup>
2	Ambala	63.2	5 <sup>th</sup>	Medium	73.4	5 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	10.2	12 <sup>th</sup>
3	Yamunanagar	62.9	6 <sup>th</sup>	Medium	72.6	6 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	09.7	14 <sup>th</sup>
4	Kurukshetra	56.9	10 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	67.3	12 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	10.4	11 <sup>th</sup>
5	Kaithal	44.7	17 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	59.2	16 <sup>th</sup>	Low	14.5	2 <sup>nd</sup>
6	Karnal	53.8	14 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	64.8	13 <sup>th</sup>	High	11.0	10 <sup>th</sup>
7	Panipat	56.7	11 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	68.5	10 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	11.8	8 <sup>th</sup>
8	Sonipat	62.3	8 <sup>th</sup>	Medium	71.3	7 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	09.0	13 <sup>th</sup>
9	Jind	48.9	16 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	62.4	15 <sup>th</sup>	Moderate	13.5	4 <sup>th</sup>
10	Fatehabad	41.0	19 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	55.8	17 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	14.8	1 <sup>st</sup>
11	Sirsa	41.4	18 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	55.1	18 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	13.7	3 <sup>rd</sup>
12	Hisar	49.8	15 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	62.7	14 <sup>th</sup>	Medium	12.9	5 <sup>th</sup>
13	Bhiwani	56.3	12 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	67.4	11 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	11.1	8 <sup>th</sup>
14	Rohtak	59.5	9 <sup>th</sup>	Low	69.9	8 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	10.4	11 <sup>th</sup>
15	Jhajjar	62.5	7 <sup>th</sup>	Medium	74.3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Very High	11.8	9 <sup>th</sup>
16	Mahendargarh	63.6	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Medium	74.0	4 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	10.4	11 <sup>th</sup>
17	Rewari	68.7	1 <sup>st</sup>	Very Low	76.0	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Very High	07.3	16 <sup>th</sup>
18	Gurgaon	64.0	2 <sup>nd</sup>	High	76.3	1 <sup>st</sup>	Very High	12.3	6 <sup>th</sup>
19	Mewat	NA*	-	-	67.5	-	Very High	-	-
20	Faridabad	55.8	13 <sup>th</sup>	Very Low	69.5	9 <sup>th</sup>	Very High	13.7	3 <sup>rd</sup>
21	Palwal	NA*	-	-	66.2	-	High	-	-

Source- Compiled by authors from different census reports

During 2011, a positive growth in the literacy rate of scheduled castes population was recorded. The maximum districts of state had more than 60 percent literacy rate in 2011. The average literacy rate of scheduled castes population was 66.9 percent which was 55.45 percent during last census. The lowest literacy rate among scheduled castes population has recorded in Sirsa and Fatehabad district, which was 55.1 percent and 55.8 percent respectively. The highest literacy rate recorded Gurgaon (76.3 percent) followed by Rewari, Jhajjar, Mahendergarh, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Panchkula and Sonipat, where the literacy rate had recorded more than 70 percent. Rohtak, Faridabad, Panipat, Bhiwani, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Hisar, and Jind had more than 60 percent literacy rate in scheduled castes population and only two districts had less than 60 percent literacy rate in the state during 2011 (Map-3, Figure-3)

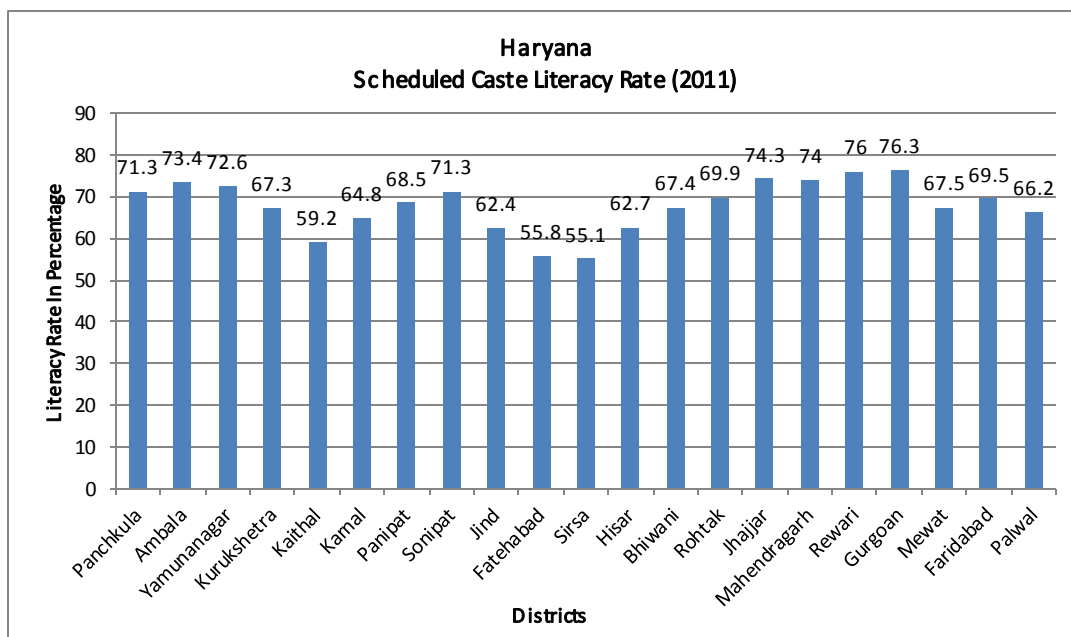
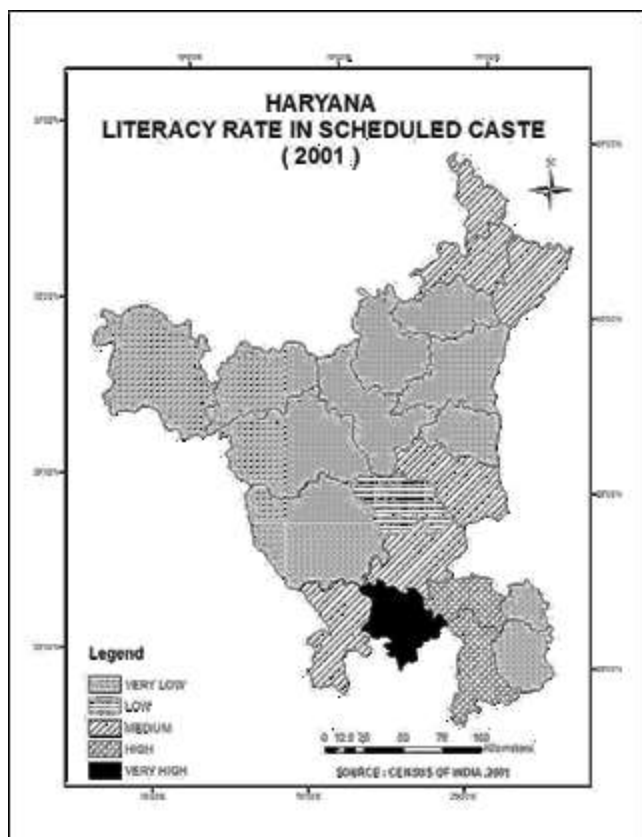


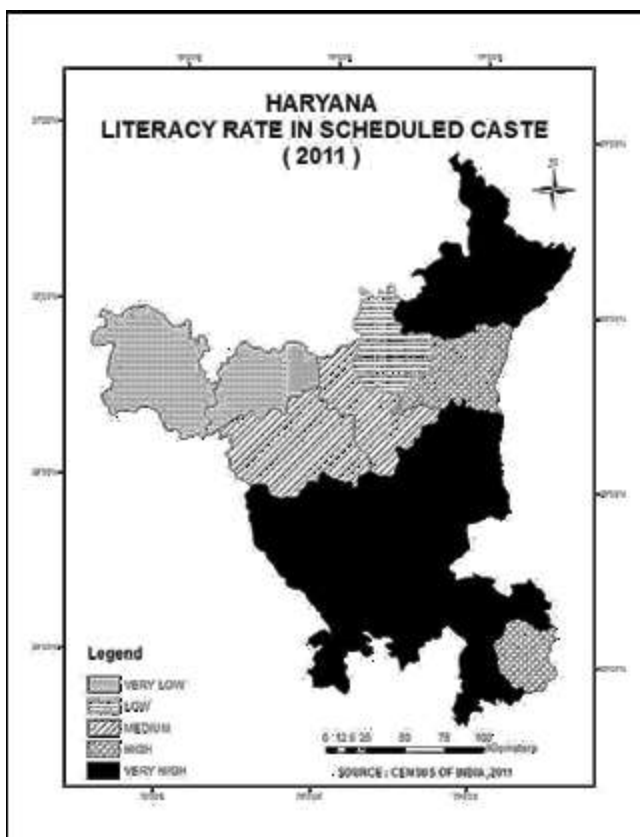
Figure- 3

### Conclusion

Haryana has observed very low literacy rate mainly in scheduled castes population during 1971, which improved significantly in 2011. A good positive change can be seen from 2001 to 2011. In 2001 the average literacy rate in scheduled castes population was 55.45, which had reached more than 66 percent in next ten years. There were eleven districts in 2001, where the literacy rate was



Map-2



Map-3

recorded less than 60 percent, but in 2011, just three districts Sirsa, Fatehabad and Kaithal had less than 60 percent literacy rate. In 2001, eleven districts were categorized in very low group of literacy rate, whereas in 2011 just two districts were categorized in same group, and fourteen districts came in the group of very high literacy rate. Jhajjar district at 7<sup>th</sup> rank and Faridabad district at 13<sup>th</sup> rank in state during 2001 which jumped to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> ranks respectively, in 2011, whereas Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Mahendergarh and Rewari were shift to lower rank as compared to 2001. Fatehabad district has been demarcated as the highest growth rate followed by Kaithal, Faridabad and Panchkula. Yamunanagar and Rewari had very slow growth rate in the literacy of scheduled castes population. Though there is a positive growth rate in literacy rate of scheduled caste population but this is less than national and state literacy rate, so more efforts should be taken to improve the literacy rate in scheduled castes population in Haryana.

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