

Female Literacy Rate and Its Role in Population Growth: A State Wise Analysis of India

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Abstract: The year 1971 with a highest decadal growth rate of 24.80 marks a divide line between the highest and declining population growth rate. After 1971 decadal population growth rate of India is decreasing decade by decade. There are many factors behind this decline but the female literacy dominates. Except few state of North-East all states shows that a high female literacy rate results in the low population growth and vice- versa. The state like Kerala and Goa with a female literacy rate of 92.0 and 81.8 respectively shows a decadal growth rate of 4.9 and 8.2. While on the other hand Bihar with a female literacy rate of 53.3 only shows the population decadal growth rate of 25.4 which is high enough.

Key Words: Literacy rate, Decadal growth rate, Migration, fertility rate.

Introduction: On the basis of transitional theory of Thompson India is in the late expanding stage, means both birth and death rate are falling and overall population is increasing with decreasing rate. There are various factor which determine the growth rate of a region or a country i.e. health facilities, resource availability, government policies related to the family planning etc. With all these controlling factor female literacy rate also affect the fertility rate which ultimately effect population growth rate of a region. However it is true that migration also play a major role in population growth rate but in this paper we are considering the role of female literacy rate in population growth rate by eliminating migration factor.

Objective of Study:-

1. To find the role of literate female in population growth.

2. To find the other factors which affect the population growth rate.

Research methodology and data sources:

The present paper is based on the graphical representation method and comparative techniques are used to analyze the data to get optimum results. The entire research is based on the secondary data taken from census of India 2001 and 2011.

Interpretation & Analysis of Data:

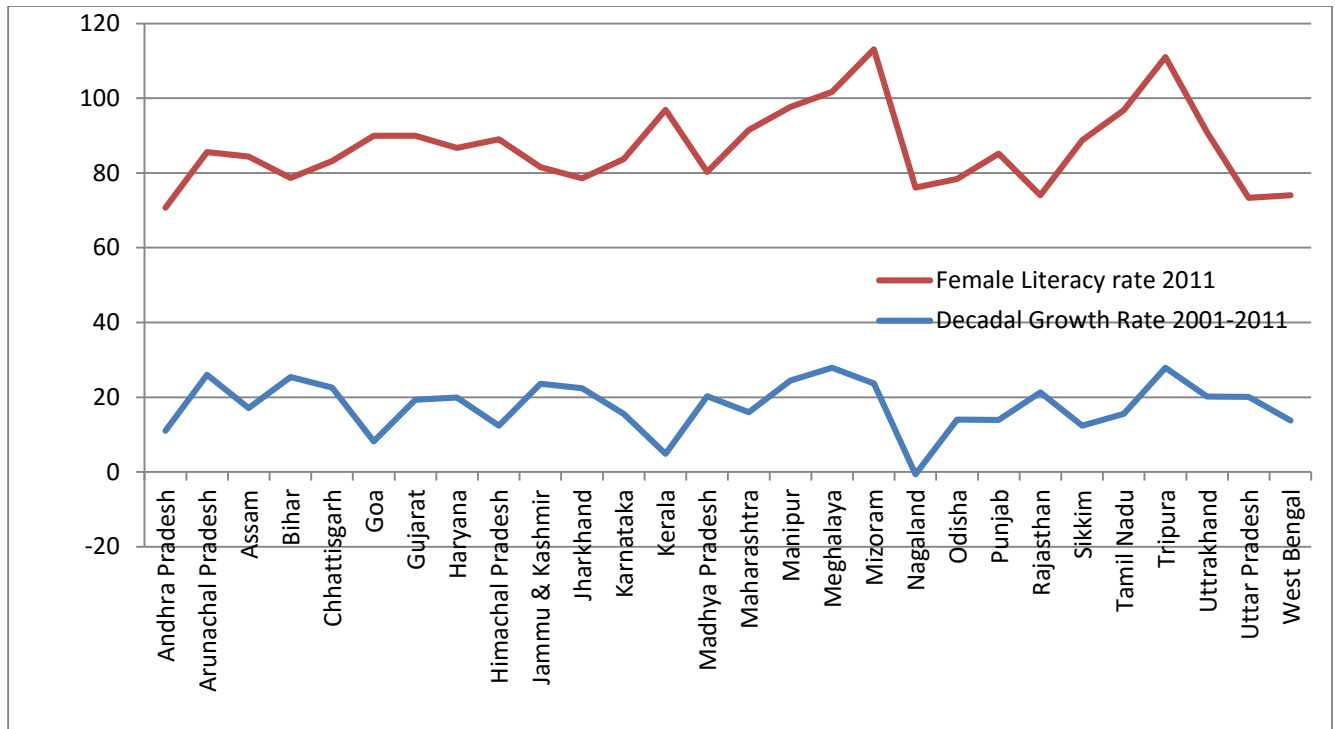
Table 1

Data showing Female Literacy rate and Decadal Growth Rate of Indian States		
Name of State	Female Literacy rate 2011	Decadal Growth Rate 2001-2011
Andhra Pradesh	59.7	11
Arunachal Pradesh	59.6	26
Assam	67.3	17.1
Bihar	53.3	25.4
Chhattisgarh	60.6	22.6
Goa	81.8	8.2
Gujarat	70.7	19.3
Haryana	66.8	19.9
Himachal Pradesh	76.6	12.4

Jammu & Kashmir	58	23.6
Jharkhand	56.2	22.4
Karnataka	68.1	15.6
Kerala	92	4.9
Madhya Pradesh	60	20.3
Maharashtra	75.5	16
Manipur	73.2	24.5
Meghalaya	73.8	27.9
Mizoram	89.4	23.7
Nagaland	76.7	-0.6
Odisha	64.4	14
Punjab	71.3	13.9
Rajasthan	52.7	21.3
Sikkim	76.4	12.36
Tamil Nadu	81.2	15.6
Tripura	83.1	27.9
Uttrakhand	70.7	20.2
Uttar Pradesh	53.3	20.09
West Bengal	60.2	13.8

Graph 1

Showing State wise Female Literacy rate and Decadal Growth Rate of India



It is clear from the above graph that decadal growth rate and female literacy rate shows a positive relation i.e. higher the Female literacy rate lower the decadal population growth rate in most of the states except Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram where instead of high female literacy rate decadal growth rate is also high because the other factors work in this area like migration from Bangladesh and Myanmar (Rohingyaz community) is the major reason behind this high growth rate. If we analyze the other states we find that a high female literacy rate remark a low population growth because understanding and knowledge of a literate woman is more while applying family planning and medical measure to control fertility rate.

Conclusion and Suggestions: In the case of developing country like India a high population growth is a biggest challenge in front of our policy framer. There are huge burden on our natural

as well as artificial resources and we fall in the category of over population. It is true that migration also play a dominant role in population growth as it has been seen in the North Eastern states like Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram. But when we consider India as a closed system and states perfectly movable than it is clear from the study that those states or regions which have low female literacy rate results in the high population growth rate and ultimately leads to the migration because over population made resources scare. So female literacy should be the major concern goal of policy makers if we want to achieve optimum population growth and a high developmental rate.

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