

## LITERACY IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

*Literacy is an index of human development, quality of human life and basic human right. The objective of the paper is to examine the literacy in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. The study is based on secondary sources of data mainly collected from census of India 2001 and 2011. The total population of study area was 16, 48,295 and near about 83.27 per cent population living in rural area and remaining 16.71 per cent in urban area in 2011. Nandurbar is a tribal district; the concentration of tribal population was 69.28 per cent which is highest in Maharashtra as per 2011 census. It is noticed that literacy rate in Nandurbar district was 64.38 per cent as compare to the State (82.34%) and Country (74.04%) the literacy rate was low. It is observed that the female rate was 56.47 per cent and male was 72.71 per cent. It is noticed here in each tahsils of Nandurbar district the male literacy was higher than the female. As compared to other districts in the state Nandurbar district occupies the very low position in terms of literacy.*

**Key Words:** Population, Literacy, Male-female Literacy.

### INTRODUCTION

Education is universally acknowledged as one of the key inputs contributing to the process of national and individual development. Literacy is an index of human development and quality of human life. Literacy is one of the most important indicators of social development. Literacy is the heart of basic education for all and essential for eradicating poverty reduction, mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development peace and democracy (Singh and Kour, 2013). The literacy rate in the country has increased from an 18.33 per cent in 1951 to 73.0 per cent in 2011. The male literacy has increased from 27.16 per cent in 1951 to 80.90 per cent in 2011. The female literacy increased from 8.86 per cent in 1951 to 64.70 per cent in 2011.

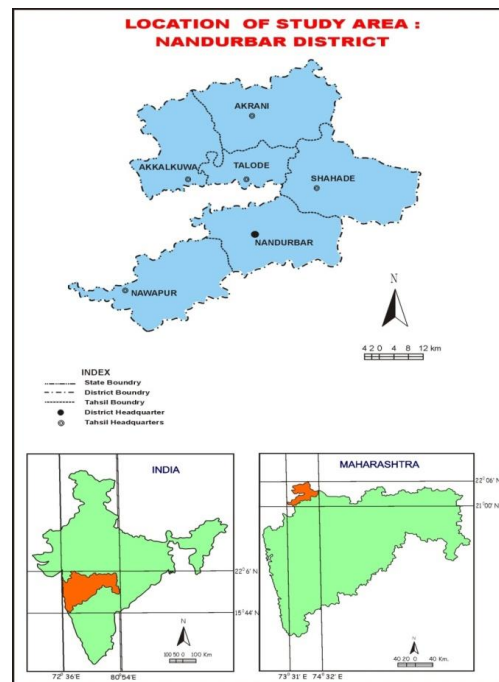
The role of education in facilitating social and economic progress is well accepted. Access to education is critical to access emerging opportunities that accompany economic growth. Keeping in view of this accepted fact there has been a major thrust on education since independence; but as far as ensuring quality of education in a particularly rural area is concerned it has always been one of the biggest challenges for the government (Hazra, 2011).

### OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the present paper is to examine the literacy in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra.

### STUDY AREA

The Dhule district was bifurcated on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1998 into two separate districts now known as Dhule and Nandurbar. Nandurbar district is selected for present investigation, located at the north-western part of Maharashtra. The study area lies between 21<sup>o</sup> 00' and 22<sup>o</sup> 03' North latitude and 73<sup>o</sup>31' and 74<sup>o</sup> 32' East longitudes. It is highly concentrated with tribal population in the state. It is surrounded by Madhya Pradesh state to its east side, Dhule district to its south and Gujarat state to its north. The study area is having an area of 5034.23 km<sup>2</sup> and comprises six tahsils viz. Akkalkuwa, Akrani, Talode, Shahade, Nandurbar and Nawapur.



### DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary sources of data mainly collected from census of India, 2001, 2011 and socio-economic abstract of Nandurbar district 2012. The Literacy rate is calculated as literates to the total population above six.

### DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

It is found that total population Nandurbar district was 16,48,295 comprising 8,33,170 male and 8,15,125 females. It constitutes 1.46 per cent of the state population spread over 1.62 per cent of the state area. Near about 83.27 per cent population living in rural area and remaining 16.71 per cent in urban area. The density of population was 276 sq. km in the study area (Census of India, 2011). Table 2 reveals that the proportion of scheduled caste population was 2.91 per cent and the scheduled tribe was 69.28 per cent in 2011.

**Table 1**  
**Total, SC and ST Population of Nandurbar District, 2011**

Sr. No	Name of Tahsils	Total Population	SC Population	ST Population
1	Akkalkuwa	245861	0.71	85.25
2	Akrani	195754	1.15	95.94
3	Talode	159654	2.06	77.44
4	Shahade	407728	4.95	54.20
5	Nandurbar	367446	4.58	45.57
6	Nawapur	271852	1.35	85.52
	<b>District</b>	<b>1648295</b>	<b>2.91</b>	<b>69.28</b>

Source: Census of India, 2011

### LITERACY RATE

Literacy and Education play crucial roles in the social and political life of a nation and are viewed as factors eminently suited to bring about social change, economic growth, political development and modernization in a given society (Ramotra, Vadiyar and Mote,

2009). According to the census of India 2011, a person who can both read and write with understanding in any language is to be taken as literate.

### Literacy Rate 2001

Literacy reflects the socio-economic and cultural set-up of a nation, ethnic group or community. The main advantage of literacy is that it provides relatively more opportunities of employment (Mote, 2010). It is found that the average literacy rate of study area was 55.78 per cent which was comparatively lower than the state average (76.88%) in 2001. The overall literacy rate of study area varied from a minimum of 41.85% in Akrani tahsil to a maximum 65.49% in Nandurbar tahsil of Nandurbar district. It is observed in all tahsils the female literacy rate was lower than the male literacy in the study area. In Indian society it is the male literacy rate, which is generally higher than the female literacy both in rural and urban areas (Ramotra, Vadiyar and Mote, 2009).

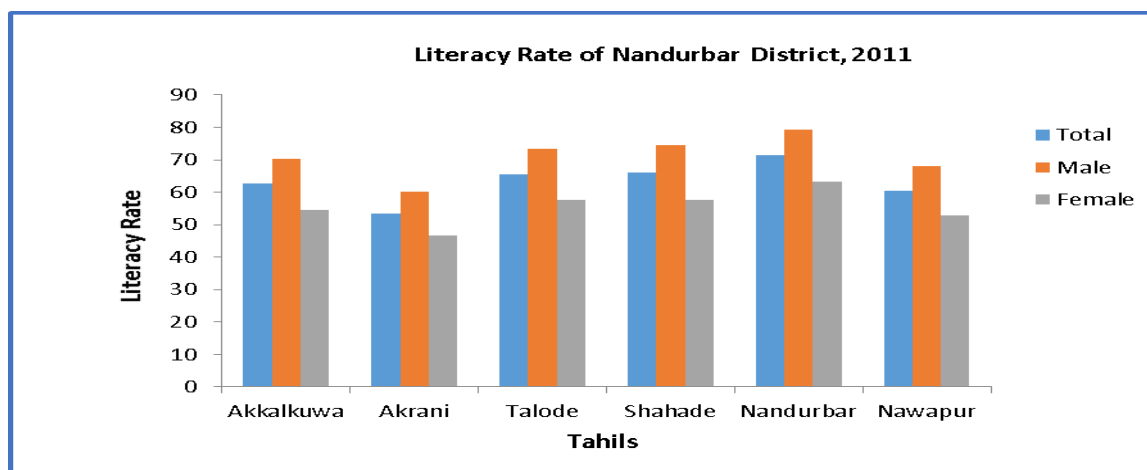
**Table 3**  
**Literacy Rate of Nandurbar District, 2001 and 2011**

Sr. No	Name of Tahsils	Literacy Rate 2001			Literacy Rate 2011			Change in 2001 & 2011		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Akkalkuwa	44.94	55.32	34.01	62.83	70.37	54.64	17.89	15.05	20.63
2	Akrani	41.85	48.16	35.62	53.31	60.04	46.61	11.46	11.88	10.99
3	Talode	54.12	65.07	43.07	65.47	73.35	57.67	11.35	8.28	14.60
4	Shahade	60.32	71.73	48.57	66.05	74.41	57.59	5.73	2.68	9.02
5	Nandurbar	65.49	76.48	54.22	71.36	79.17	63.38	5.87	2.69	9.16
6	Nawapur	52.72	62.55	42.88	60.49	68.17	52.93	7.77	5.62	10.05
<b>District</b>		<b>55.78</b>	<b>66.16</b>	<b>45.18</b>	<b>64.38</b>	<b>72.17</b>	<b>56.47</b>	<b>8.60</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>11.29</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>		<b>76.88</b>	<b>85.97</b>	<b>67.03</b>	<b>82.34</b>	<b>88.38</b>	<b>75.87</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>8.84</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>64.84</b>	<b>75.56</b>	<b>53.67</b>	<b>73.00</b>	<b>80.90</b>	<b>64.70</b>	<b>8.16</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>11.03</b>

Source: Census of India, 2001 and 2011

### Literacy Rate 2011

The literacy rate of Nandurbar district has increased by 8.60 percentage points from 55.78 per cent to 64.38 per cent in 2001 and 2011. It is found that the average literacy rate of study area was 64.38 per cent which is lowest literacy in state of Maharashtra and it is much less than the average literacy of the state (82.34%). The overall literacy rate of study area varied from a minimum of 53.31 per cent in Akrani tahsil to a maximum of 71.36 per cent in Nandurbar tahsil. The female literacy in the district was 56.47 per cent, which is far less than their counter part male literacy (72.17%) as well as the state average (75.87%). Female literacy as it shows is about 16 points less than the male literacy and more than 19 points less than the state average. The attention it needs to be given to the females especially the tribals to raise the overall literacy in the district to bring them at par with their men folk in the district as well as in the state to have their equal participation in the process of development (Ramotra, Mote and Pawar, 2014).



## CONCLUSION

It is found that the average literacy rate of study area was 64.38 per cent which is lowest literacy in state of Maharashtra and it is much less than the average literacy of the state (82.34%). The overall literacy rate of study area varied from a minimum of 53.31 per cent in Akrani tahsil to a maximum of 71.36 per cent in Nandurbar tahsil. The female literacy in the district was 56.47 per cent, which is far less than their counter part male literacy (72.17%) as well as the state average (75.87%). Female literacy as it shows is about 16 points less than the male literacy and more than 19 points less than the state average. This is due to poverty, unemployment, poor roads and communication facilities, location of school, teacher absenteeism, lack of hostel facility etc. are some reasons for low literacy. Therefore, it is need to develop plan for improvement of literacy and provide employment, medical services and other essential facilities for raising their living standard.

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