

A Geographic Study of the Variability of Literacy in the Bogovati River Basin District Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India.

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article History: Received: 02th July 2025 Accepted: 20th July 2025 Published: 03th Aug 2025</p>	<p>A region's level of socioeconomic development is frequently gauged by its level of literacy. Different levels of literacy frequently reveal the areas in which a society is changing. A measure of human growth, life quality, and fundamental rights is literacy. The goal of this article is to investigate literacy in given catchment areas. The analysis is based on secondary sources of data, primarily gathered from socioeconomic reviews and the district census handbook. An attempt has been made to examine the literacy rate of the entire Bhogavati River basin population in this report. The literacy rate in any region of the world has been given significant weight in the study of people's quality of life. The Radhanagari, Gaganbavada, Panhala, and Karveer tahsils in the Kolhapur district are where the Bhogavati catchment area is located. The Bhogavati river basin had a recorded literacy rate of 74.46 percent. It was observed that male literacy (84.58) was higher than female literacy (62.54) in the given study area.</p>
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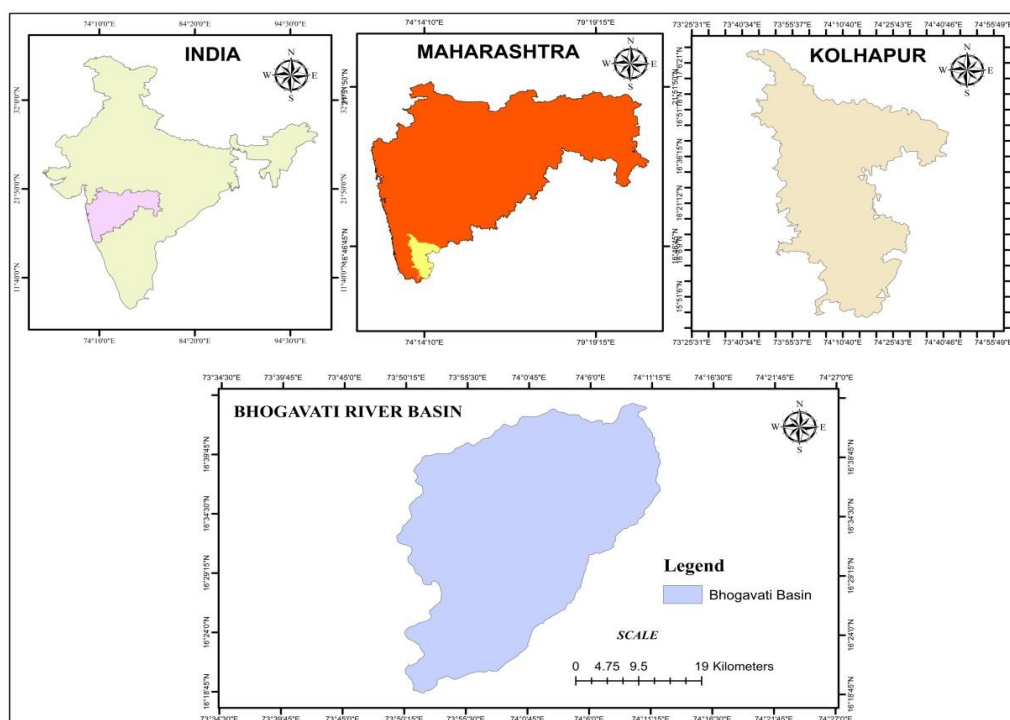


Introduction

Any region's demographic characteristics can be studied with literacy as a key component. Every country has its own definition of literacy. Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write in any language by an individual older than seven (Husain, 2011). The degree of literacy in the population can be used to assess its quality. According to Tiwari (2006), low literacy impedes economic growth and, in the case of women, even delays the implementation of family planning programs. Anyone who can read and write in any language in the world is considered literate in India. Literacy levels differ between nations. Even within the nation, there are differences in literacy between males and females, as well as between urban and rural areas. One of the most significant markers of socioeconomic advancement is literacy. Numerous socioeconomic variables, including urbanization levels, living standards, educational possibilities, and technological advancement levels, all have an impact on the literary pattern. This report attempts to investigate the 2011 literacy rate in the study area. In 2011, the literacy rates for men and women were 84.58 and 62.54 percent, respectively. It is commonly acknowledged that education contributes to social and economic advancement.

Study Area:

As seen in Figure 1, the Bhogavati River basin is a portion of the Panchganga River basin, which empties from the Radhanagari, Panhala, and Gaganbawada tehsils in Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, India. With a total catchment area of 1125 km², the basin is located between latitudes 16° 40' 00" and 16° 40' 00" N and longitudes 73° 45' 00" and 74° 15' 00" E.



Objectives:

- Investigation of literacy rate varies of Bhogavati River basin.

Material and methodology:

The current study relies on secondary data. To achieve the goals, information about the literacy rate in the study area has been gathered using the Social Economic Review, the District Census Handbook, and other resources. After collecting the data was processed. The tehsil is considered the investigative component unit.

Rate of literacy in the Bhogavati River basin:

The literacy rate of 2011 has been considered in order to comprehend the literacy rate in the study area. The study area had a total literacy rate of 74.45 % in 2011. In contrast, the Kolhapur district's overall literacy rate in 2011 was 88.28 %.

The literacy rate in Bhogavati River basin, broken down into included tahsils:

Table No. 1 illustrates the spatial distribution of the tahsil wise literacy rate in study area. Examining literacy rates in this area is essential, as they contribute significantly to geographical studies. Furthermore, these factors are vital for planning initiatives and offer valuable guidance to planners. From a geographical perspective, the literacy rate in the given study area has been examined.

Table No. 1
literacy rate in Bhogavati River basin

Sr. No.	Name of tahsil	Literacy rate (Male) in %	Literacy rate (Female) in %	Total Literacy rate
1	Radhanagari	85.74	61.13	73.43
2	Panhala	84.08	62.62	73.35
3	Karveer	87.68	67.90	77.79
4	Gaganbavada	80.85	58.53	69.69

Source- Literacy rate of given study area by researcher

The Karveer tehsil had the highest literacy rate, at 77.79 %, according to table no. 1. This was due to the area's excellent accessibility, large concentration of educational institutions, and administrative center. Additionally, when compared to other tahsils, the Gaganbavada tahsil has the lowest 69.69 % literacy. Karveer is highest Women literacy rate such as 67.90 and Gaganbavada is very low literacy rate i. e. 58.53 of women according to the table. Karveer, Panhala, Radhanagari and Gaganbavada tahsils are showing Male literacy rate is more than 80 % and Female literacy rate shows 58 to 68 % respectively. The wide disparity between the literary rates for men and women in the given study area has also been seen.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

In the study area, the male literacy rate is significantly greater than the female literacy rate. Additionally, the research area's average literacy rate was discovered to be 74.46 %. The study region's literacy rate has been unevenly distributed due to social, economic, and political factors. Therefore, a plan for literacy improvement must be developed, together with work opportunities and other necessary amenities to raise their level of living. The government should put in place a number of programs to educate the illiterate. The Maharashtra state launched the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", which has raised the standard of education. The literacy rate between males and females often highlights gender disparities in education. In this study, males tend to have higher literacy rates than females due to factors such as cultural norms, economic barriers, and lack of access to education for girls. However, in some countries, efforts to promote gender equality in education have significantly reduced this gap. To achieve balanced literacy rates, it is crucial to address these disparities through policies that encourage equal educational opportunities, awareness programs, and improved access to schooling, especially for girls in underprivileged communities. Higher literacy rates for both genders contribute to overall societal development, economic growth, and improved quality of life.

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